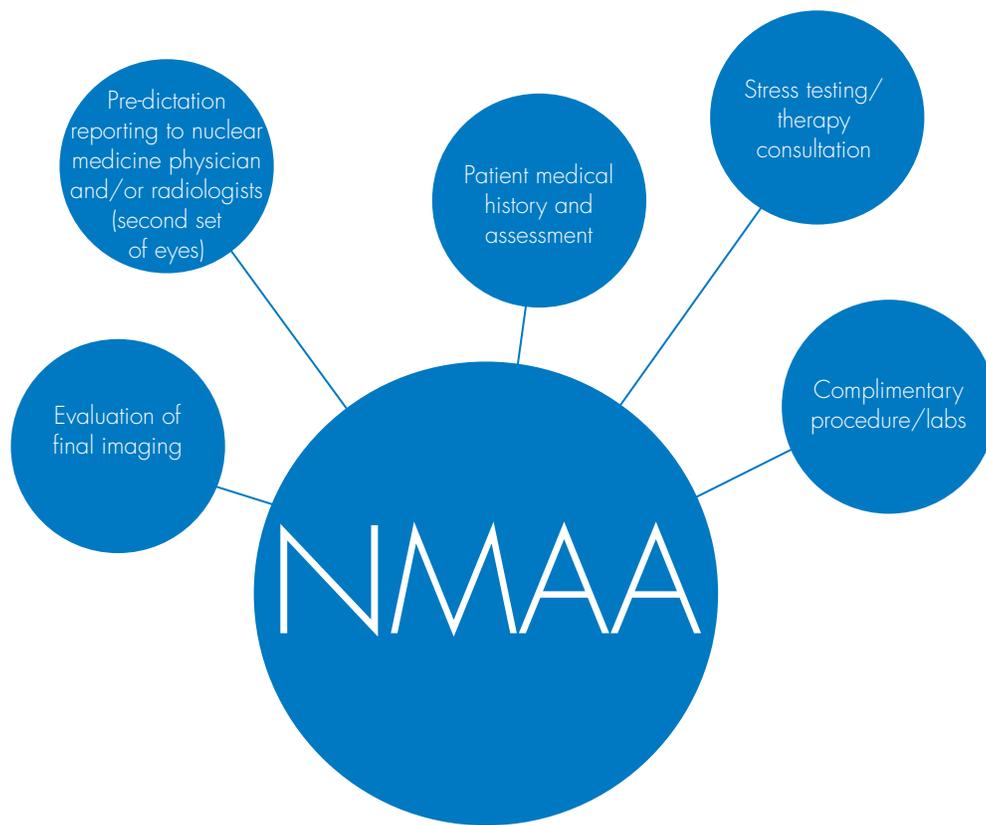


The Nuclear Medicine Advanced Associate (NMAA) is a valuable part of the nuclear medicine team. With advanced training through a master's level program and advanced certification through the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board (NMTCB), the NMAA will be able to fill the gap in the nuclear medicine department from pre-testing assessment through pre-dictation assessment, allowing the nuclear medicine physician or radiologist the freedom to commit to the final interpretation of the tests while maintaining the hands-on approach to patient care—without sacrificing quality.



The program is designed much like a residency, where clinical experience and training from a mentor (preceptor) are the deciding factors for success. At this time there is only one accredited program in the nation through the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) in consortium with Saint Louis University (SLU), University of Missouri–Columbia (UMC), and Georgia Regents University (GRU). You can visit the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences website at www.uams.edu/chrp/nuclearadvanced.

The program is formulated for nuclear medicine technologists who are highly motivated and experienced. Applicants will need to find preceptors to guide their training and be prepared to have the facility in which they train and work sign an affiliation agreement.

To learn more about the NMAA and what we are doing, visit the Advanced Associate Council of the SNMMI at www.snmmi.org/aa.

It is assumed that for all activities included in the NMAA scope of practice, the NMAA has received the proper education (in compliance with federal, state, and institutional requirements) supported with the proper documentation of initial and continued competency in those practices and activities. Continuing education is a necessary component in maintaining the skills required to perform all duties and tasks of the NMAA in this ever-evolving field of new equipment, radiopharmaceuticals, and applications.

Limitation of Scope and Disclaimer

This document and the NMAA Scope of Practice is intended to set forth the standards in important areas of the nuclear medicine technologist advanced associate's responsibilities. It may not cover all areas that present themselves in actual practice. These standards do not supersede the judgment of the individual nuclear medicine advanced associate technologist and other healthcare professionals serving the patient in light of all of the facts of the individual case. THE SOCIETY OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE AND MOLECULAR IMAGING AND THE SOCIETY OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE AND MOLECULAR IMAGING TECHNOLOGIST SECTION DISCLAIM ALL LIABILITY ARISING FROM USE OF THESE DOCUMENTS.

What is a Nuclear Medicine Advanced Associate (NMAA)?

A Nuclear Medicine Advanced Associate (NMAA) is an advanced-level nuclear medicine technologist working under the supervision of a licensed physician, who is also an authorized user of radioactive materials, to enhance patient care in the diagnostic imaging and radiotherapy environments.

What does an NMAA do?

- Facilitates the care and management of patients while in the nuclear medicine department.
- Works directly under his/her physician's license.
 - Can change dynamics of certain tests when necessary
 - Makes higher-level decisions concerning testing and outcome (i.e., is this the correct test, conversing with ordering physicians, etc...)
 - Cardiac stress testing procedures when performed in conjunction with nuclear medicine procedures
- A nuclear medicine advanced associate may order complementary diagnostic procedures as indicated by patient testing results under the direction of the supervising physician.
- A nuclear medicine advanced associate may analyze results of the procedure and prepare a preliminary description of findings for the supervising physician, including but not limited to:
 - Assess image quality and other associated data
 - Make a preliminary assessment
 - Document initial observations of imaging procedures according to protocol
 - Communicate initial observations as per supervising physician's discretion
 - Report findings to referring physicians and the patient per protocol

Who can be an NMAA?

- Experienced (2 years or more) nuclear medicine technologists who are certified by the NMTCB or ARRT.
- Baccalaureate graduates (sciences or related field).
- Highly motivated and disciplined individuals with the desire to expand their knowledge of the molecular imaging world.

What is an NMAA program like?

- As a graduate program for a physician extender, it follows the medical education model where your clinical internships are a residency experience rather than a highly structured rotation.
- 24 hours of clinical experience per week must be performed; however, most institutions allow this on the clock.
- A physician preceptor (mentor) of your choosing will be essential to your success!
- The didactic portion may take 2-5 years, depending on your ability to take on full-time course schedules; however, this allows for flexibility for the working technologist.
- Visit: www.uams.edu/chrp/nuclearadvanced for more information.