



# *Respiratory Care*

## *A Life and Breath Career for You!*



*At 9:32 am, Lori Moreno brought a newborn baby struggling to breathe back to life...*



Lori is a recent graduate of a respiratory therapist educational program.

Programs like the one Lori attended are available at colleges and universities throughout the U.S.

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**Respiratory Care  
Makes a Difference**

You can live without food for a week, without water for a day, but you cannot live without air for more than a few minutes.

Most people take breathing for granted. For thousands of people who suffer from breathing problems, each breath is an accomplishment.



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**Respiratory Care...**  
**a Life and Breath Career for You!**

# Respiratory Care...

## A Life and Breath Career for You!

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### *Did you know that:*

- Respiratory therapists are the health professionals responsible for taking care of patients with heart and lung problems.
- Respiratory therapists care for newborn infants, children, adult, and the elderly.
- Career opportunities are excellent for respiratory therapists, and salaries are competitive with other health professions.



# What is Respiratory Care?

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Respiratory Care is the health profession that specializes in the promotion of optimum cardiopulmonary function and health.



Respiratory therapists apply scientific principles to prevent, identify, and treat acute or chronic dysfunction of the cardiopulmonary system.

## *Respiratory therapists have an in-depth knowledge of*

- *Cardiopulmonary physiology and pathophysiology*
- *Patient assessment and cardiopulmonary diagnostics*
- *Pulmonary disease*
- *Advanced life support and critical care*
- *Pharmacology*
- *Biomedical engineering and technology*

## *Respiratory therapists effectively*

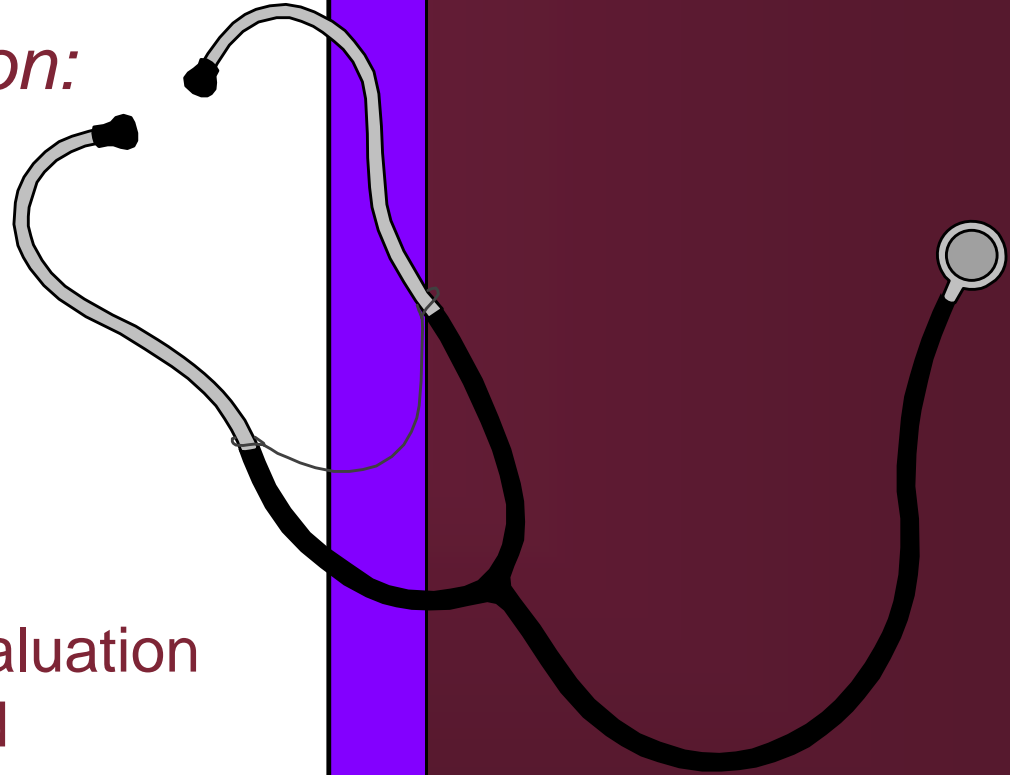
- *Assess*
- *Educate and*
- *Treat patients with heart and lung problems*



# ***Respiratory care***

*is focused on:*

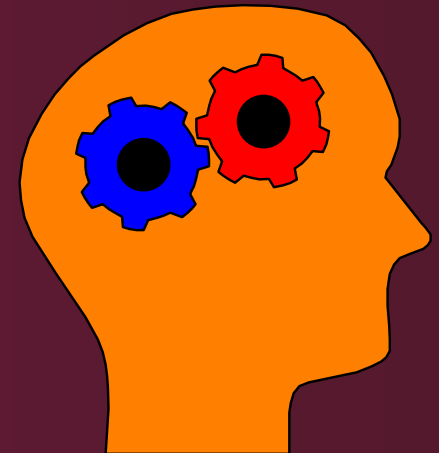
- prevention
- assessment
- treatment
- management
- control
- diagnostic evaluation
- education and
- care



# What Do Respiratory Therapists Do?

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- *Respiratory therapists use:*
  - Critical thinking
  - Patient/environment assessment skills
  - Evidence based clinical practice skills
- *Respiratory therapists:*
  - Develop and implement effective care plans
  - Apply patient driven protocols
  - Utilize disease-based clinical pathways
  - Implement disease management programs
  - Perform therapeutic and diagnostic procedures



# What Breathing Disorders Do Respiratory Therapists Treat?

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- *Asthma*
- *Bronchitis*
- *Emphysema*
- *COPD*
- *Cystic Fibrosis*
- *Chest Trauma*
- *Pneumonia*



# What Kinds of Patients Do Respiratory Therapists Treat?

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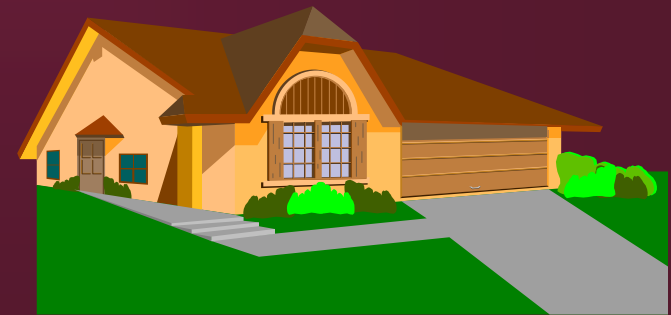
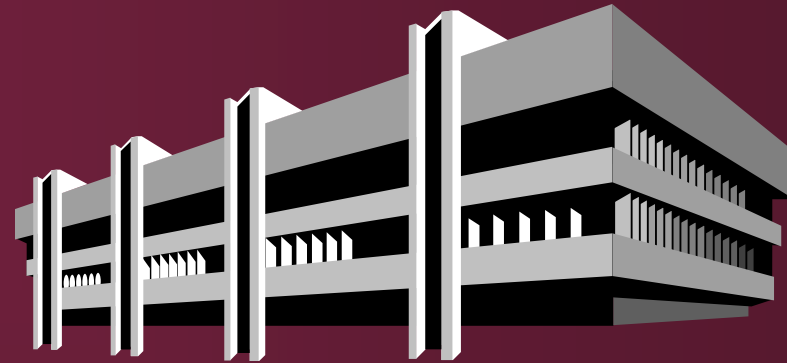


- *Lung disease patients*
- *Heart patients*
- *Neuromuscular patients*
- *Accident victims*
- *Premature babies*
- *Children*
- *Adults*
- *The elderly*

# Where Do Respiratory Therapists Work?

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- *Acute care hospitals*
- *Diagnostic laboratories*
- *Rehabilitation and skilled nursing facilities*
- *Patient's homes*
- *Patient transport services*
- *Physician offices*
- *Convalescent and retirement centers*
- *Educational institutions, including colleges and universities*
- *Industry*



# Respiratory Therapists Perform Patient Assessment

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- *Patient Interview*
  - Cough and sputum
  - Breathlessness and wheezing
  - Chest illness
  - Smoking
  - Occupational history



# Respiratory Therapists Perform Patient Assessment

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- **Physical Assessment**

- General appearance
- Vital signs
- Chest inspection
- Breath sounds
- Percussion / palpation
- Bedside assessment of cardiopulmonary function  
(SpO<sub>2</sub>, Peak Flow, FEV<sub>1</sub>, VC, IC)



- **Respiratory Care Plan Development & Implementation**

# Respiratory Therapists Perform Diagnostic Procedures



- Arterial blood gas analysis
- Pulmonary function studies
- Sleep studies

- EKGs and cardiac tests
- Sputum specimens
- Stress and exercise testing



# Respiratory Therapists Perform Therapeutic Procedures

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- *Oxygen administration*
- *Medication administration*
- *Secretion management*
- *Chest physiotherapy*
- *Lung expansion therapy*
- *Pulmonary rehabilitation and disease management*
- *Smoking cessation programs*



# Respiratory Therapists Work in the ICU

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- *Adult, pediatric, and neonatal ICUs*
- *Mechanical ventilation and life-support*
- *Arterial blood gases*
- *Physiologic monitoring*
- *Airway care*
- *Intubation*
- *Oxygen and aerosol therapy*



# In What Areas Do Respiratory Therapists Receive Instruction?

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*RT students gain experience in a variety of areas:*

- Medical and surgical areas of the hospital
- Intensive care units (adult, pediatric, neonatal)
- Emergency room
- Patient transport
- Pulmonary rehabilitation and disease management
- Cardiopulmonary diagnostics (pulmonary function testing, sleep lab, exercise testing, invasive and non-invasive cardiology)
- Outpatient clinics and physician's offices
- Home care



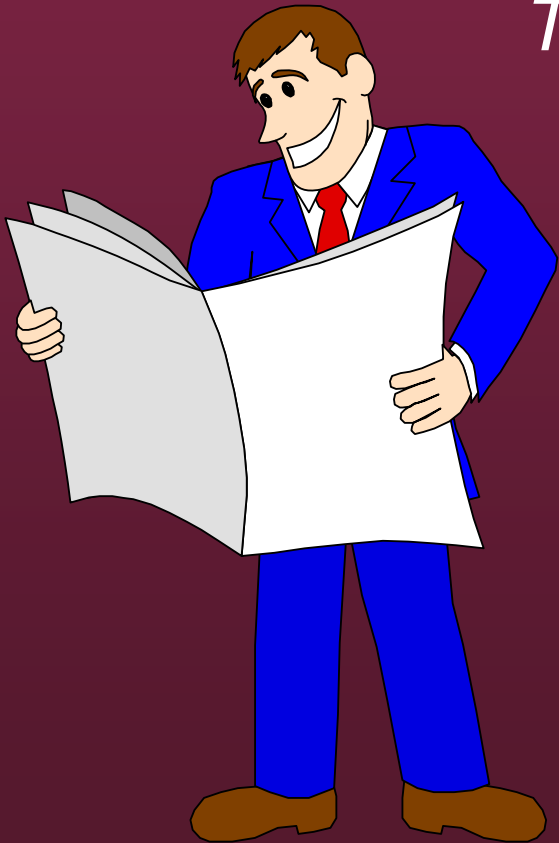
# How Does the Job Market Look for Respiratory Therapists?

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- *The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists Respiratory Care as the 4<sup>th</sup> fastest growing occupation in Pennsylvania requiring post secondary education or an associate degree and 10<sup>th</sup> in the country.*
  - *BLS projects a 35% increase in demand for respiratory therapists through 2012.*
- *Family Money Magazine lists Respiratory Care among the top 50 careers for the 21st century (January/February 2000, p. 52)*

# How Does the Job Market Look for Respiratory Therapists?

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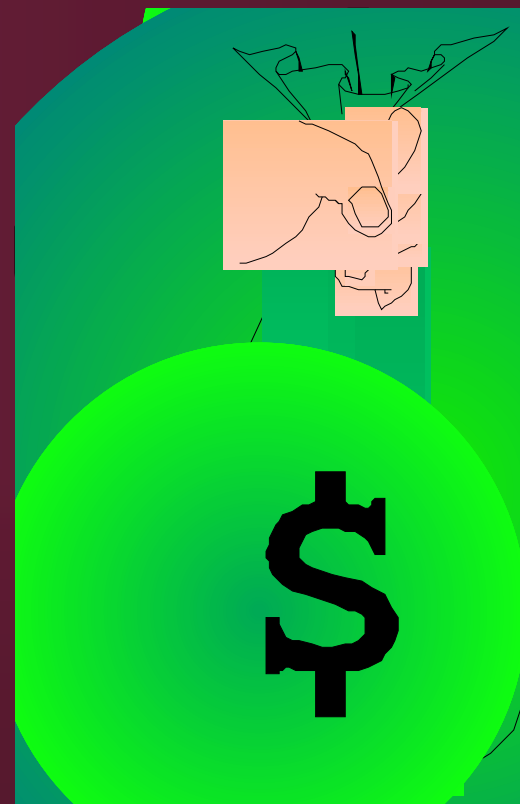
*The need for RTs is growing due to:*

- large increase in the elderly population*
- environmental impact on diseases such as asthma*
- smoking and COPD*
- technological advances in treatment of cardiopulmonary disease*
- advances in treatment of premature babies*

# How Much Do Respiratory Therapists Make?

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- *Medium annual salaries of \$40,200 in the US, according to the BLS.*
- Due to the shortage of respiratory therapists, advancement opportunities are *excellent!*
- *Supervisors, clinical specialists, and department managers tend to have higher salaries.*
- *Salary varies with educational degree and years of experience.*



# Is Respiratory Care For Me?

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- *A career as a respiratory therapist can provide:*
  - a great job at a good salary
  - job security
  - the opportunity to help others
  - recognition, respect, and appreciation
  - a sense of accomplishment
  - excellent advancement opportunities
- *A rewarding career for lifetime!*

# Is Respiratory Care For Me?

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- *A career as a respiratory therapist can provide:*
  - the ability to make a difference in peoples lives
  - interesting and meaningful work
  - a high tech and exciting career
  - a people oriented profession
  - the opportunity to become a respected member of the health professions
- *A life and breath career for you!*

# When Should I Start Thinking About a Career in Respiratory Care?

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- **NOW!**
- Call the Respiratory Care program at Harrisburg Area Community College (717) 780-2315 or E-mail the director at [baleidic@hacc.edu](mailto:baleidic@hacc.edu)
- Inquire about touring a Respiratory Care department at a local hospital
- Visit our web site at [www.hacc.edu](http://www.hacc.edu) and click on Health Career Programs



# How Do I Become a Respiratory Therapist?

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- *Associate in Science Degree*
  - *21 month program plus prerequisite courses*
  - *CRT and RRT credentials are available through HACCC*



# Can I Earn an Advanced Degree?

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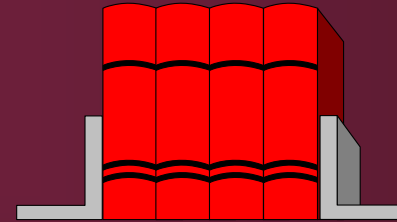
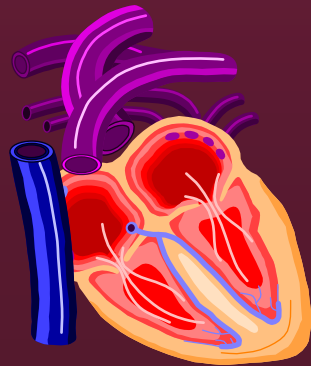
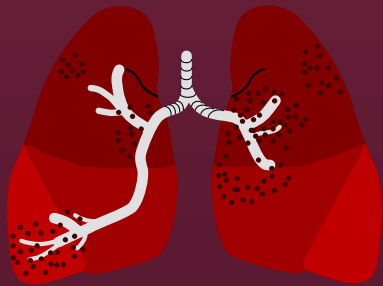
- **Yes!**
- *Baccalaureate Degree Advancement*
- *Opportunity for leadership*
  - *management and supervision*
  - *education or research*
  - *clinical specialization*



# What Courses Do I Need to Prepare for an Respiratory Care Education Program?

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*Prerequisite coursework.*



*Students should have a strong background in math and science.*

# Respiratory Care Program Requirements for Admission

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- *Prerequisite courses*
  - *BIOL 121 - Anatomy and Physiology I*
  - *MATH 051 - Intermediate Algebra*
  - *ENGL 101 - English Composition I*
  - *CHEM 100 - Principals of Chemistry*

# Respiratory Care Program Curriculum

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- *General Education Courses*
- *Science Courses*
- *Respiratory Care Theory Courses*
- *Laboratory and Clinical Courses*

# How Do I Receive Information on the Respiratory Care Program at HACC?

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- Go to [www.hacc.edu](http://www.hacc.edu) and click on Health Career Programs from the drop-down box.
  - Request the Health Careers Catalog through our auto reply and receive it electronically in minutes, or
- E-mail Health Careers at [healthcareers@hacc.edu](mailto:healthcareers@hacc.edu), or
- Call 717-780-1988 (1-800-222-4222 ext 1988 in PA)

# Respiratory Therapists Make a Difference



***YOU CAN, TOO!***