

## ELIA RUANO TRANSCRIPT

### Segment 1 - Duties and Responsibilities

>> **ELIA:** My name is Elia Ruano. I am a radiologic technologist and I'm from El Salvador.

As a radiologic technologist I am currently working in a hospital and I work in the radiology department, and we are a very important team in the health care system because we connect the doctors and the patients together.

The job that we do is really, really important because most of the time and in most of cases, doctors won't be able to diagnose patients with their problems without having to use any of the radiologic modalities that are available. My job consists in taking x-rays for different reasons. X-rays for.. to rule out fractures as people know most commonly, but it goes more than that, we also do all the exams such as a fluoroscopy, also CT scanning which is a computer tomography, we also have a ultra sound modality which doesn't use radiology, doesn't use radiation, but also helps us diagnose so much.

I am also familiar with MRI which is magnetic resonance imaging. All of that are great tools that are nowadays technologies to be able to help patients and doctors to be more accurate and faster being able to diagnose patients with whatever problems they have.

### Segment 2 - What Does it Take? Having A Plan

>> **ELIA:** To start this program, the first thing is they won't accept us unless we have completed the general education, which is just about thirty units, I believe, to finish and to get a variety of different classes and topics.

After you finish those thirty units, then you can ... you have to take specific prerequisites for this program which are physiology, anatomy, chemistry, math, and speech, medical terminology, I believe, as well they require now. So that is part of the prerequisites.

Once you finish the program, you end up achieving an associate in science degree, so you don't need higher level or any other degrees before then.

In order to be a radiologic technologist I think you also have to have some personal skills or qualities I will say like, for example, you have to be compassionate, you have to be a person that likes to help others I will say most of it, and someone that is also very flexible because our career is about flexibility. You have to be able to do things not just one way, but many different ways, to do what we do, and so it is really important to have all of those qualities ...

We need to obtain good quality pictures for doctors to help patients, but is also being able to help this human being that in front of us, who is in need of our skills.

So we have to put both together and create a nice balance for everything to work well.

### **Segment 3 - Personal Background**

>> **ELIA:** I came from El Salvador about twelve years ago without knowing any English. I was familiar with some words, but I wasn't able to put a sentence together so I basically didn't know any English.

The first approach that I took to join this new life style was to learn English, because I know it will be important for me to develop in this new country and also to get ahead.

Therefore I approached you know going to school and learned a new language for me. I joined this community school for adult education and it was English as a Second Language that I took so many classes for about a year. Eventually I moved on to college and continue taking more English as a Second Language classes.

Eventually a few years went by and I moved on to a native language, native speaker English class, which was very helpful.

### **Segment 4 - The Program**

>> **ELIA:** One you get accepted into a radiologic technologist program, it is a really a fast program. It's basically like they told us on the first day "welcome to this amusement park", you are going to get into this roller coaster now, which is going to take you in a fast bullet train, and I remember one of my instructors saying that the first day, and they weren't joking.

It is really fast. It is really intense. You have to have some determination for it because it is really serious, but because the job that we are going to do at the end is serious, we have to do a lot of training for it.

Since the very first semester we actually go to clinical training, that means we are in a hospital or the clinic setting doing and working with patients already, since the first semester and that is two days a week. So they throw us right up there to swim, in the real world and it works because at the end you lose all the fear and you are able to realize this is it, this is what I want to be doing.

So we spend two days in a clinic or hospital setting, and then we spend three days in classrooms the first semester, or the first year all along. We do four different rotations during the whole program, they assign us to a main hospital the first year, but we also do a rotation to a clinic or to a children's hospital which specializes just in pediatric care, so all of us get to rotate through there and get that experience.

The second year it switches, the second year we do three days in the clinics or hospitals and two days in classroom. At the very end you do also a whole month of just regular clinic and work, which is just the top of it when you really shine and show all your skills, show what you have got and it is very amazing to feel you are really one step away from becoming a technologist.

### **Segment 5 – What Personal Qualities Do You Need?**

>> **ELIA:** Someone who was doing the radiologic program and that was their career and they started talking to me about it...I also it was at the back of my mind I started investigating and reading more about this program and I realized what it takes. I like technology and I like computers, I like all the new equipment in technology and I also like helping others. And helping people so I definitely felt that this would be a good field for me to join and to learn and to have it part of my life.

I was also able to use some resources that the colleges have for us for example, like seeing a counselor. She was able to give me so many explanations about different programs around our community, for example the three main colleges around here have different health care programs, like respiratory therapies, nursing, also Canada College which is this college has also radiologic technology, that is this one the one I joined.

Also they give me a test, a personality test and a skills test to see what careers will be good for me, and I think it was a good thing for me to do because since I wasn't quite sure, that test really affirmed what I was meant to do, and radiologic technologist was one of the three top choices for me to do.

### **Segment 6 - Saving Lives**

>> **ELIA:** I have encountered in a daily basis the different things, different patients that also are very thankful for what we do, but some of the stories are more touching,

especially when some of the patients maybe are not able to afford health care, and when they sometimes are feeling sick or ill or something like that, for example when they finally get to come to the hospital so they are at a certain point when they can't tolerate their pain any or their problems anymore, so they come here and the doctors know their prior history and so on, and they need to find out what is wrong with this patient at this point and in many cases they do have serious conditions or serious health issues that need to be addressed immediately. So many times for example nowadays I'm just doing CAT scanning which is computer tomography, and that includes looking at the human body in little tiny slices, very detailed pictures and that gets to see all your insides at a different view, but in many cases there are conditions or things that need to be addressed immediately and they are able to diagnose this by bringing the patient to me. I do a specific test for the area that is the problem for the patient, and from that imaging, from those pictures the doctor is in many cases able to diagnose either with medication right away or even to intervene with procedures that could be in the operating room. So it is really critical and it is important to rely on the technology we have now.

So many times that is the most rewarding part knowing that due to our work someone was able to be helped, maybe we even saved their lives at that point. So that part alone is a just great thing that is when you feel it is great being there and being able to help others.

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