

Respiratory Therapy

Serve others as a medical professional



SJVC's Respiratory Therapy (RT) program prepares students to be a member of a health care team that evaluates, treats and manages patients with respiratory illnesses and other cardiopulmonary disorders through demonstrated competence in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains of respiratory care practice as performed by registered respiratory therapists (RRTs). In addition to performing respiratory care procedures, respiratory therapists are involved in clinical decision-making and patient education.

Students Learn

- Mechanical ventilation practices
- Oxygen delivery procedures
- Radiography and monitoring
- Airway management

Students receive more than 760 hours of extensive clinical practice in hospitals and clinics to gain real world experience.

Professional Certifications

Upon graduation from the San Joaquin Valley College Respiratory Therapy program, students will have the following certificates: Basic Life Support (BLS), Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) and Neonatal Resuscitation Provider (NRP). Upon successful completion of the San Joaquin Valley College Respiratory Therapy program graduates will be eligible to sit for the National Board for Respiratory Care: Therapist Multiple Choice Exam (TMC). Upon achieving the minimum cut score on the TMC, graduates will be eligible to take the Clinical Simulation exam leading to the RRT Credential.

Career Information

Well-trained respiratory therapists work in hospitals, medical equipment companies, home care agencies, physicians' offices, or managed care organizations; as well as specialized areas such as sleep labs and pulmonary function labs. These skilled professionals are expected to perform the following job duties:

- Sample arterial blood for blood gas analysis
- Perform pulmonary function testing
- Develop or modify respiratory care plans
- Provide life support measures
- Deliver respiratory medications & gases

Admission Requirements

Admission to the RT program requires:

- High school diploma or equivalent
- Applicant must be in good health and physically fit
- Applicant must be age 18 by his/her expected graduation date

Applicants to the Respiratory Therapy program are selected based on points earned in an evaluation process that includes assessment, transcript review, professional reference and personal interview.

Applicants must have reliable plans for transportation, child care and time to devote to academic work outside of scheduled class hours.



