

RESPIRATORY THERAPY, A.A.S.

Location(s): MEC
NOVA Code: 1810

Purpose

The curriculum is designed to prepare students to be effective members of the healthcare team in assisting with diagnosis, treatment, management, and preventive care of patients with cardiopulmonary problems. Upon successful completion of the program, students are eligible to take the entry-level and advanced practitioner examinations leading to certification as a Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT) and registration as a Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT).

Transfer Information

Transfer is not the primary purpose of an A.A.S. program, but NOVA has articulation agreements that facilitate the transfer of this and other career-oriented programs to selected senior institutions. Students interested in transfer should contact a counselor or their academic advisor early in their program.

Special Accreditation Status

The Northern Virginia Community College Respiratory Therapy (RTH) Program, CoARC number 200206, offers an Associate Degree in Applied Science (AAS), located at Medical Education Campus, 6699 Springfield Center Dr, Springfield, VA 22150, is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (www.coarc.com) (<http://www.coarc.com/>).

The Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) (<https://coarc.com/>) accredits respiratory therapy education programs in the United States. To achieve this end, it utilizes an 'outcomes based' process. Programmatic outcomes (<https://coarc.com/students/programmatic-outcomes-data/>) are performance indicators that reflect the extent to which the educational goals of the program are achieved and by which program effectiveness is documented.

Continuation Requirement

All courses (including General Education courses) must be completed with a grade of "C" or better before taking the next course in the sequence and to satisfy graduation requirements (note: some prerequisite requirements may require a higher grade).

Special Program Continuation Requirements

If general education courses are not completed before acceptance into the Respiratory Therapy Program, then they are to be taken in the corresponding semester as indicated in the curriculum plan. Students may not proceed to the next sequential respiratory therapy course without having completed the appropriate general education coursework.

Reenrollment

- Students in good standing may be permitted to reenroll in the RTH curriculum on a space-available basis, with permission of the program director.

- Students who leave the program for any period up to two years for either personal or academic reasons are required to demonstrate proficiency in all previously enrolled skills courses prior to reentering the program. "Practical exams" are administered and scheduled by the program faculty. A written exam will be required.
- Students who leave the program for any period of time for medical reasons are required to submit evidence of good physical and mental health, as substantiated by a newly completed Pre-Admission Health History and Physical for Allied Health and Nursing Form (125-007) signed by the primary physician responsible for their care.

Licensure Requirements

The Virginia Board of Medicine reserves the right to deny licensure to any candidate who has been convicted of a crime or any offense relating to the abuse of alcohol and/or use or sale of controlled substances in Virginia or any other state. Any applicant to the Respiratory Therapy Program who has been found guilty of a misdemeanor or felony must consult with the program director of Respiratory Therapy prior to acceptance into the program.

Advanced Placement Admission

Students seeking advanced placement, or transfer, including military respiratory technicians, or non-associate degree therapists should contact the program director of the RTH program for individual counseling.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must do the following:

- Comply with all general admission requirements for Health Sciences Programs.
- View a Respiratory Therapy information session (<https://www.nvcc.edu/academics/programs/respiratory-therapy.html>) online.
- Complete or self-place (<https://www.nvcc.edu/admissions/direct-enrollment.html>) into MTH 154 Quantitative Reasoning or higher. (MTH 155 Statistical Reasoning may be substituted for MTH 154 Quantitative Reasoning. Please contact a faculty or academic advisor to request a course substitute).
- Have a minimum 2.5 curricular GPA at the last school/college attended at which at least 15 credits were completed. For Health Science programs, GPA evaluation will prioritize a student's record at Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA). If no NOVA GPA is available, the GPA from the student's most recent institution will be considered.
- Have completed ENG 111 College Composition I, HLT 141 Introduction to Medical Terminology, and SDV 100 College Success Skills or SDV 101 Orientation to: or an SDV elective with a grade of "C" or higher.
- Complete BIO 141 Human Anatomy And Physiology I and BIO 142 Human Anatomy and Physiology II with a "C" or higher and completed within 10 years of application. (Please note: BIO 141 Human Anatomy And Physiology I requires the completion of BIO 101 General Biology I, or NAS 2 Foundations of Life Sciences or a placement test as noted at the Nursing and Health Sciences Division).
- Have completed RTH 120 Fundamental Theory for Respiratory Care with a grade of "B" or higher.

Two Years

Course	Title	Credits
Prerequisites		
BIO 141	Human Anatomy And Physiology I	4
BIO 142	Human Anatomy and Physiology II	4
ENG 111	College Composition I	3
HLT 141	Introduction to Medical Terminology	1
RTH 120	Fundamental Theory for Respiratory Care	2
SDV 101 or SDV 100	Orientation to: (Healthcare) or College Success Skills	1
Credits		15
1st Semester		
Humanities/Fine Arts Elective (https://catalog.nvcc.edu/general-education-electives/#ge_hum_fa_elect)		3
RTH 102	Integrated Sciences for Respiratory Care II	3
RTH 111	A&P of The Cardiopulmonary System	3
RTH 145	Pharmacology For Respiratory Care I	1
RTH 151	Fundamental Clinical Procedures I	3
Credits		13
2nd Semester		
Select one of the following CST Electives:		3
CST 229	Intercultural Communication	
CST 110	Introduction to Human Communication	
CST 126	Interpersonal Communication	
RTH 121	Cardiopulmonary Science I	3
RTH 131	Respiratory Care Theory And Proc I	4
RTH 196	On-Site Training In: (Respiratory Care I)	3
RTH 245	Pharmacology For Respiratory Care II	2
Credits		15
3rd Semester		
RTH 135	Diagnostic And Therapeutic Procedure	2
RTH 296	On-Site Training In: (Respiratory Care II)	2
Credits		4
4th Semester		
RTH 215	Pulmonary Rehabilitation	1
RTH 222	Cardiopulmonary Science II	3
RTH 223	Cardiopulmonary Science III	2
RTH 236	Critical Care Monitoring	3
RTH 290	Coordinated Internship: (ICU Rotation)	3
Credits		12
5th Semester		
PED 116	Lifetime Fitness And Wellness	1
RTH 225	Neonatal And Pediatric Respiratory p	3
RTH 227	Integrated Resp. Therapy Skills II	2
RTH 290	Coordinated Internship: (NEO/PEDS/Precepting)	3
Social/Behavioral Sciences Elective (https://catalog.nvcc.edu/general-education-electives/#ge_soc_beh_sci_elec)		3
Credits		12
Total Credits		71