



### PROGRAM OFFERED

#### ♦ B.S.

This is a clinical immersion program with classroom and labs paired to hands on clinical training. In the critical care setting, there are typically just three practitioners present 24/7: the nurse, the respiratory care practitioner (RCP), and the physician. RCPs assess and treat all age groups from premature infants whose lungs are not yet developed, to children with asthma, to adults with cardiopulmonary disease. They are a vital part of the medical team assisting the physician in the care of patients with pulmonary disease, emergency care for patients with heart failure or stroke, victims of trauma, drowning, or other forms of shock. RCPs serve in inpatient, outpatient, and transport fields.

RCPs most commonly use oxygen and aerosol medications to help their patients during acute care. They also manage ventilators that deliver various gases (air, oxygen, and nitric oxide) to care for the critically ill. RCPs are involved in the prevention, assessment, treatment, management, and education related to problems affecting the heart and lungs. RCPs are involved in specialty clinical areas, hyperbaric medicine, lung ultrasound, provision of vaccinations, and assisting in bronchoscopy. RCPs are a very important part of the patient care team.

### JOB OPPORTUNITIES

An entry level B.S. Respiratory Care degree is recommended as the foundation for advancement in the profession. There is an expected increased demand for RCPs due to lifestyle related cardiopulmonary diseases in addition to trauma and pandemics which all require the expertise of the RCP. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of RCPs is expected to grow 19% through 2029, much faster than the average for all occupations.

While medical centers employ the majority of RCPs, RCPs are also involved in contracts with home health and extended care facilities.

### EARNINGS

In California (2021), the annual mean salary of a respiratory care practitioner is \$81,386, with a range of \$65,000 to \$91,000. Salaries vary widely by region, qualifications, and experience. The salaries for respiratory care administrators may reach \$140,000 or more.

### EMPLOYMENT

About 9 out of 10 RCP jobs are held in hospital departments of respiratory care, anesthesiology, or pulmonary medicine. Home health agencies, respiratory care clinics, extended care facilities, telehealth, case management (after obtaining the CCM® credential), and medical supply services count for most of the remaining jobs.

### EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The program consists of the last 2 years of a BS degree. The first two years are prerequisites you take after high school at any regionally accredited college or university. The prerequisites prepare you for the professional level at Loma Linda University. The prerequisite courses you need are listed on the back of this page.

After completing the prerequisites, you may continue professional studies toward the Bachelor of Science degree upon acceptance to Loma Linda University.

This program is the 1st and only respiratory care program in California and the West Coast to receive the prestigious APEX Award by the American Association for Respiratory Care for 2021-2022. This program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care. Upon program completion, graduates are eligible to take examinations for their license to practice offered through the National Board for Respiratory Care (CRT, RRT, NPS, ACCS, SDS, CPFT, RPFT). In the State of California, obtaining the RRT credential is required to become licensed.



### Apex Educational Program Recognition Award for 2023 & 2024

American Association for Respiratory Care developed the Apex Recognition Award to recognize educational programs who have demonstrated a commitment to excellence through high-quality education, evidence based medicine, and patient safety. LLU has received the APEX Award 2-year recognition in both 2021 and 2023. Our program became the first respiratory care program in California and the West Coast of the USA to receive this award twice.

## LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS

### Domain 1: Religion (8 quarter units)

(Completed during enrollment at LLU)

### Domain 2: Arts and humanities (minimum 16 quarter units)

Units must be selected from at least three of the following content areas: civilization/history, art, literature, language, philosophy, religion, or general humanities electives. A minimum of 3 quarter units in an area are required to meet a "content area."

### Domain 3: Scientific inquiry and quantitative reasoning (minimum 12 quarter units)

- Human anatomy and physiology with laboratory, complete sequence or general biology with laboratory, complete sequence
- Microbiology with laboratory
- Introductory chemistry with laboratory, complete sequence; or general chemistry with laboratory, complete sequence
- High school-level physics or introductory physics, one quarter/semester in college; or general physics, one quarter/semester in college (high school courses do not count toward the 12 units required to fulfill GE requirements).
- Two years high school mathematics with grades of C or above; or intermediate algebra in college. (These courses do not count toward the 12 units required to fulfill GE requirements.)

### Domain 4: Social sciences (minimum 12 quarter units)

- Introductory or general psychology course.
- Select additional units, as needed, from: anthropology, economics, geography, political science, psychology, and sociology.
- Cultural diversity requirement is met within the program.

### Domain 5: Written and oral communication (minimum 9 quarter units)

- English composition, complete sequence that meets the baccalaureate degree requirements of a four-year college or university.
- Additional courses may include information systems, critical thinking, and public speaking

### Domain 6: Health and wellness (minimum 2 quarter units)

- A didactic course in health or nutrition (e.g., personal health, personal nutrition, population health, global health, and community nutrition) minimum of 2 units
- Physical education. Must include at least two separate physical activity courses totaling a minimum of one quarter units.

For total unit requirements for graduation, see [LLU General Education Requirements](#).

### Electives

Electives as needed to meet the minimum total degree requirements of 192 quarter units.

**"C minus" grades are not transferable for credit**

### Observation Experience Recommendation:

Four to eight hours observing a respiratory care practitioner participating in patient care in a hospital setting is recommended.

You can find the courses we recommend for your college by accessing the "Transfer Patterns" on our website at: <https://alliedhealth.llu.edu/admissions/transfer-patterns>

## HOW TO APPLY

**PAUSED-AT THIS TIME ALL APPLICATIONS ARE PAUSED. TO BE ADDED TO AN INFORMATION LIST (UPON AVAILABILITY) PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM <https://apply.llu.edu/register/inquire> AND ADD PROGRAM OF INTEREST.**

Once unpaused applications are accepted starting November 1 of each year for the following Autumn (September) acceptance. Apply at: <http://home.llu.edu/academics/how-apply>. You will need 3 letters of recommendation from professors you have taken course work, are preferred. Catalogs may be viewed free on our web site.

You may complete prerequisite course work at any regionally accredited college or university before admission to a program in the School of Allied Health Professions. A high school diploma or the GED is required for acceptance, unless you possess an associate (two years of college) or higher degree.

### Student Health Requirements:

Please review the New Students—Health Requirements. <https://llu.edu/campus-spiritual-life/student-health-service/new-students-health-requirements>



**TOEFL or IELTS** (or equivalent English language proficiency examination) scores are required for applicants whose native language is not English or whose secondary education was received outside the United States (refer to: <https://alliedhealth.llu.edu/academics/physician-assistant/physician-assistant-admissions-information/international-applicant>).

Applicant interviews may be conducted either in person or via Zoom.

### Cost of Attendance

Please review LLU's Find a Program website [page](#) for the most up-to-date information on the cost of attendance or scan the QR code below.



### Financial Aid

LLU's Student Financial Aid office will help you obtain the necessary applications and guide you through the process of applying for aid. Contact them at: Office of Financial Aid, Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, CA 92350, (909) 558-4509.

### Housing

On-campus housing is available for men and women. For information on the men's dormitory (Daniells Residence), call (909) 558-4562. For information on the women's dormitory (Lindsay Hall), call (909) 558-4561.

### Contact Information

Office (909) 558-1000 Ext. 88673  
Email [studycardio@llu.edu](mailto:studycardio@llu.edu)

*Reviewed 08/26/2025*



LOMA LINDA  
UNIVERSITY

## LLU at a Glance

>> Founded in 1905 >> A Seventh-day Adventist institution integrating health, science, and Christian faith >> Offers over 200 programs in the health sciences >> Houses eight schools: Allied Health Professions, Behavioral Health, Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Public Health, and Religion >> About 4,000 students >> Over 1,300 faculty >> 2,000 professional researchers >> \$46 million dollars in private and public grants generated each year >> Many service-learning opportunities

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