

RESPIRATORY CARE

Respiratory Care is an allied health specialty dealing with the assessment, diagnosis, treatment, and management of patients with acute and chronic diseases affecting the pulmonary system. Respiratory Therapists (RT's) predominantly work in acute and subacute clinical settings, playing an integral role as a member of the healthcare team working in the critical care units caring for patients who are facing a life-threatening phase of their illness. RT's administer medications and therapies, provide life-support measures to all patient populations, manage and maintain patients on complex ventilator systems, assist physicians with advanced procedures, perform diagnostic tests, and support patients living with chronic lung disease via pulmonary rehabilitation and home care. Growing areas of and specialties within the profession include adult intensive care, neonatal and pediatric intensive care, fiberoptic and interventional bronchoscopies, pulmonary function testing, home care, pulmonary rehabilitation, management, education, and research.

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Respiratory Care Department Website (<https://orangecoastcollege.edu/academics/consumer-health/allied-health/respiratory-care/>)

- Respiratory Care, Associate in Science Degree (<https://catalog.cccd.edu/orange-coast/pathways/careers-healthcare/respiratory-care/respiratory-care-associate-science-degree/>)