



CAREER PATH

# Health

CAREER CLUSTER  
Health Sciences

CAREER PATHWAY  
Therapeutic Services



## RESPIRATORY THERAPIST

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.

### Knowledge and Skills Needed

In addition to courses required for high school graduation, essential skills and knowledge needed for a career as a respiratory therapist are reinforced by taking rigorous and relevant courses, as well as participating in work-based experiences and student organization activities.

(See the Sample Personal Plan of Study for suggested coursework, activities, and knowledge and skills to pursue in preparation of an occupation in this Career Cluster.)

### Education Requirements

Occupation	Percent of Missouri employees aged 25 to 44 in the occupation whose highest level of educational attainment is:		
	High School or Less	Some College	Bachelor Degree or More
Respiratory therapists	1.1%	71.2%	27.7%
Health Diagnosing Treating & Practitioners	1.3%	11.4%	87.4%
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	9.9%	31.0%	59.1%

Most Common Educational Level: Associate's degree

Note: Be sure to learn whether your occupation has a specific requirement for education or licensing. Apprenticeships are available for more than 240 occupations. Visit [www.oe.doleta.gov/bat.cfm](http://www.oe.doleta.gov/bat.cfm)

### National and State Wage Information

Location	Pay Period	2007		
		Entry*	Median	Experienced**
United States	Hourly	\$20.57	\$24.07	\$28.38
	Yearly	\$42,800	\$50,100	\$59,000
Missouri	Hourly	\$18.52	\$21.54	\$24.58
	Yearly	\$38,500	\$44,800	\$51,100

Based on (\*) lower 25% and (\*\*) upper 25% percentile of wages

### National and State Employment Trends

Respiratory Therapist	Employment		Percent Change	Job Openings*
	2006	2016		
United States	102,400	125,600	+ 23%	3,820
Missouri	2,120	2,520	+ 19%	110

\*The estimate for Job Openings includes both turnover that results from people who leave the occupation (e.g. quit, retire, death) and new jobs that are created.

### Educational Opportunities

Note: This list may not be all inclusive. For more information about Missouri schools and programs, visit [www.dhe.mo.gov](http://www.dhe.mo.gov)

#### Cape Girardeau Career and Technology Center

Cape Girardeau, MO  
(573) 334-0826  
[www.capectc.org](http://www.capectc.org)

#### Concorde Career Colleges

Kansas City, MO  
(816) 531-5223  
[www.concorde.edu](http://www.concorde.edu)

#### Drury University

Springfield, MO  
(417) 873-7879  
[www.drury.edu](http://www.drury.edu)

#### East Central College

Union, MO  
(636) 583-5193  
[www.eastcentral.edu](http://www.eastcentral.edu)

#### Franklin Technology - MSSU

Joplin, MO  
(417) 659-4400  
[ftc.joplin.com](http://ftc.joplin.com)

#### Hannibal-Lagrange College

Hannibal, MO  
(573) 221-3675  
[www.hlg.edu](http://www.hlg.edu)

#### Mineral Area College

Park Hills, MO  
(573) 431-4593  
[www.mineralarea.edu](http://www.mineralarea.edu)

#### Missouri Southern State University

Joplin, MO  
(417) 625-9300  
[www.mssu.edu](http://www.mssu.edu)

(more-over)

**Missouri State University**  
Springfield, MO  
(417) 836-5000  
[www.missouristate.edu](http://www.missouristate.edu)

**Ozarks Technical Community College**  
Springfield, MO  
(417) 447-7500  
[www.otc.edu](http://www.otc.edu)

**Rolla Technical Institute**  
Rolla, MO  
(573) 458-0150  
[rolla.k12.mo.us](http://rolla.k12.mo.us)

**Saint Louis Community College - Forest Park**  
Saint Louis, MO  
(314) 644-9100  
[www.stlcc.edu](http://www.stlcc.edu)

**Sanford-Brown College**  
Fenton, MO  
(636) 651-1600  
[www.sanford-browncollege.com](http://www.sanford-browncollege.com)

**University of Missouri - Columbia**  
Columbia, MO  
(573) 882-2121  
[www.missouri.edu](http://www.missouri.edu)



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