

Dear Dean:

There is a significant nationwide shortage of highly skilled Neurodiagnostic Technologists and an insufficient number of formal education programs to address this shortage. The United States Bureau of Labor and Statistics predicts 11,000 future job openings. We at ASET – The Neurodiagnostic Society, are hoping that you will consider opening a Neurodiagnostic Technology Program to help alleviate this critical shortfall. We have included a statistical information document to further emphasize the current shortage of qualified Neurodiagnostic Technologists nationwide.

ASET is the largest national professional association in the United States for individuals involved in the study and recording of electrical activity in the brain and nervous system. Our over 7,000 members include technologists, students, physicians and institutions involved in neurodiagnostics, which includes but is not limited to Electroencephalography (EEG), Evoked Potentials (EP), Nerve Conduction Studies (NCS), Polysomnography/Sleep Technology, Intraoperative Neurophysiological Monitoring (IONM), Long Term Monitoring (LTM), Autonomic Function Testing, Magnetoencephalography (MEG), and Intensive Care Unit Continuous EEG Monitoring (ICU/cEEG).

ASET supports the development of educational programs. We encourage colleges like yours to provide innovative educational opportunities that will meet employer's needs and help allied health professionals meet the demands of working in today's health care environment. The employment rate for graduates of CAAHEP accredited Neurodiagnostic Technology programs is over 90%, with mean salaries of \$57,760 for graduates of these programs.

With respect to neurodiagnostics, the variety and complexity of diagnostic testing procedures presents new challenges in educating these important allied health professionals. Rendering today's technologists competent to perform these highly technical procedures is one that requires rigorous academic and clinical instruction consistent with the scope offered in traditional associate-level and bachelor-level degree programs.

In today's health care system, there is an increasing demand for neuromonitoring in intensive care settings and during complex surgeries where there is risk to the brain and spinal cord. The responsibilities carried out by Neurodiagnostic Technologists are commensurate with a highly educated health care professional. ASET strongly recommends that individuals performing neurodiagnostic procedures possess the following:

Neurodiagnostic Technology education from a program reviewed by the Committee on Accreditation for Education in Neurodiagnostic Technology (CoA-NDT) accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP).

OR

An Associate's Degree or higher from an accredited college or university.

AND

Credential in an area of Neurodiagnostic specialty from the appropriate credentialing board. If the individual is not credentialed at the time of hire, a deadline for obtaining the credential established by the employer is recommended.

With a focus on how best to meet the educational demands for our profession, ASET developed the Formal Education Task Force. One goal of this Task Force is to provide institutions with the information necessary to create degree programs in Neurodiagnostic Technology.

We strongly encourage you to consider the development of an Associate's degree program in Neurodiagnostic Technology as a new addition to your health care degree programs. The development of associate-level education will do more than equip graduating students with the necessary knowledge and skills for such diagnostic testing. It

also will benefit the public's health and welfare by elevating the technologist's skill set that effectively promotes patient safety.

Support is available from ASET by way of publications such as our "Program Development Handbook for Neurodiagnostic Technology" and "Clinical Sites Handbook." Additionally, we offer a turnkey curriculum to make program start-ups more easily attainable. The EEG Core Curriculum was designed to equip educators and students with the tools they need to succeed without the time intensive and costly venture of creating a new curriculum. This online curriculum provides standardized, high quality education to hospital staff or students in training programs, for the purpose of growing a qualified workforce. Among these important benefits is a viable solution to short staffing. Furthermore, we would be pleased to add your college to our list of schools that provide a degree in Neurodiagnostic Technology. This list is posted on our website and receives frequent views by potential students.

There are several Neurodiagnostic Technology credentials that may be considered for college credits and could serve to attract degree-seeking students to your college. These credentials include:

R.EEG T., R. EP T. CNIM, CLTM, CAP, CMEG (administered by ABRET, www.abret.org)

R.NCS.T. (administered by AAET, www.aaet.info)

CNCT (administered by AANEM, www.aanem.org)

RPSGT and CPSGT (administered by the BRPT, www.brpt.org)

RST (administered by ABSM, www.absm.org)

Please contact the ASET Director of Education, Linda Kelly, MS, R. EEG/EP T., R. NCS.T., CNCT, FASET, CSSGB, (linda@aset.org, 816-931-1120 ext.108) for more information or for any questions that you may have. We also encourage you to learn more about the neurodiagnostic profession by viewing a brief video: <https://www.aset.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3875>.

Sincerely,



Mary Ellen Wells, Ph.D., RPSGT, R. EEG T., R.NCS.T. Chair, ASET Formal Education Task Force