

# Respiratory Therapy

## ***Nature of the Profession***

*Respiratory therapists, also known as respiratory care practitioners, evaluate, treat, and care for patients with breathing disorders. In evaluating the patients, therapists test the capacity of the lungs and analyze the oxygen and carbon dioxide concentration. They also measure potential of hydrogen, an indication of the acidity or alkalinity level of the blood.*

## **APTITUDES**

- Ability to learn principles and techniques of respiratory therapy
- Good manual dexterity and general coordination
- Ability to work with a variety of people
- Ability to carry out a variety of tasks, work according to set standards, and make decisions based on data
- Good space and form perception
- Good numerical skills and verbal ability to understand orders and give directions

## **EDUCATION**

Educational training programs may range in length from eighteen months to four years. A bachelor's degree is awarded to those completing four years of training; those studying for lesser time periods earn associate degrees or certificates.

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

- Alegent Health/Midland Lutheran College – Omaha (B)
- Metropolitan Community College – Omaha (A)
- Nebraska Methodist College – Omaha (A, B)
- Southeast Community College – Lincoln (A)
- University of Nebraska – Kearney (B)
- Wayne State College – Wayne (B)

## **LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION**

An applicant for a license to practice respiratory care must be at least 19 years of age, complete a high school program or equivalent, finish an approved training program, and pass the licensure examination.

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

***American Association for Respiratory Care***

Web Address: [www.aarc.org](http://www.aarc.org)

***The National Board for Respiratory Care, Inc.***

Web Address: [www.nbrc.org](http://www.nbrc.org)

***Nebraska Society for Respiratory Care***

Web Address: [www.nsrc-online.org](http://www.nsrc-online.org)