



# Respiratory Therapist

Department: Allied Health

Degree: Associate of Applied Science

Entry time: Fall

Length: 2 years (5 semesters, including 1 summer)

- **Kirkwood's Respiratory Therapist (RT) program is a state-of-the-art program** that evolves and adapts to the rapidly changing medical field.
- The program features on-time graduation, **97 percent board examination pass rates**, and a **95 percent job placement rate**.
- **Small classroom sizes** allow for **one-on-one attention**.
- Respiratory therapists **work closely with physicians, nurses, and other healthcare professionals** to provide direct care to children and adults.
- All students in the Respiratory Therapist program are part of the **Respiratory Therapy Club**, which provides opportunities for students to work together on studies and skills.
- **Leadership opportunities** are offered frequently, such as class officer positions, state society involvement, conference participation at the local and state levels, or classroom leadership.
- **Dr. John Kasik Memorial Scholarship:** Students who have completed the first semester of the RT program, achieved a grade point average of 2.0 or higher, and demonstrated leadership or community service can apply at [www.kirkwood.edu/scholarships](http://www.kirkwood.edu/scholarships).
- **Kibbie Grant:** Students in this program may be eligible to have half their tuition paid for by the Kibbie Grant. Go to [www.kirkwood.edu/Kibbie](http://www.kirkwood.edu/Kibbie) for more details.

## Program Description

Respiratory therapists, also known as respiratory care practitioners, provide treatment, evaluation, monitoring, and management of patients with breathing disorders or cardiovascular problems. Respiratory therapists administer oxygen, perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation, manage mechanical ventilators, administer medications, monitor cardiopulmonary systems, and measure lung function. Respiratory therapists treat all types of patients, including premature infants whose lungs have not fully developed, and elderly patients with chronic asthma or emphysema. They also provide emergency care for heart attack, stroke, drowning, or shock.

The Respiratory Therapist curriculum consists of classroom, laboratory, and hospital-based clinical experiences at area hospitals and in-home health.

This Allied Health program has a mandatory background check for clinical purposes.

## Career Opportunities

Hospitals/Outreach programs  
Home health agencies  
Outpatient clinics  
Sleep labs  
Pharmaceutical sales  
Training centers  
Health education  
Physician offices  
Medical research

## Sample Classes

Basic Anatomy and Physiology  
Microbiology  
Introduction to Chemistry  
Intermediate Algebra  
Cardiopulmonary Assessment  
Introduction to Respiratory Care  
Respiratory Physiology

Respiratory Pathology  
Pulmonary Function Testing  
Cardiac Monitoring  
Perinatology  
Advanced Cardiac Care  
Respiratory Care Applications

## Accreditation

The Kirkwood Respiratory Therapist program, CoARC program number 200190, located in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care ([www.coarc.com](http://www.coarc.com)).

The purpose of the Respiratory Therapy program is to prepare graduates with demonstrated competence in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains of respiratory care practices as performed by registered respiratory therapists (RRTs). Upon completion of the Respiratory Therapist program, you should have the skills and knowledge needed for board exams; TMC (Therapist Multiple Choice) exam (entry level), WRRT and/or CSE exam(s) (Registered Respiratory Therapist). Exams are administered by the National Board of Respiratory Care (NBRC). Listed exams are required for employment, along with licensure to practice respiratory therapy.

The Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care can be contacted at: 264 Precision Blvd. Telford, TN 37690 [www.coarc.com](http://www.coarc.com)

## Scholarships

Kirkwood will help you pay for college! Kirkwood awards more scholarships than any other community college in Iowa. For more information and to apply, visit [www.kirkwood.edu/scholarships](http://www.kirkwood.edu/scholarships).

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