

Respiratory Therapy

Education and Preparation

What is Respiratory Therapy?

Respiratory Therapy is a registered profession that monitor, assess and treat respiratory and cardio-respiratory disorders.

Respiratory therapists work to manage breathing in patients with respiratory or other problems, educate patients around respiratory conditions, and improve respiratory health.

What do Respiratory Therapists do?

In acute care settings, respiratory therapists will assess and manage patients from birth to end of life that exhibit respiratory symptoms.

Respiratory therapists can work with patients who are in need of interventions for their health, including inhalators and oxygen. Their expertise include airway management and mechanical ventilation (life support).

Where do Respiratory Therapists work?

Respiratory Therapists can work in a variety of settings:

- Hospitals
- Home settings
- Sleep Labs
- Patient Education
- Research
- Medical Sales/Services
- Government

Respiratory Therapy exists as 3-year diploma or 4-year diploma/ degree programs. Programs require a one year clinical rotation in community settings and hospitals before completion.

Licensure

Respiratory Therapy is regulated provincially in Canada. Ontario, Alberta, Nova Scotia, Manitoba, and Quebec require licenses for practice. In Ontario, the College of Respiratory Therapists of Ontario is the regulatory body for all professionals in this field. Licensure requires a completion of active practice and the successful completion of the licensing examination.

Professional Associations

College of Respiratory Therapists' of Ontario

www.crto.on.ca

Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists

www.csrt.com

Respiratory Therapy Society of Ontario

www.rtso.org