

Respiratory Care

281-756-5661

Associate of Applied Science Degree Program (A.A.S.)

Purpose: The Respiratory Care Department offers a two-year program that prepares individuals for an allied health specialty in the clinical care and management of respiratory disorders. The graduate will possess advanced, intensive-care skills to assess, monitor and evaluate adult, pediatric and neonatal patients on mechanical ventilation. Respiratory therapists practice in a variety of settings, including intensive care units, neonatal/pediatric special care areas, general hospital floors, emergency/trauma units, extended care and rehabilitation facilities, and the home care environment. Respiratory Care courses consist of classroom, lab and supervised hospital experience. Graduates of the associate degree program may become Registered Respiratory Therapists (RRT) by passing the Therapist Multiple-Choice Examination and the Clinical Simulation Examination. Texas requires that respiratory care practitioners obtain a state license to practice respiratory care. The program is affiliated with several community hospitals including Ben Taub, Texas Children's, Memorial-Hermann, Methodist, St Luke's Episcopal Hospital, and eleven other clinical affiliates. The program (CoARC #200307) is fully accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC), 1248 Harwood Rd., Bedford, TX 76021-4244, 817-283-2835, www.coarc.com.

Admission Requirements:

1. To be considered for admission to the respiratory care program, the applicant must:
 - a. be a high school or GED graduate.
 - b. make application to ACC and fulfill the admission requirements, including THEA.
 - c. make application to the respiratory care program.
 - d. submit official transcripts of all previous college work to ACC Registrar's Office.
 - e. applicants are required to demonstrate an understanding of the responsibilities and duties of the profession through observation and discussion with a practicing therapist. Contact the director for details.
 - f. have completed the HESI A2 Entrance Exam and complete BIOL 2401, BIOL 2402 and ENGL 1301 with a grade no lower than a "C" prior to admission. Biology grades and test scores must be within 5 years of the time of application.
 - g. complete a physical examination form which includes TB skin test, and immunizations upon acceptance to the program.
 - h. as a condition of full acceptance into the program, a student must have a negative criminal background check and a clear drug screen.
 - i. personal health insurance is required.
 - j. a current CPR card is not required prior to acceptance. A CPR course will be taught in RSPT 1429.
 - k. not currently be on suspension or academic probation from ACC or another college or university.
2. Any science or respiratory care course completed more than five years prior to the student being accepted may not satisfy requirements for a degree in respiratory care.
3. Transfer students must complete the following:
 - a. meet the above admission criteria.
 - b. have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher on all courses being transferred into the respiratory care curriculum.
 - c. provide the Respiratory Care Department with a description and/or syllabus of each respiratory course being considered for transfer. .
 - d. Must complete a minimum of 18 semester hours at ACC in order to be considered a graduate.
4. Program begins in August.

Alternate Enrollment:

1. Alternate enrollment applies to those respiratory care personnel who are licensed and have not completed the associate degree.
2. Respiratory care professionals with at least two years' full-time experience in the field will have the opportunity to challenge respiratory care courses. These courses must be challenged in sequence unless permission is otherwise granted by the program director.

Progression Policies:

1. Respiratory care students will abide by the admission and curriculum requirements of the Respiratory Care Department at the time they are admitted or re-admitted to the program.
2. Once a student has enrolled in the respiratory care program, all respiratory care courses must be completed in the proper sequence as shown in the catalog and degree plan, or must have the approval of the program director.
3. No grade below a C in a respiratory care or academic course will be acceptable for progression.
4. A student will be terminated from the program if clinical performance is unsatisfactory as determined by the clinical instructor and the program director. This action may be taken at any time during the semester or at the end of the semester.
5. A student who makes a D or F in any science/respiratory care course may repeat that course once in order to obtain a C or better.
6. A student requiring hospitalization or sustaining an injury will be required to obtain a written statement from his/her physician verifying that the health status of the student is adequate for performance in the clinical agency. A student may not be allowed to return to the clinical area if he/she must be on medications which may interfere with the ability to perform satisfactorily.
7. A student who is pregnant must present a physician's statement giving evidence of her ability to perform the work required.
8. Students must complete the program within four years after initial acceptance.

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Course Number	Course Title	Credits
Prerequisites		
+BIOL 2401	Anatomy & Physiology I	4
+BIOL 2402	Anatomy & Physiology II	4
+ENGL 1301	Composition I	3
FIRST YEAR		
Fall Semester		
RSPT 1166	Practicum-Respiratory Care Therapist	1
RSPT 1207	Cardiopulmonary Anatomy & Physiology	2
RSPT 1331	Basic Respiratory Care Fundamentals II	3
RSPT 1225	Respiratory Care Sciences	2
RSPT 1429	Respiratory Care Fundamentals I	4
Spring Semester		
+Creative Arts or	Select from Creative Arts Core Curriculum or	3
+Language, Philosophy & Culture	Select from Language, Philosophy & Culture Core Curriculum	
RSPT 1266	Practicum I - Respiratory Care Therapist	2
RSPT 2217	Respiratory Care Pharmacology	2
RSPT 2310	Cardiopulmonary Disease	3
RSPT 2414	Mechanical Ventilation I	4
Summer Semester		
RSPT 1262	Clinical II - Respiratory Care Therapist	2
RSPT 2305	Pulmonary Diagnostics	3
RSPT 2314	Mechanical Ventilation II	3
SECOND YEAR		
Fall Semester		
RSPT 2355	Critical Care Monitoring	3
RSPT 2266	Practicum III - Respiratory Care Therapist	2
RSPT 2453	Neonatal/Pediatric Cardiopulmonary Care	4
BIOL 2420	Microbiology for Non-Science Majors	4
Spring Semester		
*RSPT 2131	Simulations in Respiratory Care	1
RSPT 2267	Practicum IV - Respiratory Care Therapist	2
RSPT 2166	Practicum V - Respiratory Care Therapist	1
RSPT 1191	Special Topics in Respiratory Therapy	1
+Social & Behavioral Sciences	Select from Social & Behavioral Science Core Curriculum	3
Total Credits Required for A.A.S. Respiratory Care		66

+ Denotes core requirement. Speak with Department Chair or Academic Advisor for proper course selection.

* Capstone Course