



A degree in health care is just the beginning...

Dalton State College Associate of Applied Science Degree in Respiratory Therapy

Dear Prospective Student:

Are you a caring person who likes to help others? Would you enjoy working with the newest healthcare technology? Do you enjoy working with technology? Are you looking for a career that offers different challenges and opportunities on a daily basis—including opportunities for continuing education, specialization, and advancement to management? If your answers are “yes,” then Respiratory Therapy may be the career for you.

Respiratory Therapists are health care professionals who care for people with breathing problems, and they are integral to any health care team. Under the direction of physicians, respiratory therapists use independent judgment to make recommendations regarding respiratory care, and they assist with the diagnosis, treatment, and management of patients who have cardiopulmonary problems.

Respiratory Therapists can choose from a range of specializations, including but not limited to critical care, home care, pulmonary diagnostics, and neonatal intensive care. As a Respiratory Therapist, you may choose to work with premature infants and children or with adults or with the elderly. And depending upon your choice of specialization, employment settings range from hospitals, diagnostic/rehabilitation clinics, and doctors’ offices to long-term care facilities and home health care agencies.

Currently there is a shortage of Respiratory Therapists in the United States, and with the aging of our population, Respiratory Therapy is expected to be one of the nation’s fastest growing career fields. At the present time, starting salaries for registered Respiratory Therapists in this area are in the \$40,000 per year range.

Dalton State’s Associate of Applied Science Degree in Respiratory Therapy Technology is a five-semester program designed to prepare students for employment as advanced level Respiratory Therapists. The program is open to all qualified applicants regardless of previous experience. Please take a look at the enclosed application materials and give me a call. I look forward to talking with you.

Sincerely,

Max Pierce, Ed.S., R.R.T.
Program Director
Phone: 706.272.4554
Email: mpierce@daltonstate.edu

Dalton State

*Proud to be part of the
University System of Georgia*

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.

Dalton State College
Associate of Applied Science in Respiratory Therapy Technology
Application Procedures

Thank you for your interest in the Dalton State College Respiratory Therapy Program. Information about the program, forms required for admission, and contact information are included in this packet. **Read this information carefully and follow the instructions provided.** Do not hesitate to contact us if questions arise during the application process.

Students must be admitted to Dalton State College before applying to the Respiratory Therapy Program. To apply to Dalton State College, contact the Office of Enrollment Services, 650 College Drive, Dalton, GA 30720, or call 706.272.4436 or 800.829.4436, or visit www.daltonstate.edu.

To Apply to the Respiratory Therapy Program:

A new Respiratory Therapy class begins each year. To be admitted, applicants must have completed the following college classes with “C” or better: English 1110, Math 1111, Biology 1107, 2212, 2213, 2215, and Chemistry 1151 or 1211.

In addition to materials required for admission to Dalton State College, applicants to the Respiratory Therapy Program must submit the following:

- 1) Respiratory Therapy Program Application
- 2) Respiratory Therapy Application Essay form (300 words)
- 3) Personal Recommendation forms (3 recommendations required)
- 4) Student Immunization and Medical Record
- 5) Pre-Admission Course Record
- 6) Clinical Shadowing Referral and Verification form
(Contact Jeff Hughes or Bryan Byrd at Hamilton Medical Center at 706.272.6120 to schedule.)

The above-listed materials must be submitted to the Respiratory Therapy Program Director or to the DSC Technical Education Division Office by **June 1st** for fall semester admission. However, the Respiratory Therapy Program has a limited enrollment, and applicants are encouraged to complete all admission requirements as far in advance as possible.

Acceptance to the Program:

Completed applications are reviewed by the program selection committee on the basis of: college grade point average (GPA), number of college credits earned, and the quality of completed application materials. An offer of acceptance is made to applicants who achieve the highest rankings, with selection continuing until the class is full. The Respiratory Therapy Program does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, sex, religion, national origin, or disability, but applicants must be able to meet physical requirements of the job. For additional information in this regard, please see the Dalton State College catalog.

Financial Aid:

Dalton State College participates in numerous federal and state financial aid programs designed to provide assistance to those who qualify. Applicants who are interested in obtaining financial aid are encouraged to apply early, as funds may be limited. For additional information, contact the DSC Financial Aid Office at 706.272.4545 or visit www.daltonstate.edu.

To apply for admission to the DSC Respiratory Therapy program or for additional information, please contact:

Max Pierce, Director
Respiratory Therapy Technology
Dalton State College
Phone: 706.272.4554 • Email: mpierce@daltonstate.edu
Address: 650 College Drive, Dalton, GA 30720

The application deadline for fall semester admission is June 1st.

Completed application packets become the property of the DSC Respiratory Therapy program.

Applicant Name _____

Social Security # _____

Dalton State College
Associate of Applied Science Degree in Respiratory Therapy Technology
Essay Form

Instructions: This essay is required of all applicants to the Respiratory Therapy Program. The essay must be handwritten in the student's own handwriting and must be limited to 300 words. The essay will be reviewed by the program selection committee, with content considered the most important component for the admission selection process. However, neatness, spelling, grammar, and punctuation will all count in scoring the essay. Applicants should express their thoughts clearly and concisely in order to meet the essay's length requirement. *Note: If you prefer, you may use lined paper and attach your essay to this form.*

ESSAY TOPIC

What about Respiratory Therapy has attracted you to spend the next few years in preparation for a career in this field? What attributes do you possess that would make you a quality Respiratory Therapist?

Applicant Name _____

Dalton State College
Associate of Applied Science Degree in Respiratory Therapy Technology
Applicant Recommendation – Page 1 of 2

Instructions

To the applicant: Please give this form to the person chosen to provide this recommendation for you. This person should not be a friend or family member, but rather someone who is able to evaluate your personal characteristics such as an employer, teacher, coach, clergy member, physician, or counselor, etc.

To the person completing the recommendation form: This individual is applying for admission to Dalton State College's Respiratory Therapy program. We consider the following characteristics to be important for the success of the students in this program. Please evaluate each of these personal characteristics of the applicant by circling the most appropriate choice on the following scale. Please feel free to provide any additional comments on the back of this form.

5 = Strongly agree, 4 = Agree, 3 = Neutral (Acceptable), 2 = Disagree, 1 = Strongly disagree, NA = Unable to evaluate

Responsibility – Accountable for one's actions	5	4	3	2	1	N/A
Leadership – Has the capacity to direct others	5	4	3	2	1	N/A
Initiative – Motivated to pursue actions independently	5	4	3	2	1	N/A
Flexibility – Adapts to new or changing situations	5	4	3	2	1	N/A
Organization – Able to arrange or order tasks efficiently	5	4	3	2	1	N/A
Self-Confidence – Assured in one's abilities and skills	5	4	3	2	1	N/A
Independent work – Completes tasks with minimal supervision	5	4	3	2	1	N/A
Verbal Communication – Expresses self effectively	5	4	3	2	1	N/A
Written communication – Writes clearly and effectively	5	4	3	2	1	N/A
Stress Response – Maintains composure & ability to function	5	4	3	2	1	N/A
Attitude – Positive approach to assignments and coworkers	5	4	3	2	1	N/A
Manual Dexterity – Ability to perform hands-on skills	5	4	3	2	1	N/A
Team Player – Able to work as part of a group	5	4	3	2	1	N/A
Accepts Supervision – Willing to learn	5	4	3	2	1	N/A
Maturity – Demonstrates common sense, self control, tact	5	4	3	2	1	N/A
Dependability – Reliable, follows through on tasks	5	4	3	2	1	N/A
Perseverance – Doesn't give up easily	5	4	3	2	1	N/A
Decision Making – Analyzes facts and formulates solutions	5	4	3	2	1	N/A
Knowledge Application – Can apply what has been taught	5	4	3	2	1	N/A

Applicant Name _____

Dalton State College
Associate of Applied Science Degree in Respiratory Therapy Technology
Applicant Recommendation – Page 2 of 2

Additional Comments

Please use this section of the Applicant Recommendation Form to provide your assessment of the applicant's strengths, particularly those strengths not already addressed, as well as any areas in which you feel the applicant needs improvement.

Your relationship to applicant:

_____ Advisor _____ Teacher _____ Supervisor _____ Employer
_____ Other (Please describe _____)

How long have you known the applicant? _____

How well do you know the applicant? _____

Do you _____ Highly Recommend _____ Recommend
 _____ Recommend with reservation _____ Not Recommend

this applicant?

Signature _____ Date _____

Printed name _____ Title _____

Institution/Business _____

Address _____

Telephone: _____

May someone contact you about this applicant? _____ Yes _____ No

Thank you. To assist the applicant in completing the application process, we ask that you seal this recommendation in an envelope and sign your name across the flap before returning it to the applicant.

Or if you prefer, you may mail this form directly to: Dalton State College
Respiratory Therapy Program
650 College Drive
Dalton, GA 30720

Applicant Name _____

Dalton State College
Associate of Applied Science Degree in Respiratory Therapy Technology
Applicant Recommendation Form – Page 1 of 2

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Dalton State College
Associate of Applied Science Degree in Respiratory Therapy Technology
Applicant Recommendation Form – Page 2 of 2

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How well do you know the applicant? _____

Do you _____ Highly Recommend _____ Recommend
 _____ Recommend with reservation _____ Not Recommend

this applicant?

Signature _____ Date _____

Printed name _____ Title _____

Institution/Business _____

Address _____

Telephone: _____

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Respiratory Therapy Program
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Dalton, GA 30720

Applicant Name _____

Dalton State College
Associate of Applied Science Degree in Respiratory Therapy Technology
Applicant Recommendation Form – Page 1 of 2

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Dalton State College
Associate of Applied Science Degree in Respiratory Therapy Technology
Student Immunization and Medical Record

Part A: To be completed by applicant

Date _____

Name _____
First, Middle Initial, Last

Social Security # _____ DOB _____

Mailing Address _____
Street and Number or PO Box

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Health Insurance Company _____ Person Insured _____

Phone Numbers: Home: _____ Work _____ Cell _____

Part B: To be completed by a physician or Health Department official:

1. MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella) _____
OR
Measles _____ (Not required if born before 1957)
AND
Mumps _____ (Not required if born before 1957)
AND
Rubella _____

2. PPD 5TU _____ Results _____
If positive,
Chest x-ray _____ Results _____

3. DPT/DT (minimum 4) Last Boost _____

4. Hepatitis B (3 required) Note: Hepatitis B vaccine is not required for program admssion,
but is required prior to clinical assignment.
A. _____ B. _____ C. _____

If over one (1) year since series completion, Hepatitis Antibody Titer _____

Signature of Physician or Health Department Official

Date

Applicant Name _____

Social Security # _____

Dalton State College
Associate of Applied Science Degree in Respiratory Therapy Technology
Pre-Admission Course Record

On the line to the left of each course listed:

- Mark the grade you made in each of the courses you have completed.
- Mark an "X" for the courses in which you are currently enrolled.
- Mark an "N" for courses you plan to take next semester.
- If you took this class more than 5 years ago, please list the semester (or quarter) that the course was taken on the line to the right of the course.
- If you are transferring this course from another college, please indicate where and when you took the course on the line to the right.

_____ English Composition I (1101) _____

_____ College Algebra (1111) _____

_____ Principles of Biology I (1107) _____

_____ Anatomy and Physiology I (2212) _____

_____ Anatomy and Physiology II (2213) _____

_____ Microbiology (2215) _____

_____ Survey of Chemistry (1151) or Principles of Chemistry I (1211) _____

I certify that the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Dalton State College
Associate of Applied Science Degree in Respiratory Therapy Technology
Clinical Shadowing Referral and Verification

To the Respiratory Therapist:

Thank you for agreeing to provide a clinical shadowing opportunity for respiratory care student:

Student Name

As RT faculty, we believe that it is essential for each student entering the study of respiratory care to observe an RT professional in the performance of his or her duties as early as possible in the student's academic career—before the student commits significant time, energy, and financial resources to the study of our profession. For this reason, we ask that you please provide this student with at least the following opportunities for observation:

1. Patients in critical care units on ventilators;
2. Patients in NICU;
3. A suction procedure;
4. An ABG procedure;
5. Any specialty areas within your facility;
6. Basic floor care; and
7. Explain your roles and responsibilities and allow the student to ask questions.

Upon completion of this experience, you may return this form to the RT student or mail it to:
Dalton State College, Respiratory Technology Program, 650 College Drive, Dalton, GA 30720.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 706.272.4554 or mpierce@daltonstate.edu if you have questions or if I may be of any assistance whatsoever. Thank you again for your time and commitment to the future of respiratory care.

Sincerely,

Max Pierce
Program Director

Verification of clinical shadowing experience:

RT Name/Credentials

Date

Hospital/Facility

Length of Visit