

What is Respiratory Care?

Respiratory Care is a life-supporting, life enhancing health care profession practiced under qualified medical direction. Respiratory care services provided to patients with disorders of the cardiopulmonary system include: diagnostic testing, therapeutics, monitoring, and rehabilitation. Patient, family, and public education are provided in all health care facilities and in the home.

What Does A Respiratory Therapist Do?

Respiratory therapists or respiratory care practitioners deal with the assessment, treatment, management and care of patients with deficiencies and abnormalities associated with respiration, ventilation, and circulation. The Respiratory Therapist Program trains students in the therapeutic use of medical gases and their delivery devices, environmental control, humidity and aerosol therapy, inhaled medications, chest physiotherapy, airway management, mechanical ventilator management, rehabilitation, home care and cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Students also learn a variety of techniques used in the diagnosis, monitoring and assessment of patients with cardiopulmonary disorders.

Respiratory therapists work closely with other members of the health care team including physicians, nurses, rehabilitation therapists and other health technologists.

The career in health care is not for everyone, it can be physically and emotionally demanding, but for those individuals who are team players, dedicated, compassionate and enjoy helping others, Respiratory Care is a rewarding and satisfying career choice in the field of health occupations.

Where Does A Respiratory Therapist Work?

Upon completion of the program, the graduate is qualified for immediate employment and for application to the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) for the entry-level certification to attain the status of Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT) required for state licensure in the state of Arizona. He or she may also apply for entry into a baccalaureate program. Upon successful completion of the entry-level examination, the graduate is then eligible for the advanced practitioner exams offered through the NBRC to attain the status of a Registered Respiratory Therapist. The respiratory therapist usually works in:

- ◆ Hospitals, major medical centers and trauma centers
- ◆ Special facilities or home care
- ◆ Clinics or physicians' offices

How Much Will I Earn?

- ◆ Entry level respiratory therapists may earn between \$26K-\$38K annually
- ◆ Sign on bonuses available in selected areas.

Career Goals and Continuing Education Options

There are many choices on the career ladder for the Respiratory Therapist seeking promotion and diversity.

- ◆ Health care administration
- ◆ Respiratory care department administrator
- ◆ Sales and application specialist of respiratory equipment
- ◆ Respiratory therapist program educator within a college or within a Respiratory Department
- ◆ Advanced respiratory care procedures

Advanced Respiratory Care Opportunities: (with continuing education)

Bronchoscopy Assistance, Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation, Liquid Ventilation, Surfactant Replacement Therapy, Nitric Oxide Administration, Intubation, IV Administration, Transport, Advanced Diagnostic Testing, Perinatal Specialist, Arterial line insertion, Hemodynamic monitoring, Asthma Education Specialist.

Who Should I Contact With Questions Not Answered In This Brochure?

Faculty members will be happy to answer your questions. Call Robert Lamme, 206-3106 or Jody Kosanke, 206-3107. Please leave a message on our voice-mail.

How Can I Apply?

Call the Health Related Professions Hotline at 206-6618 and tell them that you would like to apply to the Respiratory Therapist Program.

Job Outlook

Job opportunities are expected to be good. Employment of respiratory therapists is expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations through 2005, due to the substantial growth in the middle-aged and elderly population, and because of the rapid advances in treatment and the development of therapeutic technology.

Accreditation

Pima Community College's Associate Degree respiratory Therapist Program is accredited by:

- ◆ Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) through the
- ◆ Council on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP)

What Are The Costs For The Entire Program?

- ◆ Tuition is currently \$2346.00
- ◆ Books \$575.00-\$786.00
- ◆ Uniforms and Supplies \$185.00
- ◆ Course Fees \$80.00

Is Financial Aid Available?

YES. Contact the Financial Aid Office in the West Campus Student Center or telephone 206-6606.