

- **Exchange of Gases through Respiratory Membrane**

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- Objectives

By the end of this session, the student should be able to:

- List the layers of respiratory membrane.
- Discuss the factors affecting rate of gas diffusion through respiratory membrane.
- Define diffusion capacity and discuss oxygen and carbon dioxide diffusion capacities.
- Define ventilation-perfusion ratio and discuss how it is changes with

various variations in blood and air flow.

- **Layers of Respiratory Membrane**

- A layer of fluid lining alveolus and containing surfactant
- The alveolar epithelium
- An epithelial basement membrane
- A thin interstitial space between alveolar epithelium and capillary membrane
- A capillary basement membrane
- The capillary endothelial membrane