

# Respiratory Therapy (BS)

## At Wheeling Jesuit University

### RT at a Glance:

Respiratory therapy is the allied health profession that cares for patients with deficiencies and abnormalities of the cardiopulmonary system (heart and lungs). The respiratory therapist sees a diverse group of patients ranging from newborns to the elderly. Disease states or conditions often requiring respiratory care include asthma, emphysema, chronic obstructive lung disease, pneumonia, cystic fibrosis, neonatal respiratory distress syndrome, and multiple conditions brought on by shock, trauma, and post operative complications.

### What Are Some Career Options That You Would Have With a Degree in Respiratory Therapy?

- Respiratory therapist in a hospital
- Respiratory therapist in the home care setting
- Pharmaceutical sales
- Skilled nursing facilities and long term care facilities
- Education
- Research
- Pulmonary physician offices
- Sleep diagnostic centers
- Pulmonary function and diagnostic centers
- Helicopter transport and response
- Equipment sales and education
- U.S. armed forces

### Will WJU be able to prepare me for the competitive job market?

Yes! Wheeling Jesuit University is one of 60 schools in the country to offer a **Bachelor of Science Degree** in Respiratory Therapy. Our Respiratory Therapy program is fully accredited. Students at Wheeling Jesuit must complete all core courses, and fully master the specific requirements in clinical science before they practice their knowledge in the clinical setting. Because our students are trained in a setting that closely simulates a hospital, their transition from the university to the medical center is an easy one. Many Wheeling Jesuit graduates have gone on to become supervisors, educators, and managers in medical facilities throughout the country.

## What courses will I need to take if I am a RT major?

Respiratory Therapy's curriculum during the first two years focuses on basic science, such as anatomy, physiology, biology, chemistry, and physics. All Wheeling Jesuit students are required to complete the core curriculum that consists of history, english, social science, foreign language, and math.

The last two years focus more on respiratory studies by enrolling students in specific respiratory classes such as adult respiratory care, neonatal respiratory care, critical care, and others. Students are required to participate in clinicals (at the hospital) two days a week during the junior year, and four days a week for six months during their senior year. These clinical rotations occur at various hospitals/medical centers in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia.

The average RT student's schedule over four years might look like this...

Year	Fall Semester Classes	Credits	Spring Semester Classes	Credits
<b>F R E S H M A N</b>	Anatomy & Physiology I Anatomy Lab Process of Composition The Twentieth Century Statistics General Psychology Freshman Year Seminar	3 1 3 3 3 3 <u>1</u> 17	History Seminar Literary Foundations Religion #1 General, Organic & Bio-Chemistry Anatomy & Physiology II Chemistry Lab	3 3 3 3 3 <u>1</u> 16
<b>S O P H O M O R E</b>	Physics for Allied Health Biology Biology Lab Logic & Knowledge Religion #2 Global Perspectives	3 3 1 3 3 <u>3</u> 16	Intro. to RT Equipment Cardiopulmonary Microbiology & Epidemiology Philosophy #2 Medical Spanish Intro. to Clinical Principles	3 3 2 3 3 <u>2</u> 16
<b>J U N I O R</b>	Adult RT Pathophysiology Pharmacology RT Pharmacology Emergency Life Support Clinical Orientation (Clinical) Principles of Instruction	3 3 1 1 3 2 <u>2</u> 15	PFT & Blood Gases Pulmonary Rehabilitation & Topics Neonatal & Pediatric Care Principles of General Care (Clinical) Management Techniques	3 3 3 3 <u>2</u> 14
<b>SUMMER Of Junior Year</b>	Into. to Anesthesia (Clinical) Critical Care I (Clinical) Special Project I (Clinical)	7		
<b>S E N I O R</b>	General Care II (Clinical) Critical Care II (Clinical) Rehab. & Home Care (Clinical) Clinics (Clinical) Emergency Medicine (Clinical) Special Project II (Clinical) EKG Interpretation (Clinical) Pulmonary Functions (Clinical)	4 4 2 1 1 1 1 <u>2</u> 16	Special Project III 2 <sup>nd</sup> Level Literature Religion or Philosophy Capstone Registry Review (elective) Advanced Clinical (elective) ACLS (elective) Critical Thinking Fine Arts	1 3 3 1 <u>1</u> / <u>2</u> 1 2 <u>3</u> 15/16

## Can I combine respiratory therapy with a pre-professional major?

YES! Here at Wheeling Jesuit University, you can choose Respiratory Therapy as your undergraduate degree, and then transition to the Doctor of Physical Therapy graduate program. For admission into the Graduate Physical Therapy Program here at WJU, you must first complete your undergraduate degree. This degree is chosen when you are accepted to the University, and fulfills the pre-requisites needed for admission to the physical therapy graduate program.

By choosing the RT program as your undergraduate degree, you will only have to take 8 **additional credits (two classes)** to complete all of the pre-requisites for the physical therapy program. Other majors here at WJU will require 10 or more additional credits to transition to the graduate program.

Our Respiratory Therapy Program can also be used as a starting point for medical school, perfusion technology, anesthesia, nursing, education, veterinary school, and many other pre-professional programs.

## What technological services are offered at WJU?

Wheeling Jesuit has a campus-wide fiber optic network, along with the National Technology Transfer Center (NTTC) and the Center for Educational Technology (CET), including the Classroom of the Future. Advanced computer labs are located in the NTTC, The Acker Science Center, and Ignatius Hall.

The Respiratory Therapy laboratory consists of smart classroom technology. Also provided in the lab are student computer stations with ventilator and patient interactive clinical simulations. The updated equipment and software located in the lab greatly enhances our students' learning and comprehension.

With the integration of hands on equipment and technology, our students are able to experience situations and theories that they may not even get to see in the hospital setting. Consistent with Wheeling Jesuit's reputation for providing a well-rounded education, the Respiratory Therapy faculty believes in providing students with up-to-date equipment to improve their hands on critical thinking skills.

## Is financial aid available?

Wheeling Jesuit offers several grants, scholarships, loans, and work-study opportunities. Additionally, several Respiratory Therapy scholarships are available from various foundations.

Many of our clinical sites are now offering Wheeling Jesuit RT graduates sign on bonuses in exchange for signing a contract to work after graduation. Some of these offers can be applied to your senior year tuition, while others can be received only after you graduate and start working at their facility.

## Where Can I Get More Information?

- Contact WJU's admissions office at 1-800-624-6992
- Check out the Respiratory Therapy website at:  
<http://www.wju.edu/academics/ret/default.asp>
- Contact the RT faculty:

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