

## Admissions Essay Scoring Rubric — Why do you want to be a respiratory therapist? (250 words)

*Score each dimension independently. Average scores from all reviewers before recording in the Applicant Scoring tab. Essays must be reviewed blind (name removed).*

Dimension	1 pt — Below Standard	2 pts — Meets Standard	3 pts — Exceeds Standard	Max Pts
<b>1. Clarity of Purpose (Why RT specifically?)</b>	Vague or generic; could apply to any healthcare career. No clear connection to respiratory therapy.	States a reason for choosing RT that goes beyond general healthcare interest. Some specificity to the field.	Compelling, specific rationale for RT. Clearly articulates what draws them to this profession versus others.	<b>3</b>
<b>2. Personal Connection or Insight</b>	No personal story, relevant experience, or demonstrated reflection. Reads as generic or formulaic.	References a personal experience, exposure to the field, or moment of realization. Some reflection present.	Meaningful personal narrative or insight that reveals genuine motivation and self-awareness about the career path.	<b>3</b>
<b>3. Professional Awareness</b>	Little or no evidence of understanding what RTs do. Misconceptions may be present.	Shows basic awareness of RT scope — mentions patient populations, settings, or clinical tasks accurately.	Demonstrates clear understanding of the RT role, including clinical responsibilities, patient impact, or career scope.	<b>2</b>
<b>4. Written Communication</b>	Hard to follow; significant grammar/spelling errors; poorly organized; or significantly over/under word limit.	Generally clear and readable. Minor errors present but do not impede understanding. Near word limit.	Well-organized, clear, and concise. Writing quality reflects college-level communication. Within word limit.	<b>2</b>
<b>TOTAL ESSAY SCORE (sum of all 4 dimensions)</b>				<b>10</b>