

Respiratory Therapy

Respiratory therapy is a healthcare specialty that focuses on prevention, diagnosis, treatment, management and rehabilitation of patients with breathing or other cardiopulmonary disorders. Respiratory therapists provide treatment that can range from giving emergency relief to patients with asthma to long-term care for chronic conditions such as emphysema.

Although hospitals will continue to employ the vast majority of respiratory therapists, a growing number can expect to work outside of hospitals in home healthcare services, offices of physicians or other health practitioners or consumer goods rental firms. Home healthcare in particular is a bright spot on the horizon due to technological advances that permit complex respiratory therapy care to be administered in the home.



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Respiratory Therapy Course Outline

Semester I (16 Weeks)

Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Extern	Credits
MT 103	Math Applications	30			2.0
BIO 127	Anatomy & Physiology	70			4.5
RES 116	Cardiac Anatomy & Physiology	30			2.0
RES 118	Pulmonary Anatomy & Physiology	75			5.0
CHP 111	Respiratory Sciences	35			2.0
Semester I Total		240	0		15.5

Semester II (16 Weeks)

Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Extern	Credits
HST 205	Nevada History and US Constitution*	45			3.0
RX 151	Pharmacology	40			2.5
RES 131	Cardiopulmonary Diagnostics	40	30		3.5
RES 141	Cardiopulmonary Diseases	50			3.0
RES 180	Respiratory Therapeutics I	30	25		2.5
PC 122	Patient Assessment	20	15		1.5
MB 120	Microbiology	20			1.0
Semester II Total		245	70		17.0

*Represents the Las Vegas campus

Semester III (16 Weeks)

Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Extern	Credits
RES 185	Respiratory Therapeutics II	40	50		4.0
RES 242	Emergency Care	35	15		2.5
RES 211	Critical Care Techniques	40	15		3.0
RES 160	Respiratory Pediatrics	30			2.0
RES 201	Pulmonary Rehabilitation & Wellness	15			1.0
CCM 102	Healthcare Communications	45			3.0
Semester III Total		205	80		15.5

Semester IV (16 Weeks)

Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Extern	Credits
RES 281	Introduction to Mechanical Ventilation	60	60		6.0
RES 222	Advanced Patient Assessment	30	20		2.5
RES 190	Respiratory Care Practicum I			240	5.0
Semester IV Total		90	80	240	13.5

Semester V (16 Weeks)

Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Extern	Credits
RES 290	Respiratory Care Practicum II			240	5.0
RES 251	Advanced Pharmacology	45			3.0
RES 260	Respiratory Perinatology	50			3.0
RES 231	Advanced Pulmonary Diagnostics	35			2.0
Semester V Total		130		240	13.0

Semester VI (16 Weeks)

Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Extern	Credits
RES 270	Cardiovascular Diagnostics	50			3.0
RES 287	Advanced Mechanical Ventilation	50	30		4.0
RES 295	Respiratory Care Practicum III			216	4.5
RES 275	NBRC Review Course	35			2.0
Semester VI Total		135	30	216	13.5
PROGRAM TOTALS		1000	260	696	85.0
LAS VEGAS PROGRAM TOTALS		1045	260	696	88.0

What You Will Learn

When you become a respiratory therapy student at Pima Medical Institute, you'll develop professional skills in advanced respiratory care techniques, including neonatal and adult special care procedures, general and advanced pharmacology, cardiopulmonary disease, patient assessment and therapeutics.

Job Outlook

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of respiratory therapists is projected to grow 13 percent from 2023 to 2033, much faster than the average for all occupations. Growth in the middle-aged and elderly population will lead to an increased incidence of respiratory conditions such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and pneumonia. These respiratory disorders can permanently damage the lungs or restrict lung function.**

Employment

The majority of respiratory therapists will find employment in hospitals, continuing care facilities and home health agencies.

Certification

Graduates of Pima Medical Institute's Respiratory Therapy program receive an associate degree and are eligible to sit for the National Board for Respiratory Care Therapist Multiple-Choice Examination (TMC) and the registry level Clinical Simulation Examination (CSE).

*The total number of program hours is 1,956 at all campuses except Las Vegas, which has 2,001 hours. The Las Vegas program includes one additional 3 credit class (HST 205 Nevada History and US Constitution). Graduates of the program receive an Occupational Associate degree. Graduates are eligible to apply to take the National Board for Respiratory Care Therapist Multiple-Choice Examination (TMC). Following successful performance on the TMC, the graduate is then eligible to take the Clinical Simulation Examination (CSE) for credentialing as a Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT).

**Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, Respiratory Therapists, on the Internet at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/respiratory-therapists.htm> (visited October 22, 2024).



- Hands-on training
- Financial aid if qualified
- Career planning services

PMI offers FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE to those who qualify. CAREER PLANNING SERVICES and INTERNSHIPS are also provided for eligible students. Check availability on DAY and EVENING classes. Not all programs are offered at all campuses. For consumer info visit pmi.edu/consumerinfo.