Respiratory Care

Respiratory therapists are lung-health specialists concerned with the evaluation, treatment and management of patients with heart and lung problems. Expanded roles in patient and family education are also integrated into all components of the profession.

Respiratory therapists function in a wide variety of life-saving and life-supporting situations, working side by side with physicians, nurses, and other members of the health care team. They provide a broad range of diagnostic and therapeutic services under the direction of a physician. Respiratory therapists also serve as members of the critical care team in monitoring/treating individuals who are seriously ill, including use of life-support equipment.

**Employment Opportunities**

As a bachelor-degree prepared respiratory therapist, career opportunities exist in numerous settings, including:

- Hospitals
- Home health agencies
- Skilled-nursing facilities
- Individual pulmonary physicians
- Durable medical equipment dealers
- Pharmaceutical marketing
- Public health agencies
- Sleep disorder clinics
- Respiratory therapy education
- Pulmonary rehabilitation
- Government agencies

You will have an opportunity to provide care to a wide variety of patients, ranging from premature infants with acute respiratory distress to geriatric patients with chronic disorders.

To work in Ohio, you must be licensed by the Ohio Respiratory Care Board. Licensure requirements exist in every state. Graduates are eligible to take national certification and registry examinations sponsored by the National Board for Respiratory Care. Success on these exams also increases career mobility for graduates.

**Degree Options**

Through the Department of Health Professions, YSU offers a four-year program leading to the Bachelor of Science in respiratory care degree. Students also obtain ACLS, PALS, and NRP certification through the American Heart Association. An optional Certificate in Polysomnography is also available to senior students.

**Faculty**

All respiratory care faculty are registered respiratory therapists with a minimum of five years of field experience. Courses in pulmonary patho-physiology are taught by physician specialists in pulmonary medicine.

YSU maintains a faculty-student ratio of 1:20, among the best of state-affiliated universities in Ohio.

**Accreditation**

The respiratory care program is currently accredited through the Commission for Accreditation of Respiratory Care (CoARC). The Certificate in Polysomnography program has also received initial accreditation through CoARC.

Youngstown State University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and a member of the North Central Association.

**Facilities**

The program is based in the Bitonte College of Health & Human Services. Students have access to a wide range of computer-based resources in the Respiratory Care Learning Lab. State-of-the-art medical equipment is also available for student practice.

Students obtain diverse clinical experiences at a variety of health care settings including:

- HM/St. Elizabeth Health Center
- Forum Health/North Side Hospital
- Akron Children’s Hospital
- Sharon Regional Health Center
- Forum Health/Trumbull Memorial Hospital

For more information about this program, go to [www.ysu.edu](http://www.ysu.edu), click on Colleges, then Bitonte College of Health & Human Services.

(see following page)
• HM/St. Joseph’s Health Center
• The Cleveland Clinic Foundation
• Salem Community Hospital
• HM/ St. Elizabeth Boardman
• Jameson Hospital

Additional learning experiences are obtained with regional home-care companies, sleep disorder centers, and public health organizations.

**Co-Ops and Internships**
Students spend nearly 1,000 hours in directed clinical experiences as part of their program requirements.

**Outside the Classroom**
As a YSU student, you are eligible for membership in the American Association for Respiratory Care and the Ohio Society for Respiratory Care. You are also eligible to join the official student organization for future practitioners, the Student Organization for Respiratory Care.

**Special Scholarships and Honors**
Student scholarships are available from the Ohio Society for Respiratory Care, the American Association for Respiratory Care, The Lambda Beta Society and the Tejinder S. Bal Scholarship.

The program also annually recognizes excellence in student performance by awarding the “Student of the Year” award sponsored by Boardman Medical Supply, the “Donald Foley Leadership Award,” and sponsors induction into the Lambda Beta Honor Society for Respiratory Care.

**Special Costs**
In addition to regular University tuition and fees, you will incur expenses in conjunction with your clinical experiences, including uniforms, I.D. badges, stethoscopes, drug screens, transportation costs to/from clinics, and pre-clinical medical examinations. Students are also responsible for costs associated with state and federal background checks prior to registering for clinicals.

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**Curriculum Overview**

**Year 1**
- Anatomy and Physiology
- Medical Terminology
- Survey of Math
- Chemistry for Health Professions 1, 2
- Medical Law & Ethics
- Healthy Lifestyles

**Year 2**
- Respiratory Care Orientations
- Respiratory Care Essentials
- Intro to Pharmacology
- Microbiology in H.C. Lab
- Microbiology for Health Professions
- Respiratory Procedures 1
- Respiratory Assessment 1, 2
- Physics for Health Care
- Pharmacotherapeutics
- Cardiopulmonary Disease

**Year 3**
- Respiratory Procedures 2
- Mechanical Ventilation 1, 2
- Research Methods
- Comparative Health Systems
- Clinical Practice 1
- Clinical Specialties
- Pediatric Respiratory Care
- Respiratory Care Mgmt
- Respiratory Clinics 2
- Pulmonary Rehab

**Year 4**
- Advanced RC Diagnostics
- Respiratory Clinics 3, 4
- Pulmonary Case Mgmt
- Advanced Cardiac Life Support
- Special Topics
- Seminar in RC
- Directed Independent Research