POLYSOMNOGRAPHIC TECHNICIAN

JOB SUMMARY
Performs a wide range of diagnostic tests and treatment of patients with various sleep/wake disorders. Performs artifact free overnight recordings of numerous sleep/wake physiologic parameters in order to provide data for interpretation by a physician. (Additional details below)

TRAINING / EXPERIENCE NEEDED
- Certification with the Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists (CSRT) and/or certification with the Board of Registered Polysomnographic Technologists (BRPT).
- Graduation from a recognised program in Respiratory Therapy and two (2) years recent, related experience, or an equivalent combination of education, training and experience.
- Current Basic Cardiac Life Support (BCLS) certification.

POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS
- Thompson Rivers University (link)

PROGRAM LENGTH
- **TRU Program:** Although all students are admitted into the RT diploma program, there are two completion options:
  - Option one is a 3 year Diploma stream
  - Option two is a 4 year dual Diploma/Degree stream.
- Students declare interest to enter into the Diploma/Degree stream during year one of the program. The dual Diploma/Degree stream allows successful students to graduate with both a 3 year RT diploma and a 4 year Bachelor of Health Science Degree within a four year period.

QUICK FACTS
**The Wage**
- $27.31 hourly

SKILLS AND ABILITIES NEEDED
- Demonstrated knowledge of Sleep Laboratory testing and equipment.
- Demonstrated knowledge of normal cardio-respiratory, neurological and sleep physiology.
- Proven interest and aptitude in technical aspects of Polysomnography.
- Ability to integrate these technical aspects with knowledge of sleep and respiratory-cardiac pathophysiology.
- Ability to work independently with limited supervision.
- Ability to communicate effectively both verbally and in writing.
- Ability to establish and maintain effective relationships with patients and all levels of laboratory and hospital personnel.
- Demonstrated attention to detail.
- Ability to maintain vigilance in a non-stimulating environment for several continuous hours, without break, during the night.
- Ability to assimilate data from several sources and anticipate initiation of care in accordance with protocol.
- Ability to respond quickly and calmly in emergency situations.
- Ability to organize work.
- Ability to operate related equipment, including a computer utilizing a variety of software.

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ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- A selective Admission process is used to determine admission to year one of the Respiratory Therapy Diploma Program. Since there are a limited number of seats in this program applications should be submitted early. It is important to complete all aspects of your application.

- Minimum Educational Requirements
  - B.C. Grade 12 Graduation with a C+ average or Mature Student Status
  - B.C. Math 12 or equivalent C+ minimum grade
  - B.C. Chemistry 12 or equivalent C+ minimum grade
  - B.C. Biology 12 or equivalent C+ minimum grade
  - B.C. English 12 C+ minimum grade or ENGL 060 with a C+
  - B.C. Physics 11 or equivalent C+ minimum grade

Additional Selection Criteria information as well as General Requirements and Require Documentation etc, can be found at: [http://www.tru.ca/science/rt/requirements.html](http://www.tru.ca/science/rt/requirements.html)

Thompson Rivers University requirements. Subject to change. Requirements will vary between educational facilities.

RELATED LINKS

- Board of Registered Polysomnographic Technologists - [http://www.brpt.org/](http://www.brpt.org/)
- BC Society of Respiratory Therapists - [http://www.bcsrt.ca/](http://www.bcsrt.ca/)

JOB TASKS - A SAMPLE

- Prepare the patient for testing by explaining procedures, applying appropriate electrodes, monitoring devices, and acquiring appropriate medical history.
- Sets up and calibrates equipment required for sleep studies including electrocardiograph (ECG), electromyograph (EMG), electroencephalograph (EEG), electrooculograph (EOG). Attaches equipment to patient to monitor and record data from oral/nasal airflow, ventilatory movement, arterial oxygen saturation, and audio/visual monitoring. Prepares patient for tests.
- Performs nCPAP/BiLevel titration, ventilator adjustments, supplemental oxygen administration, arterial blood gas sampling.
- Recognizes and documents sleep and cardiopulmonary or neurological pathology when it occurs and responds with appropriate intervention, consultation, and/or treatment to ensure patient safety.
- Monitors patient and equipment during testing and flags significant events as they occur.
- Identifies, documents and remedies the occurrence of signal artifact, electrode disconnect, and ancillary monitoring equipment malfunction.
- Collects arterial blood samples as required.
- Analyzes collected data and prepares reports that accurately summarizes the patient's sleep/wake stages, arousal occurrence, respiratory events, cardiac events, limb movements body position, arterial oxygen saturation, supplemental oxygen and nCPAP treatment, as well as other clinical events of significance.
- Documents any significant, unexpected, unusual, or pertinent observations or events that occur during testing.
- Schedules patient appointments according to clinical urgency, workload, and need.
- Performs Multiple Sleep Latency Test, Maintenance of Wakefulness Test and other testing.
- Terminates test at the appropriate time and disconnects monitors from patient.
- Performs routine maintenance and cleaning of equipment.

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- Participates in laboratory Quality Control and Quality Assurance Programs.
- Maintains statistics on workload and service utilization.
- Performs other related duties as assigned.