



**School of Allied Health Professions**  
Department of Cardiopulmonary Science

## **Frequently Asked Questions: Respiratory Therapy Program**

### **1. Is the program accredited?**

Yes, the program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC, [www.coarc.com](http://www.coarc.com), program #200251).

### **2. How long has the program been in existence?**

The first class was enrolled in 1978.

### **3. Do graduates find jobs after graduation?**

2021 (100% employment! 100% overall employer satisfaction!)  
Previous 3-yr (2020-2018) average program outcome, 95%  
employment, 100% overall employer satisfaction)

***There is presently a very high demand for respiratory therapists, and the current rate of enrollment in local education programs will not meet future regional needs.***

### **4. Where do your graduates work after graduation?**

Over 300 LSUHSC Cardiopulmonary Science Respiratory Therapy graduates can be found throughout the U.S. and abroad in areas of healthcare leadership, management, education, research, clinical practice, medical equipment development, sales, and sleep diagnostics. Some have gone on to become physicians, perfusionists, or physician assistants.

## **5. How many students (respiratory track) can enroll each year?**

Max enrollment is 15 students.

## **6. What is the program's retention rate?**

Previous 3-yr (2020-2018) average program outcome, 89% retention

## **7. What are the national board exam pass rates for credentialing?**

Previous 3-yr (2020-2018) average program outcomes

- **100% Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT) credentialing success of graduates**
  - CRT credential is required for licensure in the state of Louisiana
- **90% Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) credentialing success of graduates**
  - The American Association for Respiratory Care, CoARC, and the National Board for Respiratory Care recognize the RRT credential as the standard of excellence for respiratory care professionals.

## **8. Where and when do students attend clinicals?**

Eighteen clinical sites (Thirteen sites located throughout the surrounding metropolitan area) offer students a diverse clinical experience, whereby students gain clinical skills in managing challenging patient populations in numerous clinical settings.

A list of clinical sites is found here;

<http://alliedhealth.lsuhs.edu/cp/clinicalaffiliates.aspx>

Clinics begin mid-way through the first fall semester and continue each semester thereafter.

## 9. What makes this program distinct and exceptional?

- Students dissect cadavers in anatomy lab.
- Instruction in advanced management of difficult airways, including fiberoptic intubations and cricothyroidotomy with jet ventilation.
- Airway management labs instructed by nurse anesthesia program faculty, in addition to intubation clinical rotation in surgery.
- Advanced cardiac life support (ACLS) course as part of critical care instruction.
- Patient care simulation cases with high-fidelity mannequin technology that engages students in hands-on, competency-based learning.
- Team-Up interprofessional education: team-based learning about, from and with students from all six schools within the LSU Health Sciences Center, including simulation-enhanced cases such as advanced cardiac life support, obstetric emergencies and delivery of the high-risk neonate.
  - [https://www.lsuhs.edu/administration/academic/cipecp/team\\_up\\_overview.aspx](https://www.lsuhs.edu/administration/academic/cipecp/team_up_overview.aspx)
- Dedicated caring faculty with specialty respiratory therapy credentials and over 75 years of combined clinical and teaching experience.
- Sleep disorders course
- Senior clinical rotation in outpatient pulmonary disease clinics with program medical director and other pulmonologists.
- Senior management rotation with respiratory care managers and department directors of local area hospitals.
- Senior students are teaching assistants to junior students to learn and practice important preceptor skills in the clinical setting.
- Clinical rotations in cystic fibrosis and neurology clinics.

- Annual attendance at Louisiana Society for Respiratory Care state meeting in Baton Rouge and participation on a Pelican Bowl (quiz bowl) student competition team.
- Opportunity to participate in Camp Pelican, a Lions camp for children with pulmonary disease. This is a weeklong camp where senior students care for a camper, applying basic respiratory therapy methods.
- Annual department social activities: Rock n' Bowl party and crawfish boil.