

# Cardiopulmonary Sciences

## Fact Sheet

The growing number of Americans, and Floridians, suffering from chronic respiratory disease (approximately 20 million) and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (approximately one million, making it the fourth leading cause of death in the U.S.) has necessitated an increase in cardiopulmonary professionals with advanced training and degrees. The profession is now advocating the baccalaureate degree as an entry-level requirement. Because approximately 90% of those employed through Central Florida in respiratory care with advanced degrees are graduates of UCF's program, closing this program would lead to a ***critical shortage of needed healthcare specialists***.

First accredited in 1968, UCF's Cardiopulmonary Sciences program is the ***second oldest and one of the best in the U.S.*** It is the ***only program in the state of Florida that offers courses in Neonatal Medicine and Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation***. In addition, UCF offers' the ***only RRT (Registered Respiratory Therapist) transfer option in the state***, enabling students from 15 A.S. degree programs a career ladder to master's and doctorate degrees.

The Cardiopulmonary Sciences program is presently poised and ready to become an ***integral component of UCF's new medical school***, as nurses and respiratory therapists are the only two healthcare professionals that offer hospital patients 24/7 bedside, acute care, and respiratory therapists are integral parts of most medical teams.

Here are additional important facts about this impressive program:

- The program boasts ***0% attrition and a 100% student job placement history***, with major employers being hospitals in the Central Florida region and throughout the state.
- Students score ***above the national average*** pass rate on credentialing exams.
- Annual surveys reveal ***100% job satisfaction*** by employers and graduates.
- In May 2009, the program was re-accredited (by COARC/CAHEP/AMA) for a full 10 years.
- Over 1000 students have graduated with the BS degree, and another 500 through the RRT transfer option, with the latter increasing enrollment by 200% over the past five years.