

RESPIRATORY THERAPY



BREATHING IS THE GREATEST PLEASURE IN LIFE
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WHAT IS RESPIRATORY THERAPY?

Respiratory Therapy (RT) is a specialized health care field where practitioners are trained in pulmonary medicine in order to work therapeutically with people suffering from pulmonary disease.

Knowledge and understanding of the scientific principles underlying cardiopulmonary physiology and pathophysiology, as well as biomedical engineering and application of technology, enables respiratory therapists to provide patient care services efficiently.

RESPIRATORY THERAPY PRACTICE SETTINGS

Respiratory therapy is provided in nearly all health care venues including, but not limited to:

- Acute care hospitals
- Diagnostic laboratories
- Sleep disorder centers
- Rehabilitation, long-term acute care and skilled nursing facilities
- Patients' homes
- Patient transport systems
- Physicians' offices
- Convalescent and retirement centers
- Educational institutions
- Wellness centers

Some RTs also work for medical device manufacturers.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A RESPIRATORY THERAPIST

A day in the life of an RT might include:

- Diagnosing lung and breathing disorders and recommending treatment methods.
- Interviewing patients and doing chest physical exams to determine what kind of therapy is best for their condition.
- Consulting with physicians to recommend a change in therapy, based on your evaluation of the patient.
- Analyzing breath, tissue, and blood specimens to determine levels of oxygen and other gases.
- Managing ventilators and artificial airway devices for patients who can't breathe normally on their own.
- Responding to emergency situations and urgent calls for care.
- Educating patients and families about lung disease so they can maximize their quality of life.

EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK AND SALARY

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), *respiratory therapists* could expect **job growth of 21%**, faster than the average for all occupations, from 2018-2028. The BLS reported a *median annual salary of \$60,280* for these professionals as of May 2018. *Medical and health services managers* could expect **job growth of 18% from 2018-2028**, and as of May 2018, these professionals earned a *median annual salary of \$99,730*.

[Here's How Much Money Respiratory Therapists Make by State](#)
Forbes, Jan 2020

https://study.com/articles/Masters_Degree_in_Respiratory_Therapy_Program_Information.html

IS RESPIRATORY THERAPY RIGHT FOR YOU?

If you agree with the following statements, you might discover respiratory therapy is exactly what you've been looking for:

- ✓ I enjoy helping people in their time of need.
- ✓ I like working with technology and I'm good in math and science.
- ✓ I want to work in a profession with lots of variety.
- ✓ I want the ability to work in a variety of places with patients of all ages.
- ✓ I'm looking for a career with multiple opportunities for advancement—not just one.

If this sounds like you, respiratory therapy could be a great fit!

YOUR PATHWAY FROM HERE

BA Degree

Obtain your bachelor's degree in any field of study.

RT Degree

Respiratory Therapy programs exist at the Associate's, Bachelor's and Master's level. Attending a CoARC accredited institution will ensure a high-quality program.

Certification

Certification is not required in all states to obtain licensure. However, it can make you a more appealing candidate to employers and make licensure easier in other states.

Licensure

Licensure is required in nearly all states. Requirements vary from state to state. Be sure to research the requirements for your state prior to applying for your RT license.

https://study.com/articles/How_to_Become_a_Certified_Respiratory_Therapist.html

COARC ACCREDITED MASTERS PROGRAMS

- MS in Respiratory Therapy MS at Georgia State University GA
- MS in Respiratory Care at Rush University IL
- MHS in Respiratory Therapy at Bellarmine University KY
- MS in Respiratory Therapy at University of Mary ND (online)
- MS in Respiratory Care at UT Health San Antonio TX

In 2015, the CoARC developed a set of standards for degree advancement programs. However, this is a voluntary process. If the college that sponsors the degree advancement program also has an entry-to-practice respiratory care program, the quality of that program as noted on the CoARC Programmatic Outcomes Data may indicate the quality of the degree advancement program.

PERQUISITE COURSEWORK COMPARISON

FOR COARC ACCREDITED PROGRAMS

	<u>UT San Antonio</u>	<u>Bellarmino</u>	<u>Rush</u>	<u>U Mary</u>	<u>Georgia State</u>
Gen Chem	X	X	X	X	X
Physics	X	X	X	X	X
Microbiology	X	X	X	X	X
Anatomy & Physiology	X	X	X	X	X
Psychology		X	X		
Pharmacology				X	
Math / Stats		X	X	X	
Ethics				X	
Pathophysiology		X			

SAMPLE PLAN OF STUDY

AT UT HEALTH SAN ANTONIO

FIRST YEAR

FALL	SPRING	SUMMER
Intro. to Respiratory Care	Diseases Affecting the Cardiopulmonary System	Management & Leadership in Health Profession
Pharmacology	Cardiopulmonary Diagnostics and Pulmonary Function Testing	Education in Respiratory Care
Cardiopulmonary Physiology	Pediatric & Neonatal Respiratory Care	Introduction To Research
Patient Assessment	Critical Care & Mechanical Ventilation	Critical Care Introduction
	Clinical Practice Intro.	

SECOND YEAR

FALL	SPRING	SUMMER
Clinical Seminar I	Clinical Practice II	Clinical Practice III
Clinical Practice I	Research Project II	Research Project III
Research Project I	Clinical Seminar II	Clinical Seminar III

VISIT THE AARC VIRTUAL MUSEUM

EXPLORE THESE GALLERIES AND MORE!

1918 INFLUENZA PANDEMIC

The 1918 Influenza Pandemic

One hundred years ago, the outbreak of the 1918 Spanish influenza pandemic began. This mini-gallery provides a brief overview of the pandemic and features an interview with Alvan Barach, MD who treated patients with influenza and pneumonia during the 1918-1919 pandemic.

[EXPLORE THE GALLERY >](#)

Reflections

RT Stories

Hear how many different ways members found their way into the profession.

[EXPLORE THE GALLERY >](#)



Milestones of the Profession

An overview of key events in the profession and key agencies (AARC, NBRC, CoARC, and ARCF) since the first on-the-job training program began over seven decades ago.

[EXPLORE THE GALLERY >](#)

The Legends of Respiratory Care

Legends of Respiratory Care

The designation as a Legend of Respiratory Care is an honor bestowed upon an individual who significantly impacted and changed the respiratory care profession.

[EXPLORE THE GALLERY >](#)

RESPIRATORY THERAPY IN THE NEWS

[Respiratory Therapists Battling Covid-19 on the Front Line, Lex18](#)

[Respiratory Therapists' Importance Highlighted in Covid-19 Crisis, Oklahoma's News KFOR](#)

['On-the-Job Emergency Training': Hospitals May Run Low on Staff to Run Ventilators for Coronavirus Patients, USA Today](#)

[Chicago's Respiratory Therapists on the Front Line of the COVID-19 Pandemic, CBS Chicago](#)

[Georgia State Respiratory Therapists Battle COVID-19, GSU News Hub](#)

[Retired Respiratory Therapist Coming Back to Work Amid Coronavirus Crisis, ABC Eyewitness News](#)

WATCH AND LEARN



Respiratory Therapist, Work BC Career Trek shadows a respiratory therapist who discusses his day to day responsibilities and the satisfaction he finds in his work.

WATCH AND LEARN



Life and Breath – A Presentation of the Respiratory Therapy Career Shows what respiratory therapists do and why they are so dedicated to their profession. Contains information on growth of the profession, educational requirements, salaries, and specialties. Includes interviews and testimonials from working RTs, physicians, and hospital administrators.

UPCOMING VIRTUAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

\$15 FOR NON-AARC MEMBERS

April 2020 RESPIRATORY CARE JournalCast

April 17, 2:00pm EST

The speaker will discuss the Editor's Choice of the April 2020 issue of RESPIRATORY CARE "Success of a Tobacco Cessation Program for Parents at a Children's Hospital". The presentation will focus on the research design and interpretation of the results.

From Good to Great: Changing Respiratory Care Clinical Practice

April 28, 2:00pm EST

Leading a respiratory care department through both evolutionary change and revolutionary change is challenging. Physicians rely on competent respiratory therapists to assess and treat complex patients with respiratory compromise and the respiratory therapy department relies upon the medical director for guidance and support. This webcast will discuss respiratory care department changes from the perspective of a physician and department medical director as well as provide strategies for effective collaboration between the department's RT director and medical director.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC): AARC.org

Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC): CoARC.com

National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC): NBRC.org

Be an RT: Be-an-RT.org

Respiratory Care Journal: RC.RCJournal.com

American Respiratory Care Foundation: ARCFoundation.org

International Council for Respiratory Care: IRCCouncil.org