



Be an RT

**Respiratory Therapist*

You've been thinking a lot lately about what you're going to do with the rest of your life. And as you've considered various careers, health care has sounded like a good choice.

And why not?

The demand for health care professionals has never been higher, so job stability is excellent. Continued growth in biomedical technology ensures the field will never get boring. And the opportunity to really help people and make a lasting and meaningful difference in the lives of others means you'll get much more out of your career than just a paycheck.

But with all the health care professions out there, how can you know which one is right for you? It's not an easy decision, but if you agree with the following statements, you might discover respiratory therapy is exactly what you've been looking for:

- 1** I really enjoy helping people out in their time of need.
- 2** I like working with technology and I'm good in math and science.
- 3** I would rather work in a profession where there's a lot of variety in the job.
- 4** I want to be able to choose what type of place I work in, and the type of patients I work with.
- 5** I'm looking for a career with multiple opportunities for advancement—not just one.

If this sounds like you, our profession could be a great fit.



What RTs Do

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A Day in the Life of a Respiratory Therapist

With all the knowledge RTs possess, it's no wonder their days are so diverse. A day in the life of an RT might include—



- Diagnosing lung and breathing disorders and recommending treatment methods.
- Interviewing patients and doing chest physical exams to determine what kind of therapy is best for their condition.
- Consulting with physicians to recommend a change in therapy, based on your evaluation of the patient.
- Analyzing breath, tissue, and blood specimens to determine levels of oxygen and other gases.
- Managing ventilators and artificial airway devices for patients who can't breathe normally on their own.
- Responding to Code Blue or other urgent calls for care.
- Educating patients and families about lung disease so they can maximize their recovery.

Where RTs Work

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RTs work right at the bedside,
side-by-side with doctors,
nurses, and other
health care professionals

