


Respiratory Therapy



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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.

 University of Rio Grande's program for respiratory therapy has been recognized as one of the best in the nation by The Community for Accredited Online Schools (AccreditedSchoolsOnline.org), as a leading resource for higher education and college accreditation information. The site released its annual ranking for the 2016-2017 school year, honoring the University of Rio Grande as the #8 Best Respiratory Therapy Program in the Nation!

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)



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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

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

Credit Hrs.

10

SPRING SEMESTER, 1ST YEAR

PHT	14302	Pharmacology for RCP	2
RCP	10403	Cardiopulmonary Patho.	3
RCP	11603	Respiratory Fundamentals II	3
RCP	11502	Respiratory Practicum II	2

TOTAL

Credit Hrs.

10

SUMMER SEMESTER, 2ND YEAR

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

Credit Hrs.

12



FALL SEMESTER, 2ND YEAR

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

Credit Hrs.

10

SPRING SEMESTER, 2ND YEAR

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

Credit Hrs.

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

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 an 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 (Placement Test) 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 Health & Behavioral Sciences, 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 and College Credit Plus seniors may apply without attending a year of college first. All applicants must have completed high school before admission into the program. All other College Credit Plus students are ineligible.
- 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

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AND RIO GRANDE COMMUNITY COLLEGE