



RESPIRATORY THERAPY

Health Sciences

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Respiratory Therapy curriculum prepares individuals to function as respiratory therapists. In these roles, individuals perform diagnostic testing, treatments, and management of patients with heart and lung diseases. Students will master skills in patient assessment and treatment of cardiopulmonary diseases. These skills include life support, monitoring, drug administration, and treatment of patients of all ages in a variety of settings.

Graduates of accredited programs are eligible to take entry-level examinations from the National Board of Respiratory Care. Graduates may also take the Advanced Practitioner examination, which is required to become a Registered Respiratory Therapist. Graduates may be employed in hospitals, clinics, doctor's offices, nursing homes, education, industry, and home care.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Southwestern's Respiratory Therapy Associate Degree Program has a two-year integrated format, meaning that students experience classroom instruction and clinical education simultaneously, and is five semesters in length.

Students who successfully complete the program graduate with an Associate's Degree in Applied Science, and are eligible to sit for the National Licensure Exam and become NC state licensed Physical Therapist Assistants.

WHY SOUTHWESTERN

- Southwestern's Respiratory Therapy program is nationally accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (COARC).
- Students will learn from highly qualified faculty, who use up-to-date teaching methodologies and state-of-the-industry equipment in their instruction.
- The curriculum prepares students to sit for credentialing exams that lead toward certification as a Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT) and Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT).
- Students learn to perform procedures that are both diagnostic and therapeutic, as well as master skills in patient care.
- Southwestern's program is supported by many of the major hospital systems in Western North Carolina. In past years, hospitals including Haywood Regional Medical Center, Mission-St. Josephs Hospital System, Pardee Hospital, and Westcare Health System have contributed money and equipment toward the program.

AFTER GRADUATION

Upon successful completion of this program, graduates will be prepared to manage mechanical life support equipment, educate and treat patients with asthma, emphysema and other lung diseases, to participate in CPR in the hospital setting and to work with patients of all ages. Graduates will be able to become Registered Respiratory Therapists (RRT). This credential allows graduates to work in any state in the United States, and in some foreign countries.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

The program has a limited enrollment and only admits a class in the fall of each year. Applications and supporting documents must be completed and submitted by March 1 of the year in which the student wishes to enroll in the program. Please check with the Admissions Office about the status of the program.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES EXIST IN:

- Adult Intensive Care Units
- Clinics
- Educational Institutions
- Home Care Agencies
- Hospitals
- Newborn and Labor Delivery
- Neonatal and Pediatric Intensive Care Units
- Nursing Care Facilities
- Private Industry
- Pulmonary Function Laboratories
- Research Centers
- Sleep Laboratories
- Special Medical Services

TOP RECENT EMPLOYERS

- Harris Regional Medical Center
- Haywood Regional Medical Center
- Mission St. Joseph's Healthcare System
- Murphy Medical Center
- Pardee Hospital

NC STATE ESTIMATED ENTRY WAGE

\$32,764 - \$41,510

* Information found through the North Carolina Occupational Employment & Wages 2010

PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

Health Sciences Division

1.800.447.4091 ext. 305

828.339.4305

Admissions Office

1.800.447.4091 ext. 352

828.339.4352

Fax: 828.586.3129

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ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE (AAS))

A45720

FALL SEMESTER 1

<u>Prefix</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Lab</u>	<u>Clinical</u>	<u>Credit</u>
BIO	168	Anatomy & Physiology I	3	3	0	4
ENG	111	Expository Writing	3	0	0	3
MAT	110	Mathematical Measurement	2	2	0	3
RCP	110	Introduction to Respiratory Care	3	3	0	4
RCP	114	C-P Anatomy & Physiology	3	0	0	3
RCP	122	Special Practice Lab	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
		Totals	14	10	0	18

SPRING SEMESTER 1

BIO	169	Anatomy & Physiology II	3	3	0	4
ENG	114	Professional Research & Reporting	3	0	0	3
RCP	111	Therapeutics/Diagnostics	4	3	0	5
RCP	113	RCP Pharmacology	2	0	0	2
RCP	115	C-P Pathophysiology	2	0	0	2
RCP	123	Special Practice Lab	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
		Totals	14	9	0	17

SUMMER SEMESTER 1

RCP	112	Patient Management	3	3	0	4
RCP	134	Clinical Practice I	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>4</u>
		Totals	3	3	12	8

FALL SEMESTER 2

PSY	150	General Psychology	3	0	0	3
RCP	146	Clinical Practice II	0	0	18	6
RCP	210	Critical Care Concepts	3	3	0	4
RCP	214	Neonatal/Pediatric RC	1	3	0	2
RCP	222	Special Practice Lab	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
		Totals	7	8	18	16

SPRING SEMESTER 2

RCP	158	Clinical Practice III	0	0	24	8
RCP	211	Advanced Monitoring/Procedures	3	3	0	4
RCP	212	Home Care/Rehabilitation	2	0	0	2
***	***	Humanities Elective	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>
		Totals	8	3	24	17

Total Semester Credit Hours: 76

FACULTY

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