

# Respiratory Therapy

Respiratory therapists work with patients who have asthma, cystic fibrosis, emphysema, and trauma. Therapists provide life support for premature infants, give medical gases and aerosol medications, 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, 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 of Respiratory Therapy 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 pre-professional curriculum outlined here. Maximum enrollment is limited to 20 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 pre-professional science and mathematics courses are also considered.

The professional major courses begin in the junior year. For the pre-professional years, students should follow the suggested scheduling plan on the future respiratory therapy student web page at [amp.osu.edu/RT](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.

The pre-professional prerequisites include the following courses:

- Biology 113, Biological Principles
- Chemistry 101 and 102, Elementary Chemistry I and II or Chemistry 121 and 122, General Chemistry I and II
- English 110, First-year English 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, Basic Human Anatomy or Anatomy 200, Introductory Anatomy
- EEOB 232, Introductory Human Physiology
- Allied Med 500, Medical Terminology
- Allied Med 591, Healthcare Organization

The major includes the freshman and sophomore courses listed as requirements for admission, plus 94 credit hours in respiratory therapy and professional supporting courses. The sample curriculum on the reverse page lists the required credits. The professional phase of the program consists of seven consecutive quarters of enrollment.

Features of the respiratory therapy program include the following:

- flexible admissions options, small personal classes, small student-faculty ratio
- clinical experiences throughout the curriculum that 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
- 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 function 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 Therapy:** [amp.osu.edu/RT](http://amp.osu.edu/RT)  
**School of Allied Medical Professions:** [amp.osu.edu](http://amp.osu.edu)  
**Ohio State:** [osu.edu](http://osu.edu)

**Admissions:** [undergrad.osu.edu](http://undergrad.osu.edu)  
**American Association for Respiratory Care:** [www.aarc.org](http://www.aarc.org)  
**First Year Experience Program:** [fye.osu.edu](http://fye.osu.edu)

## Curriculum Sample

This is a sample list of classes a student will take to pursue a B.S. 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, [amp.osu.edu/RT](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
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>50</b>

### Sophomore Year:

General Physics	5
Microbiology	5
Elementary Statistics	5
Human Anatomy and Physiology	10
Health Care Organization	3
Medical Terminology	3
GEC (history, arts and humanities)	15
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>46</b>

### Junior Year:

Respiratory Therapy professional courses	43
Respiratory Clinical Experience	6
Pharmacology	3
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>52</b>

### Senior Year:

Human Disease	6
Respiratory Clinical Experience	11
Respiratory Research	11
Management Principles for Health Professionals	3
Respiratory Management	3
Respiratory Seminar	1
Specialty Clinical Internships	4
Respiratory Education	3
GEC	5
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>47</b>

## 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. The following are opportunities related to respiratory therapy:

- participation in class activities and AMP Student Council
- options to live in Allied Medical Professions Learning Community
- 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 will receive additional information after admission to the university. Learn more about the Honors & Scholars program at [honors-scholars.osu.edu](http://honors-scholars.osu.edu).

## Career Prospects in Respiratory Therapy

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor statistics, Respiratory Therapy is expected to add 37,837 new jobs between 2005 and 2012, increasing the size of the profession by 35%. America's Career InfoNet rates respiratory therapy in the top 10 fastest growing occupations with almost 5,000 average annual job openings.

New graduates with a degree in Respiratory Therapy from Ohio State have been able to choose from multiple job offers with sign-on bonuses up to \$15,000; they have reported average starting salary of \$48,180 and a starting salary as high as \$56,160. Most recent graduates choose jobs at major medical centers and in community hospitals and children's hospitals. Some work for home care providers, medical specialists, lung associations, college and universities, pharmaceutical companies, respiratory equipment manufacturers, and suppliers. Alumni in leadership roles have reported salaries as high as \$90,000.

**Revised August 2008.** For the most up-to-date information on the respiratory therapy program, please visit [amp.osu.edu/RT](http://amp.osu.edu/RT).

## Contact information:

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