

Respiratory Therapy

Respiratory therapists work with patients who have asthma, cystic fibrosis, emphysema, and trauma. Therapists provide life-support for premature infants. Therapists give medical gases and aerosol medications. They assure airway and bronchopulmonary hygiene, perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and are responsible for life-support systems. Therapists assess patients and perform diagnostic procedures that include measuring cardiopulmonary volumes, pressures, electrocardiograms, and arterial blood gases.

Respiratory therapists are licensed in Ohio as Respiratory Care Professionals (RCP). Therapists may be further recognized for their advanced knowledge and skills as Registered Respiratory Therapists (RRT), Registered Pulmonary Function Technologists (RPFT), and Neonatal/Pediatric Respiratory Specialists. Most respiratory therapists work in hospitals and usually in intensive care units (ICU). An increasing number of therapists continue care in patient homes or skilled nursing facilities, provide cardiopulmonary rehabilitation, and educate patients. Some therapists concentrate on pediatrics, transportation of critically ill patients, or cardiopulmonary diagnostic testing. The advanced therapist also assists physicians with special procedures, develops the plan of respiratory care, and evaluates the results of care.

Pursuing Respiratory Therapy at Ohio State

The division invites applications from high school seniors who have been admitted to the School of Allied Medical Professions and from collegiate students who are following the preprofessional curriculum outlined here. Maximum enrollment is limited to 16 per class per year. Admission is on a space-available basis.

For high school seniors, student selection is based upon the quality of their application, high school class rank, standardized test scores, and their personal interview. Collegiate applicants may apply through the Professional Admissions Office anytime after enrollment, but they typically do so during their freshman or sophomore year. For these students, college grade point average and performance in the preprofessional science and mathematics courses are also considered.

The professional major courses begin in the junior year. For the preprofessional years, students should follow the suggested scheduling plan on the Prospective Respiratory Student web page at <http://amp.osu.edu/RT>. Students preparing to apply to this program should request more detailed information from the AMP Student Affairs Office

at (614) 292-1706 or on the Respiratory Therapy web site above. The preprofessional prerequisites include:

- Biology 113 (biological principles)
- Chemistry 101 and 102 (elementary chemistry) or 121 and 122 (general chemistry)
- English 110 (freshman composition)
- Math 148 (college algebra)
- Physics 111 and 112 (general physics I and II)
- Psychology 100 (general psychology)
- Microbiology 509 (basic and practical microbiology)
- Anatomy 199.04 or 200 (basic/introductory human anatomy)
- EEOB 232 (introductory physiology)
- Allied Med 500 (medical terminology)

The major includes the freshman and sophomore courses listed as requirements for admission, plus 95 credit hours in respiratory therapy and professional supporting courses. The sample curriculum lists the credits required. The professional phase of the program consists of seven consecutive quarters of enrollment.

Features of the Respiratory Therapy program include:

- flexible admissions options, small personal classes, small student-faculty ratio;
- clinical experiences throughout the curriculum which give students the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills developed in the classroom and laboratory to patients in a clinical setting;
- learning in a variety of clinical settings including local hospitals, clinics, skilled nursing facilities, home care agencies and at major medical centers and hospitals throughout Ohio; and
- opportunities to select clinical specialties such as neonatal and pediatric care, rehabilitation and continuing care, education, administration, non-invasive cardiac diagnostic testing, hyperbaric oxygen, sleep disorders, and pulmonary laboratory.

Senior students conduct a research project and can choose some clinical experiences to match their career goals at major medical centers and hospitals throughout Ohio.

The respiratory therapy program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs to prepare registered respiratory therapists as advanced-level respiratory care professionals. Students earn basic, advanced, and instructor certifications for CPR and are eligible for an Ohio professional license before graduation.

For more information, check these web sites:

Division of Respiratory: <http://amp.osu.edu/RT>
School of Allied Health Professions: <http://amp.osu.edu>
Ohio State: www.osu.edu

Admissions: <http://undergrad.osu.edu>
Multicultural Center: <http://multiculturalcenter.osu.edu>
First Year Experience Program: <http://fye.osu.edu>

Curriculum Sample

This is a sample list of classes a student will take to pursue a B.S. degree in Respiratory Therapy. Since university students need more than a specific education in a narrow field, they also will take classes to complete the General Education Curriculum (GEC). The GEC will allow students to develop the fundamental skills essential to collegiate success across major programs. Course work options satisfying the GEC often come from a variety of academic areas of study allowing students to tailor their GEC toward their interests. Note: This sample represents one of several possible paths to a degree in Respiratory Therapy. Consult the departmental web site, <http://amp.osu.edu/RT>, for details on each specific track.

Freshman Year:

College Algebra	4
General Physics	5
Elementary or General Chemistry	10
Psychology	5
Biological Science	5
English composition	5
GEC (second writing course)	5
GEC (social sciences)	10
AMP Survey	1
Total hours	50

Sophomore Year:

General Physics	5
Microbiology	5
Elementary Statistics	5
Human Anatomy and Physiology	10
Introduction to Respiratory Therapy	1
Medical Terminology	3
GEC (history, arts and humanities)	25
Total hours	54

Junior Year:

Respiratory Therapy professional courses	42
Respiratory Clinical Experience	6
Pharmacology	3
Total hours	51

Senior Year:

Human Disease	6
Respiratory Clinical Experience	11
Respiratory Research	11
Management Principles for Health Professionals	3
Respiratory Management	3
Specialty Clinical Internships	4
Respiratory Education	3
Health Care Organization	3
Total hours	44

Co-Curricular Opportunities

Ohio State offers many opportunities for students to learn and grow outside of the classroom. These range from cooperative education (co-op) and internships to study abroad programs to student organizations. Co-ops and internships place students in professional environments while they are Ohio State students. Ohio State offers more than 100 study abroad programs in 40 countries around the world. In addition, there are hundreds of student organizations on campus to meet the interests of a diverse student population. Opportunities related to respiratory therapy include:

- participation in class activities and Allied Med Student Council,
- options to live in Allied Med Living/Learning Center, and
- opportunities to attend professional conferences.

Honors & Scholars Programs

Ohio State offers the Honors & Scholars programs to provide opportunities for undergraduate research and participation in the school's honors program and options to live in on-campus Honors or Health Sciences Scholars housing and participate in related programming opportunities.

Honors & Scholars programs represent great opportunities to be part of a smaller community within a large university. Good candidates for these programs are invited to apply upon admission to the university. For more information about these opportunities, refer to the Honors & Scholars web site at <http://honors.osu.edu>.

Career Prospects in Respiratory Therapy

According to the U.S. government's Bureau of Labor statistics, a 46% increase in demand for respiratory therapists throughout the country is projected by the year 2006. To date every graduate of the respiratory therapy program has found employment in the field.

New graduates usually begin their careers in hospitals working in adult or neonatal/pediatric critical care or in cardiopulmonary diagnostic laboratories, but therapists have careers in hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home care agencies, medical equipment supply and sales, insurance, pharmaceutical companies, and voluntary health organizations. Therapists with graduate degrees find careers as professors in community colleges and universities or as managers of hospital respiratory care departments.

Licensed respiratory therapists with baccalaureate degrees earn starting salaries of \$42,000 or higher, and salaries increase for Registered Respiratory Therapists (RRT). A typical salary for a therapist in a leadership position is \$50,000-\$75,000.

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