

Virginia Western Community College
ROC 141
Therapy Physics I

Prerequisites

ROC 110, MTH 161

Course Description

Focuses on concepts of radiation production, interaction, and influencing factors. Emphasis is placed on atomic interactions and dose measurement techniques. Presents a comprehensive overview of the different types of machines used in Radiation Oncology. Evaluation of student will be through weekly homework assignments and examinations.

Semester Credits: 2 Lecture Hours: 2 Lab/Clinical/Internship Hours: 0

Required Material:

A TI-30XS or equivalent calculator is required for the course. Equivalent means the keypad has the same layout as the Pearson-Vue® on screen calculator

Textbook:

McDermott, P. and Orton, C. (2010). *The physics and technology of radiation therapy*. Medical Physics Publishing. ISBN-13: 978-1-930524-32-3

Course Outcomes

At the completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Describe the characteristics of various elements using a periodic table.
2. Examine the properties of photons and apply those properties as they relate to Radiation Oncology.
3. Compare various types of radioactive decay and perform decay calculation.
4. Describe how x-rays are produced at the atomic level and how the components of an x-ray tube work
5. Describe the various interactions of high-energy x- and gamma rays with matter.
6. Compare physical characteristics and basic operation of a variety of treatment units.

Topical Description

Class I – Mathematics Review

Class II – Mathematics Review

Class III – Review of Basic Physics

Class IV – Atomic Nuclei and Radioactivity

Class VI – X-ray Production I: Technology

Class VII – X-ray Production II: Basic Principles

Class VIII - Interaction of Radiation with Matter

Class IX – Radiation Measurement Quantities

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Class X – Radiation Detection and Measurement

Class XI – External Beam Radiation Therapy Units

Class XII – Imaging In Radiation Therapy

Class XIII – Radiation Protection

Class XIV –Physical Quality Assurance and Patient Safety

Class XV - Review for final