

RESPIRATORY THERAPIST

ASSOCIATES DEGREE / BACHELORS DEGREE PROGRAM

Respiratory Therapists care for patients who have trouble breathing — for example, from a chronic respiratory disease such as asthma or emphysema. Their patients range from premature infants with undeveloped lungs to elderly patients who have diseased lungs. They also provide emergency care to patients suffering from heart attacks, drowning, or shock. The respiratory therapy field requires compassion, attention to detail, strong problem-solving abilities, and interpersonal and communication skills. Program applications are available beginning in January every year.



OUR PROGRAM

The Respiratory Therapy Program at Simi Institute is conducted in consortium with Excelsior College and is an associate's degree program that starts in June of every year. There is also an option to earn a bachelor's degree. The RT Program prepares the graduate to apply and take the Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) credentialing examination by the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) and apply for the Respiratory Care Practitioner (RCP) License by the Respiratory Care Board (RCB) of California.

PROGRAM ADMISSION

Selection for the RT program is based on:

- an application essay
- a written entrance test of adult basic skills comprised of two parts:
 1. English - reading comprehension and language skills
 2. Math skills - equations, fractions, percentages, scientific notation, pre-algebra
- an interview with SICE RT program staff
- academic preparation (from transcripts)
- relevant work or volunteer experience

NEW COHORTS BEGIN ONCE A YEAR, STARTING IN JUNE

Must be 18 years or older with a high school diploma or equivalency, or college degree. Must speak, read, and write English at a college level. Foreign transcripts must be translated by a third party. Per the requirements of our clinical site partners, all Respiratory Therapist students are Required to show proof of Covid-19 vaccination(s) prior to beginning any externship. No exceptions will be made.

LICENSURE

The Respiratory Care Board of California requires that an applicant have passed the National Board for Respiratory Care's licensure exams. Applicants must also provide a social security number (SSN) or taxpayer identification number (ITIN) and disclose all criminal convictions, expunged / dismissed / set aside history, criminal action pending or awaiting judgement or sentencing, substance use / abuse information, and professional discipline.

For more licensure information, visit the Respiratory Care Board of California:
www.rcb.ca.gov

JOB DUTIES

- Interview and examine patients with breathing or cardiopulmonary disorders
- Consult with physicians to develop patient treatment plans
- Perform diagnostic tests, such as measuring lung capacity
- Treat patients by using a variety of methods, including chest physiotherapy and aerosol medications
- Monitor and record patients' progress
- Teach patients how to use treatments and equipment, such as ventilators
- Take blood samples and use a blood gas analyzer to test oxygen and carbon dioxide levels

