

Associate of Applied Science in Respiratory Therapy

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 post-operative surgical complications. Respiratory Therapists treat a diverse group of patients ranging from newborns and children to adults and the elderly.

Goal of program

To prepare graduates with demonstrated competence in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains of respiratory care practice as performed by registered respiratory therapists.

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 2.50/4.00;
- Have completed all required pre-program college courses:
ENGL 1101; MATH 1111; BIOL 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.
- Submit a completed program application by May 25th 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 706.272.2657.

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; and interview. Applicant will be asked to submit a background check and drug screening prior to acceptance. Instructions for background and drug screening will be given at the time of the 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 listed below are not all inclusive.

Physical Standards for Respiratory Care Professionals

The respiratory student must be able to:

Work in a clinical setting eight to twelve hours a day

performing physical tasks;

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;
These devices weighing up to 50 pounds;

Have sufficient visual acuity to report visual observations of patients and equipment operations, as well as to read patients' medical records and medical information;
Adequately hear patients during all phases of care, especially breath sounds through a stethoscope and to perceive and interpret equipment signals;
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 2.5 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 may 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 Respiratory Therapy Course Requirements

The Dalton State College Associate of Applied Science Degree program in Respiratory Therapy prepares graduates to function as advanced level Respiratory Care Professionals. This five-semester program is designed to provide students with the respiratory care skill sets mandated by the Committee on Accreditation of Respiratory Care (CoARC) and the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs. 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, to take the advanced level exam offered by the NBRC. Upon passing the entry level exam and meeting all requirements for licensure in Georgia, 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		Description	Credit Hours
GENERAL EDUCATION			
COMM	1110	Fundamentals of Speech	3
ENGL	1101	English Composition I	3
HIST	2111 or 2112	United States History	3
MATH	1111 or 1101	College Algebra or Math Modeling	3
POLS	1101	American Government	3
Elective		ECON 1101, 2105, 2106, HIST 1111, 1112, 2111, 2112, PSYC 1101, SOCI 1101	3
Elective		ENGL 1102, ENGL 1201, HUMN 1201	3
MAJOR FIELD COURSES			
BIOL	2212	Anatomy & Physiology I	4
BIOL	2213	Anatomy & Physiology II	4
BIOL	2215	Microbiology	4
CHEM	1151	Survey of Chemistry	
		or	
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	2201	Clinical Practicum IA	3
RESP	1133	Cardiopulmonary Anatomy and Physiology	3
RESP	2110	Mechanical Ventilation and Critical Care	4
RESP	2121	Neonatal and Pediatric Respiratory Care	2
RESP	2130	Specialized Areas of Respiratory Care	2
RESP	2210	Clinical Practicum II	5
RESP	2220	Clinical Practicum III	5
RESP	2310	Cardiopulmonary Disease and Treatment	3
RESP	2330	Credential Preparation	1

Total 84

Note: Courses listed reflect requirements as of 02.24.09 and are subject to change.

Courses listed in bold type are pre-admission requirements.

