Breathe New Life Into Your Career

Respiratory therapists (RTs) evaluate, treat and care for patients with breathing or other cardiopulmonary disorders. RTs usually help middle-age and elderly populations and those suffering from cardiopulmonary disease, but they may work in the pediatric area as well. RTs work with physicians to strengthen patients breathing, returning them to a healthy state. If you are thinking about a career in respiratory care, you should be team-oriented, compassionate and get great satisfaction from helping others. You should be able to tolerate a moderate level of physical activity, long hours of standing, enjoy a diverse population in close quarters and work well under stressful situations.

A career in respiratory care might be the answer that will breathe new life into your chosen profession.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The respiratory care degree program at STLCC is a 78- to 79-credit-hour program that prepares students for positions as respiratory therapists. Students will learn to administer treatments, conduct tests, assist physicians in the treatment and management of patients with cardio-pulmonary deficiencies and abnormalities. The program’s goal is to prepare competent, safe and professional registry-eligible respiratory therapists.

The program is fully accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC), as an advanced-level program. All respiratory care students are required to complete 32-33 general education credit hours and 44-credit hours devoted to learning the science of respiratory care.

Students enrolling in this program should be prepared to meet the academic demands of a program that requires a commitment of time, energy and a motivation to learn.

OPPORTUNITIES IN THIS FIELD

Graduates from this program will be able to obtain positions in hospitals, clinics, physicians’ offices or other healthcare providers, home care agencies, education, equipment sales and marketing. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics 2015 Occupational Outlook Handbook estimates job opportunities are expected to be favorable for RTs with cardiopulmonary care skills or experience working with infants. The rate of employment for RTs is expected to grow by 12 percent from 2014 to 2024 because of the aging population as well as the expanding role of RTs in the early detection of pulmonary disorders, case management, disease prevention and emergency care.

SALARY INFORMATION

Respiratory therapist salaries vary by geographic location, amount of education and experience, and the type and size of the employer. According to the Occupational Outlook Handbook, the median annual wage of a Respiratory Therapist was $57,790 in 2015.

FEES

Please visit www.stlcc.edu/fees for the most current information. Additional fees apply to some courses. Fees are subject to change.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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YOU CAN EARN THIS DEGREE AT: Forest Park

You may take general education classes toward this degree at any of our campuses or education centers.
Associate in Applied Science Degree

Prerequisites: Students applying to this program must successfully complete Anatomy & Physiology I, Fundamentals of Chemistry and MTH:124 or higher coursework with a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher prior to admission.

CURRICULUM  AAS
Course Number  Course Description  Credit Hours

General Education

___  ENG:101  College Composition I  3
___  ENG:102  College Composition II  3
___  MTH:124  Technical Mathematics I (or higher)  3-4
___  CHM:101  Fundamentals of Chemistry I  5
___  BIO:203  General Microbiology  4
___  BIO:207  Anatomy and Physiology I  4
___  BIO:208  Anatomy and Physiology II  4
___  XXX:xxx  Missouri State Requirement  3
___  PSY:200  General Psychology  3

Total General Education Credit Hours  32-33

Physical Education Activity  2

Area of Concentration  44

RTH:120  Introduction to Respiratory Care and Respiratory Physics  5
RTH:121  Orientation to the Hospital  2
RTH:125  Airway Management  3
RTH:126  Introduction to Mechanical Ventilation  3
RTH:127  Respiratory Pharmacology  2
RTH:128  Arterial Blood Gases  2
RTH:131  Pediatric Respiratory Care  3
RTH:140  Respiratory Care Clinical I  1
RTH:146  Clinical Level II  3
RTH:220  Pulmonary Pathophysiology  3
RTH:221  Critical Care Monitoring  2
RTH:222  Cardiopulmonary Physiology  2
RTH:223  Mechanical Ventilation: A Clinical Approach  4
RTH:225  Pulmonary Function Testing  3
RTH:228  N.B.R.C. Review  2
RTH:240  Respiratory Care Clinical III  2
RTH:245  Respiratory Care Clinical IV  2

Total Area of Concentration Credit Hours  44

Total Credit Hours for Program:  78-79

http://cte.stlcc.edu/respiratory-care