Respiratory Therapy (A45720)

Associate in Applied Science

The Respiratory Therapy curriculum prepares individuals to function as respiratory therapists. In these roles, individuals perform diagnostic testing, treatments, and management of patients with heart and lung diseases.

Students will master skills in patient assessment and treatment of cardiopulmonary diseases. These skills include life support, monitoring, drug administration, and treatment of patients of all ages in a variety of settings.

Graduates of accredited programs may be eligible to take entry-level examinations from the National Board for Respiratory Care. Therapy graduates may also take the Advanced Practitioner examination. Graduates may be employed in hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, education, industry, and home care.

The Respiratory Therapy Program is fully accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC). Students receive clinical experience in a variety of hospitals and healthcare organizations throughout the entire Piedmont Triad Area of North Carolina and Southwest Virginia.

The Medical Director of the Respiratory Therapy Program is Edward L. Hawkins, MD, FCCP. Dr. Hawkins received his BS degree from Auburn University, his MD from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and is a Fellow of the American College of Chest Physicians. Dr. Hawkins is board certified in internal and pulmonary medicine.

Respiratory Therapy students should be prepared to incur additional expenses beyond tuition and college fees. These expenses may include medical examinations or vaccinations, uniforms, insurance, books and miscellaneous supplies. An estimate of these specific expenses include:

### First Year

- *CPR Certification: $6
- Medical Exam: $100
- Immunizations (which includes but not limited to Hep B, TB, Flu, childhood immunizations): $300
- Student Accident Insurance: $6
- Malpractice Insurance: $16
- Uniforms: $140
- Respiratory Therapy Books: $300
- *Drug Screen: $45
- *Criminal Background Check: Minimum of $35 but can increase with multi-state searches
- Miscellaneous Supplies: $100

### Second Year

- Required Annual Immunizations: $100
- Malpractice Insurance: $16
- Student Accident Insurance: $6
- NBRC Exams: $120
- School Pin (optional): $50-110
- Respiratory Therapy Books: $300
- Miscellaneous Supplies: $100
- Kettering Seminar: $425
- Graduation Fee: $25
- *Drug Screen: $45
- ACLS: $76.50

*Subject to change
### First Year Therapist

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<th>Class</th>
<th>Lab</th>
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### Second Year Therapist

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TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS: 73

CLINICAL CONTACT HOURS: 894

RESPIRATORY LAB HOURS: 381
Respiratory Therapy Program

Admissions Criteria

The Respiratory Therapy program has admission criteria beyond the regular requirements of RCC.

The Respiratory Therapy program is a limited-enrollment program. Eligible applicants are admitted on a space available basis to the program in the fall semester, provided they have met both general and program admission requirements. Individuals who are interested in the program must obtain a Respiratory Therapy Admission Information packet from the Student Development Division. Once an applicant has completed all requirements noted on the check sheet, he/she must meet with a counselor in Student Development to verify, complete and submit the Review Form. Applicants must submit the Review Form by the assigned deadline in order to be considered for the fall 2017 class. Incomplete Review Forms or forms submitted after the deadline will not be considered unless space remains available. Applicants who are reviewed and found ineligible for consideration must submit a new Review Form and required documentation for the fall 2018 class.

Additional Criteria

Once admitted to the Respiratory Therapy Program, students must attend a required orientation session, complete drug testing and a criminal background checks before students are allowed to participate in clinical activities. Clinical affiliates may deny a student access to their facilities based on the results of the criminal background check or drug screen, and the student may be dismissed from the program for failure to progress. Drug screening and criminal background check policies will be reviewed at the program orientation. A drug screen will additionally be performed during the second year of the program.

Dismissal Criteria

1. Academic Dismissal

The respiratory therapist student must meet the academic standards of the college. In addition, the following program academic standards are required:

a. Minimum of a “C” grade in all Respiratory Therapy Program curriculum courses.

b. Performance requirements are listed in each course syllabus. The student will not be permitted to progress in the program unless a satisfactory grade is attained in the laboratory and clinical component of the curriculum each semester. Absence and tardy policies are outlined in each course syllabus.

c. The student must not fall behind the sequence of the curriculum plan for all RCP, BIO, or CHM, HUM, ENG courses as outlined in the college catalog.

d. A cumulative GPA of 2.5 or greater is required as part of the admission's criteria, and students must maintain an RCC GPA of at least a 2.0 to remain in the program after admission.

2. Non-Academic Dismissal

Individuals enrolled in the Respiratory Therapy Program may be dismissed for non-academic reasons. Students should refer to the college catalog, student handbook, or program policies and procedures distributed during orientation for specific reasons relative to non-academic dismissal.

Readmission

Because of the content and organization of the learning experiences in the program, withdrawal and academic dismissal should be avoided. However, should this become necessary, readmission may be considered. Students may be readmitted to the program following withdrawal or dismissal after the following criteria have been met:

1. The student was out of the program for at least one semester.

2. The student has demonstrated or proven to the program faculty that any physical, emotional, or professional cause for previous dismissal has been managed, treated, or corrected.

3. The student has updated medical immunizations and malpractice insurance.
4. The student has provided a letter of intent for readmission to the Program Director at least six months prior to program readmission.
5. Space is available in the program.
6. The student’s readmission is approved by program faculty and the Dean of Health and Public Safety.
7. Students may re-enter the program one time only.
8. Students may not be readmitted to the program if previous dismissal was disciplinary in nature or related to an infraction of RCC, clinical affiliate, or program policies.
9. The student’s RCC cumulative GPA is 2.0 or better.

Prior Biology Courses
In order to receive credit, curriculum biology courses (BIO 168, BIO 169) that have been taken previously must have been completed with a “C” or better within seven calendar years of the start of the program.

Transfer Applicants
1. Transfer into the Respiratory Therapy Program, when space is available, is limited to applicants who:
   a. meet the Rockingham Community College and program admission requirements,
   b. have enrolled in a respiratory therapy program in another institution, and
   c. have left or will leave another respiratory therapy program in good standing documented by the previous program director.
2. Courses from technical institutes, colleges, and universities may be accepted if a grade of “C” has been achieved and if the courses are comparable to those offered at RCC.
3. Respiratory Therapy courses completed will be evaluated and transfer credit determined by the Program Director. Based on the evaluation of transfer credit, the program of study will be determined by the Program Director.

Other transfer applicants to the Respiratory Therapy Program may transfer to the college and then proceed through the regular admission process for entry into the Respiratory Therapy Program.

Performance Standards
Individuals enrolled in the Respiratory Therapy Program are expected to be able to perform certain activities to maintain standards of safety. The Respiratory Therapy student must possess the following skills:

**Critical Thinking Skills:** The respiratory therapy student must possess critical thinking skills sufficient for clinical judgement. This involves identifying cause and effect relationships in clinical situations.

**Interpersonal skills:** The respiratory therapy student should possess interpersonal skills sufficient to interact with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, economic, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds. For example, the student should be able to establish a helping relationship with patients, families, and colleagues.

**Communication:** The respiratory therapy student should possess communication skills sufficient for interaction with others in a verbal and written format. Examples: perform patient teaching, write progress notes, interpret physician’s orders, provide verbal report to staff, record patient responses to treatments, consult with patient’s family members, or physicians.

**Mobility:** The respiratory therapy student should possess physical skills sufficient to move from room to room and maneuver in small spaces. For example, the student must be able to move around in patient rooms, work spaces and treatment areas and to administer cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

**Motor Skills:** The respiratory therapy student should possess gross and fine motor skills sufficient to provide safe and effective patient care. Examples: adjust ventilator settings, perform arterial puncture, calibrate equipment, transfer or position patients, and administer cardio pulmonary resuscitation.
**Hearing:** The respiratory therapy student should possess auditory skills sufficient to monitor and assess health needs. For example, the student must be able to hear monitor alarms, emergency signals, auscultatory sounds and cries for help. Ability sufficient to monitor and assess patient care and safety needs.

**Visual:** The respiratory therapy student should possess visual skills sufficient for observation and assessment necessary in providing patient care. For example, the student must be able to observe patient responses, see a change in skin color and read a manometer on a mechanical ventilator.

**Tactile:** The respiratory therapy student should possess tactile skills sufficient for physical assessment. For example, the student must be able to palpate a pulse, body sites, and determine skin temperature.

**Weight-Bearing:** The respiratory therapy student should possess the ability to maneuver and move 40-50 lbs. on a weekly or daily basis. For example, the student must be able to position and transfer patients.