

There are many promising occupations in the health field. Prepare yourself for growing career opportunities as a respiratory therapist.

Respiratory therapists work closely with doctors and nurses to assess, recommend treatment, and care for patients with respiratory (breathing) problems. Respiratory therapists often work as part of a health care team to diagnose and stabilize trauma or emergency patients.

Respiratory therapists often work directly with patients, reassuring, counselling, and educating them on how to deal with their respiratory problems. Respiratory therapists ensure the proper and safe use of oxygen masks, ventilators, potentially dangerous gases, and monitoring and other medical equipment.

MORE INFORMATION

Programs

Dalhousie University
Search School of Health Sciences
www.dal.ca

Professional Organizations

Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists (CSRT)
www.csrt.com

Respiratory Therapists Society of Nova Scotia
www.rtsns.com

Career and Job Prospects

Nova Scotia Career and Labour Market Information
For up-to-date information visit
www.novascotiacaereroptions.ca

Job Futures

Canada's National Career and Education Planning Tool
www.jobfutures.ca

Human Resources and Skill Development Canada

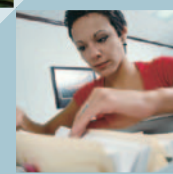
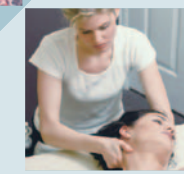
National Occupation Classification (NOC)
www23.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca

NOC Code Search
Respiratory Therapist: 3214



Career Pathways Series

RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS



Information for High School Students

PERSONAL SKILLS

NEEDED

Respiratory therapists require patience and empathy when caring for patients. Respiratory therapists must maintain a professional approach in working with clients who have complex therapy needs.

People who succeed have skills and abilities that include the following:

- excellent speaking and writing skills
- physical stamina for standing and lifting
- excellent problem-solving and decision-making skills
- technological skills
- thoroughness and precision
- teamwork skills
- organizational skills
- flexibility and adaptability for working shift hours



WHERE THEY

WORK

Most respiratory therapists work in hospitals.

WHAT THEY

EARN

Average hourly income: \$29.00
Minimum: \$19.50
Maximum: \$36.00



There are various types of medical therapists and technologists. Respiratory therapists assist with breathing problems. Respiratory therapy involves routine therapies and specialized procedures including aspects of pediatrics, critical care medicine, anesthesia, and measurement of lung functions. Some other types of therapists and technologists include

- Medical laboratory technologists (analyse medical specimens)
- Cytotechnologists (microscopically analyse specimens for cancer)
- Medical radiation technologists (this field includes radiological technologists [X-Ray], radiation therapists, nuclear medicine technologists, and magnetic resonance technologists)

REQUIRED

COURSES

High School

To prepare for a respiratory therapist program, complete a high school diploma with at least five university preparatory courses at the grade 12 level including English, mathematics, chemistry, and either biology or physics.

Post Secondary

Post-secondary requirements for respiratory therapists are changing and should be checked regularly. See websites on the back of this brochure for up-to-date information. Acceptance into a program requires high academic standing. Currently, respiratory therapists may complete a three-year diploma or four-year bachelor's degree in health science with supervised practical or clinical training.

Respiratory therapist graduates must successfully complete the national exam set by the Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists (CSRT) to be recognized as a Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT). To practise in Nova Scotia, graduates are recommended to obtain membership in the Respiratory Therapists Society of Nova Scotia.

For program admission and licensing requirements, visit the links on the back of this brochure.

People of diverse identities, backgrounds, and experiences find a career in respiratory therapy to be challenging and rewarding with a broad range of situations, roles, and responsibilities. Both men and women enjoy job security at good rates of pay.