Respiratory Therapy

The University of Rio Grande/Rio Grande Community College, in conjunction with Buckeye Hills Career Center, has developed an allied health program in Respiratory Therapy. The Respiratory Therapy program curriculum includes courses in allied health sciences, math, chemistry, pharmacology and the professional courses in the respiratory therapy field. Upon completion of the curriculum, the student will be granted an Associate of Applied Science degree in Respiratory Therapy from the University of Rio Grande/Rio Grande Community College. The graduate will be eligible to apply to the National Board for Respiratory Care for his/her certification and registry exams.

A respiratory therapist, also known as a respiratory care practitioner, evaluates, treats, and cares for patients with breathing or other cardiopulmonary disorders. Respiratory therapists, practicing under physician direction, assume primary responsibility for all respiratory care treatments and diagnostic procedures. The Registered Respiratory Therapist also provides supervision and direction to the Certified Respiratory Therapy Technicians.

Respiratory Therapy is a health-care discipline that specializes in the production of optimal cardiopulmonary function and health. Respiratory therapists apply scientific principles to prevent, identify, and treat acute or chronic dysfunction of the cardiopulmonary system. Knowledge of the scientific principles, underlying cardiopulmonary physiology and pathophysiology, as well as biomedical engineering and technology, enable the respiratory therapist to effectively assess, educate, and treat patients.

As a healthcare profession, respiratory therapy is practiced under medical direction across the healthcare continuum. Respiratory therapy is specifically focused on the assessment, treatment, management, control, diagnostic evaluation, education, and care of patients with deficiencies and abnormalities of the cardiopulmonary system, as well as on the prevention of the development of these deficiencies. Critical thinking, patient and environment assessment skills, Respiratory therapists work with sophisticated medical equipment such as mechanical ventilators that breathe for people who can’t breathe on their own, and also work with other devices that require a knowledge and ability to apply high-tech devices in the care and treatment of patients. Respiratory therapists assess patients to ensure the treatments are working properly, and how to make the changes necessary to arrive at the best outcome for the patient.

About 81% of respiratory jobs are in hospitals, mainly in departments of respiratory care; anesthesiology; or pulmonary medicine. Most of the remaining jobs were in offices of physicians or other health practitioners, consumer-goods rental firms that supply respiratory equipment for home use, nursing care facilities, employment services, and home healthcare services. (bls.gov)

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of respiratory therapists is expected to grow by 28% from 2013 to 2020, much faster than the average for all occupations. The increasing demand will come from the substantial growth in the middle-aged and elderly population. Growth in demand also will result from the expanding role of respiratory therapists in case management, disease prevention, emergency care, and the early detection of pulmonary disorders. (bls.gov)

• For more information contact •

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Admissions: 1-800-282-7201, ext 7206
URG/RGCC — www.rio.edu
Online Admissions Application — www.rio.edu/admissions
Respiratory Therapy
Curriculum

PRE-PROFESSIONAL SEMESTER*  Credit Hrs.

LA 10001  Gateway To Success  1
BIO 10104  Principles of Human A & P I**  4
CHM 10404  Principles of Chemistry***  4
AHC 13302  Medical Terminology I  2
AHC 10101  Intro to Allied Health Professions*  1
BIO 10302  Microbiology for Nurses  2

FALL SEMESTER, 1ST YEAR  Credit Hrs.
RCP 10204  Respiratory Fundamentals I  4
RCP 10501  Respiratory Practicum I  1
RCP 22502  Cardiopulmonary A & P I  2
PHT 14303  Pharmacy Math for RCP  3
TOTAL  10

SPRING SEMESTER, 1ST YEAR  Credit Hrs.
PHT 14302  Pharmacology for RCP  2
RCP 10403  Cardiopulmonary Path.  3
RCP 11603  Respiratory Fundamentals II  3
RCP 11502  Respiratory Practicum II  2
TOTAL  10

SUMMER SEMESTER, 2ND YEAR  Credit Hrs.
RCP 20104  Mechanical Ventilation Tech.  4
RCP 20203  Neonatal & Pediatric Resp. Care  3
RCP 20502  Respiratory Practicum III  2
ENG 11103  Composition I  3
TOTAL  12

FALL SEMESTER, 2ND YEAR  Credit Hrs.
RCP 21302  Cardiopulmonary Diagnostics  2
RCP 21502  Respiratory Practicum IV  2
RCP 20103  Management of the Critical Patient  3
ENG 11203  Composition II or  3
ENG 21403  Business Technical Writing  3
TOTAL  10

SPRING SEMESTER, 2ND YEAR  Credit Hrs.
RCP 21202  RCP Seminar—Board Review  2
RCP 21602  Respiratory Practicum V  2
PSY 11103  General Psychology  3
COM 11103  Fund. of Speech Communication  3
TOTAL  10

TOTAL HOURS = 65 Credit Hours

*HIGHLY RECOMMENDED THAT YOU COMPLETE THESE COURSES BEFORE STARTING THE PROGRAM
* Prerequisite for all Allied Health Majors. Not included in curriculum total.
**Prerequisites: High School Biology and Chemistry or college-level equivalent courses passed with “C” or higher
***Requires MTH 11203 passed with “C” or higher or equivalent skill level as indicated on placement test. Also requires
ENG 10503 passed with “C-” or higher or equivalent skill level as indicated on placement test.

The clinical education courses will be conducted at a variety of hospitals, clinics, and diagnostic centers within a 60-mile radius of
the University (other sites may be used outside this radius but only on a as-needed basis). Students are responsible for their own
transportation to and from the various clinical education sites. The clinical education courses will be scheduled for day, evening,
midnight, and weekend rotations due to the different types of exams and events that occur in the various clinical sites. This will
provide the student a better overall understanding of the diversity of the respiratory therapy field. Students must receive a background
check (federal and state) with clear results and pass random drug/alcohol tests in order to remain in program. Students are responsible
for all testing, background check and certification fees.

Admission Requirements
• Meet all University of Rio Grande/Rio Grande Community College admission requirements and be officially admitted to URG/RGCC.
• Take the URG entrance exam (COMPASS exam) to determine placement into math and English courses.
• Only students who are officially admitted into the RCP program can take the RCP courses.
• RCP application forms, high school transcripts and/or college transcripts must be submitted together in an envelope to Vicki
Crabtree, Chair, School of Allied Health, by April 1 each year to be considered for admission starting Fall Semester. (RCP
APPLICATIONS ARE ONLY GOOD FOR ONE YEAR. AFTER STUDENTS ARE CHosen FOR THE NEXT
ACADEMIC YEAR, ALL APPLICATIONS WILL BE DISCARDED. YOU MUST REAPPLY EACH YEAR.)

Academic Requirements
• High school or college cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher. (High school seniors may apply without attending a year of college first.)
Students with GEDs must successfully complete 24 semester hours of college coursework with a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher
before applying. College GPA is used after completing at least 12 semester hours as fulltime student.
• Successful completion of AHC 10101 – Intro. to Allied Health Professions (waived for entering high school seniors and transfer students.)
• Take an entrance exam given in the Spring semester before interviews are conducted (after application deadline).
• One unit each of high school biology, algebra, and chemistry or college-level equivalents—all with a minimum grade of C.
• Developmental courses in English, writing, reading and/or math must be completed before admission into the program.

A complete list of all entrance requirements, application procedures, and selection process for the Respiratory Therapy program is
available upon request in the current college catalog or at www.rio.edu

4/21/2015 JW