



Major/ Career Connections

Major Profile: Respiratory Therapy (SRI)

School of Medicine

Investigative Interest Cluster

Is Respiratory Therapy for me?

Find out by answering the following questions. If you answer yes to most of them, read on to learn more. If not, try one of the other **Major Profiles** (<http://uc.iupui.edu/students/academics/mccs.asp>).

	No	Yes
Are you social, realistic, or investigative (see Interest Cluster sheets)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you like physiology, anatomy, research and biology?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are you concerned about health, internal and environmental effects on the human body?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Would you like to learn about the cardiorespiratory field?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are you a scientifically-oriented leader?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you want to help society by working individually with patients?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

What is Respiratory Therapy?

Respiratory Therapy is a program that prepares students to become registered respiratory therapists. The program concentrates on diagnosis and treatment for problems with the lungs and heart. In addition to the classroom and laboratory courses in the program, students will complete over 1000 hours of supervised clinical experience. When in the clinic they will care for real patients as they practice all of the skills they have learned. The Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Therapy degree provides graduates a career ladder that includes a broadened clinical emphasis within the cardiorespiratory field as well as leadership training.

What Courses Will I Take?

- Lifespan Development
- Human Anatomy & Physiology (w/lab)
- Microbiology
- Respiratory Care Techniques
- Cardiorespiratory Pharmacology I & II
- Advanced Life Support
- Intro. To Research in Respiratory Care
- Patient Education Techniques
- Neonatal-Pediatric Respiratory Care
- Pulmonary Rehabilitation and Geriatrics

What are Some Related Majors?

- Radiation Therapy (SRI)
- Clinical Laboratory Science (IRS)
- Computer Engineering (RIS)
- Biotechnology (RIS)
- Nuclear Medicine Technology (IRS)
- Geology (IRS)
- Medical Imaging Technology (ISE)
- Informatics (ISR)
- Paramedic Science (RSI)
- Exercise Science (SIR)

What Skills Will I Develop?

Students can expect to focus on care for patients, from the infant to the elderly, with heart and lung disease. Clinical experiences during the program include general adult and pediatric respiratory care, critical care, pulmonary diagnostics, adult and neonatal-pediatric critical care, geriatrics, patient education, cardiovascular monitoring, sleep studies, and emergency care. Emphasis is placed on clinical excellence, leadership skills, and communication.

Where Could I Work?

Most respiratory therapists work in hospitals, but they can work in other areas such as home care, clinics, physician or health practitioner offices, consumer goods rental firms, or medical sales. Since they utilize life-support equipment to treat disease and aid in assessing and diagnosing cardiopulmonary disorders, Respiratory Therapists often work in settings that teach patients and their families about various respiratory diseases, smoking cessation techniques, or the equipment and drugs used to treat these problems.

What Job Opportunities Exist?

Related Careers

Respiratory therapists are an integral part of the fast-paced world of medicine. Graduates of the Respiratory Therapy Program are eligible for state licensure examinations as well as examinations offered by the National Board for Respiratory Care, such as the Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT) and the Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) examination. The CRT credential and state licensure are required to practice. Some pursue one of the career options listed below.

- Respiratory Therapist
- Asthma Educator
- Tobacco Interventionist
- Newborn/Pediatric Respiratory Therapist
- Polysomnographer
- Pulmonary Rehabilitation Specialist
- Medical Sales
- Clinical Specialist

Employment Outlook

Employment for respiratory therapists is expected to increase faster than the average for all occupations through the year 2016, because of substantial growth in numbers of the middle-aged and elderly population—a development that will heighten the incidence of cardiopulmonary disease. Job opportunities will be good for those with cardiopulmonary care skills or experience working with infants (Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2008-09).

Salary Expectation

Median annual earnings of Respiratory Therapists were \$47,420. The middle 50 percent earned between \$40,840 and \$56,160 (OOH, 2008-09). The fall, 2008 report from the National Association of Colleges and Employers finds the average starting salary for graduates with a Bachelor's degree in Health and Related Sciences is \$45,995 per year.

What Graduate/Professional School Opportunities Exist?

Some graduates choose to pursue studies in one of the following areas:

- Public Health
- Business Administration
- Medical Sciences
- Law

Where Can I Get More Information?



Indiana University School of Medicine Health Professions Programs	http://www.medicine.iu.edu/hpp E-mail: askhpp@iupui.edu Phone: 278-4752
Academic Advising at IUPUI	http://uc.iupui.edu/students/academics/index.asp
Career Counseling at IUPUI	http://uc.iupui.edu/students/career/index.asp
American Association for Respiratory Care	http://www.aarc.org/
National Board for Respiratory Care	http://www.nbrc.org/
Learn More Resource Center	http://www.learnmoreindiana.org/careers/exploring/Pages/CareerProfiles.aspx