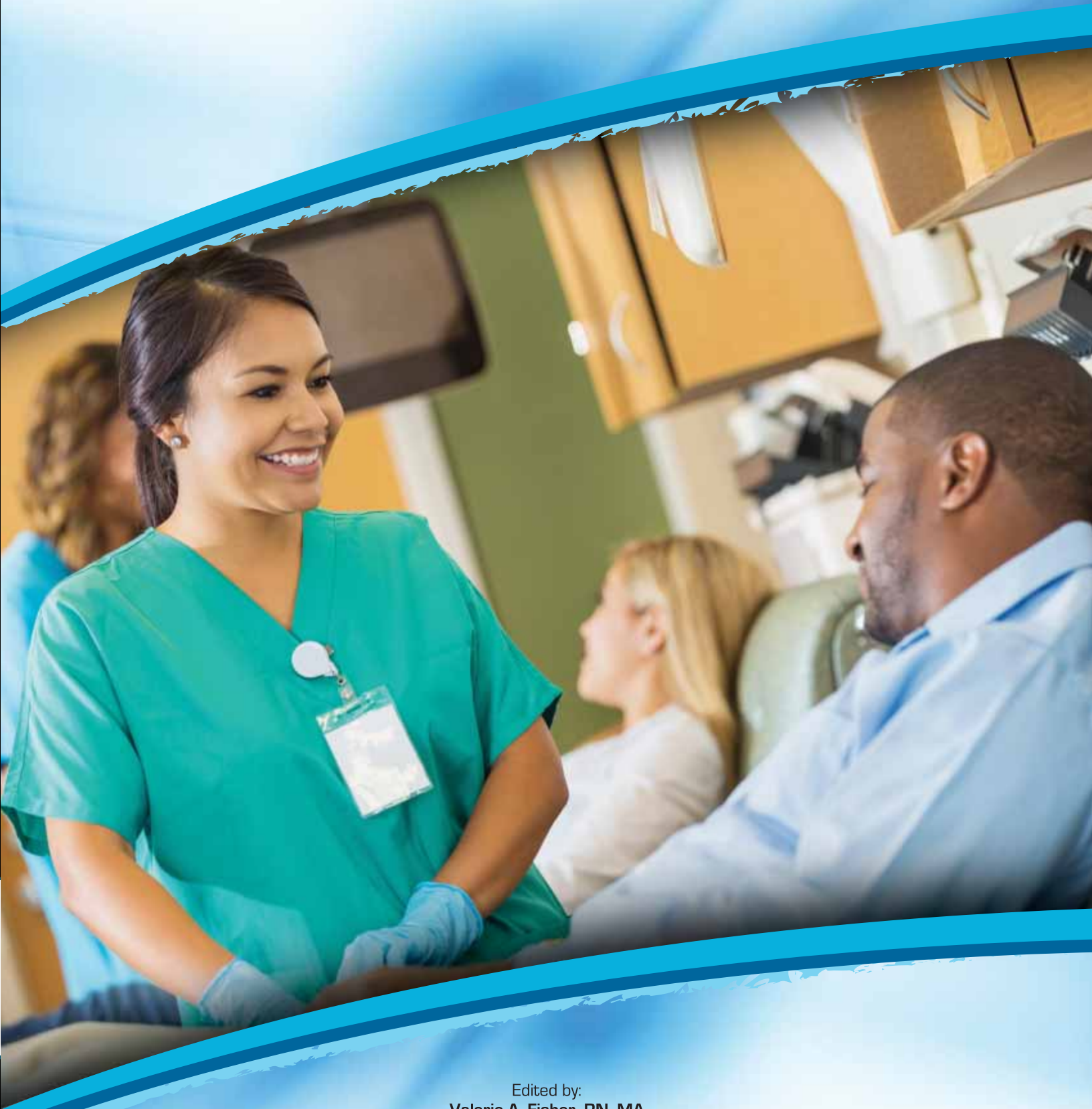


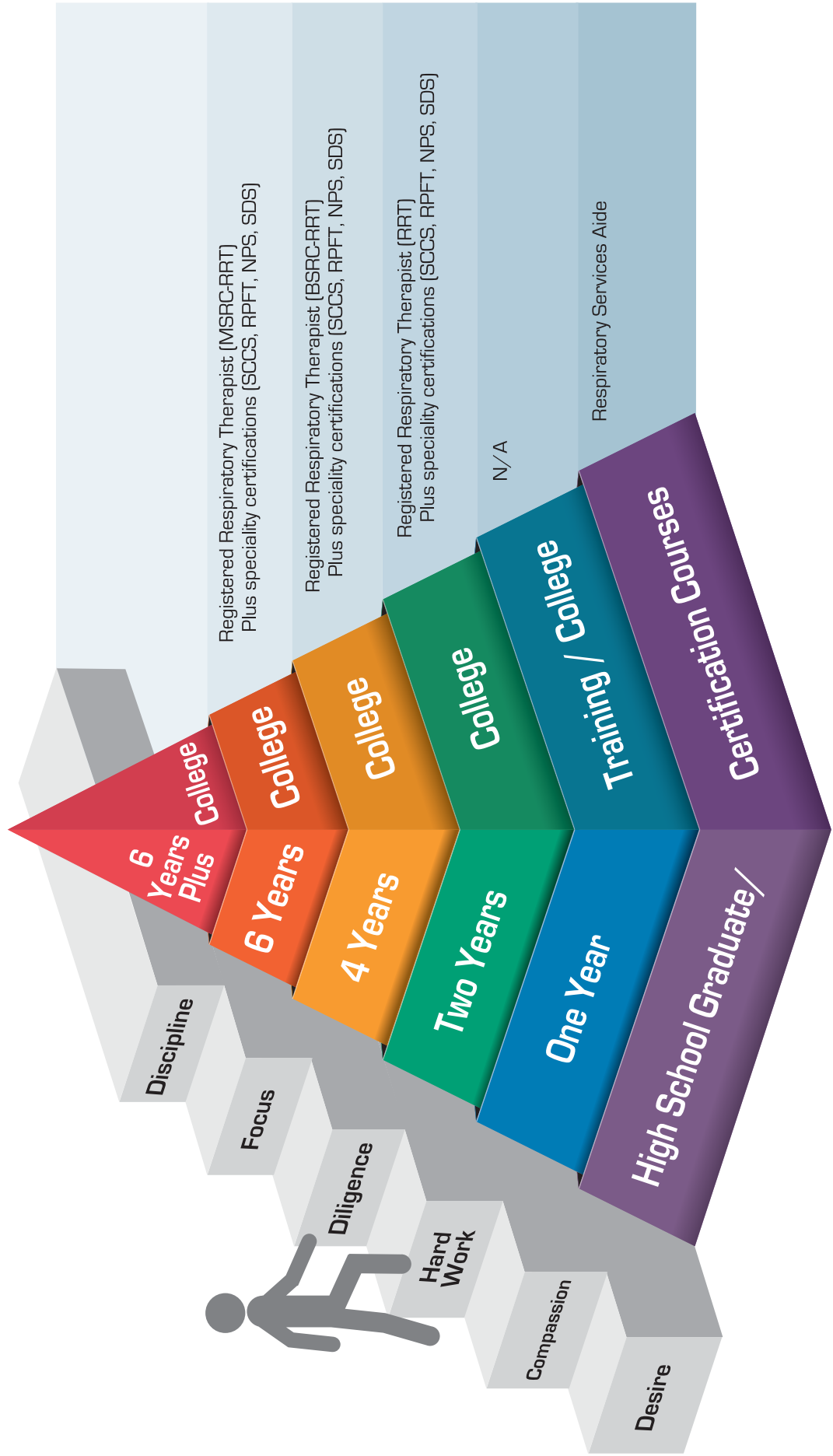
# Exploring Health Careers: What Do You Want To Be?



Edited by:  
**Valerie A. Fisher, RN, MA**  
Central Region Deputy Sector Navigator  
Health Workforce Initiative  
[www.ca-hwi.org](http://www.ca-hwi.org)



# Respiratory Care Services Career Pathways





## Respiratory Services Aide

**Job Description:** Performs any combination of following tasks to assist personnel in Respiratory Therapy Department: cleans, disinfects, and sterilizes equipment; delivers oxygen tanks and other equipment and supplies; prepares inventory records; examines equipment to detect worn tubes, loose connections, or other indications of disrepair; starts equipment and observes gauge measuring pressure, rate of flow, and continuity to test equipment; and notifies supervisor of malfunction and maintenance needs.

**Educational Requirements:** This is an entry level position, high school diploma or GED is required. Some medical terminology is helpful in securing this on-the-job training position.

**Salary Range: \$25,000 to \$32,000 per year**

**For Additional Information:** QR Code: N/A Video Link: N/A

## Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT)

**Job Description:** Assists in the diagnosis, treatment, and management of patients with pulmonary disorders. Collects and analyzes sputum, blood, and breath specimens to determine levels of oxygen, carbon dioxide, and other gases/or infection. Respiratory therapists perform chest physiotherapy on patients with chronic lung disease to remove mucus from their lungs and make it easier to breathe.

**Educational Requirements:** As of January 2015, this certificate is no longer valid for licensure in the state of California; you must successfully pass the Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) examination. (See below)

**Salary Range: N/A**



**For Additional Information:**

QR Code:

<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/respiratory-therapists.htm>

Video Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sHSUzA9uM34>

## Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT)

**Job Description:** Assists in the diagnosis, treatment, and management of patients with pulmonary disorders. Collects and analyzes sputum, blood, and breath specimens to determine levels of oxygen, carbon dioxide, and other gases. Specific duties may include giving oxygen to patients, measuring lung capacity, monitoring oxygen concentration in blood and using equipment such as ventilators and may administer aerosol medications.

**Educational Requirements:** Successful graduation from an accredited college with a minimum of an associate's degree in Respiratory Care. You may sit for the RRT certification after passing the National Board of Respiratory Certification general respiratory therapy examination called the Therapist Multiple Choice (TMC) examination. The TMC Examination is designed to measure essential knowledge, skills, and abilities required of entry-level respiratory therapists, as well as determine eligibility for the Clinical Simulation Examination. There are two established cut scores for the TMC Examination. If you achieve the lower cut score, you earn your CRT credential (not valid for work in CA). However, if you achieve the higher cut score, you become eligible for the Clinical Simulation Examination. Once you have passed both the TMC and the Clinical Simulation Exam, you earn the RRT credential, and satisfy the examination requirement for licensure in the state of California.

For California licensure: [http://www.rcb.ca.gov/applicants/forms/exam\\_schd\\_info.pdf](http://www.rcb.ca.gov/applicants/forms/exam_schd_info.pdf)

**Salary Range: \$59,000 to \$77,000 per year**



**For Additional Information:**

QR Code:

<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/respiratory-therapists.htm>

Video Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=von5MYeflwl>

## R.R.T. and Specialty Certifications

**Job Description:** Respiratory care refers to the treatment of disorders affecting a person's respiration, or ability to breathe. All respiratory care providers see patients with a wide variety of breathing disorders, from asthma to diseases such as tuberculosis and emphysema. However once you are an established RRT you may specialize in a particular area serving a distinct population of patients. Specialty credentials offered by The National Board for Respiratory Care offer many options. They are as follows:

**Adult Critical Care Specialty Credential (ACCS)**  
**Certified Pulmonary Function Technologist (CPFT)**  
**Advanced Pulmonary Function Technologist (RPFT)**  
**Neonatal/Pediatric Specialty (NPS)**  
**Sleep Disorder Specialty Credential (SDS)**

At this time each credential has a prerequisite that must be met before you are eligible to sit for the examination. However, if you graduate from an accredited Respiratory Care Associate's degree program and have at least one year of clinical experience, you may sit for most of the examination specialties listed above. Note: These requirements may change in the future.



**For Additional Information:**

QR Code:  
<http://www.aarc.org/careers/how-to-become-an-rt/specialty-credentials/>  
Video Link:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZEI1\\_O2sCg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZEI1_O2sCg)

## R.R.T. and Advanced Degrees

**Job Description:** Degree advancement in respiratory care is an educational program designed specifically to meet the needs of practicing respiratory therapists with an RRT who, having already completed an accredited respiratory care program, obtains advanced education and training in respiratory care. While all RRTs provide care to many of the same patients, advanced degree practitioners have more education and tend to make a better salary than 2 year associate's degree respiratory therapists. Many RRTs with Bachelor's and/or Master's degrees find more opportunities for career advancement such as senior RRT, case manager, or clinical specialist. An advanced degree also provides the RRT with an educational pathway to becoming a manager, formal educator, or researcher.

**Educational Requirements:** Currently there are only 2 educational institutions in California who offer a BS degree in Respiratory Care. They are Modesto Junior College (pilot Bachelor's degree program starting in 2017) and Loma Linda University (both entry level BS and a one year BS for AS degree RRTs). In addition, only Loma Linda University offers a Master's degree in Respiratory Care. There are other out of state opportunities, but each program is structured differently, so it is important to review the program curriculum and requirements carefully before committing to a program of study.

**Salary Range: \$60,000 to \$75,000 per year**



**For Additional Information:**

QR Code:  
<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/respiratory-therapists.htm>  
Video Link:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=upASVZ4vG\\_E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=upASVZ4vG_E)



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