



Ohio Respiratory Care Board

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Frequently Asked Question Regarding Ohio's Examination Recognition Rule: OAC 4761-5-01

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Questions:

1. When did the revised examination rule become effective?
2. If I am currently licensed in Ohio, does this rule have any effect on ability to practice respiratory care?
3. If I am licensed in another state, can I obtain a license in Ohio?
4. If I am a graduate from an Ohio Respiratory Care Education program but have not taken my RRT examination, am I eligible for licensure in Ohio?
5. Does this rule strictly mandate the RRT credential to obtain a license in Ohio?

Answers:

1. When did the revised examination rule become effective?

Answer: Revised OAC rule 4761-5-01 became effective on April 24, 2013. This rule supersedes all other versions of this rule. While the rule is in effect now, the full impact of the rule relating to examination recognition changes will not go into effect until January 1, 2015.

2. If I am currently licensed in Ohio, does this rule have any effect on ability to practice respiratory care?

Answer: Any person that has been issued a license in the state of Ohio prior to January 1, 2015, can continue to practice respiratory care in the state of Ohio without interruption. Revised OAC Rule 4761-5-01 does not have any impact on persons already licensed in the state of Ohio before January 1, 2015. Employers may have independent hiring standards that meet or exceed the minimum licensure standards.

3. If I am licensed in another state, can I obtain a license in Ohio?

Answer: An out-of-state applicant will be eligible for Ohio licensure if they hold a license or licenses in another state based upon standards that are equivalent to the standards for licensure in the State of Ohio. The out-of-state license(s) must be active and valid. The out-of-state license must have been issued in part or whole based upon successful completion of the following examinations offered by the National Board for Respiratory Care, Inc. (NBRC):

1. The certified respiratory therapist examination (CRT) taken prior to January 1, 2015; or
2. The registered respiratory therapist examination (RRT) consisting of both the written and clinical simulation portions.

and

Each state of origin must require licensees to complete at least as many contact hours of continuing education as the State of Ohio, and the applicant must be current on obtaining and reporting completed continuing education to each state based on the renewal schedule of each state.

This means that an applicant issued a new license in another state after January 1, 2015 must hold the RRT credential to be eligible for licensure in the State of Ohio. Applicants issued a license in another state prior to January 1, 2015 will be eligible for Ohio licensure if the out-of-state license was issued based on the CRT or RRT credential.

Keep in mind that all respiratory care education programs, beginning in 2013, are Registered Respiratory Therapist programs. This means that all new graduates are eligible to take the RRT written and clinical simulation examination given by the National Board for Respiratory Care, Inc.

- 4. If I am a graduate from an Ohio Respiratory Care Education program, have not taken my RRT examination, and I am not licensed in Ohio or in any other state prior to January 1, 2015, am I eligible for licensure in Ohio?**

Answer: If a person already held a license in the state of Ohio issued prior to January 1, 2015, this rule would have no effect on continued licensure, because the license would be issued based upon the CRT or RRT examination. Similarly, if a person holds an out-of-state license issued prior to January 1, 2015 based upon either the CRT examination or the RRT examination, the applicant would be eligible for Ohio licensure.

A new graduate seeking an initial license after January 1, 2015 must successfully complete the RRT examination consisting of both the written and clinical simulation portions to be eligible for licensure in Ohio.

5. Does this rule strictly mandate the RRT credential to obtain a license in Ohio?

Answer: No. The rule establishes January 1, 2015 as the date new licensees must earn the RRT credential to be eligible for Ohio licensure, regardless of whether the applicant is from Ohio or another state. The rule does not mandate this requirement for persons already licensed here or in another state prior to January 1, 2015. The following three examples demonstrate this point:

(1) Scenario #1: A person holding a valid and active license that was issued in Kentucky on June 1, 2010 based upon passing the CRT examination files for a new license in Ohio on September 1, 2015. Would the applicant be eligible for Ohio licensure?

Answer: Yes, the applicant would be eligible for Ohio licensure.

(2) Scenario #2: A person holding a valid and active license that was issued in in another state on June 1, 2015 based upon passing the CRT examination files an application on September 1, 2015 for a new license in Ohio. Would the applicant be eligible for Ohio licensure?

Answer: No, the applicant would not be eligible for Ohio licensure until they took and passed the RRT examination consisting of both the written and clinical simulation portions.

(3) Scenario #3: A person graduates from an accredited respiratory care program on June 10, 2015 takes and passes the CRT examination. The person applies for a license in Ohio and another state. Would the applicant be eligible for Ohio licensure?

Answer: No. The applicant would not be eligible for Ohio licensure until they took and passed the RRT examination consisting of both the written and clinical simulation portions. On the other hand, depending upon the other state's rules at the time of application, the graduate may be eligible for licensure in that state.