

AB 1273 – Earn and Learn Bill, & Impact Bakersfield College Radiologic Technology Program

Background

[Link to AB 1273](#)

QR Code to AB-1273



Summary of AB 1273

- California Legislation Passed 9/1/2021
- Effective date January 1, 2024 (Impacts current & incoming 1st year class)
- Requires California Department of Consumer Affairs & State Department of Public Health to use licensing or certification standards that authorize the use of earn & learn training.
- Proposal of paid student clinical hours as part of apprenticeship training

California, Department of Public Health- Radiologic Health Branch (CDPH-RHB)

- CCR 131088(b) “Notwithstanding subdivision (a), the department shall not be required to establish a mandate specifying an accrediting entity must provide earn and learn programs for training in a profession licensed or certified by the department”

Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT)

- Standard 4.4 Provision of timely, equitable, and educationally valid experiences for all students
 - “A meaningful clinical education plan assures that activities are equitable, as well as prevents the use of students as replacements for employees.”

Current BC Radiologic Program Status

- JRCERT accredited, payment of student clinical hours are not permitted
- Competency based clinical education complies with JRCERT accreditation
- Course curriculum is current with clinical standards
- Program not bound to 1850 Clinical Hours required by (CDPH-RHB), JRCERT accreditation supersedes
- Program length: 2 years, including mandatory summer semesters
- Graduates are eligible for ARRT Licensure exam in May
- Graduates’ courses meet advanced education pre-requisites: Radiation Therapy, Nuclear Medicine
- Graduates are eligible to transfer directly to CSU, Northridge to complete Bachelor’s Degree, Rad. Technology

Yes to AB 1273 Means:

- Paid student internships, paid clinical hours will be permitted
- Program will lose JRCERT accreditation, 3 licensure exams compared to current 1 exam
- Loss transfer agreement with CSU, Northridge
- Program would have to follow CDPH-RHB Clinical Requirements
 - Additional 264 clinical hours will be required for students to complete 1850 hours
 - Program length likely extends beyond 6 semesters
 - ARRT Licensure Eligibility likely delayed to July or August
 - Delay in traditional summer hiring
 - Weekend or P.M. shifts may be required for students
 - P.M. shift to clinical education at 7 a.m. is not safe for patient care
 - Increase travel cost to students for additional clinical time
- Curriculum revision to include Film-Screen Radiography (dated-not current standard practice)
- May result loss of current classroom courses to accommodate additional clinical hours

No to AB 1273 Means:

- Program will continue JRCERT accreditation
- Continued ban of paid clinical internships for students
- Continued program completion within 2 years
- Continued requirement of 1586 clinical hours for program clinical education
- Continued current curriculum reflecting today's technical advances
- Continued ARRT Licensure eligibility in May
- Continued curriculum articulation/transfer with CSU, Northridge and City of Hope Radiation Therapy School