

Health Science Cluster



Planning, managing and providing therapeutic services, diagnostic services, health informatics, support services and biotechnology research and development.

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Respiratory Therapists

Respiratory therapist (RTs) deal with people in every stage of life. When the hospital PA system announces a “code” (life-threatening emergency), you can be sure an RT is on the scene. When an elderly patient with emphysema is admitted to a long-term-care facility, an RT is there to help develop a respiratory care plan and set up equipment. When a premature baby is born, an RT helps to evaluate the newborn’s heart, lungs, and circulation.

If you are interested in a career where you help people in life-or-death situations, a career as a **respiratory therapist** may be for you.

Respiratory therapists specialize in breathing disorders. Under a doctor's supervision, they find the source of a patient's breathing problem and treat it with oxygen, medication, or both.

Are You Ready To...?

- Use clues to identify breathing problems
- Help critically ill patients breathe
- Operate machines
- Keep up with new technology

It Helps To Be...

A critical reader who is focused on detail. You should also be an excellent communicator and effective team member, not to mention good with your hands and with machines.

A Day In The Life...

- Provide emergency care, such as artificial respiration, external cardiac massage, or assistance with cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
- Monitor patient's physiological responses to therapy, such as vital signs, arterial blood gases, or blood chemistry changes, and consult with physician if adverse reactions occur.
- Transport patients to/within the hospital.

Salary and Opportunity in the Austin-area

Median Hourly Wage: \$27.63

*That comes out to more than
\$57,466 a year.*

**In 2016, we had
403 Respiratory Therapists.
By 2026, we'll need 593.**

Could you be one of the 190?

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Respiratory Therapists

After High School...

In addition to a high school diploma, many employers look for respiratory therapists with an **associate's degree**.



Top 5 Industries for Respiratory Therapists

1. General Medical and Surgical Hospitals
2. Specialty (except Psychiatric and Substance Abuse) Hospitals
3. Nursing Care Facilities (Skilled Nursing Facilities)
4. Offices of Physicians
5. Employment Services

For more Career Profiles, visit our website:

[http://www.wfscapitalarea.com/YouthServices/
CareerPlanning.aspx](http://www.wfscapitalarea.com/YouthServices/CareerPlanning.aspx).

Related Majors

- Biology
- Nursing
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Respiratory Therapy
- Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

Related Industry Certifications

- Certified Respiratory Therapist
- Neonatal/Pediatric Respiratory Care Specialist
- Pediatric Advanced Life Support
- Registered Respiratory Therapist
- Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers

Related Careers

- Cardiovascular Technologists
- Internists
- Occupational Therapists
- Radiation Therapists
- Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists
- Speech-Language Pathology Assistants
- Surgeons

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