

Respiratory Care

Respiratory care therapists diagnose, treat, and care for patients with heart, lung, and sleep disorders. Respiratory therapists work under physician direction to provide specific respiratory care like diagnostic procedures and therapeutic treatments. This care includes the administration of oxygen, testing of carbon dioxide, cardiopulmonary diagnosis and resuscitation, chest physiotherapy, management of mechanical ventilators, administering drugs, and more.

At Stony Brook University, the Respiratory Care Program offers a Bachelor of Science degree that is also an education program approved by the New York State of Education. The program emphasizes critical care, acute care, pediatrics, cardiac care, home care, polysomnography, and pulmonary diagnostics



More than four out of five respiratory therapists work in hospitals or clinics under the instruction of a leading physician. Some of these hospital departments include respiratory care, intensive care units, emergency departments, cardiopulmonary diagnosis, anesthesiology, and pulmonary medicine. Most of the remaining respiratory therapists work in nursing care facilities, home health-care services, and consumer good respiratory firms.

Transferable Skills

- Knowledge and skills in the sciences
- Careful judgment and decision making
- Detail-orientation
- Effective listening skills
- Research skills
- Communication and interpersonal skills
- Leadership and teamwork skills
- Rhetorical skills
- Conceptualization of medical issues

Career Communities to Consider

- Healthcare
- Research
- Technology & Engineering
- Education & Helping Professions