



Career Path: Respiratory Therapist

Respiratory Therapists play a vital role in helping patients breathe easier and recover from respiratory conditions. It's a rewarding and impactful healthcare career.

Postsecondary Education

- Enroll in an accredited Respiratory Therapy program (Associate's or Bachelor's degree)
- Coursework includes anatomy, physiology, pharmacology, and respiratory care techniques

Clinical Training

- Complete hands-on clinical rotations in hospitals or clinics
- Gain experience with ventilators, oxygen therapy, and patient care

Certification and Licensure

- Pass the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) exams:
 - * Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT)
 - * Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT)
- Obtain state licensure as required

Entry-Level Employment

- Work in hospitals, emergency rooms, intensive care units, or home care settings

Career Advancement

- Specialize in neonatal/pediatric care, pulmonary rehabilitation, or sleep disorders
- Pursue leadership roles or teaching positions
- Consider advanced degrees in healthcare administration or education

Continuing Education

- Maintain certification through continuing education and professional development