



Temple College Respiratory Care Program

(Information Packet)

Revised: 02/26/2025

It is the policy of Temple College that all persons shall receive equal opportunities in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities, without regard to race, religion, color, disability, sex, age, national origin, or veteran status. These benefits include but are not limited to such matters as housing, financial assistance, recruitment, and any type of personnel service.

What do RT's do?

A day in the life of an RT might include—

- Assessing patients for lung and breathing disorders and recommending treatment modalities.
- Interviewing patients and doing chest physical exams to determine what kind of therapy is best for their condition.
- Consulting with physicians to recommend a change in therapy, based on your evaluation of the patient.
- Analyzing breath sounds, measuring vital signs, and drawing arterial blood to determine levels of oxygen and other gases.
- Managing ventilators and artificial airway devices for patients who can't breathe normally on their own.
- Responding to Code Blue or other urgent calls for care.
- Educating patients and families about lung disease so they can maximize their recovery.

Where do Rt's work?

- **In Hospitals** giving breathing treatments to people with asthma and other respiratory conditions.
- **In Intensive Care Units** managing ventilators that keep the critically ill patients alive.
- **In Emergency Rooms** delivering life-saving treatments.
- **In Newborn and Pediatric Units** helping children with conditions ranging from premature birth to cystic fibrosis.
- **In Operating Rooms** working with anesthesiologists to monitor patients' breathing during surgery.
- **In Patient's Homes** providing regular check-ups and making sure people have what they need to stay out of the hospital.
- **In Sleep Laboratories** helping to diagnose disorders like sleep apnea.

- **In Skilled Nursing Facilities** and pulmonary rehabilitation programs helping older people breathe easier and get more out of life.
- **In Doctor's Offices** conducting pulmonary function tests and providing patient education.
- **In Asthma Education Programs** helping children and adults alike learn how to cope with the condition.
- **In Smoking Cessation Programs** assisting those who want to kick the habit for good.
- **In Air Transport and Ambulance Programs** rushing to rescue people in need of immediate medical attention.
- **In Case Management Programs** helping devise long-term care plans for patients.

Specialized Care

One of the many great things about being an RT is that the profession is dedicated to patients of all ages and circumstances. Maybe you're interested in working with newborns or children. Or maybe you're interested in the fast-paced world of transport. Wherever you want to take your career, respiratory care is there.

Here's where you can take your respiratory therapy career:

Long-Term Care

Long-term care RTs work in skilled nursing facilities, subacute care centers, rehab hospitals, and other types of long-term care facilities. RTs in this area work with post-acute and chronic disease patients who range in age from the very old to the very young.

What it takes: Most long-term care RTs enter the area after having worked in a hospital first, and most facilities will require therapists to hold the Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT) credential. Many will also expect therapists to have the advanced level Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) credential as well, and therapists with the RRT are more likely to advance to managerial positions.

Neonatal-Pediatrics

Neonatal-pediatric RTs work in children's hospitals and general hospitals with neonatal-pediatric wards. Neonatal respiratory care involves treating and monitoring newborns for breathing disorders. A neonatal RT might monitor the breathing of premature babies, treat infants born with pulmonary diseases or disorders, or respond to the unique respiratory care needs of an infant in an emergency.

Pediatric RTs work with toddlers and older children, providing breathing treatments and other care for children with asthma, cystic fibrosis, and a wide range of other respiratory problems.

What it takes: Neonatal-pediatric therapists generally hold the CRT or RRT credentials, and many have also earned the Neonatal-Pediatric Specialist credential, or RRT-NPS. Increasingly, therapists who work with children with asthma are also earning the Asthma Educator-Certified credential, or AE-C, which certifies they are competent to counsel patients in asthma management.

Surface & Air Transport

Surface and Air Transport RTs are a vital part of transport teams that treat critically ill patients in emergency transit to critical care units. These RTs do their job huddled in the back of a helicopter, air ambulance, or ground ambulance, working closely with nurses, physicians, and EMTs to keep patients alive and well until they can reach a hospital where they can receive necessary care. When they aren't actively participating in a transport, these therapists work in other areas of their hospitals, from the emergency room to the intensive care units.

What it takes: Transport RTs earn the CRT or RRT credentials, and since many specialize in newborn and pediatric transports, the RRT-NPS credential as well. In addition, they may also be required to have one or more life support credentials.

Pulmonary Rehab

Pulmonary rehabilitation therapists help patients with chronic lung diseases like asthma, emphysema, chronic bronchitis, and pulmonary fibrosis cope with their conditions through education, treatment, and exercise. Most work in pulmonary rehabilitation centers, where they provide care and education to patients enrolled in their programs on an outpatient basis. But some also provide similar services to patients who are still in the hospital. Their primary goal is to help patients with chronic lung ailments breathe more easily and comfortably.

What it takes: Pulmonary rehab therapists will hold the CRT or RRT credentials. Many are also earning the AE-C, if asthma education is a part of their job responsibilities.

Polysomnography

Over the past 30 years, sleep medicine technology has grown into a complex health care field, and respiratory therapists are increasingly being called upon to specialize in this dynamic area of care. RTs who work in sleep are generally employed by sleep laboratories, and they often work the night shift, when sleep studies are conducted.

General respiratory therapists can transition well into polysomnography, but most will need additional education and training to understand the 77 identified sleep disorders, to learn the function and use of polysomnographic equipment, and to provide safe and effective treatment to patients.

What it takes: RTs who go into sleep hold the CRT or RRT credentials, but may also want to earn the Registered Polysomnographic Technologist, or RPSGT credential, or the NBRC's Sleep Disorders Specialist (CRT-SDS or RRT-SDS) credential, which is awarded to those who take a specialty exam in polysomnography.

Education

Respiratory therapy education involves not just educating future practitioners, but also serving as an educational resource to practicing therapists. Respiratory therapy educators serve as professors and instructors in school programs, including those at the community college and university levels, and they may also work as continuing education coordinators for hospital RT departments.

What it takes: Most RT educators enter the specialty after having worked as a respiratory therapist in a hospital or other setting, and nearly all will have earned the advanced level RRT credential. Many educators also hold masters and doctorate degrees; in many schools, advanced degrees are considered essential for advancement.

Critical Care

Many RTs love the fast pace and complex care delivered in the intensive care unit. Critical care respiratory therapists work with the most sophisticated equipment and the most severely ill patients.

What it takes: Therapists who staff the ICU most often have earned the advanced level RRT credential. Many respiratory therapists who work with critically ill patients also earn the NBRC's Adult Critical Care Specialist, or RRT-ACCS credential.

Case Management

Some RTs find it rewarding to develop a plan of care aimed at helping a patient transition from the hospital to the home care setting. These RT case managers help coordinate all aspects of a patient's health care needs, making sure they have the equipment and other services they'll need to recuperate at home.

What it takes: Most of these therapists hold the RRT credential, and many will also earn case management credentials as well, such as the Certified Case Manager, or CCM, credential.

Home Care

Many respiratory patients who have long-term illnesses like emphysema receive health care services in their homes from respiratory therapists. These therapists may work for a hospital, but most work for companies that provide home care equipment to people at home. RTs who like to visit with patients and be out and about do well in-home care.

What it takes: Since home care requires a lot of independent thinking, most home care therapists have experience working in a hospital or other health care setting. Therapists will have earned the CRT or RRT credential, although the advanced level RRT credential is preferred by many home care companies.

Pulmonary Diagnostics

Therapists who enjoy the diagnostic aspects of respiratory care may specialize in pulmonary function testing. These therapists work in hospital-based or physician office-based pulmonary function laboratories, where they conduct the testing required to help physicians determine whether a person has a lung disease and, if so, which one.

What it takes: Therapists in this area generally earn the CRT or RRT credentials, but most will also earn specialty credentials in pulmonary diagnostics. These include the Certified Pulmonary Function Technologist, or CPFT, and Registered Pulmonary Function Technologist, or RPFT, credentials.

Management

Every respiratory care department has managerial personnel, and many RTs rise up the ranks to fill these positions. Managers in respiratory care are responsible for a wide range of duties — everything from staffing and budget preparation to setting policies and implementing directives from hospital administration.

What it takes: Managers typically enter the area after many years of experience as a staff therapist. Most will have earned the advanced level RRT credential, and many also earn bachelor's degrees or above in business administration or public health.

Education:

- Those entering the field are graduates of two year or sometimes four-year training programs.
- Minimum entry into the field is an Associate's Degree.
 - The most common – two-year Associate's Degree programs are offered principally by community colleges.
 - Less common, although growing in number, are four-year Baccalaureate Degree programs.
 - There are now a growing number of Master's Degree programs around the country and two in Texas.

All programs offering respiratory programs must be accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) which is an independent accrediting agency.

Credentialing:

- Respiratory care practitioners are tested and gain their credentials from the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC).
- Starting in January, 2015 the NBRC implemented a new testing system. The first test a new graduate takes is the Therapist Multiple Choice Exam (TMC). The examination is 160 (140 scored) multiple choice questions. If a person passes the test they become a Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT) and scores are sent to the Texas Medical Board so that a person may receive the Respiratory Care Practitioner (RCP) permit to practice credential.
- In Texas it is mandatory to have the RCP in order to practice. There is also some type of mandatory regulation in all US states in the continental U. S. except for Alaska.
- Once a graduate passes the TMC, if they pass at the high level, they are eligible for the Clinical Simulation Exam (CSE) in which 22 (20 are scored) simulated patients must be dealt with successfully. Each simulation is divided into two major parts; an information gathering section and a decision-making section. When the CSE is passed a person becomes a Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT).

NBRC Specialty Credentialing

- The NBRC also has a certification (Certified Pulmonary Function Technician-CPFT) and a registry (Registered Pulmonary Function Technologist-RPFT) for pulmonary function testing.
- For persons working with children there is the Neonatal/Pediatric Specialist (NPS) exam.
- For those working in sleep medicine there is a Sleep Disorder Specialist exam (SDS).
- The newest credential is the Adult Critical Care Specialist (ACCS) exam for those working mostly in adult critical care.

Other Specialty credentials not connected with the NBRC

- The National Asthma Education Certification Board offers a test which allows practitioners from various backgrounds and specialties to become a Certified Asthma Educator (AE-C).
- For those interested in hyperbaric medicine the National Board of Diving and Hyperbaric Medical Technology offers tests to qualify practitioners to become Certified Hyperbaric Technologists (CHT).

Employment

Quick Facts for Respiratory Therapists

[Taken from the Bureau of Labor Site](#)

2024 Median Pay: \$80,450 per year or \$38.68 per hour

Typical Entry-Level Education: Associate's Degree

Work Experience in Related Occupation: None

On-the-job Training: None

Number of Jobs, 2024: 139,600

Job Outlook, 2024-34: 12% (Much faster than average)

Employment Change, 2024-34: 16,800

Local starting pay: \$30.09

Other Facts

- Pass rates of the Entry Level Certification Exam (ELE) have consistently been above the national average for advanced practitioner level schools. (source: www.coarc.com)
- Job placement is almost 100%, with graduates entering hospitals, extended care facilities and staffing agencies locally, in various regions in Texas and even in other states where the demand is also high.
- There are currently ten active clinical affiliates that give students a broad range of experiences during onsite clinical training:
 - Baylor-Scott & White Hospitals – Temple and Round Rock
 - Baylor-Scott & White McLane Children's Hospital - Temple
 - Baylor-Scott & White Continuing Care Hospital – Temple
 - Ascension Seton Dell Children's Medical Center – Austin
 - Coryell Memorial Hospital – Gatesville
 - Advent Health – Killeen
 - St. David's Georgetown Hospital – Georgetown
 - Ascension Seton Medical Center – Harker Heights
 - Baylor-Scott & White Hillcrest – Waco
 - Providence Hospital – Waco

Student Selection Criteria

Prospective students must make application and be accepted to **Temple College**.

Prospective students should submit all records to the **Department of Respiratory Care** by the third Wednesday in June. Email debbie.parten@templecollege.edu or call 254-298-8697 or 254-298-8929 for assistance.

Admission application packets should include the following:

- ♦ **Information Session** - This is a logical first step in exploring the field of respiratory care or any other program for that matter. These sessions are offered about once a month and starts with a morning session from 9:00am - 12:00 noon. These are given according to published schedules and are designed to provide in-depth information on respiratory care and answer questions prospective students may have about the field. Prospective students will go for a tour of BSW Hospital. Required dress code will be business casual (i.e., no shorts, flip flops/house shoes, no jeans with holes, no midriff tops, collared shirts are preferred).
- ♦ **TSI scores** - Candidates must have passing scores for TSI.
 - a. Candidates should have passed all three parts of the TSI by Fall enrollment time to be considered for full unrestricted enrollment.
 - b. Other tests may substitute for TSI and exemptions are allowed. Ask the department chair if a test you took will count or if your situation warrants an exemption.
- ♦ **Aptitude Test** - This test is given by the Testing Center. They can be reached at 254-298-8586. Students must call Testing Center to reserve a date/time for test taking. The test may be repeated if necessary.
 - a. Most current TEAS test - Prospective students must score an overall composite score of 62% or above. Scores from all four areas are considered for the selection process. Prospective students may only make two attempts in a given year to achieve a passing score. There is a \$65 fee for testing.
 - b. *There is a free online review and TEAS testing information with practice test questions at <http://www.testprepreview.com/> or the TC Library has study materials to be used at the library.*
- ♦ **Transcripts** - Copies of all relevant transcripts should be included in the completed portfolio.
 - a. High School
 - b. College/University
 - c. Military Service
 - d. Other (proprietary schools, etc.)
- ♦ **Prerequisites** – Prospective students must have a “C” or higher in the following prerequisites as well as corequisites:
 - a. ENGL 1301 – Composition
 - b. BIOL 2401 – Human Anatomy & Physiology
 - c. ELECTIVE – Social/Behavioral Science Core
- ♦ **Corequisites** – (must have a “C” or higher)
 - a. BIOL 2402 – Human Anatomy & Physiology
 - b. ELECTIVE – Lang, Phil, Cult or Creative Arts core
- ♦ **Letters Of Reference** - Two letters of reference should be submitted. The letters of

reference need to be from someone who has direct knowledge of a candidate's work, academic performance and character, preferably not a relative or close friend.

These letters should be sent directly to Ms. Parten from the person writing them.
They can be mailed or emailed to:

Temple College Respiratory Care Department

Email: debbie.parten@templecollege.edu

Mail: 2600 S. 1st Street, Temple, TX 76504

♦ **Health And Immunization Record**

- a. A completed Health and Immunization record is to be submitted to the department **by the 1st day of class**. Proof of the following immunizations should be included: Current flu vaccine, TB blood draw/IGRA, Hep-B (2 or 3), MMR (2), Varicella (2) or documentation stating the month and year you had the disease, and Tdap. At least **one of the three** Hepatitis-B inoculations must be done by this time. The remaining Hepatitis-B inoculations **must be completed prior to** clinical rotations. Temple college also requires students under 21 to have the Meningitis vaccine. If you have had the Covid vaccine, we would like to have this information as well. However, the Covid vaccine is not required at this time.

Interview

An interview with the selection panel is scheduled sometime after the third Wednesday in June when the candidate has submitted all of the above information.

Candidates will be interviewed separately by at least three different panel members.

1. A structured interview form is used to ensure each candidate is asked the same questions.
2. Each candidate's record will be reviewed by panel members before the actual interview.
3. The panel will be formed from members of the advisory committee and clinical faculty.
4. Recommendations will be made by the panel after completion of all interviews.
 - a. The panel will select a maximum of 25 students for entry into the program. Five candidates will be ranked as alternates if there are more than 25 applying.
5. Letters of notification will usually be mailed by the close of business on the Friday following the selection process.

It should also be noted that a criminal background investigation and/or drug tests are required by the clinical affiliates. The cost of the drug screening and background check is approximately \$75. Information will be provided at the appropriate time. The drug screen and background check must be done within 30 days of the start of clinical rotations. It should be understood that permission for the investigation(s) must be given by the student. If a student does not agree to either check, the student would be unable to complete the program and would result in a denial for admission and dismissal from the program.

Criminal Background Check Requirement

Some of our Clinical Affiliation Agreements require that students complete and submit a criminal background check prior to being granted access to those facilities. There are two categories of crimes.

Students may never have convictions, including a conviction for an attempt, conspiracy, or solicitation at any time from any state or jurisdiction for an offence listed in section 250.006(a) or (c) of the Texas Health and Safety Code or in section 301.4535 of the Texas Occupation Code as may be amended or recodified.

The list includes:

1. Criminal homicide
2. Kidnapping and unlawful restraint
3. Continuous sexual abuse of young child or children
4. Indecency with a child
5. Sexual assault
6. Aggravated assault
7. Injury to a child, elderly individual, or disabled individual
8. Abandoning or endangering child
9. Aiding suicide
10. Agreement to abduct from custody
11. Sale or purchase of a child
12. Arson
13. Robbery
14. Aggravated robbery
15. Indecent exposure
16. Improper relationship between educator and student
17. Improper photography or visual recording
18. Deadly conduct
19. Aggravated sexual assault
20. Terroristic threat
21. Exploitation of a child, elderly individual, or disabled individual
22. Online solicitation of a minor
23. Money laundering
24. Medicaid fraud
25. Obstruction or retaliation
26. Cruelty to livestock animals
27. Cruelty to non-livestock animals
28. Burglary
29. Murder
30. Capital murder
31. Manslaughter
32. Aggravated sexual assault
33. An offense involving a violation of certain court orders or conditions of bond under Section 25.07, 25.071, or 25.072, Penal Code, punished as a felony
34. An offense for which a defendant is required to register as a sex offender
35. A conviction under the laws of another state, federal law, or the Uniform Code of Military Justice for an offense containing elements that are substantially similar to the elements of an offense listed by this subsection.

Students may not have convictions in the **last five (5) full years** from any state or jurisdiction for an offence listed in section 250.006(b) of the Texas Health and Safety Code as may be amended or recodified.

The list as of June 7, 2021 includes:

1. Assault that is punishable as a Class A misdemeanor or as a felony
2. Burglary
3. Theft that is punishable as a felony
4. Misapplication of fiduciary property or property of a financial institution that is punishable as a Class A misdemeanor or a felony
5. Securing execution of a document by deception that is punishable as a Class A misdemeanor or a felony
6. False identification as a Peace Officer; misrepresentation of property
7. Disorderly conduct

The clinical sites reserve the right to amend these lists.

The following website will allow a potential student to get an idea if they will get a license:

<https://tmb.state.tx.us/page/licensing-other-license-types>

Background checks must be completed no more than 30 days prior to the start6 of clinicals.

**Do Not Complete This Process Until You Are Advised by The
Respiratory Care Dept.**

****Please See Course Catalog for Detailed Costs***

Checklist for Application to Temple College Respiratory Care Program

Required documents needing to be submitted to the Respiratory Care Office by the third Wednesday of June.

Prerequisites:

(Prospective students must have a "C" or above in all prerequisites as well as the corequisites.)

☐ Apply to Temple College and submit "official" transcripts to TC's Admissions

(Unless Admissions receives and records your official transcripts, we will not be able to enroll you. Please allow them a few weeks to be able to input your transcripts, once they receive them.)

☐ A&P-I (BIOL-2401)

☐ Composition-I (ENG-1301)

☐ Social/Behavioral Science (see course catalog for list of an acceptable class)

☐ Current TEAS test (***composite score of 62% required; may only test twice in a year***)

☐ 2-Letters of character reference (a former boss, instructor, minister; not a close relative).

These are to be **sent directly to Ms. Parten** either by mail or email from the person writing the letter. (see address information below)

☐ Copies of all Transcripts

☐ Completed Health Evaluation FORMS must be turned into the RC Office by 1st week of class

Please keep & use this check sheet

Temple College Respiratory Care Department

Email: debbie.parten@templecollege.edu

Mail: 2600 S. 1st Street, Temple, TX 76504

Office Phone: 254-298-8697

Office FAX: 254-298-8676