

# RESPIRATORY THERAPIST

## WHAT WILL I BE DOING?

- Identify breathing problems
- Help critically ill patients breathe
- Operate machines
- Be part of a health care team
- Keep up with new technology

## NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL WAGE INFORMATION

	Entry Level Hourly Wage	2016 Employment	Projected 2026 Employment
<b>Capital Area</b>	<b>\$22.20</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>593</b>
Texas	\$22.91	11,784	15,943
United States	\$21.56	130,200	160,600

## WHAT JOB TITLES SHOULD I SEARCH FOR?

- Respiratory Therapist

## WHERE COULD I WORK?

- Medical and Surgical Hospitals
- Specialty Hospitals
- Offices of Physicians
- Colleges, Universities and Professional Schools

## KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS NEEDED

## WHAT TYPE OF EDUCATION AND/OR TRAINING WILL I NEED?

Workers in occupations at this level can develop the skills needed for average job performance after completing an associate's degree.

## WILL I NEED A SPECIAL LICENSE OR CERTIFICATION?

Many occupations prefer or require at least one certification for entry or advancement. The Texas Workforce Investment Council has indicated the following as Industry– Based Certifications for this occupation: Licensed Respiratory Care Practitioner.

### For Staff Use

SOC: 29-1126

CIP: 51.0812

51.0908

Primary Data Sources: Texas Workforce Commission at [texaslmi.com](http://texaslmi.com), JobsEQ at [jobseq.eqsuite.com](http://jobseq.eqsuite.com), Bureau of Labor Statistics at [bls.gov](http://bls.gov), and CareerOneStop at [careerinfonet.org](http://careerinfonet.org), 2018, Nationwide data is for 2019



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## CAPITAL AREA CAREER LADDER

\*Also Included on Targeted Occupation List (PY 2021)

Additional information can be found here:

<https://www.sjvc.edu/blog/respiratory-therapy-career-ladder-infographic>

### Respiratory Therapist

#### Hourly Wages

- Entry Level: \$22.20
- Median Level: \$28.08

#### Typical Education & Experience

- Associate's or Bachelor's Degree

190 new & replacement positions between 2016-2026

#### Therapist IV

Bachelor's Degree or enrolled  
Three years of additional experience

#### Therapist III

Bachelor's Degree or enrolled  
Two years of additional experience

#### Therapist II

Minimum of two years of experience

#### Therapist I

Associate's Degree

#### Respiratory Therapy Technician

#### Hourly Wages

- Entry Level: \$18.93
- Median Level: \$27.95

#### Typical Education & Experience

- Some College, No Degree or Associate's Degree

This Career Ladder is for illustrative purposes and does not display all pathways for career advancement. For more information or feedback email: [CareerLadder@wfscapitalarea.com](mailto:CareerLadder@wfscapitalarea.com)

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OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE

