

**Professional Qualifications Committee [PQC] Update
Strategic Plan Goal #2: Incorporate Baccalaureate Degree Provision
in the Respiratory Care Practice Act (RCPA)
October 28, 2022**

The PQC has researched and presented 3 study sessions to explore the professional landscape as it relates to the RCB Strategic Plan Goal relating to threshold academic requirements for licensure. The PQC will continue its work to identify models and assemble survey questions to support recommendations to Strategic Plan Goal #2:

PQC Procedural Steps:

1. Invite discipline experts to provide feedback to the qualifications committee as a survey and models are being identified.
2. Identify various applicable models to incorporate a bachelor's degree as part of minimum licensure qualifications. Demonstrate strengths and weaknesses of each model.
3. Develop a survey for stakeholder feedback.

Possible Models for Exploration:

1. Bachelor's as minimum requirement for entry into the practice.
2. Ladder from Associate to Bachelor's - students could complete the first two years through their program, then work under direct supervision for the next two years to complete their bachelor's coursework.
3. A bachelor's degree would be required within a certain time of obtaining California licensure for all new RCPs entering the practice with an associate degree.
4. Residency – an internship model for competency prior to licensure award.
5. Two-tier licensure - Advanced practice would require a bachelor's degree with limitations on associate degree graduates.
6. Maintain current associate degree threshold requirements.

Discipline expertise areas invited to share perspectives and feedback around academic preparation minimum qualifications:

- Employer representation (cross section academic/ inpatient/skilled nursing facilities/DMSs/case management, pulmonary rehab and asthma care).
- Academic and Clinical educators (directors, faculty, coordinators, etc.).
- Professional organization representation - AARC, CSRC, CoARC, CoBGRTE, NBRC.
- Physician representation.
- Recent licensed graduates.
- Specialty areas (case management, clinical lab, conscious sedation, ECMO, neonatal/pediatrics, PFT, research, etc.).