

RESPIRATORY THERAPY PROGRAM INFORMATION

Respiratory therapists work with physicians and other allied health professionals to diagnose and treat patients with disorders associated with the respiratory and cardiovascular systems. Therapists may be required to exercise considerable independent clinical judgment under the direct or indirect supervision of a physician and are trained to act as technical resource persons for both physicians and other health care professionals.

The Respiratory Therapy Program (RPT) is a balanced curriculum, including both respiratory and general education courses. Course content includes the role of the respiratory therapist, health care concepts, and technical observations and skills. It provides the student with a strong background in the use of respiratory equipment, cardiopulmonary anatomy and physiology, pharmacology, diagnostic procedures, sleep disorders, and pathophysiology. The student receives direct, hands-on patient care experience in various hospitals and facilities throughout his or her clinical education. The respiratory courses **must** be taken in sequential order. New classes begin in the fall semester of each year.

The Respiratory Therapy Program at Shelton State Community College holds continuing accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) (www.coarc.com). This status signifies that a program has demonstrated sufficient compliance with CoARC standards. It is recognized by the National Board of Respiratory Care (NBRC) toward eligibility to the Respiratory Care Credentialing Examination(s). CoARC is located at 1248 Harwood Road, Bedford, Texas 76021-4244. CoARC can be contacted by phone at 817.283.2835.

Minimum Admission Requirements for the RPT Program:

- I. June 1 application deadline with selection of students in July each year
- II. An official transcript of all college work
- III. A copy of current class schedule, if enrolled
- IV. An overall GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale on all college work completed and a cumulative GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale on all prerequisite courses
- V. Completion of all prerequisite courses with a letter grade of C (70) or above: MTH 100, ENG 101, BIO 201, BIO 202, and RPT 256 (with a letter grade of C (75) or above)

NOTE: BIO 202 must be taken within the last five years, and ELO 100 is a prerequisite for RPT 256.

- VI. **Submission of a hard copy** of Next-Generation, Accuplacer, or ACT reading scores
NOTE: The Next-Generation reading score must be 244 or higher and taken within the last three (3) years; the Accuplacer reading score must be seventy (70) or higher and taken within the last three (3) years; or the ACT reading score must be seventeen (17) or higher and taken within the last three (3) years.
- VII. Attendance at a **Health Services Program Information Session** within the last year prior to making application to the program

Calculation of Points for Students Meeting Minimum Respiratory Therapy Program Admission Standards:

After meeting all minimum requirements, applicants are rank-ordered using a point system based on the following:

1. Points from the required academic courses for the Respiratory Therapy Program are as follows: ENG 101, MTH 100 or higher, BIO 201, BIO 202, RPT 256.
Points for grades are as follows: A = 3 points, B = 2 points, C = 1 point.
2. An overall GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale is required on all college work completed. Points for overall GPA are as follows: 4.000-3.500 = 4 points, 3.499-3.000 = 3 points, 2.999-2.500 = 2 points, and 2.499-2.000 = 1 point.
3. Twelve (12) points may be awarded as follows: successful completion of ORI 101; CIS 146; PSY 200; SPH 106, 107, or 116.
Points for grades are as follows: A = 3 points, B = 2 points, C = 1 point.
4. An additional four (4) points may be awarded for the following: six (6) months of work experience in a health-related field with direct patient care or the completion of a health-related program.

A total of thirty-five (35) points is possible with these selection criteria.

NOTE: Selection of students is made in July of each year for admission in the fall semester. Application does not ensure acceptance to RPT.

CURRICULUM SEQUENCE FOR RESPIRATORY THERAPY PROGRAM

Prerequisite Courses

Course	Total Credits	Theory/Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours	Total Contact Hours
ORI 100 Orientation to College	1	1	0	0	1
BIO 201 Anatomy & Physiology I*	4	3	2	0	5
BIO 202 Human Anatomy and Physiology (Lab 2:1)	4	3	2	0	5
ENG 101 English Composition I	3	3	0	0	3
MTH 100 Intermediate Algebra	3	3	0	0	3
RPT 256 Writings and Research for the RCP	1	1	0	0	1
Semester Total	16	14	4	0	18

*BIO 103 is a pre-requisite for BIO 201 or satisfactory score on approved ACS placement exam.

First Semester

Course	Credit Hours	Theory/Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours	Total Contact Hours
RPT 210 Clinical Practice I (Preceptor 5:1)	2	0	0	10	10
RPT 211 Introduction to Respiratory Care	2	2	0	0	2
RPT 212 Fundamentals of Respiratory Care I (Lab 2:1)	4	2	4	0	6
RPT 213 Anatomy & Physiology for the Respiratory Care Practitioner	3	3	0	0	3
RPT 214 Pharmacology for the Respiratory Care Practitioner	2	2	0	0	2
CIS 146 Microcomputer Applications	3	3	0	0	3
Semester Total	16	12	4	10	26

Second Semester

Course	Credit Hours	Theory/Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours	Total Contact Hours
RPT 220 Clinical Practice II (Preceptor 5:1)	2	0	0	10	10
RPT 221 Pathology for the Respiratory Care Practitioner I	3	2	2	0	4
RPT 222 Fundamentals of Respiratory Care II	4	2	4	0	6
RPT 223 Acid Base Regulation and Arterial Blood Gas Analysis	2	2	0	0	2
RPT 234 Mechanical Ventilation for the Respiratory Care Practitioner	4	2	4	0	6
PSY 200 General Psychology	3	3	0	0	3
Semester Total	18	11	10	10	31

Third Semester

Course	Credit Hours	Theory/Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours	Total Contact Hours
RPT 230 Clinical Practice III (Preceptor 5:1)	2	0	0	10	10
RPT 232 Diagnostic Procedures for the Respiratory Care Practitioner	2	1	2	0	3

RPT 233 Special Procedures for the Respiratory Care Practitioner	2	2	0	0	2
RPT 242 Perinatal/Pediatric Respiratory Care (Lab 2:1)	3	2	2	0	4
SPH 116 Interpersonal Communication	3	3	0	0	3
Semester Total	12	8	4	10	22

Fourth Semester

Course	Credit Hours	Theory/Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours	Total Contact Hours
RPT 240 Clinical Practice IV (Preceptor 5:1)	4	0	0	20	20
RPT 241 Rehabilitation and Home Care for the Respiratory Care Practitioner	2	2	0	0	2
RPT 243 Computer Applications for the Respiratory Care Practitioner (Lab 3:1)	2	0	4	0	4
RPT 244 Critical Care Considerations for the RPT Care Practitioner	2	0	0	0	2
RPT 266 Seminar in Respiratory Medicine I	1	1	0	0	1
RPT 268 Writing & Research for the RCP II	1	1	0	0	1
Semester Total	12	4	4	20	30

Program Totals

Credit Hours: 74
Total Contact Hours: 1905 (127x 15)
General Education Hours: 24
Respiratory Therapy Hours: 50

POLICIES FOR THE RESPIRATORY THERAPY PROGRAM:

Grading Policy & Academic Standards

In the Respiratory Therapy Program, each student is routinely evaluated based on comprehension of theoretical concepts, safe performance and psychomotor skills in clinical areas, and ethical and affective behavior expected of the professional practitioner. The Respiratory Therapy Program uses the following academic grading system:

A = 100-90	Excellent
B = 89-80	Good
C = 79-75	Average
D = 74-60	Failing
F = 59-0	Failing

Academic Progression Policy:

1. A student must achieve a minimum grade of **C (75)** or above in every RPT course.
2. Respiratory courses are taught sequentially. ***(A student must have a minimum grade of 75 in every course in a given semester's work to proceed to the courses taught in the next semester.)***
3. Students will be tracked and counseled as it relates to academic progress. A plan for success will be developed when deficiencies are noted and placed in a student's file.
4. In the event that a student makes a grade below 75 in any RPT course, the student must withdraw from the program immediately.
5. The student may apply for re-admission to the program; acceptance is conditional upon the following:
 - a. completion of application for readmission,
 - b. fulfillment of admission criteria (academic and clinical),
 - c. space availability in the next class and the next clinical courses,
 - d. one prior admission only,
 - e. successful completion of validation requirements in Psychomotor Domain and Cognitive/Knowledge/Academic Content Domain.

Note: An explanation of these validation requirements can be found in the Respiratory Therapy Program Student Handbook.
6. After readmission, if the student does not achieve the minimum 75 grade in the second attempt of the same RPT course, or fails to achieve the minimum 75 in any other RPT course, then the student will be withdrawn from the program. The student may seek admission as a new student after a period of three (3) years.
7. A student absent from the respiratory course sequence for more than three semesters must apply as a new student.
8. A student will not be readmitted to the program more than once.

Health & Health Related Policies:

Because participation in clinical instruction is an integral part of the Respiratory Therapy Program curriculum, each student is required to comply with all the policies and procedures of the contracted clinical agencies and the RPT Program. Therefore, each student is expected to uphold the contractual terms upon being admitted to the RPT Program. All costs/expenses associated with meeting the health and general policy requirements of the

program are the responsibility of the student. The following policies and procedures are required by all students upon acceptance to the Respiratory Therapy Program.

1. Students are required to submit a completed RPT Medical Form (which requires a current physical examination).
2. Students are required to have vaccinations, which include:
 - a. Hepatitis B Series or evidence of immunity
 - b. MMR (German Measles, Mumps, Rubella) if born after 1957 or evidence of immunity
 - c. Varicella immunity (immunization record or titer)
 - d. Proof of tetanus vaccination
 - e. Current seasonal flu vaccine
 - f. Documentation of a two-step TB skin test
3. Students are required to undergo current Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training at the health care provider level (BLS/Infant/Child).
4. Students are required to complete current CPR certification at the health care provider level (BLS/Infant/Child).
5. Students are required to purchase liability and accident insurance that is available through the College.
6. Students are required to complete a pre-clinical **drug screen**. The students must have a negative screen prior to being assigned to a clinical agency. The complete drug screen policy is located in the RPT Program Student Handbook.
7. Students are required to have a **background check** prior to assignment to clinical/lab rotations. All students must sign a release form for permission to perform a background check as required by federal law. The student must abide by the RPT Program background check policy and clinical agency policy for which the student is assigned. Every effort will be made to provide students with the required clinical experiences to meet program objectives. Any student denied access by a clinical affiliate will be subject to dismissal from the program.
8. Students are required to complete training on Universal Precautions, OSHA requirements, and the prevention and management of the spread of disease. Training is given in the introductory/fundamentals course. Additional information is given related to hospital policies, including, but not limited to, issues of confidentiality, procedures, fire and safety procedures, and documentation policies.

Essential Function Standards:

The Alabama College System and SSCC endorse the Americans with Disabilities Act. In accordance with College policy, when requested, reasonable accommodations may be provided for individuals with disabilities.

Physical, cognitive, psychomotor, affective, and social abilities are required in unique combinations to provide safe and effective respiratory care. The applicant/student must be able to meet the essential function standards with or without reasonable accommodations throughout the program of learning. Admission, progression, and graduation are contingent upon one's ability to demonstrate the essential functions delineated for the Respiratory Therapy Program with or without reasonable accommodations. ***The student may request disability accommodations in writing to the Office of Specialized Student Services, which is***

located on the second floor of the Martin Campus. Any reasonable accommodations made by the RPT Program must originate from the Office of Specialized Student Services.

Note: Respiratory Therapy Program information, policies, and curriculum are subject to change without prior notice due to accrediting agency requirements.

RPT Program Location:

Shelton State Community College
C. A. Fredd Campus, Building 500
3401 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401

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