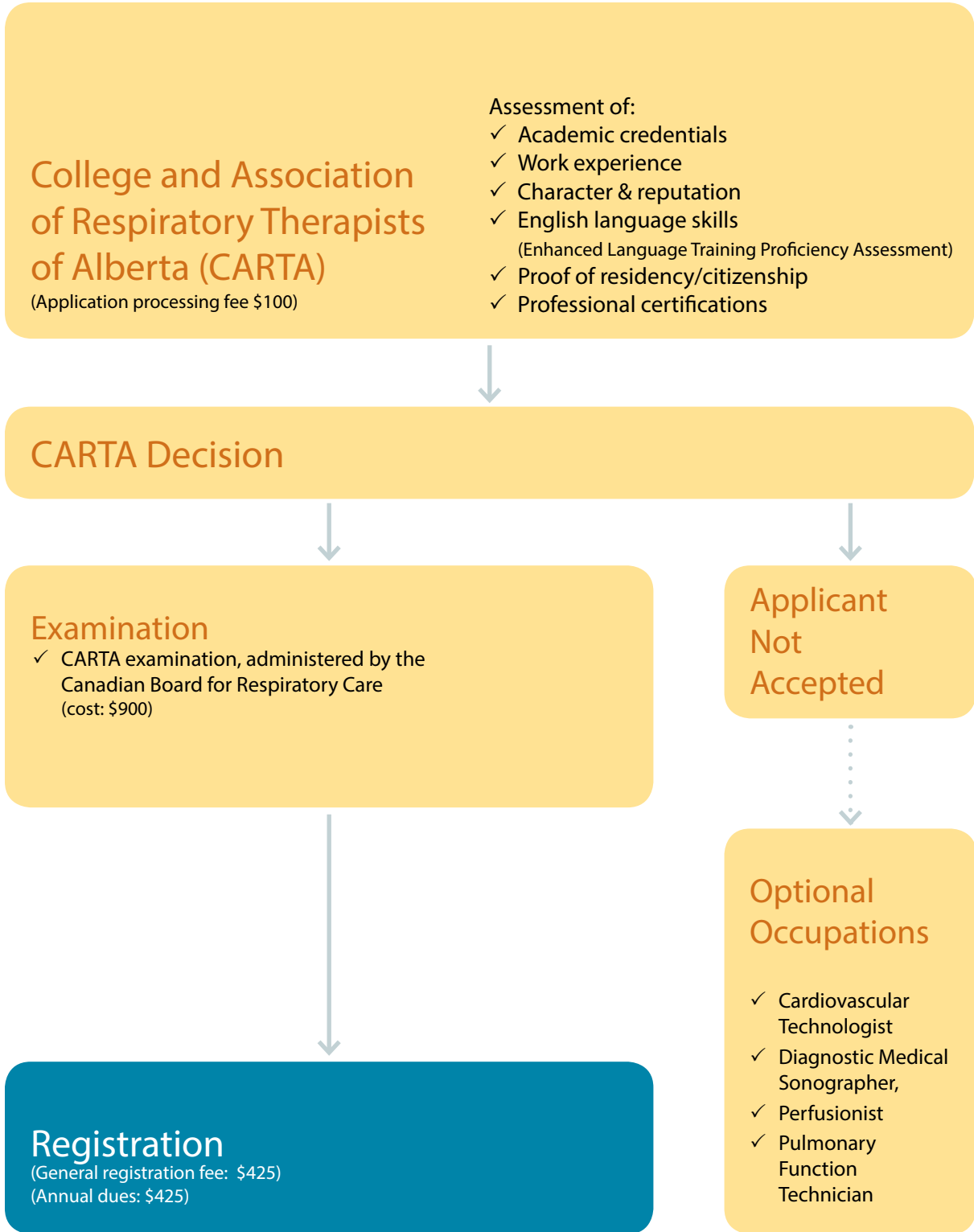


# Respiratory Therapist

## Registration Process



## **Respiratory Therapist**

### Registration Process

#### **Description of Occupation**

Registered Respiratory Therapists work with patients who have heart and lung troubles. These troubles may be related to acute and chronic disorders such as asthma or emphysema, or could be due to a sleep disorder, heart disease, trauma, problematic birth or organ system failure.

They work with other health care professionals to care for their patients. Their duties might include assessing their patient's cardio-respiratory symptoms, administering tests and medications, providing mechanical ventilation therapy or cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) services, inserting artificial airways and other necessary respiratory procedures.

Respiratory Therapists in Alberta typically work 12-hour day or night shifts in hospitals, care facilities, patient's homes or clinical laboratories. They may work weekends on call or have to travel within a service area.

#### **Obtaining Registration in Alberta**

You must register with the College and Association of Respiratory Therapists of Alberta (CARTA) in order to work as a Respiratory Therapist in Alberta.

To do this, you will need to do the following:

- Have your academic credentials verified by CARTA.
- Prove that you have completed the necessary work experience.
- Provide proof of good character and reputation.
- Successfully complete the required English language testing.
- Successfully complete the required examination.
- Complete a Registration Verification Form, if you have been registered in another jurisdiction. (This form is available by request.)
- Pay the required application and registration fees.

Contact information and other resources are at the end of this document.

#### **Residency Requirement**

You must be either a Canadian citizen or have permanent residency status in order to register with CARTA. You are required to provide proof of your status in Canada with your application.

#### **Requirements**

Internationally educated Respiratory Therapists must meet the following requirements:

### **1. Academic Credentials**

You must prove your academic credentials by providing CARTA with these documents:

- A copy of your Respiratory Therapy diploma  
OR
- A certified transcript from your Respiratory Therapy school  
AND
- A copy of your Certificate of Registration from the Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists (CSRT) or the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC). You may write the NBRC registration examination in Calgary or Edmonton or take the NBRC examination at an international testing centre or a location in the United States, if you have not already done so in your home jurisdiction. Or, you may choose to submit a copy of your resumé and any documentation that shows your professional development activities or work experience for CARTA to consider in place of the CSRT or NBRC certificates.
- A basic assessment conducted by the International Qualifications Assessment Service (IQAS).

### **2. Work Experience**

You must have one (1) of the following in order to register with CARTA:

- 1,500 practice hours of work in the previous four (4) years (must be verified by your previous employer)  
OR
- 1,500 hours of clinical hours from your Respiratory Therapy program, if you have just graduated

### **3. Good Character and Reputation**

You must provide two (2) character declarations signed and dated by someone who is not related to you in order to prove your good character and reputation.

### **4. English Language**

Competency in the English language is very important in the registration process. If you were educated in a language other than English, you must take the Enhanced Language Training Proficiency Assessment (ELTPA). You must score at least a Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) level nine (9) in each of these categories:

- Reading;
- Writing;
- Listening; and
- Speaking.

Note:

CARTA does not accept any other form of English language test.

## 5. Examinations

There is one (1) examination you will be required to take:

- The CARTA examination, which is administered by the Canadian Board for Respiratory Care (CBRC).

It consists of two (2) written papers, with a time frame of two (2) hours to write the first paper and four (4) hours to write the second paper. It is held in January and July of each year at a designated site in Edmonton or Calgary, Alberta.

## 6. Other Requirements

You do not need to obtain liability insurance before registering, but you will need to get it before you can practice in Alberta. You need at least \$2 million in liability insurance, which may be obtained through your employer or privately. You must inform CARTA when you have obtained your insurance.

### Payment

The following fees must be submitted during the registration process. Registration is from April 1 until March 31 of the following year. Fees are prorated each November. For example, if you register in June, you will need to pay the full year's fees. If you register in December, you will only need to pay the prorated amount. Contact the ACAC for payment arrangements. Fees are in Canadian dollars.

|  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Application Fee for Experienced Applicants                                       | \$100                             |
| Registration Fee for Experienced Applicants                                      | \$425 (Prorated amount: \$212.50) |
| Application Fee for New Graduates  | \$100                             |
| Renewal Fee for New Graduates  | \$425 (Prorated amount: \$112.50) |
| Annual Dues  | \$425                             |
| CARTA Examination  | \$900                             |
| *Fees are subject to change. See college & association for most up-to-date fees. |                                   |

### Average Earnings

The overall average earnings for all Respiratory Therapists, according to the Alberta 2013 Wage and Salary survey:

|                               |          |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Average hours worked per week | 31.7     |
| Average wage per hour         | \$41.91  |
| Average salary per year       | \$69,192 |

### Employment Options

You can also consider working in Alberta in related occupations such as a Cardiovascular Technologist, Diagnostic Medical Sonographer, Paramedic, Perfusionist or Pulmonary Function Technician.

For more information about additional employment options, go to the following website: [Alberta Learning Information Service \(ALIS\) Occupational Profiles — Respiratory Therapist](http://www.alis.alberta.ca/occinfo) (for information on all occupations, see [www.alis.alberta.ca/occinfo](http://www.alis.alberta.ca/occinfo)).

## Contact Information

College and Association of Respiratory Therapists of Alberta  
Suite #218, 6715 - 8<sup>th</sup> Street N.E.  
Calgary, Alberta T2E 7H7  
Telephone: 403-274-1828  
Toll-Free: 800-205-2778  
Fax: 403-274-9703  
Email: [bryan.buell@carta.ca](mailto:bryan.buell@carta.ca)  
Website: [www.carta.ca](http://www.carta.ca)

## Resources

This information is an overview of the registration process. For the most current information on Respiratory Therapist registration visit the CARTA website at [www.carta.ca](http://www.carta.ca).

Application Forms and Information:

[Application Process](#)

[Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists \(CSRT\) Membership Information](#)

[English Language Proficiency Requirements](#)

[Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists](#)

Examinations:

[Canadian Board for Respiratory Care Inc. \(CBRC\)](#)

[National Board for Respiratory Care \(NBRC\)](#)