

RESPIRATORY THERAPIST, Associate in Science Degree - 3920

Health Careers Department

CIP Code: 51.0908

The Respiratory Therapist AS program prepares students to enter the workforce as registered respiratory therapists. The program is offered in cooperation with Penn State Health System, UPMC Central PA Health System, Wellspan Health System, and Lehigh Valley Health Network. The Respiratory Therapist program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (www.coarc.com). Continuation in this program requires that the student receive a grade of C or higher in each course pursued. Graduation requirements include current Certification in American Heart Association BLS (CPR), American Heart Association Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) certification, American Heart Association Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) certification, and completion of professional development credits. Membership in the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) is required by the spring break during the first spring semester of the Respiratory Therapist program (#3920). The following must be completed after a student has been selected for, but prior to their start in the clinical portion of the program and are also requirements for continuation: physical examination and required immunizations, background checks (Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance, FBI fingerprint check, and PA State Police Criminal Record Check), and drug and alcohol screens. In addition to tuition and fees, students must purchase uniforms, supplies, liability insurance, testing, and clinical parking fees. The student should consider these factors before enrolling in this program. If the student has any questions regarding this, he or she should contact the program director. Students may complete 75% of this program is available at the Harrisburg Campus through on-campus/in-person instruction. The remaining coursework can be completed through various modalities (e.g., hybrid, synchronous remote instruction or asynchronous instruction).

Selective Program: Entry into this program is not guaranteed with admission to the College; this is a selective and competitive admission program; specific admissions criteria must be met. Please go to the Health Careers website (www.hacc.edu/healthcareers) or email at start@hacc.edu for specific program entry requirements.

Please note that students interested in this program must begin in the Pre-Health Professions AS degree. Then, students may apply for admission into this program, once they meet the requirements to apply. Students can discuss these admission requirements as part of their advising process.

Career Opportunities

Graduates find employment as respiratory therapists in hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, home healthcare companies, and as pharmaceutical sales representatives.

Competency Profile

This curriculum is designed to prepare students to:

- Demonstrate proficiency as respiratory therapists as described by the National Board for Respiratory Care
- Assist physicians in the diagnosis, management and treatment of patients afflicted with cardiopulmonary disorders
- Initiate and Modify interventions on patients as a respiratory therapist (Cognitive Domain)
- Demonstrate technical proficiency in troubleshooting and quality control in all registered respiratory therapist skills (Psychomotor Domain)
- Demonstrate personal behaviors consistent with professional and employer expectations for the registered respiratory therapist (Affective Domain)
- Develop skills, knowledge and awareness related to diversity in culture, global awareness and healthcare access issues related to global interdependence and the impact as global citizens

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS – Certified Respiratory Therapist (TOTAL CREDITS = 71)

General Education		Major Requirements		Other Required Courses
ENGL 101 English Composition I	3	RESP 100 Intro to Respiratory Care	2	
ENGL 102 English Composition II	3	RESP 120 Cardiopulmonary Anatomy & Physiology	4	
COMM 101 Effective Speaking	3	RESP 130 Hospital Orientation	2	
Humanities & Arts Core Elective	3	RESP 140 Oxygen Administration	4	
Mathematics Core Elective	3	RESP 150 Pharmacology	3	
Mathematics or Science Core Elective	3	RESP 160 Patient Assessment	3	
Science w/ a Laboratory Core Elective - <i>BIOL 111 or 121</i>	3 or 4	RESP 170 Therapeutics	4	
Social & Behavioral Science Core Elective	3	RESP 175 Clinical Practice I	2	
First-Year Seminar Elective	1	RESP 200 Cardiopulmonary Diseases	3	
Wellness Elective	<u>1</u>	RESP 205 Clinical Practice II	2	
	26	RESP 210 Critical Care	6	
		RESP 230 Cardiopulmonary Lab Procedures	2	
		RESP 235 Clinical Practice III	2	
		RESP 245 Clinical Practice IV	2	
		RESP 270 Neonatal/Pediatric Respiratory Care	<u>4</u>	
			45	

Note: Students must complete the following courses with a minimum grade of C to graduate: ENGL 101, BIOL 111 or 121 & all RESP courses.

RECOMMENDED SEQUENCE FOR FULL-TIME STUDENTS

The program is offered during the day and students may enroll either full-time or part-time. General education courses are offered during the day and evening. Evening clinical rotations may be possible.

Fall Semester I		Spring Semester I		Summer I		Fall Semester II		Spring Semester II		Summer II	
BIOL 111 or 121	3 or 4	COMM 101	3	RESP 140	4	ENGL 102	3	Humanities/Arts Core Elective	3	RESP 245	2
ENGL 101	3	RESP 120	4	RESP 150	3	Mathematics Core Elective	3	RESP 210	6	RESP 270	4
FYS Elective	1	RESP 130	2	RESP 175	2	RESP 170	4	RESP 235	2		
Math/Science Core Elective	3	RESP 160	3			RESP 205	2	Social/Behavioral Science Core Elective	3		
RESP 100	2	RESP 200	3			RESP 230	2				
Wellness Elective	1										