“Cardiopulmonary rehabilitation promotes health, wellness, and prevention of heart and lung disease. Courses examine electrocardiography, clinical exercise in testing and prescription, cardiopulmonary risk prevention, and more. Curriculum is structured around the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) knowledge, skills and ability learner outcomes; students are encouraged sitting for the ACSM (Exercise Specialist) certification exam after graduation. Graduates work in hospitals with patients who are suffering from heart, pulmonary, and other life diseases, and use a therapeutic program of exercise, risk factor reduction and education” (Winona State University Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation Department, n.d.).

The National Association of Colleges and Employers (2011) reports that hiring for the Class of 2011 (all majors) nationally is up 5.9% with an average salary offer of $50,462. Hiring for the Midwest region is reported by The Collegiate Employment Research Institute (2010) as also increasing by 10% for Bachelor graduates with an average salary of $36,866, which is down from the past two years. The Midwest Colleges and Employers Association (2010) reports regional (12 state Midwest region) hiring is increasing by 9% with an average starting salary of $35,453 for all Bachelor degree recipients.

<table>
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<th>AREAS</th>
<th>EMPLOYERS</th>
<th>PREPARATION</th>
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| CAREER CHOICES | MEDICAL ORGANIZATIONS: | • Hospitals  
• Clinics  
• Nursing Home Facilities  
Catheter labs  
Patient education  
Community Rehabilitation  
ECG fields | • Skills: ability to assist patients in prolonging survival, adjusting to illness, reduce risk factors, provide education and guidance. Work in areas of cardiology or pulmonologist, exercise physiologist, physical and occupational therapist, rehabilitation nurse, case managers, dieticians  
• A 600-hour “capstone” clinical internship is required  
• Take the ACSM (Exercise Specialist) certification exam. |
| • Director of Cardiovascular Services  
• Director of Diabetic Rehabilitation  
• Director of Community Fitness  
• Electrocardiographic Stress Testing  
• Kinesiotherapist  
• Chief Vascular Technologist  
• Patient Care Management  
• Pain Management Coordinator  
• Health and Fitness Coordinator  
• Surgical Prosthesis Sales  
• Pharmaceutical Sales  
• Pharmaceutical Research Assistant  
• Cardiovascular Research Assistant  
• University Instructors  
• Community College Instructors  
• Ph.D. Education  
• Medical School Education  
• Physician Assistant Education  
• Physical Therapist Education  
• Registered Nurse Education  
• Extracorporeal Technologist |
## EXERCISE SCIENCE: CARDIOPULMONARY REHABILITATION

What can I do with this degree?

### LINKS

| American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance | National Multicultural Institute |
| American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation | National Safety Council |
| American College of Sports Medicine | National Stroke Association |
| American Council on Exercise | SOPHE - Society for Public Health Education |
| American Dietetic Association | Weight Control Information Network (NIH) |
| American Heart Association | Wellness Councils of America and Canada |
| APHA - American Public Health Association | Women's Health |
| Association for Worksite Health Promotion | World Health Organization |
| CHES-Certified Health Education Specialists | |
| Healthy People 2010 | |
| Mayo Health Clinic | |

Prepared by the Career Planning staff of Career Services at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. (2003)

### The following is a representative sample of types of job positions in cardiopulmonary rehabilitation (not all possible options are listed):

#### Cardiovascular Technician
This profession is projected to grow at a rate of +1.8% annually (Economic Research Institute, 2010). Nationally, there are 63,200 employed positions with annual national salary averaging $48,000 per year (United States Department of Labor, 2009). In Minnesota, there are 840 employed positions with an annual state salary averaging $50,500 per year (United States Department of Labor). Starting salary for cardiovascular technicians are $35,000 per year on the national level and $37,000 per year in Minnesota. Typically, this profession achieves a 2 to 4 year degree (DISCOVER, n.d.).

#### Physician
Physicians are projected to grow at a rate of +2.2% annually (Economic Research Institute, 2010). Nationally, there are 99,000 employed positions with an annual national salary averaging $177,500 per year (United States Department of Labor, 2009). In Minnesota, there are 3,530 employed positions with an annual state salary averaging $187,000 per year (United States Department of Labor). Starting salary for a Physician is $119,500 per year on the national level and $187,000 per year in Minnesota. A Medical degree is required for this profession (DISCOVER, n.d.).
Respiratory Therapist
The profession of a Respiratory Therapist is projected to grow at a rate of +2.1% annually (Economic Research Institute, 2010). Nationally, there are 107,300 employed positions with an annual national salary averaging $51,000 per year (United States Department of Labor, 2009). In Minnesota, there are 1,430 employed positions with an annual state salary averaging $54,000 per year (United States Department of Labor). Respiratory Therapists starting salary is $41,500 per year on the national level and $44,000 per year in Minnesota. A Bachelor’s degree is the required education requirement for this profession. All states with the exception of Alaska and Hawaii require Respiratory Therapists to obtain a license (DISCOVER, n.d.).

For additional information please follow the provided links below:

- Career One Stop: [http://www.careeronestop.org/](http://www.careeronestop.org/)
- O*Net Online: [http://www.onetonline.org/](http://www.onetonline.org/)