



PROGRAM OFFERED

- ◆ B.S.

Most people take breathing for granted. But for thousands of people who suffer from breathing problems, each breath is a major accomplishment. Respiratory Care Practitioners treat all types of patients, ranging from premature infants whose lungs are not fully developed, to children having asthma attacks or adults with lung disease. They are a vital part of the medical team and provide temporary relief to patients with chronic lung diseases and also provide emergency care for patients who suffered heart failure or a stroke, or are victims of drowning or shock.

Respiratory Care Practitioners (RCP's) most commonly use oxygen and aerosol medications to help their patients. They also manage breathing machines, called ventilators, which deliver pressurized gases (air, oxygen, and nitric oxide) into the lungs of patients who cannot breathe for themselves. Respiratory Care Practitioners are involved in prevention, diagnosis, treatment, management and education related to problems effecting the heart and lungs. Advanced procedures include specialty clinical areas, hyperbaric medicine, lung ultrasound and assisting in bronchoscopy. RCP's are a very important part of the patient care team.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

An entry level B.S. degree in respiratory care is recommended as the foundation for advancement in the profession. There is an expected increased demand for RCPs because of growth of the middle-aged and older population, with an increased incidence of cardiopulmonary diseases. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of RCPs is expected to grow 12 percent through 2024, faster than the average for all occupations.

Although hospitals continue to employ the majority of RCP's, a growing number of practitioners may work under contract to home health agencies and extended care facilities.

EARNINGS

In California, the annual base salary of full-time respiratory therapists is \$50,000 - \$90,000 (annual mean wage of \$78,820 as of 2016), with management positions earning as much as \$100,000 or more.

EMPLOYMENT

About 9 out of 10 jobs are held in hospital departments of respiratory care, anesthesiology, or pulmonary medicine. Home health agencies, respiratory therapy clinics, and extended care facilities count for most of the remaining jobs.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

To receive a B.S. degree in Respiratory Care, you will need to finish four years of college after high school. The first two years are spent taking prerequisites at a regionally accredited college or university. These prerequisites are classes that prepare you for the professional level of study at Loma Linda University. The prerequisite courses that you need to take during your first two years in college are listed on the back of this page. High school mathematics and natural sciences are recommended.

After completing your two years of required prerequisites, or if you already have an AS degree or the equivalent, you may continue studies toward the Bachelor of Science degree.

This program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC). Upon completion of our program, graduates are eligible to take examinations for their license to practice and credentialing examinations (CRT, RRT, NPS, ACCS, SDS, CPFT, RPFT) offered through the National Board for Respiratory Care. In the State of California, obtaining the RRT credential is a requirement for obtaining licensure as an RCP.

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