

Respiratory Care Board of California
Professional Qualifications Committee (PQC)
October 24, 2025
Licensure Plan of Action

At the last Respiratory Care Board's meeting (6/6/2025), the board voted unanimously to increase the education attainment threshold for licensure:

Educational licensure requirements for entry into practice be increased to a bachelor's degree minimum. The increased educational requirement supports improvement in the health, safety, and welfare of California citizens in need of respiratory care services and aligns with current and evolving healthcare practices.

Upon recommendation from focus groups conducted in March 2023:

- *Identify a reasonable comprehensive plan and timeline for implementation to ensure adequate infrastructure and minimal disruption to the RCP workforce pipeline should changes to RCP licensure requirements be realized addressing the strategic plan goal. Include timeline approach for short term and long-term implementation strategies.*

*** Note: Currently licensed CA RCPs will not be affected by licensure requirement change*

The PQC, with feedback from representative community experts, have developed a plan of action and timeline for guiding the transition.

Respiratory Care Representative Community Experts			
Name	Title	Organization	Location
Benga Agbelemose, EdD, MBA, RCP, RRT-NPS, CPFT	Associate Director	Cedars-Sinai Medical Center	Los Angeles, CA
Krystal Craddock MSRC, RRT, RRT-NPS, RRT-ACCS, AE-C, FAARC	Past President	California Society for Respiratory Care	CA
Carey Flores,BSRC, RRT-NPS	Respiratory Care Program Director	Grossmont College	El Cajon, CA
Jeff Rutherford,MEd, RRT	Respiratory Care Program Director	American Career College	Los Angeles, CA
Samantha J. Scott-Marquina MS, RRT	Director, Department of Respiratory Care	University of California, San Francisco	San Francisco, CA
Michael Sheahan,EdD, RRT-NPS	Respiratory Care Program Director	Crafton Hills College	Yucaipa, CA
Marco Soto, MBA, RCP, RRT	Director, Department of Respiratory Care	Loma Linda University Community Medical Center	Loma Linda, CA

Respiratory Care Board of California

Baccalaureate Degree Licensure - Plan of Action

<u>Category</u>	<u>Steps</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Timeframe</u>
Legislative Actions	<i>Sunset Review</i>	* Report to the Legislature detailing performance, challenges, and accomplishments. * Legislative committees (Assembly Business & Professions and Senate Business, Professions & Economic Development) hold Sunset Hearings, evaluate testimony, and issue recommendations. * Board responds before legislature and provides official response within 30 days of hearing.	Jan - Mar 2026 Note: RCB will review and approve the report for printing and submission between Oct – Dec 2025
	<i>Drafting the Sunset Bill</i>	* Committee chairs or legislators introduce a sunset bill to extend the board's statutory authority. * Bill may include changes such as new reforms, restructuring, or oversight measures (increasing the minimum education standard to a bachelor's degree).	Jan – Feb 2026 Note: sunset bills are introduced often with placeholder language pending sunset hearings.
	<i>Committee Process</i>	* Bill heard in policy committees. * Additional Appropriations Committee if fiscal impacts assessed.	Mar –Jun 2026
	<i>Floor Votes (Both Houses)</i>	* Bill debated and voted on by the full Assembly and Senate. * Both houses must pass identical versions of the bill.	Jul – Sept 2026
	<i>Governor's Action</i>	* Governor may: Sign bill → Approved for modification Bill vetoed → proposed modification dies	Oct 12, 2026 Bills must be acted upon by the Governor
	<i>Outcome</i>	* Signed Bill → Respiratory Care Board executive office updates Respiratory Care Act (RCA) to reflect legislative change.	Jan 1, 2027 Approved legislation becomes effective

Academic/Curricular/ Programmatic Needs	<i>Curricular changes</i>	* Revise curriculum following CoARC and College Accreditation Bachelor's entry into practice standards. * Ensure Associate degree licensed RCPs have a streamlined degree attainment bridge pathway to complete baccalaureate degree.	Jan 2027 - Dec 2028
	<i>Personnel</i>	* Ensure program faculty meet educational, licensure, and certification requirements per CoARC and College Accreditation standards.	Jan 2027 - Dec 2028
	<i>Accreditation Approval Process</i>	* Respiratory Care Board collaborates with CoARC to identify streamline transition accreditation process.	Jan 2027 - Jun 2027
	<i>Launch Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Care (BSRC) entry into practice program</i>	* Inaugural BSRC cohort begins program.	Jan 2029
		* Final Associate Degree entry into practice program cohort graduates.	Oct 2031
		* Graduates complete BSRC entry into practice program requirements.	Dec 2032
Licensure Process	<i>Outreach Efforts</i>	* Notify educational programs of the new degree requirement to allow time for curriculum modifications. * Provide hospitals with notice of potential workforce supply challenges during early implementation to support proactive planning. * Develop and distribute messaging to emphasize newly increased education requirement will not apply to current licensee's.	Early 2027 through implementation of the bachelor's degree requirement
	<i>Amend Education Waiver Criteria Regulation (CCR 1399.330)</i>	* Identify acceptable out-of-state licensee substitution criteria for the higher degree requirement to avoid creating barriers.	Initiate rulemaking process between 2027 and 2030
	<i>Updated Licensure Requirements Enforced</i>	* All applicants will need to satisfy updated educational requirements.	Jan 2033

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