

**Dalton State College**  
**Respiratory Therapy Technology Program**  
**Admission Procedures**

**Program Description:**

The Associate of Applied Science Degree in the Respiratory Therapy Technology program is a sequence of courses designed to prepare graduates to assist physicians in the evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment of patients with cardiopulmonary dysfunction. Conditions requiring respiratory care include asthma, emphysema, chronic obstructive lung disease, pneumonia, cystic fibrosis, infant respiratory distress syndrome, and conditions brought on by trauma and postoperative surgical complications. Respiratory Therapists treat a diverse group of patients ranging from newborn and children to adult and the elderly.

**Length of Program:** A minimum of five semesters is required to complete the RESP Occupational Core Courses.

**Entrance Dates:** Students may take pre-respiratory occupational courses at any time. Each summer a new group of students is selected to begin the professional respiratory courses in the upcoming fall semester.

**Program Admission Requirements:**

- Acceptance to Dalton State College
- Must be at least 18 years of age for admission into the Respiratory Therapy program
- Minimum cumulative college Grade Point Average of 2.00/4.00
- Completion of the following Pre-program college courses: ENGL 1101, MATH 1111, BIOL 2212 & 2213 & 2215, CHEM 1151 or 1211
- At least a “C” must be earned in each pre-program science course. Pre-program science courses taken more than five years prior to enrollment in the program will be evaluated by the Respiratory Program faculty and may need to be repeated. Only courses that had the same documented content and hours of credit will be accepted and then only if the applicant has applied the knowledge of the course through documented work experience in a hospital, lab, pharmacy, or patient care setting.
- Completed program application must be submitted by June 1st preceding the fall semester in which you wish to enroll. (Students can obtain the application on the Respiratory Department website or by contacting the program director at 706-272-4554.)
- Complete Interview Process

**Admission Selection Process:**

Admission selection is competitive and each applicant is awarded points for the following.

- College GPA;
- Number of college credits completed;
- Prior work experience;
- References' recommendations;
- GPA of required pre-program science courses.
- Student Interview

The Respiratory Care Professional (RCP) is a caregiver with the responsibility of providing life supporting therapies and diagnostic services. Implied in this care giving role are essential job functions that require the RCP to demonstrate certain cognitive, psychomotor, and affective skills. The performance of these job functions must be consistent with the expectation that the RCP must not place himself/herself, a fellow worker, or the patient in jeopardy.

The purpose of the following is to identify the essential functional requirements of the RCP in the categories of visual acuity, hearing, physical ability, speech, manual dexterity, and mental stress. The examples below are not all inclusive.

### **Physical Standards for Respiratory Care Professionals:**

#### **The respiratory student must be able to:**

1. work in a clinical setting eight to twelve hours a day performing physical tasks without jeopardizing patient, colleague, or his own safety;
2. frequently bend, reach, stoop, lift, and use manual dexterity operating medical equipment, and performing necessary patient therapies. This includes sufficient tactile ability for performing a physical assessment, as well as, manipulation of syringes to draw arterial blood safely without harm to patient or self;
3. lift devices weighing up to 50 pounds;
4. report visual observations of patients and equipment operations as well as read the patient's medical records and medical information;
5. adequately hear the patient during all phases of care, especially breath sounds through a stethoscope and perceive and interpret equipment signals;
6. communicate clearly and instruct patients before, during, and after procedures.

### **Mental/Attitudinal Standards for Respiratory Care Professionals:**

#### **The Respiratory Therapists must:**

1. function calmly under stressful situations, maintain composure while managing multiple tasks simultaneously, and prioritize multiple tasks;
2. exhibit social skills necessary to interact effectively with patients, families, supervisors, physicians and co-workers of the same or different cultures;
3. maintain personal hygiene consistent with close personal contact associated with patient care;
4. display attitudes and actions consistent with the ethical standards of the profession as stated by the American Association of Respiratory Care. These ethical standards can be found on their website at <http://www.aarc.org/>.

### **Additional Requirements:**

- Students must earn a "C" (75%) or better in all professional courses with the "RESP" prefix in order to proceed to the next course in the sequence. Any student failing a professional course (<75%) will not be allowed to continue in the program. The student may reapply for admission in the next program tract class. Students seeking readmission will be evaluated by the Respiratory Care faculty to determine acceptability and placement in the

program. Previously completed professional courses may be accepted or may need to be repeated at the discretion of the faculty. This will depend upon the content, grade, credit hours earned and when the previous course was taken. Students who fail more than one Respiratory course or the same course twice will be dismissed from the program and will not be re-accepted. Students who fail a clinical practicum must repeat both the clinical and classroom courses covering that content.

- Students must maintain a cumulative 2.0 GPA to graduate from the program and Dalton State College.
- Students must abide by the policies and procedures of the Respiratory Therapy Handbook. Failure to do so may result in removal from the program.
- Prior to participation in practicum courses, students are required to submit medical examination forms. All required immunizations, including Hepatitis B, must be accompanied by documentation. A drug test at the expense of the student must be performed before clinical practicum participation is allowed.
- Conviction of a felony or gross misdemeanor may prohibit employment in field and may make a student ineligible to take licensing exams required for the profession. A background check is required before a student attends clinical practicum. The cost of the background check is the student's responsibility.
- Taking the Entry Level Certification Examination administered by the National Board for Respiratory Care may certify students. Upon successful completion of the Certification (CRT) exam, the graduate is eligible to take both parts of the Registry (RRT) Exams. To work in the state of Georgia, all respiratory care practitioners must apply and be granted a license. The only way to obtain a license is to pass at least the Entry Level Certification Exam.
- Please be advised that there may be additional costs for uniforms, equipment, testing, liability insurance, books and other items as needed for a listing of these additional costs, please see an official in your program office.

## RESPIRATORY THERAPY

### Associate of Applied Science

This program is a five semester sequence. The program will allow students to achieve respiratory care skill sets mandated by the Committee on Accreditation of Respiratory Care (CoARC), and the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs. The curriculum is designed to prepare the graduate to function as an advanced level Respiratory Care Professional. After successful completion of the program, the graduate will be eligible to take the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) entry-level exam, and upon successful completion of that examination, may then take the advanced level exam of the NBRC. Upon passing the entry-level exam and meeting all requirements for the Georgia State license, the graduate may be licensed in the state of Georgia as a Respiratory Care Professional by the Composite State Board of Medical Examiners of Georgia.

Course	Number		Credit Hours
COMM	1110	Fundamentals of Speech	3
ENGL	1101	English Composition I	3
ENGL	1102	English Composition II	3
HIST	2111 or 2112	United States Government	3
MATH	1111	College Algebra	3
POLS	1101	American Government	3
Elective		ECON 2105, 2106, HIST 1111, 1112, 2111, 2112, PSYC 1101, SOCI 1101,	3
BIOL	2212	Anatomy & Physiology I	4
BIOL	2213	Anatomy & Physiology II	4
BIOL	2215	Microbiology	4
CAPS	1101	Introduction to Computers <b>or</b>	
MGIS	2201	Fundamentals of Computer Applications	3
CHEM	1151	Survey of Chemistry <b>or</b>	
CHEM	1211	Principles of Chemistry I	4
RESP	1100	Introduction to Respiratory Care	3
RESP	1111	Fundamentals of Respiratory Care	4
RESP	1121	Clinical Practicum I	5
RESP	1131	Patient Assessment and Protocols	4
RESP	1132	Cardiopulmonary Pharmacology	3
RESP	1133	Cardiopulmonary Anatomy & Physiology	3
RESP	2110	Mechanical Ventilation & Critical Care	4
RESP	2121	Neonatal and Pediatric Respiratory Care	2
RESP	2130	Specialized Areas of Respiratory Care	2
RESP	2201	Clinical Practicum IA	3
RESP	2210	Clinical Practicum II	5
RESP	2220	Clinical Practicum III	5
RESP	2310	Cardiopulmonary Disease & Treatment	3
RESP	2330	Credential Preparation	1
		Total	87