Congratulations! You are taking the first steps on your journey to become a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Technologist! The information in this packet is your roadmap to this destination. It is important that you thoroughly read the instructions and if you have any questions, please check with the Admissions Office or call Melissa Smith, MSEd. RT (R) (MR) (CT) CNMT, Program Coordinator, MRI program at 336-757-3349 or email at msmith@forsythtech.edu.

***Admissions Information***

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is a selective enrollment program beginning each fall. Resources such as clinical facilities and faculty, as well as approval standards, limit the number of applicants accepted to the program to 8 students for the fall. Two seats are reserved for 2018 high school graduates. Currently enrolled high school students will compete against other high school applicants. Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is a two-year, associate degree program and all applicants must meet minimum requirements to be considered for admission. Please note, however, that meeting minimum requirements does not guarantee admission.

When applicants have completed all of the minimum requirements, they must meet with an Admissions Counselor for a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Minimum Admissions Requirements (MAR) Review. This must be completed by the deadline date stated above. Qualified applicants will be ranked based on criteria listed in this packet. Applicants not admitted to the program must reapply, complete a new health information session and complete a new MAR Review if they wish to be considered for the following year’s class.

**PHASE I: APPLICATION PROCESS**

The following steps must be completed by March 22, 2018 for the fall 2018 program.

___1. Complete the Residency Determination Service (RDS) and a Forsyth Tech application. If currently enrolled in classes at Forsyth Tech, complete the update form in the Admissions Office.

___2. Complete the Forsyth Tech application.

___3. Complete the online information session tutorial and return the electronic signature form. This form can be returned to the Admissions Office via email, fax, mail, or hand delivery. If you prefer, you may choose to attend an in-person information session instead of completing the online tutorial.

___4. Complete placement testing if required by the Admissions Office.

___5. Have an official high school transcript or GED scores mailed to the Admissions Office.

___6. Have official transcripts from all colleges or schools attended since high school sent to the Admissions Office. Official transcripts must have the school seal or original signature and be in a sealed unopened envelope or submitted electronically from the school. Electronic transcripts should be sent to Admissions@forsythtech.edu. We strongly recommend that official college transcripts be received and evaluated before a MAR is conducted. Evaluation of transcripts typically takes 5-7 business days to complete once transcripts have been received. Please do NOT bring in transcripts the day you come to complete your MAR review.

___6. Submit official copies of any Advanced Placement (AP) scores, if applicable.
PHASE II: MINIMUM ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

1. **Placement Testing**: All applicants must demonstrate English, Reading and Math Competencies to be eligible for program consideration. There are 4 different ways that these competencies can be met:

   a. **Multiple Measures- high school gpa:**

      1. If applicant has graduated from a NC high school legally authorized to operate in the state AND
      2. Has graduated from high school within the past 5 years* AND
      3. Has eligible 4th level high school math course** AND
      4. Has a 2.6 or higher high school unweighted GPA*** THEN
      5. The placement testing minimum admissions requirement has been met.

      *If applicant is currently enrolled in high school, 1st semester senior grades/GPA must be submitted before the high school GPA can be used to waive placement testing by Multiple Measures. **The list of eligible 4th level math courses is available in the Admissions Office. ***High school transcript must clearly indicate that the GPA is unweighted.

   b. **SAT/ACT scores (valid for five years): Specific scores will waive specific tests**

      For tests taken prior to March, 2016:

      SAT Critical Reading- 500+ OR SAT Writing- 500+ or ACT Reading- 22+ OR
      ACT English- 18+ will exempt applicants in Reading Comp. and Sentence Skills.

      SAT Math- 500+ OR ACT Math- 22+ will exempt applicants in Math skills.

      For tests taken in March, 2016 or later (note change in SAT scores):

      SAT Evidence Based Reading and Writing- 480+ or ACT Reading- 22+ OR
      ACT English- 18+ will exempt applicants in Reading Comp. and Sentence Skills.

      SAT Math- 530+ OR ACT Math- 22+ will exempt applicants in Math skills.

   c. **Completion of College level English and/or Math**

      A grade of “C” or higher in a college level English composition or math course, that meets program MAR requirements, can waive placement testing once the transcript(s) has been received and reviewed.

   d. **Placement Test Scores (all scores are valid for 5 years):**

      Applicants taking the NC-DAP for math must demonstrate mastery through DMA 050.
      Applicants taking the NC-DAP Reading Comprehension and Sentence Skills must demonstrate mastery through DRE 098. OR have the following scores on other acceptable placement tests:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPT</th>
<th>COMPASS</th>
<th>ASSET</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sentence Skills</td>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>Writing Skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Comp.</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Reading Skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arithmetic</td>
<td>Pre-Algebra</td>
<td>Numerical Skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algebra</td>
<td>Algebra</td>
<td>Elem. Algebra</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   Applicants not meeting the required mastery or the minimum scores should enroll in the appropriate DRE/DMA course(s). All DRE/DMA courses must be completed by the deadline date. If DRE/DMA or DMS shell courses from other NC community colleges are being used to meet this requirement, submission of the placement test scores will also be required.
2. **Biology Competency**

Applicants must have completed a high school biology course. If the course was not completed at the high school level, an applicant must complete the course at the college level. There is no age limitation on the high school or college level course.

3. **No “D/F” Policy**

   This policy is in place to maintain the integrity of our MRI program and all MRI applicants are held to this standard. There are NO exceptions.

Applicants must earn a grade of “C” or better in all program related courses attempted to be eligible for the program. This policy applies to courses taken at Forsyth Tech as well as equivalent courses completed at outside colleges or universities. **Applicants with a “D” or “F” in a related course (listed on pg. 5) as of the stated deadline will NOT be eligible to complete a MAR review for the MRI program.** If a grade of “D” or “F” is earned after acceptance to the program, the course must be repeated and a “C” or higher earned before the student will be allowed to enroll in the nursing program. Failure to remove a grade of “D” or “F” will result in the loss of admission into the MRI program.

**PHASE III: MINIMUM ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS (MAR) REVIEW**

After completion of Phase I and II, applicants are eligible to meet with an Admissions Counselor to complete the Minimum Admissions Requirements (MAR) Review. Applicants who wish to be considered for the fall 2018 program must complete the MAR Review between the dates of September 6, 2016 and the deadline of March 22, 2018. Applicants for the fall 2018 program will not be considered for admission until this step is completed. Please do NOT bring in college transcripts the day you come to complete your MAR review, as the Admissions Office is not the office responsible for transcript evaluations.

Due to new state regulations regarding residency, applicants are strongly encourage to complete both RDS and the online application prior to coming in to complete the MAR. It may not be possible to complete both steps at the time of MAR. This is of particular note to applicants applying close to the deadline.

The Admissions Office hours for the MAR Review are 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. The review is done on a walk-in basis and no appointment is necessary. Please note that only one counselor is available after 5:00 p.m. The Admissions Office is located in the Oak Grove Center, room 2361.

**Fall 2018 Applicants**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If you are applying for fall 2018 and have completed all of your related classes or will be taking classes during the summer semester only, you can complete your MAR:</th>
<th>If you are applying for fall 2018 and are taking any curriculum classes during the fall semester, you can complete your MAR:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 5- March 22*</td>
<td>January 22-March 22*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*MAR reviews will not be conducted October 9-13, November 20-24, December 18- January 19, and February 19-22 .

**Reminder: MAR reviews will not be conducted on Fridays.**
RANKING PROCESS

After completion of Phase I and II, applicants who complete a MAR Review are ranked using a point system. As this is a selective enrollment program, it is in the student’s best interest to achieve as many ranking points as possible. The components of the ranking system include the following items:

1. **Related Courses**

   Points are awarded for specific course grades completed by the deadline. Grade points are valued as follows: A= 4 points, B= 3 points and C= 2 points. These points are then multiplied by the credit hours for each course. For example, English 111 (3 credit hours) with a grade of “B” (3 points) gives a student 9 total points for that course. AP credit is based upon the individual scores as follows: 5=A=4 points, 4=B=3 points and 3=C=2 points. No AP credit is awarded for a score of 2 or lower.

   Related academic courses and approved substitutions are listed below. Only courses completed by the deadline will be used for ranking. Courses must be completed with a “C” or higher.

   Biology courses over five years old will not be considered for transfer credit or points in the ranking. Please note: if a course is repeated, the most recent grade earned will be used in the ranking.

   **Related Course Titles – High School Graduates Only**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Titles</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIO 163 or BIO 165 &amp; 166 or BIO 168 &amp; 169</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENG 111</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENG 115 or COM 231</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 150</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIS 110 or CIS 111</td>
<td>3/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAT 143 or higher level math course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities/Fine Arts Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   *To qualify for ranking points and transfer credit, courses must satisfy the required semester hours and descriptions. Please note that BIO 165 & 166 must be completed at the same college or university to transfer. Applicants completing BIO 168 & 169 are not restricted to taking both anatomy courses at the same college or university. Since BIO 163 is the preferred curriculum course, students taking the two part sequence (BIO 168/169 or 165/166) should be aware that the two grades are averaged and multiplied by five credit hours to calculate an equivalent BIO point total.

   ** Statistics courses will not county towards ranking points or transfer credit. Math 143 is a 3 credit hour course. If a higher-level math that is 4 credit hours is substituted, it will still be multiplied by 3 credit hours.

   **All 2018 HS graduates** will be ranked only using the overall weighted GPA and grades in specific high school courses. Grade points are valued as follows: **Honors/AP courses** – A= 5 pts., B= 4 pts., C= 3 pts. **Standard courses** – A= 4 pts., B= 3pts., C= 2 pts. High school courses will only be considered for points if the applicant is a 2018 HS graduate.

2018 HS Graduates Only

   Overall Weighted GPA
   Algebra II
   Anatomy/Physiology
   Biology
   Chemistry
   Physics
   Health Science/Occupations/Medical Careers
2. **Additional Points:** Must be submitted at time of MAR Review

Points will be awarded for the completion of the following. Please note these are **not** requirements for admission to the program. Appropriate documentation must be submitted for points to be awarded. **Points for degrees and diplomas will be given for the highest credential earned. Students may not earn multiple points for multiple academic degrees.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Completion of an <strong>Allied Health</strong> related bachelor’s degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Completion of a <strong>Non-Allied Health</strong> bachelor’s degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Completion of an <strong>Allied Health</strong> related associate’s degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Completion of a <strong>Non-Allied Health</strong> associate’s degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Completion of an <strong>Allied Health</strong> related diploma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Completion of a <strong>Non-Allied Health</strong> diploma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Current Licensed Paramedic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Military Corpsman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Current Licensed EMT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Current CMA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Current CNA I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Current CNA II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>6</strong></td>
<td>6 months or more full time experience working in a MRI Dept.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4</strong></td>
<td>6 months or more full time experience working in a health field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td>6 months or more part time experience working in a MRI Dept.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td>6 months or more part time experience working in a health field</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Must receive documentation from supervisor on facility letterhead verifying work experience and a copy of the official job description must accompany the letter.**

*Work performed must involve direct patient care as specified in the job description. This includes, but is not limited to occupations such as nursing, CNA, imaging technologists, therapists, patient transporters, imaging tech assistants, and other similar positions where patient care is part of the primary job description and purpose. Occupations such as medical unit secretary, lab technician, gift shop clerk, cafeteria worker etc. will not be considered since the main function of these jobs is not patient care.*

Additional points will be given for the following courses that **are not part of the Magnetic Resonance Imaging curriculum’s general education related courses listed on page 4.** A final grade of “B” or higher must be verified by an official college/university transcript and submitted by time of the MAR Review to receive points. Additional points will only be awarded for the specific courses identified below (course substitutions are not permitted).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Course</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>HUM 115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>PHY 110/110A or higher physics course</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. **Total Points for Ranking**

Adding together the grade points and related experience points will determine the applicant’s total points for ranking. Students with the highest point total will be accepted. In the event of a tie, the applicant with the higher Related Courses points will be ranked higher. An alternate list will also be developed. Applicants not admitted to the program must reapply, complete a new health information session and complete a new MAR Review if they wish to be considered for the following year’s class.

**Accepted student data from the previous 3 years**

Please note that the data below is for informational purposes only! Points and criteria vary each year. It is in a student’s best interest to accumulate as many points as possible to be as competitive as possible.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of qualified applicants</th>
<th>Point range of accepted students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>68-90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>52-97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>86-99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Policy regarding Deferred Action Childhood Arrival (DACA) and Undocumented Students**

Current NCCCS policy allows DACA and undocumented applicants to enroll at Forsyth Tech at the out of state tuition cost. However, acceptance to the college does not guarantee acceptance to a specific program.

DACA students are eligible to apply to an Allied Health/Nursing program.

Undocumented students are not eligible for consideration to Allied Health or Nursing programs. According to North Carolina and Federal law, undocumented students are not eligible for North Carolina professional licensure.

This policy is subject to change without notice based upon federal and state regulations.

**Medical Training Certification Requirement**

It is strongly recommended that you begin working on these certifications prior to acceptance to the MRI program. Nurse Aide I and CPR training courses fill up quickly. If you are unable to complete these requirements by the deadline set by the MRI department after acceptance, you will lose your seat in the program.

Applicants who are accepted to the Magnetic Resonance Imaging program must successfully complete a NC state approved Nursing Assistant I (NA I) program by **August 15, 2018**. Possession of a current and valid higher–level certification such as Certified Nursing Assistant I or II (CNA I or II), Certified Medical Assistant (CMA), Emergency Medical Technician (EMT B or I), Paramedic or Military Corpsman will also be accepted to meet this requirement.

A successfully completed NC state approved high school course in Allied Health II (with clinical component) can serve as an equivalency for the NA I requirement for high school students.

Applicants who are accepted must also hold current AHA Health Care Provider Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification by **August 15, 2018**.

Approved students must provide the appropriate documentation to the MRI Program Coordinator’s office to verify the completion of these requirements by **August 15, 2018**. CNA I, EMT and CPR certifications can be completed through Forsyth Tech’s Economic and Workforce Development-Education Division (336-734-7023). CPR is included in the NA I course. There will be 3 CNA I classes available for imaging students immediately after the spring semester 2018. Please call that division for the details.

**NOTE:** The information provided in this packet is subject to change annually.
Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Technology involves the use of strong magnetic fields and radio waves to acquire detailed cross-sectional images of the body. Because of the nature of these strong magnetic fields, it is important to inform potential students and the public regarding the possible hazards associated with working in the MR environment.

One of the most critical aspects of magnetic safety is the establishment of a thorough and effective screening process. This screening process assists in protecting students from MR system-related accidents and injuries by identifying implants, devices, or objects that may cause harm when introduced into the MR setting.

The following are some examples of implanted devices or objects that may interfere with a student’s ability to work/learn in an MR environment. **If you have any of the following or other implanted devices or objects,** please contact Melissa Smith, BSRT (R) (MR), Program Coordinator 336-757-3349 or email at msmith@forsythtech.edu prior to applying to the MRI Program.

- Aneurysm clip
- Electronic implant or device
- Implanted insulin or drug infusion pump
- Shunts
- Hearing aids
- Cardiac pacemaker
- Magnetically activated implant or device
- Prosthetics
- Medication patches
- Tissue expanders
- Implanted cardioverter defibrillator
- Simulators-brain, bone growth, and pain deterrent
- Eyelid spring or wire
- Metal fragments or foreign bodies including shrapnel and bullets
- Cochlear or other ear implants
Technical Standards For Program Completion

The diploma signifies that the graduate is prepared for entry level practice in the MR department. Therefore, the graduate must have both the knowledge and skills to function in a broad variety of situations, and to render a wide spectrum of health related services.

Candidates for the degree must have a variety of abilities and skills in the following areas:
A. Observation
B. Communication
C. Motor and Function
D. Intellect: Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative
E. Behavior and Social Skills

Technical compensation can be made for some physical handicaps, but a candidate must be able to perform in a reasonably independent manner.

A. Observation: abilities required of a candidate include:

1. Skillful use of MRI equipment.
2. Observation, evaluation, and proper screening of patients for metal and other incompatible MRI implants.
3. Students should be able to observe the results of technical parameters and be able to adjust those parameters when necessary.
4. Have a knowledge base necessary to prevent patient reactions to medication or certain stimuli.
   Students must be prepared to deal with emergent situations.
5. Identify image artifacts and make technical adjustments to compensate for them.

The senses of vision, smell and hearing are necessary for a candidate to effectively function in the MR Program.

B. Communication Skills: required by candidate include the ability to speak, hear, and observe patients in order to:

1. Introduce themselves and establish rapport with the patient.
2. Explain the procedure in words that the patient understands. Explain breathing instructions and the length of time a procedure will take.
3. Elicit a detailed case history on the patient. Information should include: history of trauma, previous cancer, family history of disease, pain, fever, mass, etc.
4. Screen the patient for dangerous metal implants.
5. Be aware of changes in the patient’s disposition, activity, breathing, or posture.
6. Perceive non-verbal communication (i.e., pain, fever, claustrophobia, anger, or lack of understanding).

A candidate must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients including not only speech and hearing but reading, writing, and electronic forms. A candidate must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written form with members of the health care team.
C. **Motor and Function Abilities:** required of a candidate include gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, strength, and functional use of the senses of touch and vision for the safe handling of patients, self and equipment in order to:

1. Safely perform intravenous injections of contrast material.
2. Provide other patient services and patient associated services.
3. Safely lift, manipulate, and use equipment (up to 50 lbs.).

**A candidate must have these abilities to provide safe care for patients in various states of mobility and awareness.**

D. **Intellectual: Conceptual, Integrated, and Quantitative Abilities:** these requirements prepare students for measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis, and synthesis of the following:

1. Display critical thinking when an atypical patient requires sequences which are not in the normal protocol.
2. Comprehend dimensional anatomic relationships and structures.
3. Must be aware of warning signs, and be able to care for patients in distress.

**A candidate must have these abilities to accurately produce quality MR images.**

E. **Behavioral and Social Skills:** required of a candidate:

1. Allow mature, sensitive and effective relationships with patients, clients, and fellow workers (interpersonal skills).
2. Tolerate physically taxing workloads.
3. Function effectively under stress.
4. Adapt to changing environments (i.e., flexible schedules).
5. Display flexibility and ability to function during uncertainty inherent in health care (i.e., emergency conditions).
6. Display:
   a. Professionalism
   b. Compassion
   c. Empathy
   d. Integrity
   e. Concern for others
   f. Interest and motivation

**A candidate must have these abilities to provide empathetic support to patients where quality care is dependent on a team approach.**

All of the above abilities, skills, and knowledge in a candidate will be continually tested and evaluated during the educational process of this program.