



**Respiratory Care Program**

# What is Respiratory Therapy?

- **Respiratory Therapy** is a specialized healthcare field where practitioners are trained in pulmonary medicine in order to work therapeutically with people suffering from pulmonary disease.
- Knowledge and understanding of the scientific principles underlying cardiopulmonary physiology and pathophysiology, as well as biomedical engineering and application of technology, enables respiratory therapists to provide direct and indirect patient care services efficiently and effectively across all care settings.





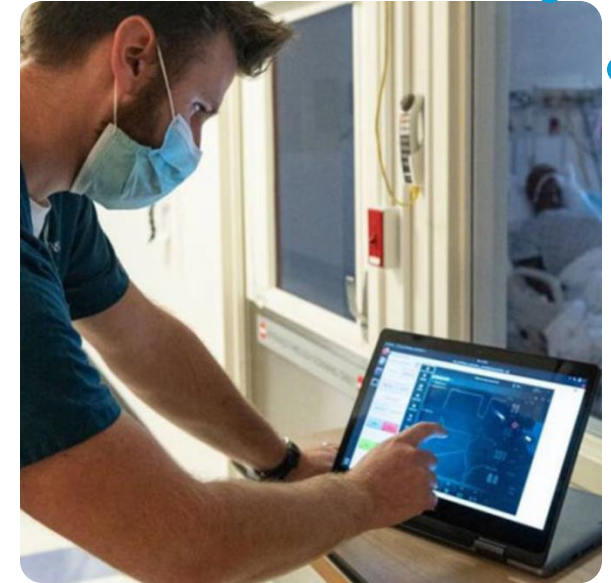


# Where is Respiratory Therapy Provided?

- Acute Care Hospitals (~75% of RTs employed)
- Outpatient Clinics and Pulmonary Rehab Centers
- Diagnostic Labs and Sleep Disorder Centers
- Rehabilitation, Long-Term Acute Care, and Skilled Nursing Facilities
- Patients' Homes
- Physicians' Offices
- Convalescent/Retirement Centers

# Where is Respiratory Therapy Provided?

- Educational Institutions and Wellness Centers
- Critical Care Transport (air and ground)
- Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy Centers
- Public Health and Community Programs
- Industrial and Environmental Health Settings
- Research and Development Organizations







# Patient Populations Treated by Respiratory Therapists

- Neonatal and pediatric patients (e.g., premature infants, asthma, cystic fibrosis)
- Adults with chronic respiratory conditions (e.g., COPD, asthma, interstitial lung disease)
- Critically ill patients in ICU requiring ventilator support
- Trauma patients with respiratory compromise



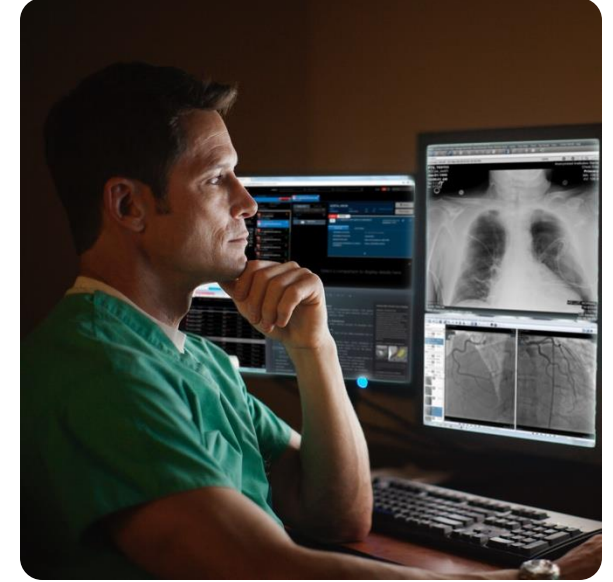
# Patient Populations Treated by Respiratory Therapists

- Patients with neuromuscular disorders (e.g., ALS, muscular dystrophy)
- Post-acute and rehabilitation patients recovering from respiratory illnesses or surgeries
- Geriatric patients with age-related respiratory decline or chronic diseases
- Home care patients (e.g., long-term oxygen therapy, non-invasive ventilation)
- Patients with sleep disorders (e.g., sleep apnea, nocturnal hypoventilation)



# Role of a Respiratory Therapist

- Diagnose lung and breathing disorders, and recommend treatments.
- Conduct patient interviews and chest physical exams to determine therapy needs.
- Collaborate with physicians to adjust therapies based on patient evaluations.
- Analyze breath, tissue, and blood specimens for oxygen and gas levels.





# Role of a Respiratory Therapist

- Manage ventilators and artificial airway devices for patients with breathing difficulties.
- Respond to Code Blue and other urgent care situations.
- Educate patients and families about lung diseases to support recovery and management.

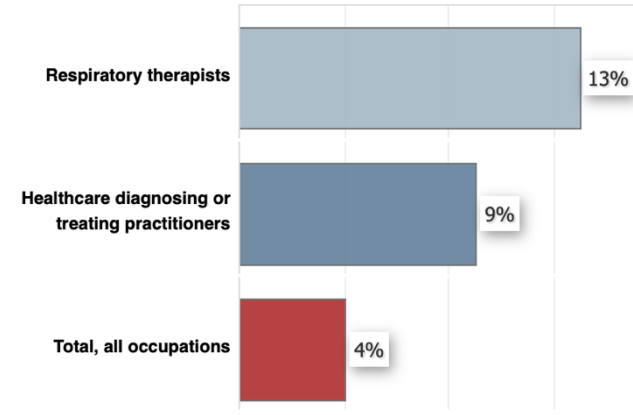


# Respiratory Therapy: A Career with Impact

- Employment of respiratory therapists is projected to grow **13 %** from **2023 to 2033**, much faster than the average for all occupations.
- **Average base salary in IL: \$47.85/hr**

## Respiratory Therapists

Percent change in employment, projected 2023-33



Includes all occupations in the U.S. Economy.  
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Projections



# Why Become a Respiratory Therapist?

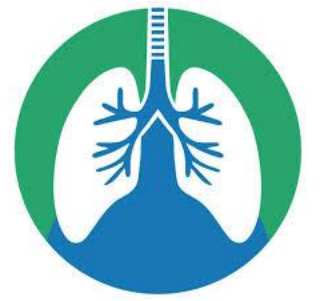
- **Make a Difference:** Save lives and improve quality of life
- **Diverse Opportunities:** Work in hospitals, clinics, home care, and more
- **In-Demand Career:** High job growth and stability
- **Cutting-Edge Technology:** Use advanced ventilators and life-support systems
- **Patient Impact:** Care for all ages, from newborns to seniors
- **Team Collaboration:** Work closely with physicians and healthcare teams
- **Career Growth:** Specialize in critical care, neonatal, rehab, or research
- **Competitive Salary:** Earn rewarding pay for meaningful work
- **Job Satisfaction:** Help patients breathe easier every day

**Start a Career That Changes Lives!**  
[More RTs-Respiratory Therapist Campaign](#)





# Is Respiratory Therapy Right for You?



# Respiratory Care Accreditation

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.





# Triton College-Respiratory Care Program

- Associate of Applied Science Degree (AAS)
  - 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



# Program Map

SEMESTER ONE: FALL	
Course	Credits
<u>AHL 109</u> Drug Calculations	1
<u>BIS 137</u> ♦ # Functional Human Anatomy II	4
OR	
<u>BIS 241</u> # ♦ Human Anatomy & Physiology II	4
<u>RSC 102</u> # Intro to Respiratory Care Profession	1
<u>RSC 104</u> # Cardiopulmonary Anatomy & Physiology	3
<u>RSC 108</u> # Cardiopulmonary Pharmacology	3
<u>RSC 111</u> # Basic Respiratory Procedure	4
<b>Total Semester Credits:</b>	<b>20</b>

SEMESTER TWO: SPRING	
Course	Credits
<u>BIS 222</u> ♦ # Principles of Microbiology	4
<u>RHT 101</u> # ♦ English Rhetoric & Composition I	3
<u>RSC 122</u> # Advanced Respiratory Procedures	4
<u>RSC 128</u> # Cardiopulmonary Diagnostics	2
<u>RSC 135</u> # Cardiopulmonary Diseases I	3
<u>RSC 141</u> # Applied Respiratory Care I	1
<b>Total Semester Credits:</b>	<b>17</b>

SEMESTER THREE: SUMMER	
Course	Credits
<u>RSC 151</u> # Applied Respiratory Care II	1
<u>RSC 155</u> # Basic Intensive Respiratory Care	4
<b>Total Semester Credits:</b>	<b>5</b>

SEMESTER FOUR: FALL	
Course	Credits
<u>RSC 202</u> # Cardiopulmonary Diseases II	3
<u>RSC 205</u> # Advanced Intensive Respiratory Care	4
<u>RSC 207</u> # Pulmonary Function Testing	2
<u>RSC 214</u> # Hemodynamic Monitoring	2
<u>RSC 230</u> # Applied Respiratory Care III	1
Take Credits Humanities	3
<b>Total Semester Credits:</b>	<b>15</b>

SEMESTER FIVE: SPRING	
Course	Credits
<u>RSC 235</u> # Neonatal-Pediatric Intensive Resp Care	3
<u>RSC 237</u> # Long Term Respiratory Care	1
<u>RSC 239</u> # Advanced Respiratory Care Techniques	2
<u>RSC 245</u> # Applied Respiratory Care IV	1
<u>RSC 252</u> # Resp Care Board Review	2
<u>SPE 101</u> # ♦ Principles of Effective Speaking	3
Take Credits Social and Behavioral Science	3
<b>Total Semester Credits:</b>	<b>15</b>



# NBRC Examination

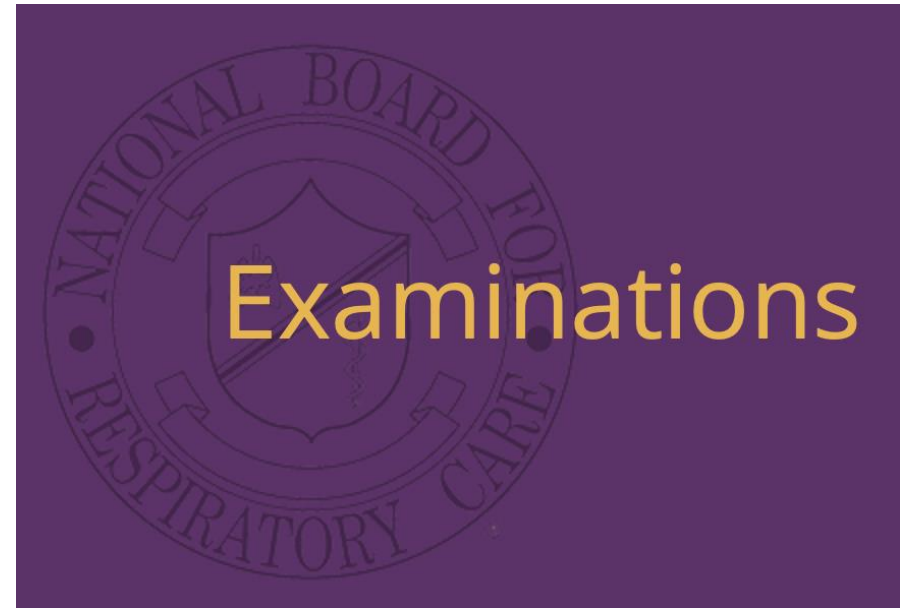
**NBRC credential and a state license are required to practice as a respiratory therapist in the United States.**

- 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 Specialty Examinations

## Specialty Examinations

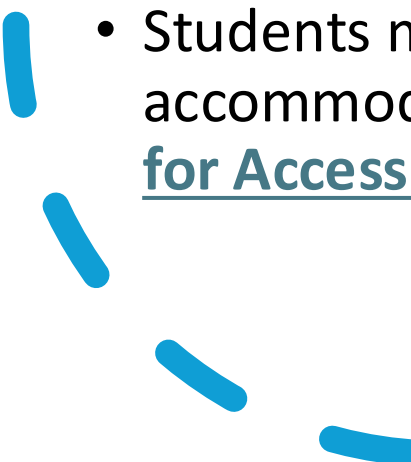
- Pulmonary Function Technologist
- Adult Critical Care Specialist
- Neonatal/Pediatric Specialist
- Sleep Disorder Specialist
- Asthma Education Specialist



*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).*



# Technical Skills Requirements-Technical Standards

- Students enrolled in the Respiratory Care Program should be able to meet the established technical standards.
  - 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).
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# Program Prerequisites

Prerequisites listed below must be completed before the start of the program.

- **RHT 101** (Freshman Rhetoric & Composition)
- **MAT 085** (Algebra and Geometry II), or must meet current college Math requirements for completion of MAT 085
- **AHL 120** (Comprehensive Medical Terminology)
- **BIS 136** (Functional Human Anatomy I) or **BIS 240** (Human Anatomy & Physiology I)
- **CHM 110** (Fundamentals of Chemistry) or **CHM 140** (General Chemistry I)



# Steps to Take Before the RSC Application

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



# Evaluating respiratory care (RSC) Applicants

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. Completion of the Math and Science prerequisites must not be **more than five years** from the start of the Respiratory Care program. All prerequisite coursework must be completed with a grade of "C" or higher. All test scores must be within the last two years.*





# Evaluating Respiratory Care (RSC) Applicants

## **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**



**Program Admission Checklist**

# Background Check

- 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.



# Disclosure

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>



# Other Requirements

- 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.***



# Time Commitment

- 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 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.



# Contact Information

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