

Engaging with the AARC: A Student's Guide

The American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) Student Toolkit is a comprehensive resource designed to support students in the field of respiratory care. This toolkit provides valuable materials, guidelines, and insights that enhance learning and professional development. For students, it is a gateway to understanding the intricacies of respiratory care and the resources available to them through AARC. Respiratory care education is vital in the healthcare sector, as it equips professionals with the knowledge and skills necessary to treat patients with respiratory disorders. This field is integral to patient care, particularly for those suffering from chronic respiratory diseases, acute respiratory distress, and other conditions that affect breathing.

About AARC

The AARC was founded in 1947 as the American Association of Inhalation Therapists and later renamed in 1974 to reflect the broader scope of respiratory care. Its mission is to promote respiratory health through advocacy, education, and research. AARC strives to advance the respiratory care profession by providing resources, support, and networking opportunities for its members, who include respiratory therapists, educators, students, and other professionals in the field.

AARC plays a crucial role in advancing the field of respiratory care by setting standards, advocating for legislative policies, and providing continuing education opportunities. The association collaborates with healthcare organizations, government agencies, and educational institutions to ensure quality care for patients with respiratory disorders. AARC also publishes clinical practice guidelines, and hosts conferences and events to facilitate knowledge exchange and professional development within the respiratory care community.

Benefits of AARC Student Membership

Students are the future of respiratory care. By engaging with AARC, students can influence the direction of the profession, stay updated with advancements, and develop skills that will benefit their careers. Active involvement with AARC offers students a platform to voice their ideas, contribute to important initiatives, and build a professional network.

Professional Development Opportunities

- **Access to Educational Resources** - Student members can access a wealth of educational materials, including journals, textbooks, and online courses that enhance their knowledge and skills. Student members can also receive free access to the following courses:
 - [Campus to Career: Crucial Steps for Moving from Student to RRT](#)
 - [Student Success: Optimizing Your Professional Settings](#)
- **Continuing Education Credits** - AARC offers opportunities to earn [continuing education](#) credits, essential for maintaining licensure and staying current in the field.
- **Webcasts** - AARC [webcasts](#) are online educational events that take place right on your computer. AARC members can attend a live event and earn free CRCE© credit or watch a past program and take a quick test for credit.

- **Respiratory Care Journal** - Members gain access to the [official monthly science journal of AARC](#) that highlights the latest in research. It is indexed in PubMed and included in the *Web of Science*.
- **Workshops and Conferences** - Students can attend workshops and conferences, such as the AARC Congress, where they can learn from experts, participate in hands-on sessions, and gain insights into the latest trends in respiratory care. Students can also volunteer for an opportunity to gain free entrance to conferences.

Networking Opportunities

- **Connection with Professionals in the Field** - AARC student membership provides access to a network of experienced professionals who can offer guidance, advice, and support for a respiratory therapist's entire career.
- **Mentorship Programs** - Programs like [AARConnect](#) offer mentorship opportunities, where students can be paired with seasoned practitioners for career advice and professional growth.

Career Advancement

- **Job Postings and Career Resources** - The [AARC Career Center](#) lists employment opportunities and resources that help students transition from education to employment.
- **Recognition and Awards** - AARC acknowledges the achievements of students through various awards, scholarships, and fellowships, boosting their professional profiles. More information about student resources can be found at <https://arcfoundation.org/>.

Advocacy and Involvement

- **Opportunities to Influence Policy and Legislation** - Students can participate in [advocacy](#) efforts, such as attending state meetings where legislative issues are being discussed and contributing to policy changes that benefit the respiratory care profession and patients.
- **Involvement in Community Health Initiatives** - Through AARC, students can engage in initiatives that promote respiratory health in their communities, such as health fairs, gaining practical experience and making a positive impact.

Engaging With The AARC

Volunteer

- **Volunteer at Congress and Summer Forum for Reduced Rates** - By volunteering at events like the AARC Congress and Summer Forum, students can attend these events at a reduced cost, gaining access to valuable learning experiences. If you'd like to volunteer, please email us at info@aacrc.org for more details.
- **Volunteer on Committees** - Students can join AARC committees at their state society and get involved to help shape the association's direction. Volunteering for committees also allows you to gain leadership experience and network with professionals.
- **Sputum Bowl** - The **Sputum Bowl** is an exciting quiz-style competition held at the AARC Congress. Teams of respiratory care practitioners and students compete to test their knowledge of respiratory care topics. Participating in the Sputum Bowl is a fun way to learn, network, and showcase expertise.

Students are encouraged to actively engage with AARC, utilizing the [resources](#) available you will enhance your education and career prospects significantly. Participation in AARC initiatives can also impact your professional journey and the future of respiratory care.

Questions?

If you need further information or assistance, please visit the AARC website at www.aarc.org or email us directly at info@aacrc.org or call us at 1-972-243-2272.

