

RESPIRATORY CARE THERAPIST

Respiratory Care Therapists care for patients that have trouble breathing. In particular, they provide emergency care to patients suffering from many different acute conditions including heart attacks, strokes, drowning, and shock. Their patients range from premature infants with underdeveloped lungs to elderly patients who have diseased lungs.

CAREER DESCRIPTION*

- » National average salary: \$62,810
- » National projected career growth: 23%
- » Most work in hospitals
- » Treat patients using a variety of methods, including chest physiotherapy and aerosol medications
- » Perform various tests to determine lung capacity and blood oxygen and carbon dioxide levels

TYPICAL EDUCATION**

- » Years of school (including undergraduate): 2–4
- » Approximate Cost:
 - Associate's of Science: \$47,430
 - Bachelor's of Science: \$73,080
- » Certification required: CRT or RRT

NEARBY SCHOOLS & PROGRAM TYPE

- » Metropolitan Community College (Associate's Degree)
- » CHI Health (Associate's Degree)
- » Nebraska Methodist College (Associate's & Bachelor's Degrees)
- » Southeast Community College (Associate's Degree)
- » University of Kansas Medical Center (Bachelor's Degree)

COMPETITIVE APPLICANTS ALWAYS...

- » Shadow professions in the field
- » Have strong academics in math & science courses
- » Have Basic Life Support (BLS) certification before applying

WHAT PRACTICING PROFESSIONALS SAY



Respiratory therapy is an integral part of the team aspect of care. We're involved with physicians, nurses, and pharmacists, and take part in discussion and care for the patient."

-Hank Read, RRT



Our respiratory care therapists are not only clinicians, spending countless hours at the bedside tweaking the ventilator to maximize the patient's comfort, but they are also fabulous teachers, helping to demystify mechanical ventilation."

Dr. Patrick Kritek, MD

*Data and information from Bureau of Labor and Statistics

** Data and information from Nebraska Methodist College

Last update: 10.2021

UNO Health Careers Resource Center
307 Allwine Hall | 402.554.5980
unohealthcareers@unomaha.edu
cas.unomaha.edu/hcrc

Click links for requirements from the schools listed below:

CHI Health School of Respiratory Therapy	Metropolitan Community College
Nebraska Methodist College	Southeast Community College
University of Kansas	

Prerequisites vary by program. Students are responsible for ensuring all entrance requirements are met.

Nebraska Methodist College Transferrable Courses

Biological Sciences (minimum credits: 12)		
Course	Credits	Prerequisites
BIOL 2440 – Biology of Microorganisms	4	High school Biology and Chemistry
BIOL 2740 or BMCH 2400 – Human Physiology & Anatomy I	4	None
BIOL 2840 or BMCH 2500– Human Physiology & Anatomy II	4	BIOL 2740 or BMCH 2400

Chemical Sciences (minimum credits: 4)		
CHEM 1140 & 1144 – Fundamentals of Chemistry & Lab	5	MATH 1220 or placement by exam

Mathematics (minimum credits: 3)		
MATH 1220– College Algebra	3	MATH 1210
BIOL 4110–Statistics for Biology	4	BIOL 1450 & BIOL 1750 and MATH 1310

Physics (minimum credits: 4)		
PHYS 1050 – Introduction to Physics	4	High school Algebra

*It is recommended that students take the lab, PHYS 1054, with the lecture. A higher level of physics may be substituted.

English Composition (minimum credits: 3)		
ENGL 1150 or ENGL 1154– English Composition I	3	ENGL 1050 or 1100
ENGL 1160 or 1164 – English Composition II	3	ENGL 1150 or ENGL 1154

Humanities (minimum credits: 9)		
A course in art, literature, music or drama	3	
A course in history	3	
A course in philosophy, religion or anthropology	3	

Social Sciences (minimum credits: 6)		
PSYC 2500 – Life Span Psychology	3	PSYC 1010
SOC 1010 – Intro to Sociology or SOC 3900 – Race & Ethnic Relations in the U.S.	3	SOC 1010

Medical Terminology (minimum credits: 2)		
BIOL 1160 – Medical Terminology	2	