

FOCUS ON

RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS

Houston Gulf Coast Region*

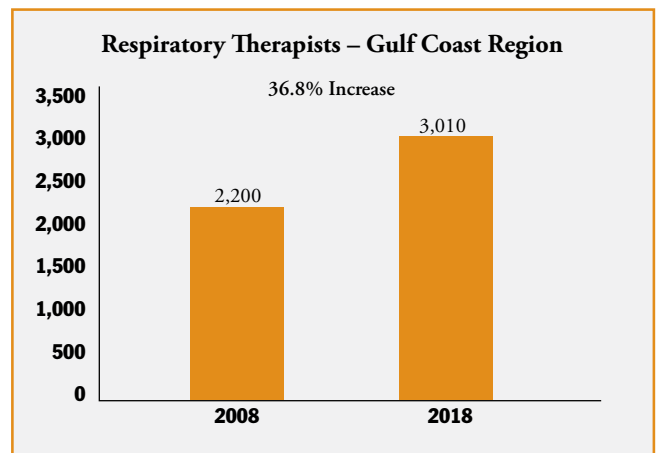
TAKE A DEEP BREATH AND CHOOSE A REWARDING CAREER IN RESPIRATORY THERAPY.

When a person experiences respiratory difficulties, a physician likely will order care from a respiratory therapist. Simply stated, respiratory therapists work under the direction of physicians to assess, treat, and care for patients with breathing disorders. Respiratory therapists initiate and conduct therapeutic procedures and treatments; maintain patient records; and select, assemble, check and operate equipment. The outlook for careers in respiratory therapy is very good. As the population ages, the nation faces more and more respiratory disease challenges.

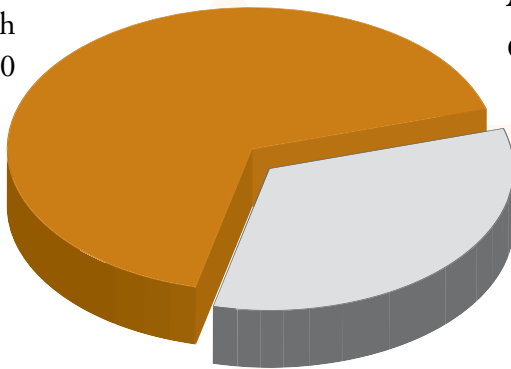


THE NUMBER OF RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS NEEDED WILL INCREASE 36.8 PERCENT BY 2018, NEARLY DOUBLE THE AVERAGE FOR ALL OCCUPATIONS (19.4 PERCENT)!

DEMAND FOR RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS DUE TO CAREER ADVANCEMENT, RETIREMENT, OR EXITING THE FIELD OF RESPIRATORY THERAPY IS NEARLY AS GREAT AS DEMAND DUE TO GROWTH.



Due to Growth
80



Annual Job Openings Gulf Coast Region

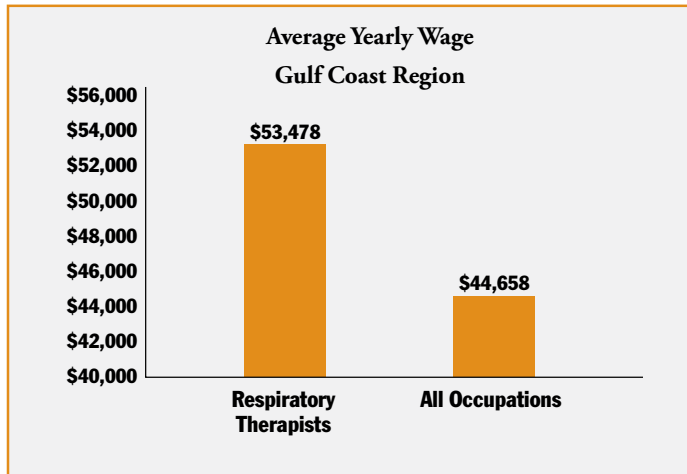
Due to Replacement
40

*Includes the following counties: Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, and Wharton.

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FOCUS ON RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS

RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS EARN GOOD WAGES, AVERAGING MORE THAN \$50,000 A YEAR.



PATHWAY TO BECOMING A RESPIRATORY THERAPIST

Respiratory therapists are regulated and licensed by the state in a way similar to that of registered nurses and doctors. Anyone pursuing a career as a respiratory therapist must have an associate's degree or higher from an accredited entry or advanced level respiratory therapy education program and pass a certifying exam. There are two levels of certification administered by the National Board of Respiratory Care (NBRC). The entry-level certification is Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT). Once achieving CRT status, persons who have graduated from an advanced level program may seek advanced certification as a Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT). The RRT examination is typically required for employment in advanced respiratory therapy positions. Many employers, however, prefer the RRT credential and may include this as a minimum requirement. Additional information about obtaining respiratory therapy credentials is available at National Board of Respiratory Care www.nbrc.org, and the Committee for Accreditation for Respiratory Care, www.coarc.com.

In Texas, persons seeking a career in respiratory therapy must qualify for a state license. Requirements for a license in Texas are:

- High school graduation or the equivalent
- Graduation from an accredited respiratory care education program
- Successful completion and recognition as a CRT or RRT by the National Board of Respiratory Care
- Completion of Texas licensing application and payment of licensing fee.

Additional state licensing information can be found at www.dshs.state.tx.us

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ADVANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Although the minimum requirement to become a CRT is an associate's degree, higher level programs resulting in a bachelor's or master's degree open opportunities to specialize in particular areas such as intensive care units and supervisory positions. Advanced career opportunities also exist in the pharmaceutical, home health and medical device industry.

START EARLY AND BE PREPARED!

High school students should strive for a high GPA that will provide them with an edge needed for acceptance in and successful completion of a respiratory therapy education program. Degree programs in respiratory therapy focus heavily on math and science courses. Courses specific to the field of respiratory therapy are also required which include cardiopulmonary physiology, respiratory pharmacology and cardiopulmonary diagnostics.

PREPARING FOR A RESPIRATORY THERAPIST CAREER*

9th Grade	Suggested Coursework		
	English I	World Geography	Career-Related Electives: Introduction to Health Science Technology AND Medical Terminology
	Algebra I	Languages other than English I	
	Biology	Health/PE or Equivalent	
10th Grade	Suggested Coursework		
	English II	World History	Career-Related Electives: Health Science Technology I
	Geometry	Languages other than English II	
	Chemistry	Technology Applications	
11th Grade	Suggested Coursework		
	English III	United States History	Career-Related Electives: Health Science Technology II or Anatomy and Physiology of Human Systems or Languages other than English III
	Algebra II	Communication Applications	
	Physics	PE or Equivalent	
12th Grade	Suggested Coursework		
	English IV	Government/Economics	Career-Related Electives: Health Science Technology III or Pathophysiology or Independent Study or Languages other than English IV
	AP Statistics	Fine Arts	
	Scientific Research and Design		

*Source: AchieveTexas.org

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GULF COAST REGION RESPIRATORY THERAPY PROGRAMS

COMMUNITY COLLEGES

- Alvin Community College
- Houston Community College System
- Lone Star College System
- San Jacinto College District

UNIVERSITIES

- Texas Southern University
- University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB)



MAJOR EMPLOYERS IN THE GULF COAST REGION

- Harris County Hospital District
- HCA Healthcare
- Health Care Partners
- Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center
- Kelsey-Seybold Clinic
- Memorial Hermann Healthcare System
- The Methodist Healthcare System
- Oak Bend Medical Center
- St. Luke's Episcopal Health System
- Shriners Hospital for Children
- Tenet Health Care
- Texas Children's Hospital
- The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
- The University of Texas Medical Branch

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