

Become a Respiratory Therapist!

You have been thinking a lot lately about what your career path. And as you consider various job settings, health care sounds like a good fit for you. So have you heard about Respiratory Therapy?



The demand for Respiratory Therapists has never been higher...

Job stability is excellent. Continued growth in biomedical technology ensures the field will never get boring. The opportunity to 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.

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

1. I enjoy helping people in their time of need!
2. I like working with technology and I am enjoying my science classes!
3. I want to work in a profession where I get to use my critical thinking and communication skills!
4. I enjoy a high-paced job that keeps me moving!
5. I want the ability to work in a variety of places with patients of all ages!
6. I'm looking for a career with multiple opportunities for advancement—not just one!

What does a Respiratory Therapist do?

A Respiratory Therapist (RT) specializes in Cardiopulmonary health. We work closely with the healthcare team to optimize a patient's breathing. An RT works at all levels, from delivering inhaled medication, assisting in an emergency, to running life support. We are the experts on mechanical ventilators and physicians rely on our expertise to save lives. Learn more: [Be an RT!](#)

How have things changed in the pandemic? Here is an explanation: [Being an RT in a Pandemic](#)

Career Opportunities

Due in part to a growing middle-aged and elderly population, the demand for respiratory therapists is expected to increase by 23% by 2026, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Earning a bachelor's degree will help you be more competitive for jobs as a Respiratory Therapist and qualify you to work in a variety of healthcare settings, including:

- Hospitals
- Physicians' offices
- Extended care facilities
- In-home care providers
- Rehabilitation
- Emergency services



Pre-Physician Assistant Degree

If you are interested in a career as a Physician Assistant (PA), the Respiratory Care program can help you meet the academic admissions requirements for the Physician Assistant master's degree at the University of Washington (UW) School of Medicine's Medex Northwest Program.

How Much Does a Respiratory Therapist Make?

Washington State has some of the highest paid Respiratory Therapists in the nation. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics in 2017, Respiratory Therapists in Washington State make \$67,400 - \$79,680 per year.

