**Nursing vs Radiation/Ultrasound Technician**

**Here is some advice from a student:**

I was trying to decide between a career in Nursing vs. Radiation Therapy. Then, a few years ago, my wife was diagnosed with Breast Cancer. I am happy to say that after surgery and radiation, she is now cancer free.

I am amazed at how many different types of cancer are now treatable and survivable because of radiation therapy, that not too long ago were a death sentence. So that is the main reason I chose Radiation Therapy over Nursing.

The other reason, is that Nursing is impacted at all levels from pre-requisites, to Nursing programs through employement. In Southern California, over 1,000 people graduate from RN and BSN programs every year. There simply is not that many job openings now or in the foreseeable future. Most local job opening require a BSN and 3-5 years clinical experience.

In SoCal, Radiation Therapy graduates less than one dozen RT's every year. So the chances of finding employment (without having to relocate) at graduation are much higher. As an RT, I will not have to work as a Certified Nursing Assistant for 3-5 years to gain the necessary clinical hours experience before an employer will recognize my four year degree.

The RT program does teach physics for non-physics majors. I had already taken physics before, but I must tell you, physics was very difficult. (Brutal). 13 people were enrolled in the first Physics course. Only two people finished.  I got down on my hands and knees and thanked God for getting a "B".

When you take Physics at Long Beach, the course is 4 1/2 months. At National, it is one month. Every licensed RT I have spoken with has told me that Physics was their most difficult course, and where most prospective students drop. You would do well to arrange a Physics Tutor well in advance of taking the class.

National said they would look at ways to improve the Physics course. Talk to the program director for Physics to see how the courses are structured. Maybe each course is two months now instead of one month?

Hope this helps.

Kind Regards

Dave