

Dalton State College  
**Associate of Applied Science Degree in Respiratory Therapy Technology**  
Program Information  
and  
Admission Requirements

**About the program**

The Associate of Applied Science Degree in the Respiratory Therapy Technology program consists of 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 newborns and children to adults and the elderly.

**Length of program**

A minimum of five semesters is required to complete RESP major field courses.

**Entrance dates**

Students may take pre-RESP courses at any time. Each summer semester a new cohort of students is selected to begin professional RESP courses (major field courses) during the upcoming fall semester.

**In order to be considered for acceptance to the Respiratory Therapy program, applicants must**

- Be accepted to Dalton State College;
- Be at least 18 years of age;
- Have a minimum cumulative college Grade Point Average of 2.00/4.00;
- Have completed at least six of seven required preprogram college courses: ENGL 1101; MATH 1111; BIOL 1107 and 2212 and 2213 and 2215; and CHEM 1151 or 1211;
- Have earned at least a "C" in each preprogram course. Preprogram science courses taken more than five years prior to enrollment in the program will be evaluated by the Respiratory Therapy 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.
- Submit a completed program application by June 1st preceding the fall semester in which the applicant wishes to enroll in RESP 1100. Applications may be downloaded from this website or may be requested from the Respiratory Therapy program director by calling 706-272-4554.

**About the 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; recommendations from personal references; and GPA of required preprogram science courses.

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 listed 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;
2. Frequently bend, reach, stoop, lift, and use manual dexterity to operate equipment and to perform necessary patient therapies. This includes sufficient tactile ability to perform a physical assessment, as well as for the manipulation of syringes to draw arterial blood safely without harm to patient or self;
3. Lift devices weighing up to 50 pounds;

4. Have sufficient visual acuity to report visual observations of patients and equipment operations, as well as to read patients' medical records and medical information;
5. Adequately hear patients during all phases of care, especially breath sounds through a stethoscope and to perceive and interpret equipment signals;
6. Communicate clearly and instruct patients before, during, and after procedures.

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

#### **Respiratory therapists must:**

1. Function calmly under stressful situations, maintain composure while managing multiple tasks simultaneously, and be able to prioritize multiple tasks;
2. Exhibit social skills necessary to interact effectively with patients, families, supervisors, physicians, and coworkers of the same or different cultures;
3. Maintain personal hygiene consistent with the 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 statements can be found on the Association website at <http://www.aarc.org/>

### **Additional Requirements**

#### **Respiratory Therapy students must:**

1. 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 cohort class. Students seeking readmission will be evaluated by the Respiratory Therapy faculty to determine acceptability and placement in the program. Previously completed major field courses may be accepted or may need to be repeated in accordance with the guidelines in the Respiratory Therapy Handbook. Readmitted students who fail more than one RESP course or the same course twice will be dismissed from the program and will not be reaccepted. Students who fail a clinical practicum must repeat both the clinical and classroom courses covering that content.
2. Maintain a cumulative 2.0 GP to graduate from the program and Dalton State College.
3. Abide by the policies and procedures of the Respiratory Therapy Handbook. Failure to do so will result in removal from the program.
4. Provide medical examination forms, including documentation of all required immunizations and the results of a drug test taken at the student's expense prior to participation in practicum courses.
5. Be aware that conviction of a felony or gross misdemeanor may prohibit employment in the field and may make a student ineligible to take licensing exams required for the profession. In addition, a background check may be required by some agencies before a student may participate in clinical practicum. The cost for any required background check will be the responsibility of the student.
6. Be aware that to work in the State of Georgia, Respiratory Care Professionals must apply for and be granted a license. In order to obtain a license, graduates must pass at least the entry level Certification Exam (CRT) administered by the National Board for Respiratory Care. Upon successful completion of the Certification (CRT) exam, graduates become eligible to take both parts of the national Registry (RRT) Exam.