

Respiratory Therapy



WHAT IS RESPIRATORY THERAPY?

Respiratory Therapy (RT) is a specialized 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. be-an-rt.org/what-is-respiratory-therapy

EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK AND SALARY

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) 2020 summary, respiratory therapists could expect job growth of 19% faster than the average for all occupations. The BLS reported a median annual salary of \$62,810 for these professionals. Medical and health services managers could expect job growth of 32%, and these professionals earned a median annual salary of \$104,280.

YOUR PATHWAY FROM HERE

- BA Degree: Obtain your bachelors 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 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.
- CoARC Accredited Master's Programs:
 - MS in Respiratory Therapy MS at Georgia State University
 - MS in Respiratory Care at Rush University
 - MHS in Respiratory Therapy at Bellarmine University
 - MS in Respiratory Therapy at University of Mary (online)
 - MS in Respiratory Care at UT Health San Antonio

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. aarc.org/careers/respiratory_therapy_degree_advancement

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: BeanRT.org
- Respiratory Care Journal: RC.RCJournal.com
- American Respiratory Care Foundation: ARCFoundation.org
- International Council for Respiratory Care: IRCCouncil.org

UTC.EDU/PRE-HEALTH

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