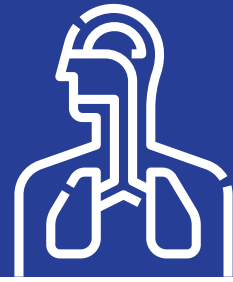




RESPIRATORY CARE

COLLEGE. CREDENTIAL. CAREER.



Respiratory Care Is a Hot Job in Michigan

Respiratory care therapists provide life-giving support to patients who have lung or breathing issues. They work closely with physicians to diagnose, monitor, and treat many disorders affecting the heart and lungs. Some practitioners work with patients of all ages, while others specialize in care for infants or seniors. This position is needed in workplaces such as hospitals, long-term care facilities, and other outpatient settings.

To succeed in this field, you must enjoy interacting with others, be a clear communicator, and have strong analytical skills. People in this field must also know how to administer breathing treatments and perform CPR. An aptitude for math will help you calibrate equipment and examine a patient's pulse or breathing rates. This career path can be very rewarding for people interested in helping others live healthy, fulfilling lives.

Cool Classes You Can Take

Respiratory care therapists apply their knowledge to help patients with treatment and prevention techniques. You'll get to learn about different forms of care and assessment in classes such as:

Clinical Practice

In this class you will put previously acquired classroom theory and laboratory skills into practice at the hospital. You will apply what you've learned to conduct patient respiratory assessments, oxygen therapy, and a wide range of bronchopulmonary hygiene therapies.

Diagnostic Theory

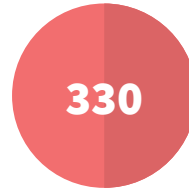
Learn about pulmonary function testing and blood gas analysis equipment and procedures in laboratory and clinical settings. You'll learn how to interpret results from ventilator graphics, cardiopulmonary stress testing, pulmonary rehabilitation, home care, and more.

Perinatal and Pediatric Respiratory Care

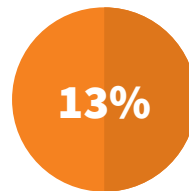
Increase your understanding of fetal growth, development, and patient assessment while learning to operate commonly encountered equipment. You'll learn about common neonatal and pediatric diseases and conditions, and the clinical management necessary to treat them.

Financial Help

There are many federal grants, work-study funds, and low-interest loans available to help students cover the costs of tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, transportation, and other college-related expenses. The first step in securing necessary financial aid is to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid ([FAFSA](#)).



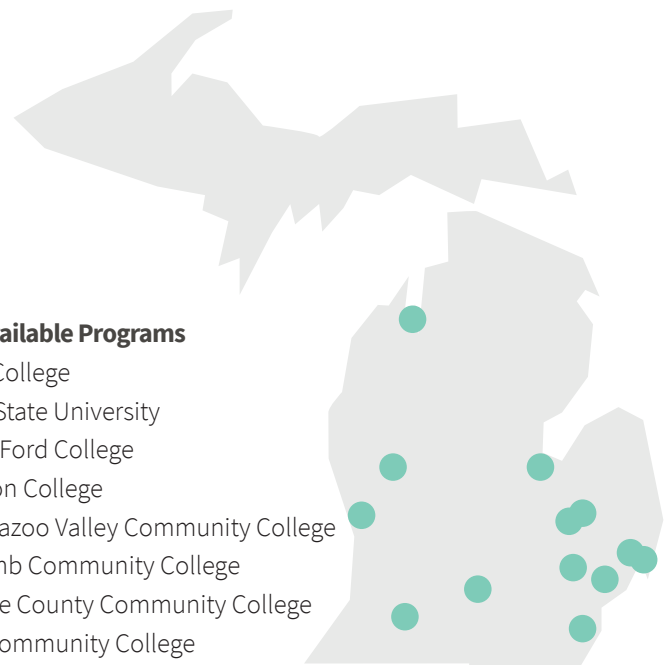
Projected job openings annually



Estimated job growth



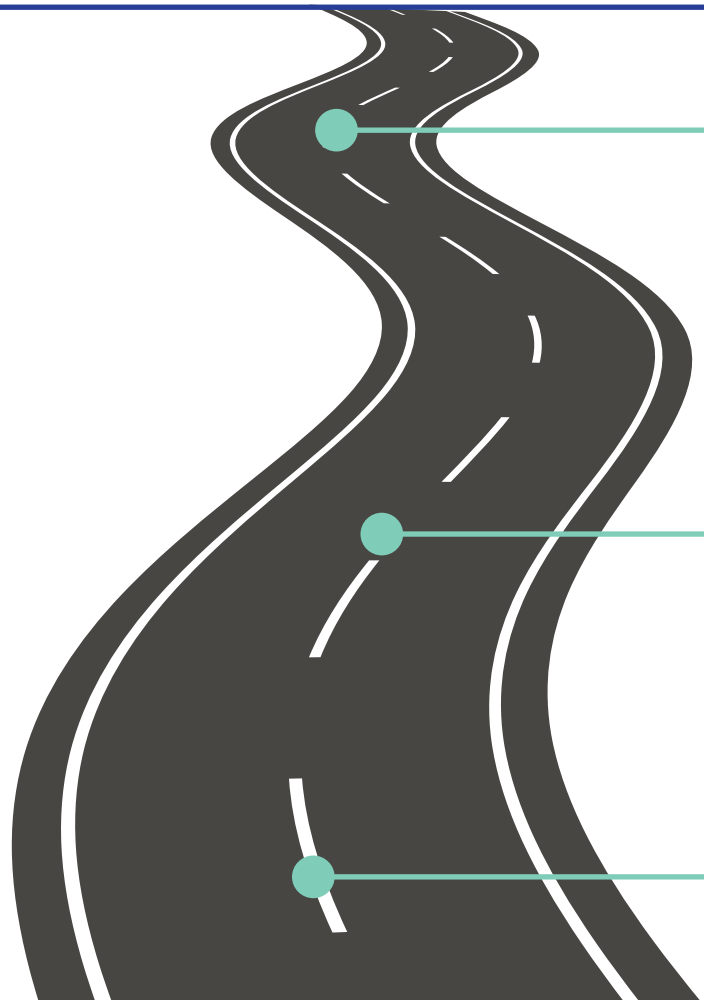
Hourly rates for respiratory care therapists



Some Available Programs

- Delta College
- Ferris State University
- Henry Ford College
- Jackson College
- Kalamazoo Valley Community College
- Macomb Community College
- Monroe County Community College
- Mott Community College
- Muskegon Community College
- Northwestern Michigan College
- Oakland Community College
- St. Clair County Community College
- University of Michigan Flint

There are many different education and career paths in **RESPIRATORY CARE**. Here are a few you might follow after graduating from high school.



ASSOCIATE DEGREE

Respiratory Therapy Technician

\$41,260 annual salary

Respiratory Therapist

\$58,540 annual salary

BACHELOR'S DEGREE

Respiratory Therapist

\$58,540 annual salary

Medical and Health Service Manager

\$93,660 annual salary

Depending on the program and your future educational plans, you may decide between earning an associate degree or a bachelor's degree to work as a respiratory care therapist. Students earning an associate or bachelor's degree in this field are qualified for the same jobs. With a bachelor's degree, you may qualify for a higher salary (some reports suggest up to \$3,000 more per year). You might also have more responsibility or be a stronger candidate for promotions than those with an associate degree only.

MASTER'S DEGREE / DOCTORAL DEGREE

Health Specialties Postsecondary Educator

\$96,180 annual salary

WHERE

College refers to an educational institution or establishment that provides education beyond high school and/or specialized professional training that is credit bearing.

WHAT

A **credential** verifies an individual's qualification or competence in a particular area and is usually issued by colleges in the form of certificates and academic degrees.

WHY

A **career** is a series of jobs or professional undertakings for a significant period of your life that offers opportunities for advancement and provides a life-sustaining wage.

WHEN

Now! Don't wait to go to **college** to earn a **credential** that leads not only to your first job but also to a full and rewarding **career**!



To learn more about this pathway, check out the video at roadmap2opportunity.org.

All occupational information provided by Roadmap to Opportunity is from O*NET Online and is available at onetonline.org.