Respiratory Therapy Program
The Respiratory Therapy Program

The Respiratory Therapy program is co-sponsored by University of Mary and CHI St. Alexius Health in Bismarck, North Dakota. The program prepares people for the bachelor of science degree in respiratory therapy. Students majoring in respiratory therapy complete two years of pre-professional course work at University of Mary followed by two full years of professional preparation at CHI St. Alexius Health.

What Respiratory Therapist Do
Respiratory therapists take care of newborns, children, adolescents and adults with heart and lung problems. Therapists work in hospital emergency rooms, intensive care units, neonatal intensive care units, outpatient clinics, rehabilitation clinics and in homes. They work as part of a team with physicians, nurses and other health care professionals to develop the patient’s care plan.

Types of Patients
Respiratory therapists assess, treat and care for patients with all types of breathing disorders. Their patients may have asthma, cystic fibrosis, pneumonia, heart failure and smoking related diseases, such as cancer, emphysema and chronic bronchitis. Therapists work with premature babies who cannot breathe on their own or with patients recovering from major surgeries who need mechanical breathing assistance.

Job Outlook
The national demand for respiratory therapists is increasing; the job growth through 2022 is projected to be 20 percent (faster than average).*

*Bureau of Labor Statistics
Top Reasons to Choose University of Mary’s Respiratory Therapy Program

• The program was a recipient of the national Excellence in Education Award from the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC), which placed the program in the top ten percent of all programs in the United States

• Your professors are nationally known through their publications; a faculty member’s physiology textbook is in its 3rd edition; faculty have also written chapters in textbooks, workbooks, and scientific papers

• The professional phase of the program is situated in the rich clinical environment of CHI St. Alexius Health, which helps you connect theory and practice, interact with experienced clinicians and learn to think like professionals

• You receive over 1100 hours of clinically supervised direct patient care experience, which prepares you to function with professional competence immediately upon graduation

• You gain unique learning experiences, which include extensive teaching rounds with pulmonary physicians and cardiovascular surgeons; development of community health promotion projects; and a self-designed specialty clinical experience in the final year

• You receive a professional education in the context of a broad liberal arts education, which helps you become an informed, ethical, participating citizen

• The program has a pre-med track that meets medical school admission prerequisites; over 1100 hours of patient care experience and a health care credential gives graduates an advantage when applying to medical school

• Graduates typically have 100 percent pass rates on their licensing board exams

• The program has had a 100 percent job placement rate over the last 20 years
For more information, contact:

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