

# What Can I Do With a Major in...

# Respiratory Care?

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Respiratory Care is a rapidly growing Allied Health Profession concerned with the diagnosis and treatment of patients with abnormalities associated with the process of breathing. There are two levels of practice within the profession: (1) the Entry Level – Certified Respiratory Therapist, and (2) the Advanced Level – Registered Respiratory Therapist.

### Skills/Competencies Associated with Respiratory Care Majors:

- \*Ability to work well with people and data.
- \*Trustworthy, integrity and businesslike.
- \*Ability to inspire productivity and loyalty.
- \*Likes challenges, questioning and analyzing.
- \*Proficiency in reading, for accurate details.
- \*Desire for preciseness.
- \*Organize and maintain accurate records.
- \*Technical Standards:(School of Allied Health's nonacademic criteria) 1. observation; 2. communications; 3. motor function; 4. intellectual-conceptual, integrative, and quantitative abilities; and 5. behavioral and social attributes.
- \*Strong leadership skills.
- \*Ability to evaluate and follow procedures.
- \*Adaptable and flexible.
- \*Problem solving and intellectual growth.
- \*Operate scientific equipment.
- \*Desire to help humankind.
- \*Make critical observations and decisions.

### Related Occupations:

Athletic Trainer	Occupational Therapist
Audiologist	Optometrist
Cardiovascular Technologist	Paramedic
Dental Hygienist	Perfusionist
Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	Pharmaceutical Sales
Electroneurodiagnostic Tech	Physical Therapist
Licensed Practical Nurse	Speech Language Pathologist
Medical Imaging Tech	Surgical Technologist
Nuclear Medicine Technologists	Teacher
Nurse Practitioner	

\*This is only a partial list and not meant to limit you. Come to Career Services to explore your options further.

**Strategies:**

- \*Be sensitive to a patient's physical and psychological needs.
- \*Improve ability to work in a team atmosphere.
- \*Enhance proficiency with computers.
- \*Develop communication skills.

**Resources for Respiratory Care Majors:**

College Central Network  
[www.collegecentral.com/gmc](http://www.collegecentral.com/gmc)

American Association for Respiratory Care  
[www.aarc.org](http://www.aarc.org)

Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care  
[www.coarc.com](http://www.coarc.com)

Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America  
[www.aafa.org](http://www.aafa.org)

RT for Decision Makers in Respiratory Care  
[www.rtmagazine.com](http://www.rtmagazine.com)

Pennsylvania Society for Respiratory Care  
[www.psrc.net](http://www.psrc.net)

Occupational Outlook Handbook  
[www.bls.gov/oco](http://www.bls.gov/oco)

National Board for Respiratory Care, Inc.  
[www.nbrc.org](http://www.nbrc.org)

American Lung Association  
[www.lungusa.org](http://www.lungusa.org)

Respiratory Care Journal  
[www.rcjournal.com](http://www.rcjournal.com)

FOCUS  
[www.foocus.com](http://www.foocus.com)

ADVANCE for Respiratory Care Professionals  
<http://respiratory-care.advanceweb.com/>

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**Gwynedd-Mercy College**  
**Career Services**  
215-646-7300, ext: 230  
[careerservices@gmc.edu](mailto:careerservices@gmc.edu)  
[www.gmc.edu/students/careerservices](http://www.gmc.edu/students/careerservices)