

RESPIRATORY CARE, A.A.S. CRT & RRT

Is Respiratory Care for me?

The field is for you if you ...

- Enjoy working with and helping people in a healthcare setting.
- Have the ability to think critically and problem solve in stressful situations.
- Want to make decisions on an individual's health outcome.
- Have good judgment and common sense.
- Are energetic and can respond to emergency situations quickly.

What skills will I need for this field?

You will need to have knowledge of ...

- Medical asepsis.
- Oxygen supply and administration.
- Equipment surveillance.
- Chest physiotherapy and postural drainage.
- Arterial blood gas sampling.
- Continuous life-support management.
- Patient assessment.
- Pulmonary function testing.
- Humidity and aerosol administration.
- Hyperinflation therapy.
- Emergency airway care.
- Polysomnography
- Adult and Pediatric Care

What is the work atmosphere like?

Respiratory care practitioners work in the hospital and clinical settings of emergency rooms, intensive care units, and diagnostic laboratories. Practitioners are needed to work around the clock, 24 hours per day, with all patients: neonatal, pediatric, adult and geriatric. Practitioners work with patients that have heart and lung diseases that are often in need of life-support.

What are my degree options?

Associate's Degree

Associate in Applied Science (AAS)

Bachelor's Degree

Bachelor's degrees are available by transferring to four-year colleges and universities.

Professional Certification

Professional certification is available through the National Board for Respiratory Care. Graduates are eligible for the credentialing systems that allow them to achieve the Certified and the Registered Respiratory Therapist credentials. Credentials are also available for Pediatrics and Pulmonary Function. All employment centers hire with the expectation that the individuals will complete the credentialing systems. An Illinois Department of Professional Regulations license is required.

What are my career opportunities?

Entry-level Respiratory Care Practitioners begin their careers in the hospital setting with general respiratory care. Advanced practitioners work in high-tech intensive care units. Practitioners are also employed in home care settings, skilled patient care centers, education, research and management.

What can I do with these degrees?

If you have completed ...

Associate in Applied Science Degree

Administration in hospitals, advanced respiratory care, clinics and health care settings, entry-level respiratory care, intensive respiratory care, management in hospitals and clinics, practitioner.

Bachelor's Degree

Business, Education, Industry, Management and Research

How can I prepare now?

Recommended Courses ...

Math

Algebra

Science

Chemistry

Communications

Composition, Speech

Recommended Supporting Electives

Spanish or other bilingual ability, Psychology, Sociology, Computers, Keyboarding, Bio Medical Language

What about my articulated credit?

Check with your high school coordinator to see if you are eligible for articulated credit at College of DuPage.

What should I take in my first semester at C.O.D.?

College of DuPage Respiratory program has a separate admission process. Students must be admitted to the program in order to register for respiratory courses. Courses are sequential and are offered one time per year only.

Whom can I talk to for more information?

Health, Social and Behavioral Sciences
(630) 942-2495

For more information on the Associate in Applied Science Degree curriculum, see your program coordinator or go to www.cod.edu.