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Triton College

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Respiratory Care Program Coming to Campus this Fall



Respiratory Care Students in the Lab

RIVER GROVE, Ill. – This fall, Triton College will launch its new Respiratory Care Program, designed to prepare students to become registered respiratory therapists. The college's new state-of-the-art classrooms are equipped with the latest technologies, providing both instructors and students with an immersive experience.

“Respiratory therapists are so in-demand that students who graduate from our program and pass the board exam could get a job in any hospital,” said Dr. Peter Jaswilko, Triton's Allied Health chairperson.

During its accreditation site visit, the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) recommended Triton College's Respiratory Care Program for accreditation. Triton College was recognized during a site visit without receiving any citations or recommendations for improvement.

“We are excited about this achievement and look forward to welcoming our first cohort of students,” said Jaswilko.

Respiratory therapists have a variety of responsibilities, according to Dr. Jaswilko, such as performing diagnostic testing, assessing and diagnosing patients of all ages, administering pulmonary medications, managing ventilators, drawing blood, and assisting newborns and their mothers during high-risk deliveries. Respiratory therapists treat a variety of patients, from those with asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease to individuals suffering from multi-organ system failure. They help patients with effective breathing, assist with rehabilitation from chronic respiratory conditions and fulfill many other roles.

Respiratory therapists can participate in research, evaluate interventions and technology for best practices, improve patient outcomes, provide education for patients and families, and perform medical therapies. Their knowledge and expertise can educate health care providers, such as paramedics, emergency medical technicians (EMTs), nurses and medical students.

Those with a degree in respiratory care from Triton College can work in an emergency room, critical care unit, neonatal intensive care unit, rehabilitation center, skilled nursing facility, doctor’s office, sleep lab, hospital outpatient clinic, home care, in flight transportation and more.

According to Dr. Jaswilko, the beginning salary for a respiratory therapist can range from \$65,000-\$70,000, with the median salary approximately \$85,000. From 2022 to 2024, the job growth has risen 14%.

Triton’s Respiratory Care Program has state-of-the-art equipment, including four ventilators that replicate an authentic hospital setting. These ventilators are life support machines used in hospitals for adult, pediatric and neonatal patients. Triton also has a high-frequency oscillator ventilator (HFOV), which provides life support for critically ill patients with lung injuries. The lab is additionally equipped with diagnostic pulmonary function testing (PFT) machines and both low- and high-fidelity simulators.

“Students can practice their skills before their clinical experiences,” said Jaswilko.

To learn more about the Respiratory Care Program, visit <http://triton.edu/respiratory>.

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ABOUT TRITON COLLEGE

Triton College is an institution of higher education dedicated to student success. Triton offers more than 120 degree and certificate programs designed for students to realize their career aspirations and effectively compete in a global economy. The college campus spans 110 acres in River Grove, Illinois, holds classes at satellite locations and offers online learning opportunities. Triton's exemplary faculty and staff work to provide high-quality, convenient and affordable educational opportunities to more than 10,000 students each year. Triton College is a member of The Community Colleges of Illinois and accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. Learn more at <http://triton.edu/>.