

MRVector

Newsletter of the:

American Registry of Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists

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ARMRIT – CBT is Here!

Press Release February 15, 2003

CBT stands for Computer Based Testing and starting March 1, 2003 the ARMRIT MRI Technologist examination will be offered on computer replacing the standard paper and pencil format.

LaserGrade, a computer testing company in Vancouver, Washington offers candidates the availability of over 700 test sites nationally. This will allow accessibility to more candidates with the added benefit of scheduling flexibility.

The process begins once a candidate's application is received, reviewed and if approved, a letter of authorization will be sent. The letter will instruct the candidate to contact LaserGrade to schedule an appointment at a conveniently located test site. The applicant must schedule the appointment within forty-five (45) days of the date of the letter of authorization.

The benefits of CBT are: flexible scheduling, more geographical test site locations, immediate results to the candidate, basic exam results data will be provided to the ARMRIT psychometrician.

The CBT process will provide the ARMRIT examination committee with the necessary data to update and improve the examination on a continuous basis. The goal of the examination committee will be to implement the recommendations of the American Council on Education (ACE) which awarded the ARMRIT exam two (2)

college level credits in 1997. For more information about ARMRIT-CBT, call the ARMRIT office.

MRI Schools Educate MRI Technologists

☞☞ As of February 24, 2003 only three schools currently produce candidates from MRI Programs that are approved to sit for the ARMRIT exam upon graduation. They are:

☞☞ **Institute of Allied Medical Professions**, New York, NY, Phone: 212-758-1410

One-Year Certificate Program.

☞☞ **American College of Medical Technology**, Gardena, CA, Phone: 310-324-1000

One-Year Certificate Program.

☞☞ **Western Institute of Science and Health**, Sonoma, CA, Phone: 707-664-9267

Two-Year Associate Degree Program.

Although other schools have contacted the Registry regarding their graduates, to date, they have not provided the necessary documentation. Schools in states such as North Carolina, Maryland, Massachusetts, Florida, Connecticut, and a third school in California. The Registry looks forward to adding them to the list of ARMRIT approved MRI Programs.

Making history, two of the ARMRIT approved schools stand out as leaders in MRI education. Both programs are dedicated solely to providing individuals with an education to prepare them for a career in MRI. The first MRI Program to offer MRI Technology as a one year full time program with MRI clinical (over)

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training in the United States is the Institute of Allied Medical Professions (IAMP) in

Manhattan. The Western Institute of Science and Health (WISH) is the first MRI program to offer MRI Technology as a Two-year Associates Degree in the United States.

One of the 'Mission Objectives' of the ARMRIT is to 'Promote high standards of formal MRI education and clinical training prior to entering the profession'. The three ARMRIT approved schools have provided documentation which demonstrates their commitment to quality MRI education. The Registry looks forward to a continuation of this trend and encourages other educational institutions to develop their own dedicated MRI Technology training program.

MRI Programs should constitute MRI Physics and Instrumentation as the major course work, MRI cross-sectional anatomy from actual MRI images, patient care and handling specific to the MRI patient. Also included should be other more general allied health courses such as anatomy and physiology, medical terminology, venipuncture for the MRI Technologist and, at least, Basic Cardiac Life Support –BCLS. Once the didactic components are completed successfully the individual will be assigned to a MRI clinical training affiliate for at least one thousand (1,000) hours to be completed within a six (6) month period. During their clinical training, hours and MRI studies will be logged and verified by the MRI Clinical Instructor. Each month logs will be submitted and a progress report assessing the students' progress will be reviewed.

Eligibility Requirements to be Reviewed

Throughout the history of the ARMRIT, since 1991, the eligibility requirements for

applicants have evolved along with the modality. Although clinically approved by the FDA in 1983, availability of MRI programs sufficient to prepare individuals to enter MRI as a career still lags behind. As of 1996 this began to change with the first MRI program, at IAMP in New York. Since then MRI programs have been established or are developing throughout the US.

To keep up with the evolution of MRI standards and the promotion of MRI education the eligibility requirements for the ARMRIT exam must follow suit. One proposal is to phase out the cross-training requirement, increase the equivalency clause from four (4) years to five (5) years and eventually limit eligibility only to graduates of approved MRI programs. The precedence for the latter proposal has been established by other medical imaging registries such as the NMTCB for Nuclear Medicine and the ARDMS for Ultrasound. The Registry would like to hear your thoughts on this issue. Send your ideas and comments to the ARMRIT headquarters.

ARE YOU UP-TO-DATE WITH THE ARMRIT?

Update your information with the Registry. Fill out the area below and fax it to the ARMRIT office as soon as possible.

Name: _____

Member Number: _____

Current Address: _____

New Phone Number: _____

Employer Name and Address: _____

New Equipment Experience: _____

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