

Associate in Applied Science in Respiratory Therapy

Introduction

The Associate of Applied Science in Respiratory Therapy (RT) prepares students to become valuable and dedicated members of the healthcare team. RT students obtain both the knowledge and the skills needed to practice cardio-pulmonary care through our program of didactic, laboratory and clinical preparation.

Respiratory therapists work with physicians and allied health professionals to diagnose and treat patients with disorders associated with the respiratory and cardiovascular systems. Therapists may be required to exercise considerable independent clinical judgment under the direct or indirect supervision of a physician. Therapists are trained to act as technical resource persons for both physicians and other health care professionals. RTs are members of the response teams that handle patient's respiratory and cardiac emergencies and are responsible for life support mechanical ventilation. They may work in all areas of the hospital including medical floors, adult, neonatal, and pediatric intensive care units, emergency rooms, flight transport on helicopters, physician offices, long term care, and home care.

Mission Statement

The mission of the RT program is to prepare professional, ethical, knowledgeable, competent, and compassionate registered respiratory therapists.

Program Accreditation

The Respiratory Therapy program is accredited by the Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC), 1248 Harwood Road, Bedford, Texas 76021-4244, Phone 817-283-2835.

Program Outcomes

Upon completion of the associate of applied science in respiratory therapy program our graduates will demonstrate competency in cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (clinical), and affective (professional) skills. In order to achieve these outcomes the graduate will:

1. Demonstrate critical thinking skills with a comprehensive knowledge base (cognitive skills) by assessing the patient's condition, developing a plan of treatment, and modifying that treatment as needed so that safe and quality cardio-respiratory therapy is given.
2. Demonstrate competency in diagnostic and therapeutic clinical (psychomotor) skills necessary to perform the expanding number of procedures that fall under cardiopulmonary care.

3. Demonstrate professional, ethical, caring, and culturally competent behaviors (affective skills) toward the patient, family members, and other members of the healthcare team.
4. Demonstrate effective professional communication and a commitment to lifelong learning.
5. Integrate health promotion and disease prevention strategies into current healthcare practice while focusing on quality and cost-effective protocols.

Minimum Performance Standards

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, respiratory therapy students must be, with reasonable accommodations, physically and mentally capable of performing minimal standards to meet program objectives. The Minimum Performance Standards for Admission and Progression include:

Essential Mental Abilities:

- Follow instructions and rules.
- Maintain reality orientation accompanied by short and long term memory.
- Apply basic mathematical and algebraic skills.
- Demonstrate safe practice within the defined clinical time period.
- Critical thinking ability sufficient for clinical judgment and for making quick life saving decisions.

Essential Communication Skills:

- Speak clearly in order to communicate with patients, families, healthcare team members, peers and faculty.
- Interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with diverse individuals, families and groups.
- Communication abilities sufficient for clear interaction with others in verbal and written form.
- Ability to independently read and accurately interpret written communications (i.e., test questions, MD orders).

Essential Physical Abilities:

- Gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective care.
- Stand and walk for eight to twelve hours/day.
- Walk quickly in response to emergencies and life saving procedures.
- Bend, squat, kneel, and twist upper and lower back.
- Assist in lifting or moving clients of all age groups and weights.
- Lift small equipment up to 35 pounds.
- Perform CPR (i.e., move above patient to compress chest and manually ventilate patient).
- Work with arms fully extended overhead.
- Use hands for grasping, pushing, pulling and fine manipulation.

- Demonstrate eye/hand coordination for manipulation of equipment (i.e., syringes, procedures, etc.).
- Auditory abilities sufficient to hear alarms, beepers, and pages.
- Auditory abilities to monitor breath sounds with a stethoscope and assess health needs.
- Visual abilities to see all colors of the spectrum, distinguish calibrated markers of 0.1 mm, identify digital displays and controls in low light conditions, determine depth of instrumentation placement, and read small print on medicine containers.
- Tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment.
- Any student who may require accommodations should schedule an appointment with the Program Director.

Professional Behavior:

The faculty expects students to exhibit professional behavior. The following is a list of expected professional behaviors:

- Demonstrates safety and honesty in all situations.
- Incorporates professional and ethical standards, including Patient Bill of Rights, and AARC Statement of Ethics and Professional Behavior.
- Incorporates respiratory therapy policies and procedures, standards of care, and clinical practice guidelines as appropriate.
- Demonstrates professional demeanor (e.g., dress code and smoking policies per college and program handbook, respect for others, accepts criticism, cooperative, controls temper, attentive and uses professional language).

Academic Policies

In addition to those policies published in the JCHS Catalog and JCHS Student Handbook, students are expected to follow the program policies as published in the Respiratory Therapy Program Handbook. This handbook is available electronically on the program blackboard site and may be requested from the department secretary.

Program Progression

In addition to the “Minimum Performance Standards” listed above, RT students must adhere to the following to remain in good academic standing:

1. Follow the required sequencing of courses in the program of study. Note: some non-RTH courses may be taken early in the program of study with advisor’s permission.
2. Pass all RTH courses with a “C” or better or a “Pass” grade if applicable.
3. Pass all BIO prefix courses with a “C” or better.
4. If a student fails to pass a BIO 211 or BIO 212 or an RTH course, they will be put on program probation for one year. If the RTH course is failed a second time the student will be dismissed from the program.

5. Follow the academic policies as outlined in the “Academic Policies” statement above.

Licensing Information

Upon completion of an accredited respiratory therapy program and upon successful completion of the CRT examination, the student is eligible to apply for licensure to practice in the state which they plan to obtain employment. In the Commonwealth of Virginia, licensure can be obtained by applying to the Virginia State Board of Medicine (VSRC). Following completion of the CRT examination, the student is able to take the Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) Examinations to be certified as a Registered Respiratory Therapist.



**Associate of Applied Science in Respiratory Therapy
Program of Study (80 credit hours)**

Courses must be taken sequentially in the order presented.

PREFIX	COURSE TITLE	CREDITS
Semester 1		
BIO 211/211 L	Anatomy & Physiology I	4
BUS 111	Introduction to Computers	1
ENG 111	Grammar & Composition I	3
GEN 100	Academic Seminar	1
RTH 104/104 L	Fundamentals of Respiratory Therapy	4
RTH 130	Integrated Sciences for Respiratory Care	3
	Total Credits:	16
Semester 2		
BIO 212/212 L	Anatomy & Physiology II	4
IDS 215	Bioethics	3
RTH 105/105 L	Fundamentals of Respiratory Therapy II/Lab	4
RTH 110C	Clinical Practice I	3
RTH 118	Cardiopulmonary Anatomy & Physiology	3
	Total Credits:	17
Semester 3		
BIO 253/253 L	Microbiology	4
RTH 121	Respiratory Pharmacology	3
RTH 200	Respiratory Pathophysiology	3
RTH 249/ 249 L	Introduction to Mechanical Ventilation	4
	Total Credits:	14
Semester 4		
RTH 201	Pulmonary Function Studies	2
RTH 220C	Clinical Practice II	3
RTH 241	Patient Education & Health Promotion	2
RTH 252	Pediatrics & Neonatology	3
RTH 254/ 254 L	Critical Care I	3
ELECTIVE (PSY)	Psychology Elective	3
	Total Credits:	16
Semester 5		
RTH 230C	Clinical Practice III	3
RTH 255	Critical Care II	3
RTH 260/ 260L	Advanced Life Support	2
RTH 265	Advanced C/P Procedures & Monitoring	3
RTH 285	Professional Seminar	3
SOC 213	Social Issues in Healthcare Delivery	3
	Total Credits:	17
	Total Credits:	80
	Credits from Non-Respiratory Courses	26
	Credits from Respiratory Courses	54