

RCB – Professional Qualifications Committee Report (3/2025)

California Respiratory Care Educational Requirements Survey 2024 – Summary

The survey was developed in early 2024 and sent to all California Respiratory Care Licensees and to all Respiratory Care Schools in the State of California. We estimated that greater than 21,000 received the survey request.

- 1893 – responded (~0.09% response rate)
- 894 were completed (47% completion rate)

Demographics concerning age, place of practice and work roles agreed with previous descriptions of the Respiratory Care workforce.

Education

- 6.4% of respondents began their career as an On-The Job trainee
- 68.8% of respondents began their career with an Associate's degree
- 8.8 % of respondents began their career with a Bachelor's degree
- 71% of respondents continue their career at their starting level of education
- 22.9% of respondents have added a Bachelor's Degree
- 10.9% of respondents have added a Graduate Degree

Professional Association Membership

- 52.4 % of respondents are AARC members
- 38.0 % of respondents are CSRC members

The RCB California Workforce Study 2015 – 2016 identified a general perception of unpreparedness for RCP's entering the workforce.

- 40.7% of respondents agreed wholly with these findings
- 31.7% of respondents agreed partially with these findings
- 27.3 of respondents disagreed with these findings

Both the AARC and the CSRC have stated that RCP's entering the workforce after 2030 should be required to obtain a minimum of a Bachelor's Degree to qualify for practice. We asked if the respondents agreed this was a necessary step.

- 55% of respondents disagreed
- 45% of respondents agreed

We proposed five scenarios that could incorporate the requirement of a Bachelor's Degree for the practice of Respiratory Care in California.

- Requiring a Bachelor's Degree as a minimum for practice, by the year 2030 - most favorably rated.
- Requiring a Bachelor's Degree within two license renewal cycles - second most favored approach.
- Changes requiring a multi-tiered licensure approach were disfavored.

The survey asked for how to best approach the perceived lack of new RCP preparation for clinical practice at the beginning of their careers, respondents could include multiple approaches in their response.

- 39.4% of respondents included requiring better/more clinical experience
- 24.9% of respondents included a required Residency
- 18.9% of respondents included a Bachelor's Degree minimum
- 9.9% of respondents included a need for better schools
- 4.9% of respondents included the elimination of for-profit schools
- 2.6% of respondents included a need for better orientation