



# Careers in the Licensed Professions

## Respiratory Therapist & Respiratory Therapy Technician

As directed by a physician, **respiratory therapists** (RT) evaluate cardiopulmonary (heart and lungs) health and treat respiratory conditions, such as pneumonia and asthma. A **respiratory therapy technician** (RTT) provides the same services under the supervision of a physician or RT. Examples of services:

- set up and monitor therapies and environmental controls
- insert and maintain an artificial airway
- cardiopulmonary rehabilitation
- start & support equipment that helps people to breathe
- administer medications needed for respiratory care
- educate patients and families

### Education

**Respiratory Therapist:** An associate degree or its equivalent in respiratory therapy registered by the Department or its equivalent.

**Respiratory Therapy Technician:** A one-year certificate program in respiratory therapy technology registered by the Department or its equivalent.

### Examination

**Respiratory Therapist:** National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) Certified Respiratory Therapist examination and the Registry Examination.

**Respiratory Therapy Technician:** NBRC Certified Respiratory Therapist examination

### Salary and Projected Growth

- RT salary range: \$73,583-\$105,587
- RTT salary range: \$42,680-\$67,550
- Projected growth: RT—faster than average; RTT—below average

### Where Could I Work?

- Hospitals (often in critical care and other inpatient units)
- Pulmonary rehabilitation clinics
- Home health care

### Your Interests and Abilities

- Biology, chemistry, and medical technology
- Supervised clinical education

### Professional Skills

- Concern for others
- Cooperation
- Communication
- Attention to detail

