

# RESPIRATORY THERAPIST, A.A.S.

## Entry Time

Fall

## Award

Associate of Applied Science degree  
2 years (5 terms including summer)

## Accreditation

The Kirkwood Respiratory Therapy program, CoARC program number 200190, located in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care ([www.coarc.com](http://www.coarc.com) (<http://www.coarc.com>)). To prepare graduates with demonstrated competence in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains of respiratory care practices as performed by registered respiratory therapists (RRT). Upon completion of the Respiratory Therapy program, you should have the skills and knowledge needed for board exams; TMC (Therapist Multiple Choice) exam (entry level), WRRRT and/or CSE exam(s) (Registered Respiratory Therapist). Exams are administered by the National Board of Respiratory Care (NBRC). Listed exams are required for employment, along with licensure to practice respiratory therapy. The Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care can be contacted at:

264 Precision Blvd  
Telford, TN 37690  
[www.coarc.com](http://www.coarc.com) (<http://www.coarc.com>)

## Award Description

Respiratory therapists, also known as respiratory care practitioners, provide treatment, evaluation, monitoring and management of patients with breathing disorders or cardiovascular problems. Respiratory therapists administer oxygen, perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation, manage mechanical ventilators, administer medications, monitor cardiopulmonary systems and measure lung function. Respiratory therapists treat all types of patients: premature infants whose lungs are not fully developed, elderly patients with chronic asthma or emphysema, as well as emergency care for heart attack, stroke, drowning or shock.

Respiratory therapists work closely with physicians, nurses and other health care professionals to provide direct care to children and adults, including delivery of oxygen, administration of aerosolized drugs, endotracheal intubation, suctioning, management of life support, weaning of ventilation or life support, insertion of arterial lines, management of tracheotomies, drawing and interpretation of arterial blood gas samples. Advanced skills include intravenous, chest tube and central line insertions, as well as bronchoscopy procedures.

The Respiratory Therapist curriculum consists of classroom, laboratory and hospital-based clinical experiences at area hospitals and in-home health. This program begins each fall semester.

## Career Opportunities

- hospitals
- training centers

- hospital outreach programs
- pharmaceutical sales
- sleep labs
- outpatient clinics
- home health agencies
- health education
- medical research
- physician offices

## Degree Requirements

Course	Title	Credit Hours
<b>Prerequisites</b>		
Select one of the following: <sup>1</sup>		3
BIO-161	Basic Anatomy and Physiology	
BIO-168 & BIO-173	Human Anatomy and Physiology I and Human Anatomy and Physiology II	
BIO-186	Microbiology <sup>1</sup>	4
Select one of the following: <sup>1</sup>		3
CHM-110	Introduction to Chemistry	
CHM-165	General Chemistry I	
MAT-102	Intermediate Algebra <sup>1</sup>	4
<b>Term Totals:</b>		<b>14</b>
<b>Term 1</b>		
RCP-101	Respiratory Anatomy and Physiology Enrichment	1
RCP-120	Cardiopulmonary Assessment	1
RCP-212	Introduction to Respiratory Care	3.5
HSC-107	Professionals in Health <sup>2</sup>	2
HSC-115	Medical Terminology <sup>2</sup>	4
ENG-105	Composition I <sup>2</sup>	3
<b>Term Totals:</b>		<b>14.5</b>
<b>Term 2</b>		
RCP-220	Respiratory Care I	3
RCP-730	Respiratory Care Clinic I	2.5
RCP-300	Respiratory Physiology	4
PSY-111	Introduction to Psychology <sup>2</sup>	3
Select one of the following:		3
SPC-101	Fundamentals of Oral Communication <sup>2</sup>	
SPC-112	Public Speaking <sup>2</sup>	
COM-222	Communication for Health Care Professionals <sup>2</sup>	
<b>Term Totals:</b>		<b>15.5</b>
<b>Term 3</b>		
RCP-370	Respiratory Pathology I	2
RCP-420	Pulmonary Function Testing	2

RCP-511	Respiratory Care II-A	4
RCP-512	Respiratory Care II-B	4
	<b>Term Totals:</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Term 4</b>		
RCP-470	Cardiac Monitoring	1.5
RCP-850	Respiratory Care III	2.5
RCP-610	Perinatology	2.5
RCP-380	Respiratory Pathology II	2.5
RCP-736	Respiratory Care Clinic II	6
	<b>Term Totals:</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Term 5</b>		
RCP-740	Respiratory Care Clinic III	6.5
RCP-891	Respiratory Care Applications	2.5
RCP-480	Advanced Cardiac Care	2.5
Humanities or History/Culture Course ( <a href="https://creditcatalog.kirkwood.edu/aas-degree-humanities-requirement/">https://creditcatalog.kirkwood.edu/aas-degree-humanities-requirement/</a> ) <sup>2</sup>		3
	<b>Term Totals:</b>	<b>14.5</b>
	<b>Program Totals:</b>	<b>85.5</b>

<sup>1</sup> Courses must be completed with a C- or better before admissions into the program.

<sup>2</sup> Courses may be taken before beginning the program.

*Note: All Respiratory Therapist technical and elective courses must be completed with a C- or better to continue to the next semester.*

*Respiratory Therapist graduates take the Therapist Multiple Choice Exam administered by the National Board for Respiratory Care to become a certified respiratory therapist (CRT) and be eligible for their Registered Respiratory Therapy licensure upon passing the CRT exam.*

## Optional Courses

Code	Title	Credit Hours
HSC-103	Studies in Health Sciences	1-3
RCP-924	Honors Project	1