

# Respiratory Therapist

## PANHANDLE

*Average Wage*  
\$16.19

*Average Annual  
Job Openings*  
5

*Employment in*  
2004    2014  
150    150

## TEXAS

*Average Wage*  
\$21.66

*Average Annual  
Job Openings*  
460

*Employment in*  
2004    2014  
6,700    9,100

## UNITED STATES

*Employment in*  
2006  
99,330

*Female* 59%  
*Minority* 33%

## EMPLOYMENT CODES

*OES* 32302

*O\*NET* 29-1126.00  
*Respiratory Therapists*

## JOB DESCRIPTION

Assess, treat, and care for patients with breathing disorders. Assume primary responsibility for all respiratory care modalities, including the supervision of respiratory therapy technicians. Initiate and conduct therapeutic procedures; maintain patient records; and select, assemble, check, and operate equipment.



## SKILLS AND APTITUDES NEEDED

- ◆ Ability to pay attention to detail, follow instructions, and work as part of a team
- ◆ Ability to be sensitive to patients' physical and psychological needs
- ◆ Mechanical ability and manual dexterity to operate complicated equipment
- ◆ Knowledge in health, biology, mathematics, chemistry, and physics



Respiratory therapists treat all types of patients, ranging from premature infants whose lungs are not fully developed, to elderly people whose lungs are diseased. These workers provide temporary relief to patients with chronic asthma or emphysema, as well as emergency care to patients who are victims of a heart attack, stroke, drowning, or shock.

To evaluate patients, respiratory therapists test the capacity of the lungs and analyze oxygen and carbon dioxide concentration. They also measure the patient's potential of hydrogen (pH), which indicates the acidity or alkalinity level of the blood.

To treat patients, respiratory therapists use oxygen or oxygen mixtures, chest physiotherapy, and aerosol medications.

## PANHANDLE AREA PUBLIC TRAINING PROVIDERS

Training Provider	Direct Training	Related Training	Education Offering
Amarillo College Amarillo, Dumas, Hereford	√		A.A.S. (Associate in Applied Science Degree), Respiratory Care Major

### LICENSE/CERTIFICATION

Optional: National Board of Respiratory Care (NBRC) Certification and Registration as Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) or Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT)

Required: State License to practice Respiratory Therapy  
(License requires passing the CRT Exam)

Most employers require respiratory therapists to maintain a  
Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Certification

### HIGHEST EMPLOYMENT LEVELS BY INDUSTRY

General Medical/Surgical Hospitals	87%
Health Practitioner's Offices	5%
Nursing Care Facilities	2%
Physician's Offices	2%
Consumer Goods Rental	1%
Colleges/Universities/Professional Schools	1%
Federal Government	1%
Specialty Hospitals	1%

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

American Association for Respiratory Care, 9425 N. MacArthur Blvd., Suite 100, Irving, TX 75063-4706, (972) 243-2272, <http://www.aarc.org>

Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care, 1248 Harwood Rd., Bedford, TX 76021-4244, (817) 283-2835, <http://www.coarc.com>

The National Board for Respiratory Care, Inc., 8310 Nieman Rd., Lenexa, KS 66214-1579, (913) 599-4200, <http://www.nbrc.org>

For additional website sources, please refer to the Resource Index.

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