

A radiologist is a doctor who performs and interprets diagnostic tests. Types of tests can include an X-ray, [CAT scan](#), [ultrasound](#), upper GI test, MRI, barium enema and even nuclear medicine scans. At times, a radiologist can also treat the problem found.

Difficulty: Challenging

Instructions

1. Step 1

Prepare for a long and intense course of study and training if you want to become a radiologist. Because radiology deals with all the areas of medicine, training requires approximately 15 years. Take advanced high school courses in math and science. Volunteer work in a hospital gives you good experience and looks good on a [college application](#).

2. Step 2

Enroll in college and take pre-med courses. Make excellent grades, especially in science courses to qualify for medical school. Take creative writing classes and communication. You must have good written and verbal skills to become a radiologist.

3. Step 3

Pass the exams and get into medical school. Work hard and achieve excellence in chemistry, organic chemistry, advanced biology and physics.

4. Step 4

Complete five years of residency. You must be able to diagnose such conditions as gallstones, [kidney stones](#), broken bones, torn ligaments, pneumonia, internal bleeding and cancer. You must have an intense thirst for knowledge and enjoy performing procedures in order to become a good radiologist.

5. Step 5

Work hard, achieve excellent grades on your medical board exams and qualify for a fellowship program. Most take one or two years. You must get hands-on training in performing biopsies, draining abscesses, doing angioplasties and treating aneurysms.