

# RESPIRATORY CARE

---

Respiratory Care is an allied health specialty dealing with the diagnosis, treatment, and management of patients with acute and chronic diseases affecting the pulmonary system. Respiratory Therapists work in all areas within the hospital, especially within the critical care areas with patients who are in a life-threatening phase of their illness. RT's administer medications and therapy, administer life support, manage and maintain patients on life support ventilator systems, perform diagnostic tests, and assist chronic patients with rehabilitation and home care. Specialties within the profession include adult critical care, neonatal and pediatric intensive care, pulmonary function testing, home care and rehabilitation, management, and education.

## Department Contact Information

Alison Riggio, Program Director,  
ariggio@occ.cccd.edu

Christina Montano, Director of Clinical Education,  
cmontano@occ.cccd.edu

Respiratory Care Department Website ([http://www.orangecoastcollege.edu/academics/divisions/consumer\\_health/allied\\_health/respiratory\\_care/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.orangecoastcollege.edu/academics/divisions/consumer_health/allied_health/respiratory_care/Pages/default.aspx))

- Respiratory Care, Associate in Science Degree (<https://catalog.cccd.edu/orange-coast/pathways/careers-healthcare/respiratory-care/respiratory-care-associate-science-degree/>)