

# Respiratory Therapy Program

## School of Health Sciences

### College of Health and Human Services



#### What Is Respiratory Care?

Respiratory care is a diagnostic and therapeutic health care specialty utilizing advanced medical procedures and equipment to assess and treat patients suffering from acute and chronic cardiopulmonary disease. Respiratory Care Practitioners have demanding responsibilities related to patient care brought into the spotlight by COVID-19 and are an important part of the health care workforce. By applying broad knowledge of cardiopulmonary pathophysiology, they provide and assist in complex procedures required to properly diagnose and treat patients; from the very young to the very old.

#### About the Program

The Respiratory Therapy Program is a leader in the generation, dissemination and application of knowledge that advances the sciences and practice of respiratory therapy.

SU's program requires coursework in the basic sciences, General Education and specialized areas that prepare graduates for national credentialing. Students interested in respiratory therapy must have an aptitude for science and a good working knowledge of chemistry, biology, physiology and microbiology.

During the first two years of the program, students complete prerequisite and



General Education courses. The final two years comprise the professional core, offering traditional coursework, active laboratories and rotations through clinical facilities. The didactic course work prepares students to practice respiratory therapy under guidance and supervision during rotations in "real-world" environments.

#### Being a Respiratory Therapist

If you enjoy working in a fast-paced environment where your technical and scientific responsibilities will be matched by a real need for human relations skills, the profession of respiratory therapy may be the career you are seeking. Respiratory therapy is a health care specialty that offers a set of unique challenges in the areas of prevention, treatment,

management and rehabilitation of people with diseases of the lungs and cardiovascular system.

As a respiratory care practitioner, you will be involved in a wide variety of life-saving and life-supporting situations. You will work side by side with physicians, nurses and other on the health care team, treating patients ranging in age from newborns to senior citizens. Your expertise will be in demand, and opportunities to expand your knowledge and skills will be great.

The profession has grown so quickly since its inception in the late 1940s that demand for manpower has exceeded supply, making the respiratory care practitioner's talents a precious commodity in most medical institutions. In addition, many

clinics, nursing homes and home care programs are beginning to realize the potential benefits of having a trained respiratory care practitioner on staff. Coupled with the ever-increasing number of cardiopulmonary disorders being diagnosed, these demands ensure that individuals who enter the profession will enjoy good career opportunities. By offering an exciting and challenging working environment, solid career opportunities and a real chance to help others, respiratory care is indeed "A Profession for Now and the Future."

#### Job Outlook

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics: "Employment of respiratory therapists is projected to grow 23 percent from 2016 to 2026, much faster than the average for all occupations."

*"The Respiratory Therapy Program at Salisbury University offers the only accredited baccalaureate Respiratory Therapy Program in Maryland. The program provides its students with a unique and rigorous education. With small class sizes and top-notch faculty, our program engages students with hands-on learning that is applied directly in the clinical setting. Our graduates are sought after by employers across the Maryland and Delaware areas as well as across the nation. Many of our students are employed before they graduate!"* – Lisa Joyner, Respiratory Program Director

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information about the Respiratory Therapy Program:  
410-543-6365

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Growth in the middle-aged and elderly population will lead to an increased incidence of respiratory conditions such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and pneumonia. These respiratory disorders can permanently damage the lungs or restrict lung function.”

### Career Opportunities

The potential job opportunities are endless, with respiratory therapists working in hospitals, intensive care units, emergency rooms, newborn and pediatric units, operating rooms, home care, sleep laboratories, skilled nursing facilities, pulmonary rehabilitation programs, doctor’s offices, asthma education programs, smoking cessation programs, air and ambulance transport programs, higher education, pharmaceutical industry, research, and case management programs.

### Excellent Clinical Facilities

SU has clinical affiliations at a variety of hospitals and clinics, assuring a well-rounded clinical experience. Among the hospitals are three award-winning organizations that have been recognized as among the “Most Wired Hospitals” in the U.S. The University’s Richard A. Henson Medical Simulation Center provides students learning experiences with unpredictable clinical events (birth, caring for critically ill newborns, children and adults) in a safe and learner-friendly environment using life-like human patient simulators where practice makes perfect. Working alongside other health professions students, SU respiratory therapy students develop skills in communication and teamwork. All students enrolled in the Respiratory Therapy Program have the opportunity to become certified as Neonatal Resuscitation Providers through the American Academy of Pediatrics, Pediatric Advanced Life Support Providers and Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support Providers through the American Heart Association.



### RECENT EMPLOYERS

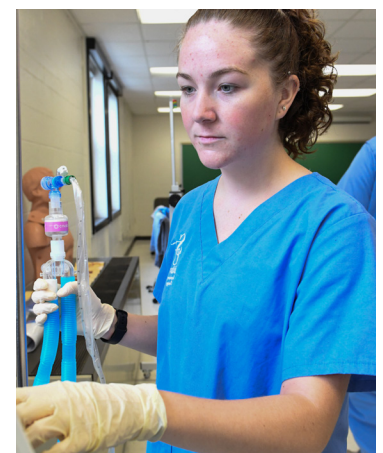
Graduates of these programs are employed at:

- Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago
- Children’s Hospital & Medical Center (Omaha, NE)
- Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia
- Children’s National Medical Center
- Christiana (DE) Care
- Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center
- Healthsouth Chesapeake Rehab Hospital
- Johns Hopkins Hospital
- Massachusetts General Hospital
- TidalHealth
- University of Maryland Medical Center
- University of Virginia Medical Center
- University of Washington Medical Center
- Vanderbilt University Medical Center
- Yale - New Haven Hospital

### FACULTY

#### Director

- Lisa Joyner, M.Ed., RRT, RRT-NPS  
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Respiratory Therapy  
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- Thomas Lamey, Ph.D., B.S.R.T.,  
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