

Respiratory Therapy

Contact Info.

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What is a respiratory therapist?

Respiratory care is practiced in the United States by people called respiratory therapists or respiratory care practitioners. Few things in life are as exhilarating and soul satisfying as helping to care for or save a human life.

Respiratory therapists are health-care specialists who evaluate, treat and care for patients with breathing disorders and help provide the very breath of life for many patients. Therapists work under the direction of a physician and assist in the diagnosis, treatment and management of patients with pulmonary disorders.

Respiratory therapists operate and manage modern high-tech equipment. They work with therapies of medical gases, medications, aerosols, bronchopulmonary drainage, ventilator support, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and airway management to help patients feel better and breathe easier.

Go to the American Association for Respiratory Care home page (www.aarc.org) to learn more about respiratory therapy.



Points of Pride

- The only Respiratory Therapy Program in the State of Wyoming
- Nationally accredited program
- 100% of graduates have passed the Certification National Board Exam
- 100% of graduated have achieved employment
- High employer satisfaction scores
- High student satisfaction scores

Admission

Requirements

- Be admitted as a classified student to Casper College
- Be 18 years of age or older
- Have completed the following college courses with a minimum GPA of 2.3:
 - Human Anatomy
 - Human Physiology
 - Math Problem Solving
 - Medical Terminology
 - English Composition
- Complete a program application, available from Respiratory Therapy faculty
- Three letters of recommendation
- A letter addressed to the program director as to why you want to become a respiratory therapist
- An eight-hour shadow experience of a Respiratory Therapy Department

Respiratory Therapy

Employment Opportunities

Respiratory therapists work with patients of all ages and in many different care settings.

Most respiratory therapists work in hospitals where they perform intensive care, critical care, neonatal care, and routine floor procedures.

An increasing number of respiratory therapists work in skilled nursing facilities, physician's offices, home health agencies, specialized care hospitals, medical equipment supply companies and home care.

Jobs are abundant, and rewarding starting salaries are competitive throughout Wyoming and the country.

- According to Diversity Allied Health Careers magazine, a salary survey was conducted in 2006. The median expected salary for a typical Registered Respiratory Therapist in the United States is **\$51,383** a year.
- According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, while U.S. employment in general is forecast to

increase by 15 percent, the need for RT's will grow by up to **26 percent** over the next decade.

Casper College Respiratory Therapy Program

Casper College offers an associate of science respiratory therapy program that spans 24 months of continuous education, including two summer sessions. Clinical instruction is conducted at the Wyoming Medical Center, the Memorial Hospital of Converse County, Iverson Memorial Hospital in Laramie, and Apria home health agency.

A summer neonatal clinical rotation will occur during the students' second year and will involve traveling to Salt Lake City.

Graduates of this program who pass the written and clinical simulation exams given by the National Board for Respiratory Care will earn the Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT) and Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) credential. Graduates of the Casper College program will be eligible to sit for these exams.



Curriculum: Respiratory Therapy

Associate of Science Degree

• Major Requirements

- Basic Life Support for Health Care Providers
- Introduction to Respiratory Therapy
- Cardiopulmonary Anatomy and Physiology
- Respiratory Therapy I
- Respiratory Lab I
- Respiratory Practicum I
- Respiratory Pharmacology
- Respiratory Therapy II
- Respiratory Lab II
- Respiratory Practicum II
- Respiratory Perinatal and Pediatrics
- Respiratory Practicum Neonatal
- Respiratory Therapy III
- Respiratory Pathology
- Respiratory Lab III
- Respiratory Practicum III
- Respiratory Therapy IV
- Respiratory Simulations
- Respiratory Lab IV
- Respiratory Practicum IV

• General education courses:

- At least 32 additional credits of general education coursework. (See college catalog or website for details).