

RESPIRATORY CARE

Associate in Science Degree

Respiratory Care is an allied health specialty dealing with the diagnosis, treatment, and management of patients with acute and chronic diseases affecting the pulmonary system. Respiratory Care Practitioners/Respiratory Therapists work in all areas within the hospital, especially within the critical care areas with patients who are in a life-threatening phase of their illness. Additionally, some Respiratory Care Practitioners/Respiratory Therapists work with home care agencies to treat patients in their homes. Duties include analysis of pulmonary function and arterial blood gases, life support ventilation, CPR, assessment of pulmonary status, airway care, plus other related duties. Specialties in Respiratory Care include adult critical care, neonatal and pediatric critical care, pulmonary function testing, home care and rehabilitation, management, and education.

The Respiratory Care program at Orange Coast College is a two-year Associate in Science Degree program beginning each fall semester. The student must complete General Education requirements and program prerequisites prior to entering the program. Courses within the program include lectures, skills application of procedures and techniques in a laboratory setting on campus, and approximately 1000 hours of clinical practice. Clinical practice is within area hospitals performing the latest procedures in medicine. There is also a series including discussions with physicians.

The Respiratory Care program at Orange Coast College is fully accredited. Program graduates are eligible for California legal certification (licensure) (RCP) and Certification (CRT) and Registry (RRT) by the National Board for Respiratory Care. The employment outlook for Respiratory Care Practitioners/Respiratory Therapists is very good throughout the United States. Most graduates obtain jobs within the Orange County/Long Beach areas.

Program Outcome

The outcome of the program is to prepare students as competent Respiratory Care Practitioners for employment in the field as respiratory care professionals providing cognitive, psychomotor, and affective qualities to meet community needs.

Employment possibilities include:

- Respiratory Therapist
- Respiratory Therapy Specialist
- Respiratory Care Practitioner

Program Admission:

1. Allied Health A010 course – application and orientation.
2. The student must complete Associate of Science Degree requirements and the program prerequisites prior to acceptance to the program.

All courses must be completed with grade of “C” or better.

Prerequisites:

Health Occupations	ALH	A010	(.5)
Anatomy-Physiology	BIOL	A221	(4)

Required Courses

Course			Units
Fall			
Medical Terminology	ALH	A111	(3)
Patient Care	ALH	A115	(2.5)
Basic Microbiology	BIOL	A114	(2)
Introductory Chemistry	CHEM	A110	(5)
Resp Anatomy & Physiology	RSPC	A185	(3)
Spring			
Human Diseases	ALH	A120	(2)
Applied Pharmacology	ALH	A130	(2)
Basic Resp Care Equip	RSPC	A190	(3)
Clinical Lab 1	RSPC	A191	(1.5)
Respiratory Pharmacology	RSPC	A195	(1)
Home Care & Rehabilitation	RSPC	A255	(1)
Interpersonal Communication (Or)	SPCM	A100	(3)
Public Speaking	SPCM	A110	
Summer			
Clinical Lab 2	RSPC	A192	(1)
Fall			
Arterial Blood Gases, Theory & Prac	RSPC	A260	(2.5)
Pulmonary Pathology	RSPC	A265	(3)
Ventilators & Resp Mgmt	RSPC	A270	(2)
Resp Care Procedures	RSPC	A275	(3)
Clinical Lab 3	RSPC	A276	(4)
Physician Series 1	RSPC	A279	(.5)
Intersession			
Pulmonary Case Assessment	RSPC	A278	(1)
Spring			
Polysomnography Basics	PSG	A100	(1)
Critical Care Monitoring	RSPC	A280	(1)
Pulmonary Func Testing	RSPC	A285	(2)
Clinical Lab 4	RSPC	A286	(3)
Clinical Internship	RSPC	A287	(2)
Neonatal Intensive Care	RSPC	A290	(2)
Respiratory Care Board Review	RSPC	A296	(1)
Total:			(62.5)

All prerequisite and required courses must be completed with grade of “C” or better.

Fully accredited Respiratory Therapist Program by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs.

State License: Legally Certified Respiratory Care Practitioner by Respiratory Care Board of California.

National Credential: CRT, RRT, CRTT, CPFT, by the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC)

Program requires successful completion of a comprehensive national exam for graduation.

Full-time and part-time program options available.