

# HEALTH CAREER PROGRAMS

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**Respiratory Care (RSC)**

**Information Session**

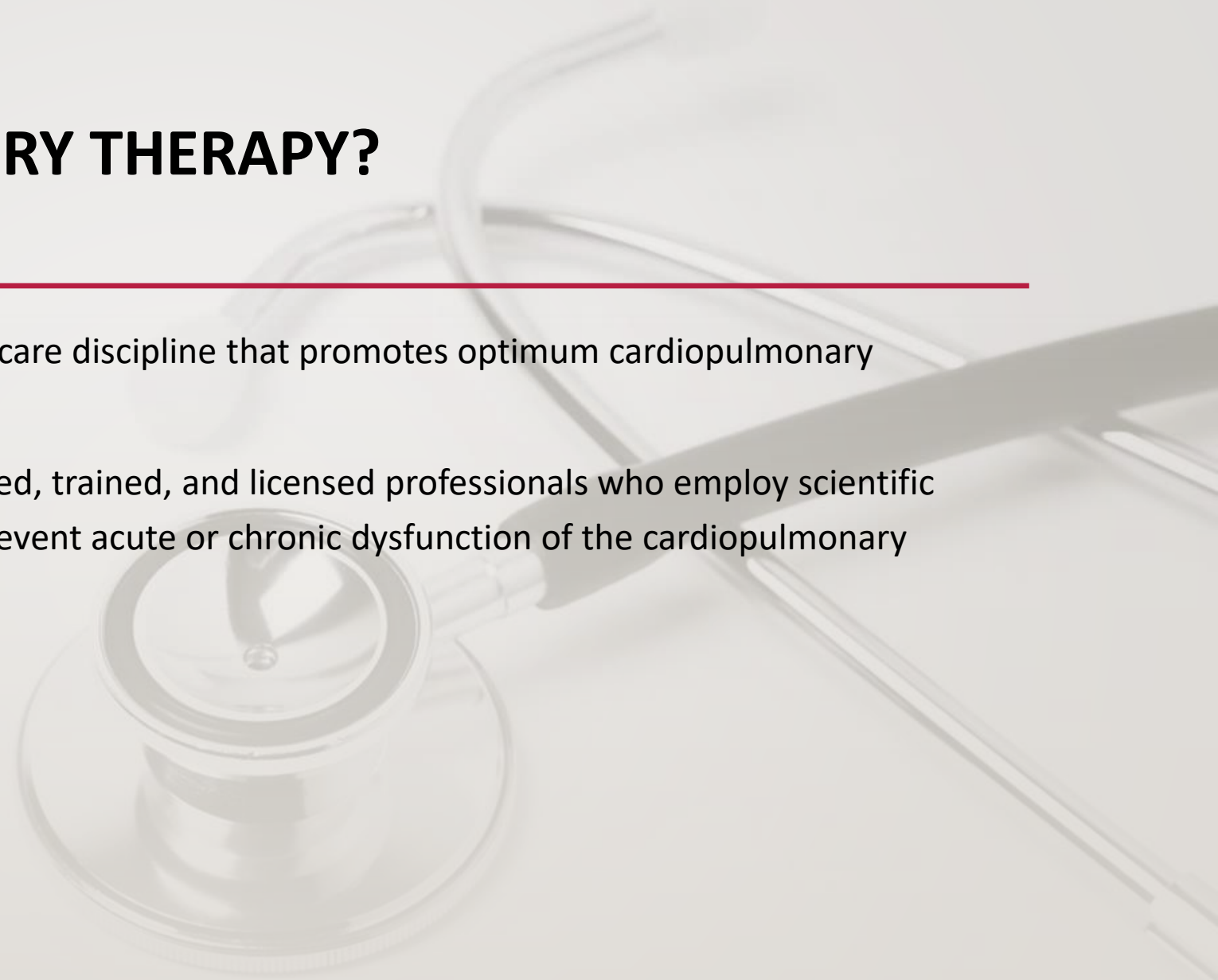


Updated: July 19, 2024

# WHAT IS RESPIRATORY THERAPY?

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- Respiratory Therapy is the health care discipline that promotes optimum cardiopulmonary function, health, and wellness.
- Respiratory Therapists are educated, trained, and licensed professionals who employ scientific principles to identify, treat and prevent acute or chronic dysfunction of the cardiopulmonary system.



# OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK

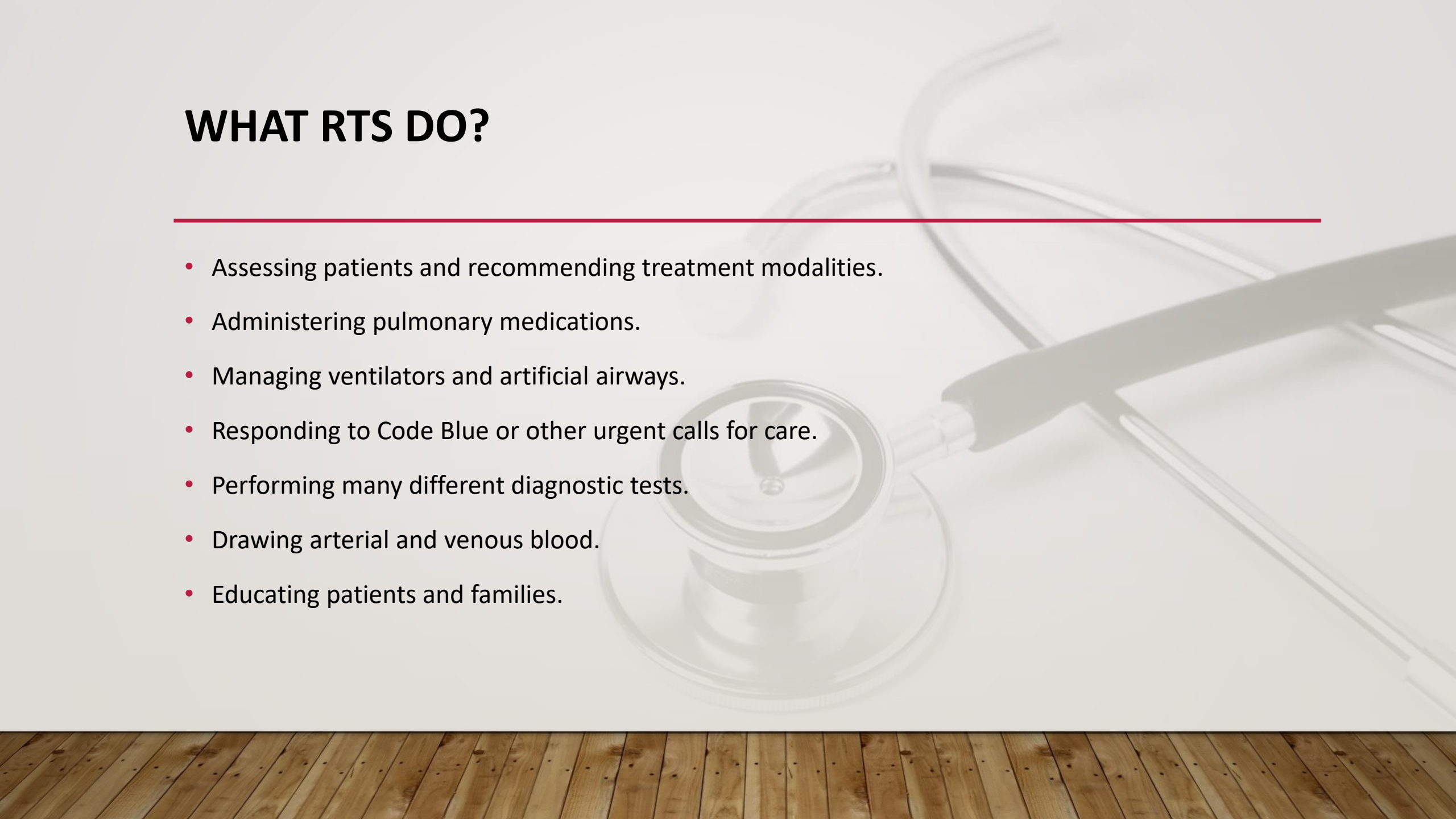
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- **14%** (Much faster than average)
- **\$ 79,000 per year** (Median Salary)



# WHAT RTS DO?

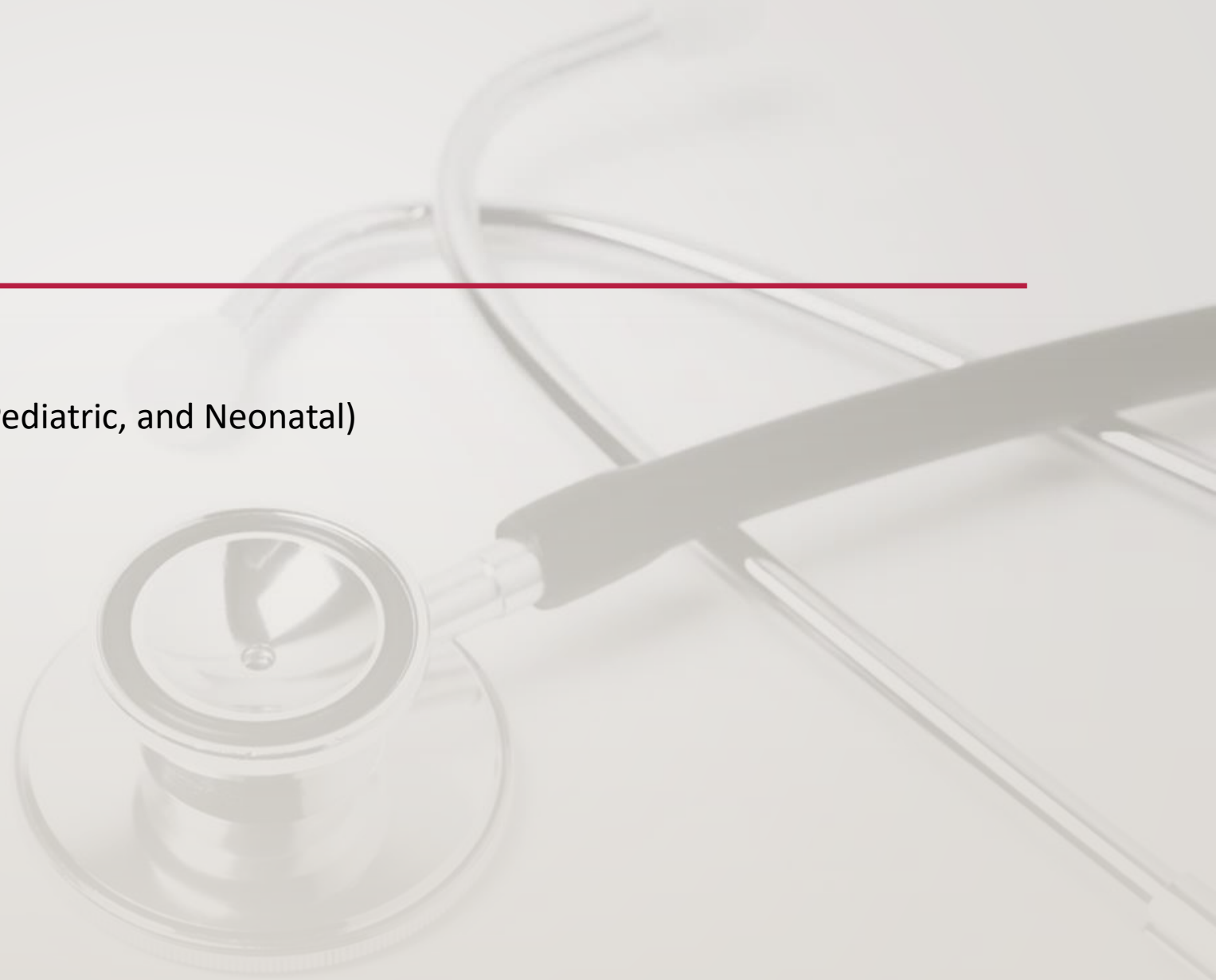
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- Assessing patients and recommending treatment modalities.
  - Administering pulmonary medications.
  - Managing ventilators and artificial airways.
  - Responding to Code Blue or other urgent calls for care.
  - Performing many different diagnostic tests.
  - Drawing arterial and venous blood.
  - Educating patients and families.
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# WHERE RTS WORK?

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- Hospitals
  - Intensive Care Units (Adult, Pediatric, and Neonatal)
  - Emergency Room
  - Labor and Delivery
  - Operating Room
  - Medical-Surgical Units
- Skilled Nursing Facilities
- Long-Term Acute Care Centers



# WHERE RTS WORK?

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- Pulmonary Function Laboratories
- Sleep Medicine Laboratories
- Athletic Training Facilities
- Home Health Agencies
- Doctor's Offices



# WHERE RTS WORK?

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- Air and Ambulance Transport
- Asthma Education
- Smoking Cessation Programs
- Case Management
- Cardiopulmonary Rehab
- Travel Staffing Agencies



# TECHNICAL SKILLS REQUIREMENTS-TECHNICAL STANDARDS

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- **Hearing:** Able to hear and understand patients and staff; assess and monitor patient or equipment sounds.
- **Mobility:** Physical endurance and ability to work effectively in a clinical setting for eight (8) to twelve (12) hours per day performing physical tasks requiring physical energy without jeopardizing patient safety. Mobile and strong enough to support and move patients. Examples include the ability to lift up to 50 pounds and walk to all hospital areas, including stairs.
- **Visual:** Able to monitor and assess patient and equipment function; to provide safe and effective respiratory care.
- **Motor Skills:** Be able to perform fine and gross motor skills sufficient to handle equipment and provide safe and effective patient care.



# TECHNICAL SKILLS REQUIREMENTS-TECHNICAL STANDARDS

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- **Tactile:** Able to assess patient's response to therapy tactilely. Distinguish textures, degrees of firmness, temperature differences, pulse rate, vibrations, and strength.
- **Communication:** Applicants and current students must be able to communicate in English effectively and sensitively with patients. In addition, candidates must be able to communicate in English in oral and written form with faculty, allied personnel, and peers in the classroom and laboratory,
- **Intellectual and Cognitive Abilities:** Applicants and current students must be able to measure, calculate and analyze data. They must make proper assessments, use sound judgment, appropriately prioritize therapeutic interventions, and measure and record patient care outcomes.

# TECHNICAL SKILLS REQUIREMENTS-TECHNICAL STANDARDS

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- **Behavioral/Social Skills and Professionalism:** Applicants and current students must demonstrate empathy, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest, and motivation. They must possess emotional well-being, adapt to ever-changing environments, display flexibility, and learn to function in the face of uncertainties and stresses inherent to clinical practice. Applicants and current students must be able to maintain professional conduct and appearance, maintain patient confidentiality, and operate within their scope of practice. Candidates must also have the ability to be assertive, delegate responsibilities appropriately, and function as a part of a medical team. Such abilities require organizational skills necessary to meet deadlines and manage time.

# TECHNICAL SKILLS REQUIREMENTS-TECHNICAL STANDARDS

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*Students enrolled in the Respiratory Care Program should be able to meet the established technical standards identified above. The Respiratory Care Program's technical standards represent those found in the Respiratory Therapy profession. Triton College is committed to providing access and equal opportunity for all. Reasonable accommodations are provided for all education services, programs, and activities for individuals with disabilities. Students must be able to demonstrate these abilities with or without reasonable accommodations. Accommodations are determined and provided by the [Center for Access and Accommodative Services \(CAAS\)](#).*

# RESPIRATORY CARE PROGRAM

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- Associate of Applied Science Degree
  - **68 credit hours**
  - Two years program (**five semesters**)
  - Clinical Internship (semesters 2-5)
  - ***Students must pass the NBRC board exam before applying for a state license***



# NBRC EXAMINATIONS

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**NBRC credential and a state license are required to practice as a respiratory therapist in the United States.**

Completing the Respiratory Care Program at Triton College meets the educational requirements to apply for the Therapist Multiple-Choice (TMC) Examination offered by the [National Board for Respiratory Care \(NBRC\)](#). Students who achieve a high cut score on the TMC Examination become eligible for the Clinical Simulation Examination (CSE). A passing score on the CSE is required to earn the Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) credential. The RRT credential is nationally recognized as the “standard of excellence” for respiratory care professionals.

Once credentialed by the NBRC, you must be licensed by the individual state regulatory agencies governing medical professionals to practice respiratory therapy in the respective state.

# NBRC EXAMINATIONS

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- **Specialty Examinations**
  - Pulmonary Function Technologist
  - Adult Critical Care Specialist
  - Neonatal/Pediatric Specialist
  - Sleep Disorder Specialist
  - Asthma Education Specialist

*NBRC credentialed practitioners become eligible to apply for specialty credential examinations three months to one year after earning the RRT credential (actual time frames vary by current credential and desired specialty credential).*

# PROGRAM PREREQUISITES

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- Must read and write at a college level; can be demonstrated by course equivalency or by meeting all current reading and writing requirements for **RHT 101** (Freshman Rhetoric & Composition I) placement;
- **MAT 085** (Algebra and Geometry II), or must meet current college Math requirements for completion of MAT 085; and
- **AHL 120** (Comprehensive Medical Terminology); And
- **BIS 136** (Functional Human Anatomy I) or **BIS 240** (Human Anatomy & Physiology I); and
- **Chemistry** (CHM 110 or CHM 140)

# DISCLOSURE

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**Full disclosure of any ticket, citation, summons, arrest, charges, or convictions for a misdemeanor or felony is required in writing to the Program Chairperson before applying to the Respiratory Care program. Applicants must contact the Program Chairperson for preapproval information before the program application deadline.**

If you have been convicted of one of the following offenses, you will **not** receive a respiratory license and will **not** be able to practice:

1. An offense requiring registration under the Sex Offender Registration Act
2. An offense where the sentence imposed requires registration under the Sex Offender Registration Act
3. Involuntary sexual servitude of a minor
4. Criminal battery against any patient in the course of patient care or treatment
5. A forcible felony, depending on the date of your conviction and the date of your release from confinement.

<https://idfpr.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/idfpr/faq/dpr/2019-respiratory-care-practitioner-cc-faqs.pdf>



# STEPS TO TAKE BEFORE THE RSC APPLICATION

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- Complete Triton College Application
  - [www.triton.edu/application](http://www.triton.edu/application)
- Send all transcripts to Triton College
  - Highschool
  - College
- Take placement exam if needed



# TAKE THE PLACEMENT EXAMS

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- The Placement Test is **mandatory** for all new students enrolling in credit courses.
- You can review sample questions and test-taking tips at: [www.triton.edu/placementtesting](http://www.triton.edu/placementtesting)
- **Please note:** you may waive the placement exams if you earned a proficient score in the English, Reading, and Math portion of the ACT or SAT.
- Please visit the testing website above for more information. If you have taken college courses, you must provide documentation of a grade of “C” or higher in college-level English and math courses.

# STEPS TO TAKE BEFORE THE RSC APPLICATION

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- After you have completed all the general application and testing steps, make an appointment with an academic advisor to set up an academic plan
- The role of the academic advisor is to review your courses and evaluate your eligibility to apply to the program

**Academic Advising:** <https://www.triton.edu/admissions-aid/advising/>

**Ben Snively**

**Academic Advisor for Respiratory Care**

**Office: D-218**

**(708) 456-0300, Ext. 3016**

[benjaminsnively@triton.edu](mailto:benjaminsnively@triton.edu)

# STEPS TO TAKE BEFORE THE RSC APPLICATION

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Once you have set up your academic plan with an advisor, complete ALL prerequisites to the program. They are as follows:

- Must read and write at a college level; can be demonstrated by course equivalency or by meeting all current reading and writing requirements for RHT 101;
- **MAT 085** Algebra and Geometry II, or must meet current college Math requirements for completion of MAT 085; and
- **AHL 120** Comprehensive Medical Terminology; and
- **BIS 136** Functional Human Anatomy I or **BIS 240** Human Anatomy & Physiology I; and
- **Chemistry** CHM 110 or CHM 140

*\* Five year limit with a "C" or above from the year you are applying for. Test scores must be within the last two years.*

# APPLYING TO THE RESPIRATORY CARE (RSC) PROGRAM

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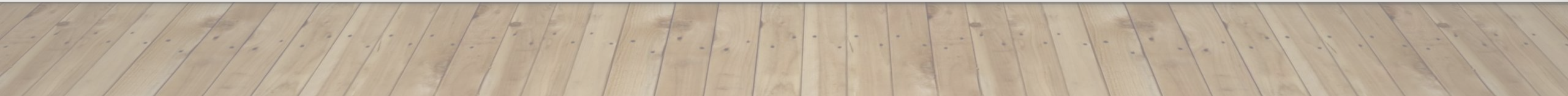
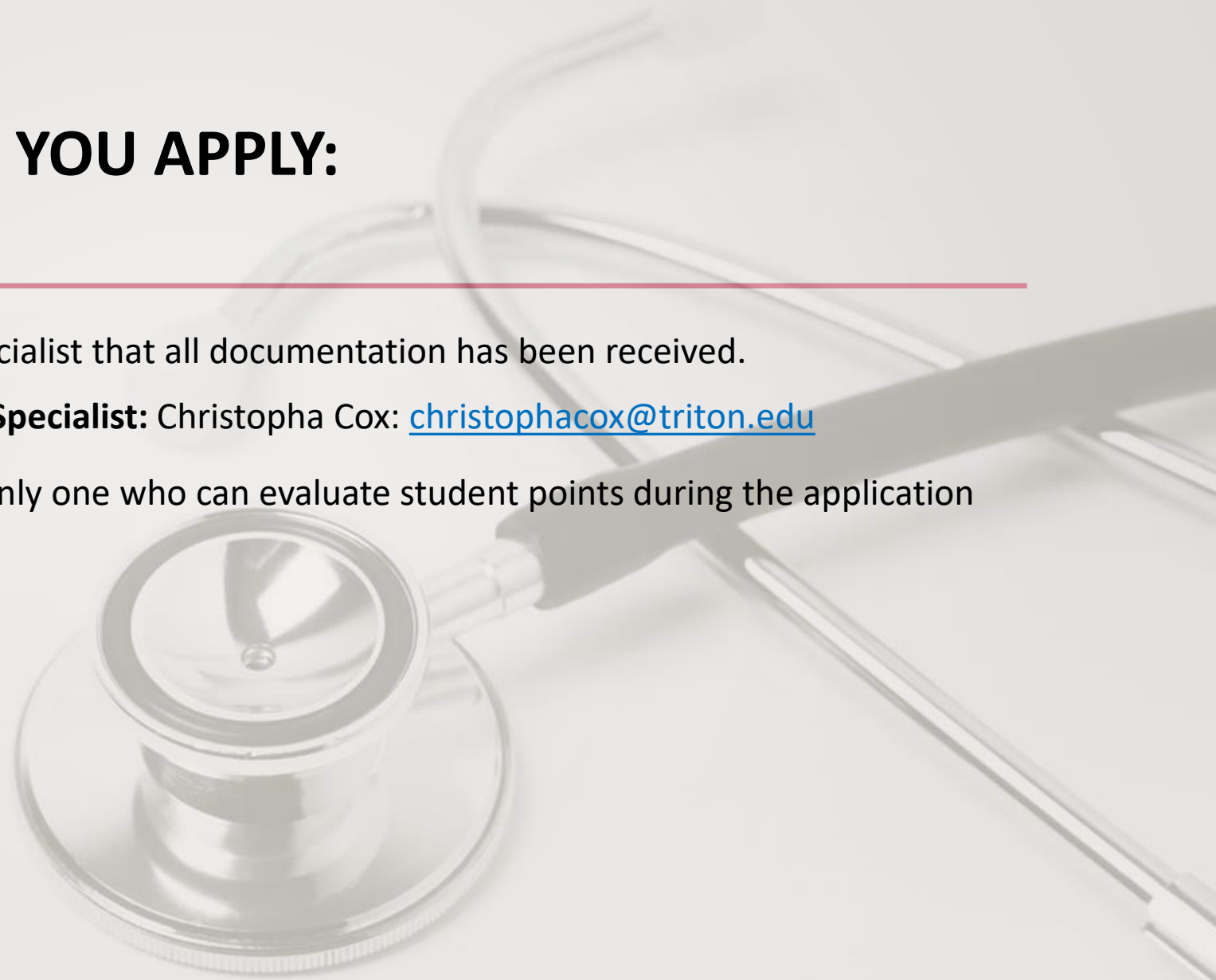
- Once you have completed the previous steps, you are ready to apply to the RSC program
- Complete the online Health Careers application for Respiratory Care Degree
  - <https://www.triton.edu/pages/health-careers/health-careers-application/>
- This should be completed new each application year!



# WHAT TO DO AFTER YOU APPLY:

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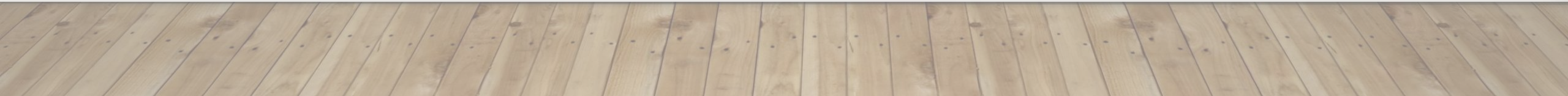
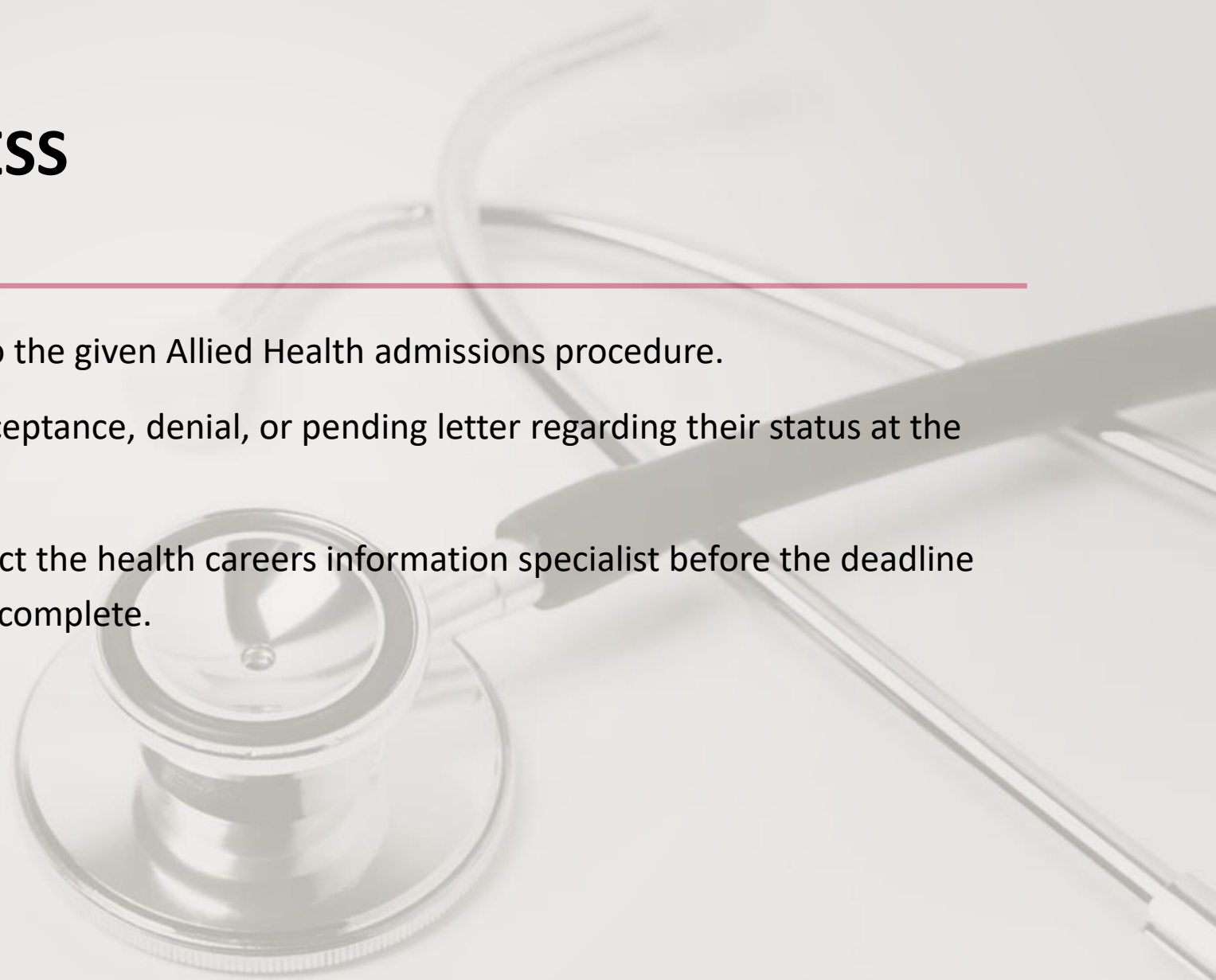
- Confirm with the Information Specialist that all documentation has been received.
  - **Health Careers Information Specialist:** Christopha Cox: [christophacox@triton.edu](mailto:christophacox@triton.edu)
- The information specialist is the only one who can evaluate student points during the application process.



# ACCEPTANCE PROCESS

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- Files will be reviewed according to the given Allied Health admissions procedure.
- Students will receive either an acceptance, denial, or pending letter regarding their status at the end of each cycle.
- Students are encouraged to contact the health careers information specialist before the deadline to check their file and ensure it is complete.



# EVALUATING RESPIRATORY CARE (RSC) APPLICANTS

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Points are awarded for the following courses using the grade scale A=4pts, B=3pts, C=2pts, No points for Ds or In-Progress Courses:

- **RHT 101** Freshman Rhetoric & Composition I
- **MAT 085** Algebra and Geometry II
- **AHL 120** Comprehensive Medical Terminology
- **BIS 136** Functional Human Anatomy I or **BIS 240** Human Anatomy & Physiology I (4 credits)
- **CHM 110** Fundamental of Chemistry or **CHM 140** General Chemistry I (4 credits)

**These courses must be completed before applying to the program, or your application will be marked ineligible.**



# EVALUATING RESPIRATORY CARE (RSC) APPLICANTS

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## **Additional Points are assigned as follows:**

- Applicants will receive 1 extra point for an A or B grade in BIS 137 or BIS 241
- Applicants will receive 1 extra point for an A or B grade in BIS 222
- Applicants will receive 0.5 extra points for an A or B grade in AHL 109
- 0.5 points will be awarded for having some gen ed courses complete
- 1.5 points will be awarded for having ALL gen ed courses complete

**Maximum Points: 24**

# RESPIRATORY CARE ACCREDITATION

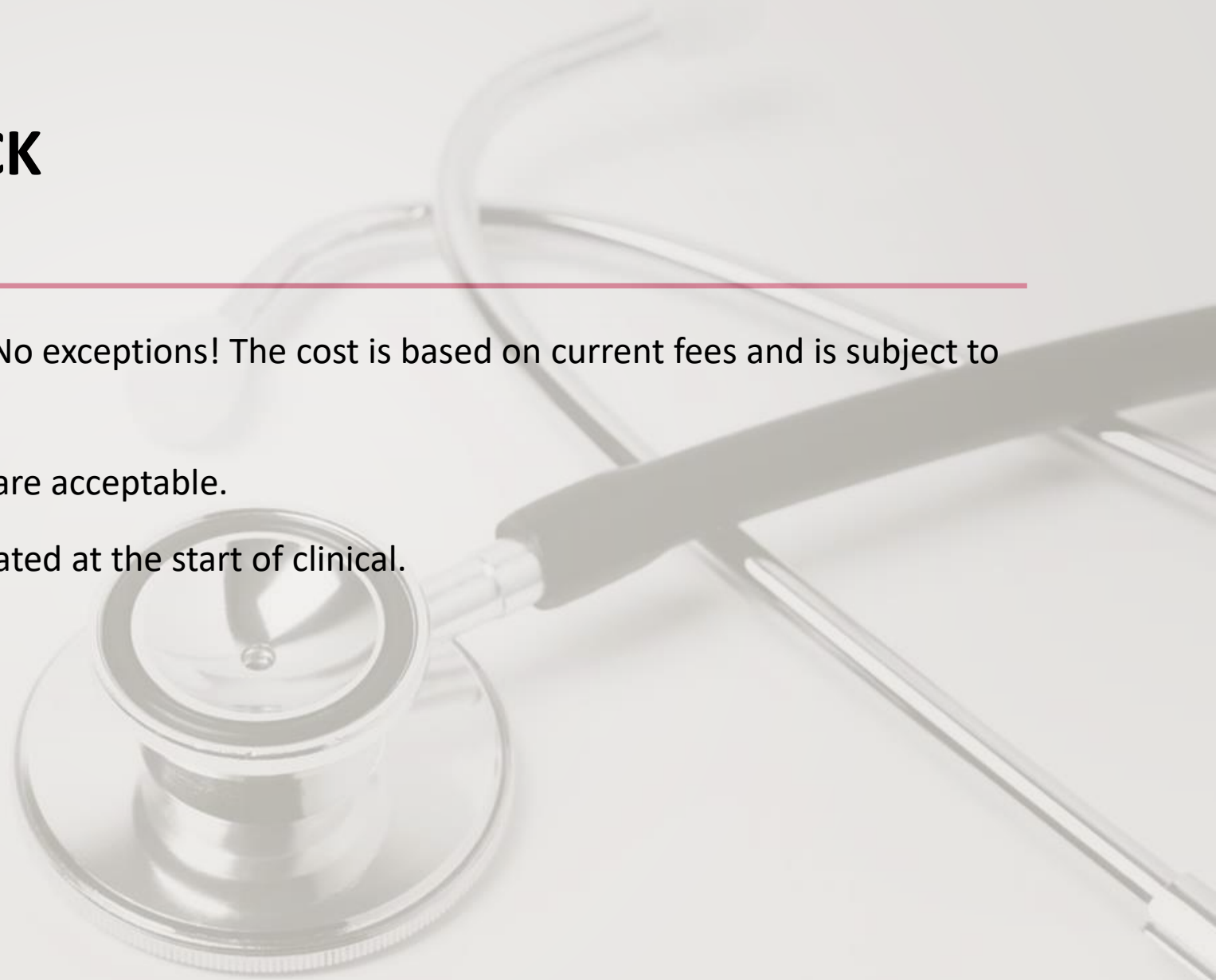
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Triton College Respiratory Care program, CoARC program number 200664, awarding an AAS degree at Triton College, holds Provisional Accreditation from the [Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care \(www.coarc.com\)](http://www.coarc.com). This status signifies that a program with an Approval of Intent has demonstrated sufficient compliance with the Standards (through submission of an acceptable Provisional Accreditation Self-Study Report (PSSR) and any other documentation required by the CoARC, as well as satisfactory completion of an initial on-site visit), to be allowed to admit students. It is recognized as an accredited program by the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC), which provides enrolled students who complete the program with eligibility for the Respiratory Care Credentialing Examination(s). The program will remain on Provisional Accreditation until it achieves Continuing Accreditation.

# BACKGROUND CHECK

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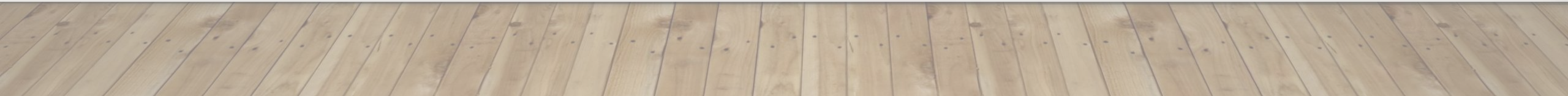
- Background checks are required. No exceptions! The cost is based on current fees and is subject to change.
- No hits on the background check are acceptable.
- Completed before entry and repeated at the start of clinical.



# TIME COMMITMENT

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- This program requires a significant time commitment.
- It is not possible to work a full-time job and be successful.
- Classes are three days per week, and clinicals (8.25 hours a day ) are two days weekly.
  - Classes begin as early as 8:00 a.m. and end as late as 5:00 p.m.
  - Clinicals start during the program's second semester (7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.).
  - Students will rotate to multiple clinicals sites.

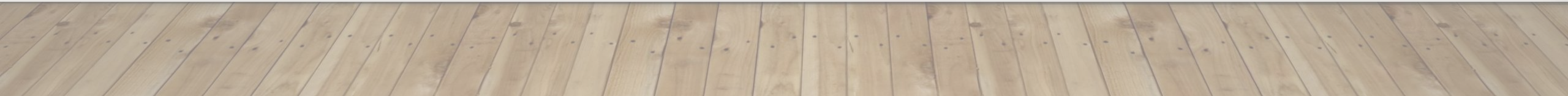
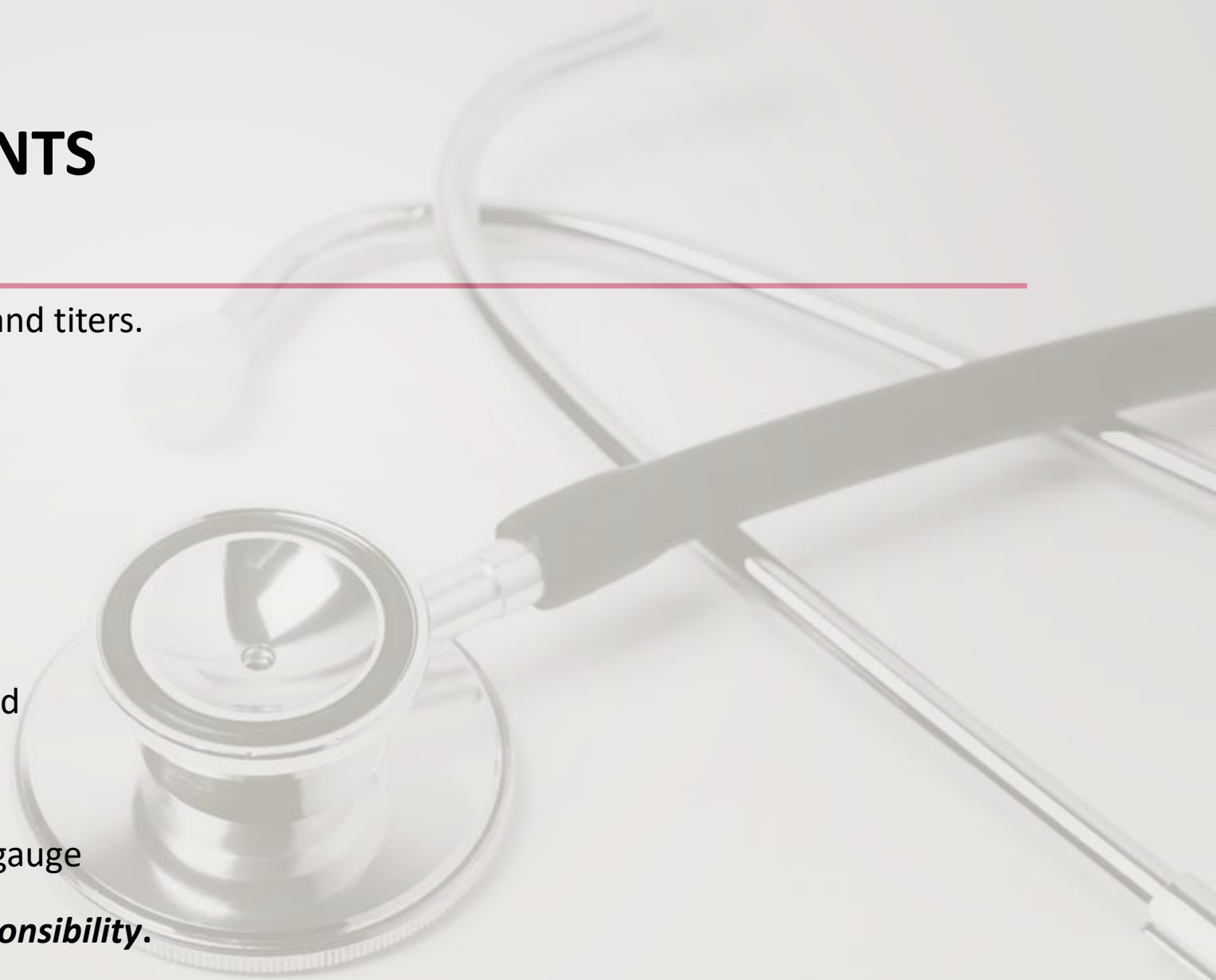


# OTHER REQUIREMENTS

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- Physical with immunization updates and titers.
- Current CPR (Health Care Provider)
- Criminal background check
- 10-panel Drug Test before placement
- Proof of health insurance
- Flu and Covid-19 vaccines are required
- Uniform, Stethoscope
- Medical scissors, Penlight with pupil gauge

***All requirements are the student's responsibility.***



# CONTACT INFORMATION

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**Dr. Peter Jaswilko EdD, RRT, RRT-NPS, RRT-ACCS, RPFT, AE-C**  
*Chairperson, Allied Health and Respiratory Care*

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*Director of Clinical Education*

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*Academic Advisor for Respiratory Care*

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