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# RESPIRATORY CARE

## What can I do with this degree?

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Respiratory care is a therapeutic treatment for respiratory diseases and conditions. A graduate with a degree in Respiratory Care is then able to become a Respiratory Therapist who provides these treatments.

### Skills

Health Care Professional

Health Care Specialist

Helping skills

Treats and Evaluates Patients

Vast knowledge of Respiratory Care

Knowledge of Life support Equipment

Communication Skills

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### AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

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Acute Care

Critical Care

Home Care

Diagnostic Testing

Extended Care

Pulmonary

Rehabilitation

Polysomnography

(sleep studies)

Research or Education

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### CERTIFICATIONS

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Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT)- Need to have obtained an Associates or Bachelors degree

Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) –Need to have obtained a Bachelors degree. This certification is usually required for supervisory positions.

Basic Life Support (BLS)

Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS)

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### DEGREES

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Associate of Science in Respiratory Care

Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Care

Master of Science in Respiratory Care

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## CAREER PATHS

*(Some of the occupations outlined in this brochure may require additional education or training)*

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### **...in Respiratory Therapy**

#### **Sample Job Titles**

Respiratory Therapist  
Acute Care Supervisor

Advanced Respiratory Therapist  
Respiratory Therapy Technician

#### **Possible Work Settings**

Hospital Emergency Rooms  
Hospital Intensive Care Units  
Home Care  
Nursing Care Facilities

In Physicians' Offices  
Diagnostic and Research Labs  
Sleep Laboratories

### **...in Pulmonary Rehabilitation**

#### **Sample Job Titles**

Respiratory Therapist

Pulmonologist

#### **Possible Work Settings**

Physicians' Offices  
Pulmonary Function Laboratories

Sleep Laboratories

### **...in Education**

#### **Sample Job Titles**

Professor/Instructor

Researcher

#### **Possible Work Settings**

College or University

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## RESOURCES

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### **Texas State University-Student Organizations**

Respiratory Care Student Association – RCSA  
Service to Mankind – SERTOMA  
Society of Clinical Laboratory Scientists – SCLS  
Healthcare Leadership Coalition – HLC  
Lambda Beta Honor Society--The National Honor Society of Respiratory Care

## **Professional Organizations**

American Association for Respiratory Care [www.aarc.org/](http://www.aarc.org/)

National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) [www.nbrc.org](http://www.nbrc.org)

Texas Society for Respiratory Care [www.tsrc.org/](http://www.tsrc.org/)

## **Job Search**

American Association for Respiratory Care Job Bank [www.aarc.org/career](http://www.aarc.org/career)

Health Career Web [www.healthcareerweb.com/jobs/search/?q=respiratory+care](http://www.healthcareerweb.com/jobs/search/?q=respiratory+care)

Medical Workers <http://www.medicalworkers.com/>

## **Internships**

Duke University Hospital

[respiratorycare.mc.duke.edu/modules/respcr\\_intern/index.php?id=1](http://respiratorycare.mc.duke.edu/modules/respcr_intern/index.php?id=1)

Mayo Clinic <http://www.mayo.edu/mshs/resp-int-jax.html>

North Memorial <http://www.northmemorial.com/jobs/respcareIntern.cfm>

Many Hospitals and Clinics

## **Additional Resources**

Bureau of Labor Statistics <http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos084.htm>

## **Career Library Resources**

*Ferguson's Careers in Focus: Therapists*

*Ferguson's Exploring Health Care Careers Volume 1*

*Ferguson's Exploring Health Care Careers Volume 2*

*Information for this handout compiled from:*

*Texas State University Career Services, Healthline, Commission on Accreditation Allied Health Programs, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics*