

# RESPIRATORY THERAPIST

Respiratory 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 median salary: \$77,960
- » National projected career growth: 13%
- » Many 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
- » Certification required: CRT or RRT

## NEARBY SCHOOLS & CLASS SIZE

- » Metropolitan Community College (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 STUDENTS ALWAYS...

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

## WHAT PRACTICING PROFESSIONAL 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 the Bureau of Labor Statistics

\*\*Data and information from UNMC

Last update: 9.2024

Click here for requirements from the schools listed below:

<a href="#">Metropolitan Community College</a>	<a href="#">Nebraska Methodist College</a>
<a href="#">Southeast Community College</a>	<a href="#">University of Kansas</a>

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

\*Most schools prefer science classes to be taken in-person versus online.

### Nebraska Methodist College Transferrable Courses

S = Spring, F = Fall, M = Summer

Biological Sciences (minimum credits: 12)			
Course	Credits	Semester	Prerequisites
BIOL 2440 The Biology of Microorganisms & Lab	4	F, S, M	High school Biology and Chemistry
BIOL 2740 Human Anatomy & Physiology I & Lab	4	F, S, M	High school Biology and Chemistry
BIOL 2840 Human Anatomy & Physiology II & Lab	4	F, S, M	BIOL 2740

Chemistry (minimum credits: 4)			
CHEM 1140/1144 Fund of College Chemistry & Lab	5	F, S, M	MATH 1300 or 1320

Mathematics (minimum credits: 3)			
MATH 1300 College Algebra with Support	4	F, S, M	
OR			
MATH 1320 Pre-Calculus Algebra	3	F, S, M	ACT 22 or ALEKS 4

Physics (minimum credits: 4)			
PHYS 1050/1054 Introduction to Physics & Lab	5	F, S, M	High School Algebra

English Composition (minimum credits: 6)			
ENGL 1150 English Composition I	3	F, S, M	AP Score 3, ACT 14-26, HS GPA 2.3+
ENGL 1160 English Composition II	3	F, S, M	AP Score 4, ENGL 1140 or 1150, or ACT 27+ or Reading or English ACT score of 29+

Humanities (minimum credits: 9)			
May include Art, English Literature, *History, Humanities, Music, Philosophy, Religion, or Theatre. *One course must be a historical perspective.			

Social Sciences (minimum credits: 3)			
PSYC 1010 Introduction to Psychology	3	F, S, M	
PSYC 2500 Lifespan Psychology	3	F, S, M	PSYC 1010

Ethics (minimum credits: 3)			
PHIL 2030 Introduction to Ethics	3	F, S	
PHIL 2300 Biomedical Ethics	3	F, S	

Medical Terminology			
BIOL 1160 Terminology of Human Health & Disease	2	F, S	