



TIDEWATER COMMUNITY COLLEGE
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VIRGINIA BEACH CAMPUS

RESPIRATORY THERAPY PROGRAM

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in the Associate of Applied Science degree in Respiratory Therapy. This packet includes information on the profession, admission process, and a list of the Respiratory Therapy courses in the curriculum.

The mission of the Respiratory Therapy Program at Tidewater Community College is to be an exemplary program graduating highly qualified individuals to fill the employment needs of the profession. The program is committed to serving students and the respiratory therapy community through guidance, excellent academic instruction and professional training, utilizing traditional and innovative means of instruction. The Respiratory Therapy faculty is committed to preparing competent Respiratory Therapists with the cognitive, psychomotor and professional characteristics as required by the Committee for Respiratory Therapy Education (CoARC), the accrediting body for respiratory therapy education. TCC is fully accredited by CoARC. For further information, they can be reached at the address below.

Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC)
1248 Harwood Road
Bedford, TX 76021-4244
Phone: 817-283-2835
Fax: 817-354-8519

The Respiratory Therapy Program begins in May of each year with an official program application deadline of the previous **January 15**. Admission to the program requires students to submit a TCC college application and a separate application to the Health Professions Program. These applications are available online at our website: www.tcc.edu/healthprofessions, or in the Welcome and Entry Center, Princess Anne Building of the Virginia Beach Campus. The Health Professions Program Application should be submitted to Enrollment Services, Room A-100A, Tidewater Community College, 1700 College Crescent, Virginia Beach, VA 23453. If an applicant has completed courses from other institutions that are not part of the Virginia Community College System (VCCS), they are required to have **official college transcripts** sent *directly* to Central Records Office, Tidewater Community College, P.O. Box 9000, Norfolk, VA 23509-9000 from the institution's registrar. Using the online form, applicants must submit a request for an Evaluation of Previous Educational Experiences to the Office of the College Registrar. <http://www.tcc.edu/central-records/transfer-credits.php>. You must submit this form in order to have your transcripts evaluated. After you have applied to the program you may contact Enrollment Services at (757) 822-7256 to check on your application status. Please take the time to verify receipt of your application and transcripts. **Only students with *completed* applications can be considered for the program.**

This packet includes information about the admission process, acceptance requirements, as well as courses in the Respiratory Therapy Program curriculum that I hope you will find helpful. If you have questions or are interested in entering the program, I encourage you to attend our Respiratory Therapy Open House on the **third** Thursday of each month (except December) on the Virginia Beach Campus, room MN 206 in the Regional Health Professions Center from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Open House attendance is mandatory for those applying to the program.

Information on grants, loans, and scholarships is available from the Financial Aid Office and can be reached by calling (757) 822-1688. The Center for Military and Veteran Education (CMVE) office can assist you with your application if you are eligible for VA educational benefits. The CMVE office can be reached by calling (757) 822-7235.

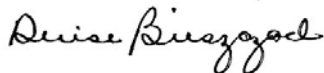
PLEASE NOTE:

Information in this packet is subject to change. Students should check periodically to see if materials have been updated. Prospective students are hereby notified that certain medical facilities require both criminal/sex offender background checks as well as drug screens prior to being authorized to attend clinical practicum. The cost of the background check is the responsibility of the student.

Tidewater Community College maintains and promotes equal opportunity without regard to ethnicity, color, gender, age (except where gender or age is a bona fide occupational qualification), religion, handicap, national origin, or other non-merit factors. Disclosure of social security number, age, gender, and ethnicity is optional.

Once again, thank you for your interest in our program. Please contact me with any further questions or concerns at the email address listed below.

Sincerely,



Denise Bieszczad
Program Director
Respiratory Therapy Program
dbieszczad@email.vccs.edu
<http://www.tcc.edu/healthprofessions>

RESPIRATORY THERAPY PROGRAM

Program Length

The Tidewater Community College Associate of Applied Science in Respiratory Therapy is six semesters in length and consists of 67 credit hours. This curriculum is designed to prepare students for employment as respiratory therapist upon graduation, certification and licensure.

Essential Functions of the RT Student

To successfully complete the clinical component of the RT program, the student must be able to perform all of the essential functions of a Respiratory Therapist. Students should possess and be able to demonstrate the following:

1. **Manual Dexterity:** Bilateral use of hands or terminal devices that involves coordination and strength.
2. **Sufficient gross and fine motor coordination** to manipulate equipment and accessories, lift a minimum of 35 pounds, and to stoop, bend, or promptly assist patients who become unstable.
3. **Sufficient eyesight** to observe patients, read patient records, manipulate equipment and accessories, visually monitor patients in dimmed light via video monitors, evaluate radiographs for quality, and see distinct colors on sonograms.
4. **Sufficient hearing** to communicate with patients and other members of the health care team, monitor patients via audio monitors, and hear background sounds during equipment operations.
5. Satisfactorily demonstrate effective written and oral communication abilities sufficient for interaction with others. This includes, but is not limited to, reading, following instructions, and other forms of communication.
Writing: Ability to communicate effectively in legible written form.
Speaking: Ability to verbally communicate understandably in English.
Reading: Ability to read, understand, and follow directions printed in English.
6. **Emotional stability:** Ability to work independently maintaining composure and competence under stressful situations. Be able to function as a supportive member of the health care team to maintain the highest standards of the laboratory in its delivery of patient care.
7. **Interpersonal skills:** Sufficient ability to interact with individuals, families, and other health care professionals from a variety of emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds.
8. **Mobility:** Physical abilities sufficient to move from room to room, maneuver in small places, and stand and walk for extensive periods of time.
9. **Cognitive Abilities:** Ability to be oriented to time, place, and person: organization responsibilities, prioritizing appropriately, and making decisions in a timely manner.
10. **Health Status:** Students, who pose a risk to the health, safety or well-being of patients or other students, whether due to infectious disease or otherwise, may be removed from clinical settings. If a student should contract or be a carrier of any infectious disease

whether acute, chronic, active or inactive, it is the student's responsibility to report this immediately to the course/clinical instructor. Patient well-being, safety and health are the primary concern of all clinical faculties and clinical sites. All clinical sites and clinical facilities, as well as TCC, reserve the right to require medical verification that a student may participate in a clinical setting without posing a risk to the health, safety or well-being of patients, other students or staff.

11. **Satisfactory physical strength and endurance** to move immobile patients to or from a stretcher or wheelchair to the x-ray table, work with arms extended overhead, stand in place for long periods of time, and carry 20-25 pounds while walking. EMS applicants must be able to lift, carry, and balance 125 pounds.
12. **Satisfactory intellectual and emotional functions** to ensure patient safety and exercise independent judgment and discretion in the performance of assigned responsibilities.

Admission Requirements

Admission to Tidewater Community College does not automatically qualify a student for admission to the Respiratory Therapy Program. Students must comply with all General Admission Requirements for Division of Health Professions Programs.

In addition to meeting the admissions requirements for TCC and the Division of Health Professions programs, students must meet the following specific requirements to be admitted to the Respiratory Therapy Program. Students must:

1. Must be at least 18 years of age
2. Be a high school graduate or have a GED.
3. Meet current requirements for admission to TCC.
4. Attend a Respiratory Therapy Open House Information Session.
5. Submit a **completed** Health Science Application indicating that you are applying for the Respiratory Therapy Program.
6. Compete High School Chemistry or CHM I
7. Place into MTE 5
8. Complete the following prerequisite courses with a grade of 'C' or better:: BIO 141 Anatomy and Physiology I; and ENG 111 College Composition.
9. Assure that transcripts from all other colleges attended are on file at TCC prior to program application deadline date. These transfer credits must be evaluated before any transfer credit is granted. Applications are accepted from May 15 through January 15 for summer admission. Admission will be on a competitive placement basis of fully qualified candidates. Students may require developmental studies, which must be completed before they are considered for admission to the program.

Since the number of applicants to the program usually exceeds the maximum enrollment capacity of the program, students will be selected on a competitive basis. The scoring criteria to be applied during competitive applicant review are defined in Table 1 which follows. In the event that two or more students have a tied competitive placement score, the grade point average (GPA) from the last school attended will be used to break the tie.

Table 1: Admission Requirement Weighting

BELOW ARE MINIMUM PREREQUISITE REQUIREMENTS		Total score
18 Years of age	Must have these to be considered.	No points
High school diploma or GED		
Place into MTE 5		
HS Chemistry or CHM 1		
BIO 141 Anatomy and Physiology I with a grade of “C” or higher	Highest points for an A Medium points for B Lowest points for a C	Points
ENG 111 College English with a grade of “C” or higher	Highest points for an A Medium points for B Lowest points for a C	Points
PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO THOSE HAVING THE COURSES BELOW		
AS or AAS		Points
BA or BS		Points
BIO 142 Anatomy and Physiology II with a grade of “C” or higher	Highest points for an A Medium points for B Lowest points for a C	Points
SDV 101 Orientation to Health Care	Highest points for an A Medium points for B Lowest points for a C	Points
HLT 143 Medical Terminology I	Highest points for an A Medium points for B Lowest points for a C	Points
ITE 115 Intro to Comp Applications	Highest points for an A Medium points for B Lowest points for a C	Points
SOC Elective	Highest points for an A Medium points for B Lowest points for a C	Points
HUM Elective	Highest points for an A Medium points for B Lowest points for a C	Points
Interview		Points

Once accepted, students must:

1. As a student in the Respiratory Therapy Program, the student must complete approximately 600 or more hours of clinical training in a hospital or health care facility.

The student must possess the physical ability to aide in the lifting and moving of patients; to pull/push and control the movement of machinery, i.e., ventilators and oxygen cylinders; to view digital displays and monitor oscilloscope readouts; to hear audible alarms; to auscultate blood pressure and heart and lung sounds; to perform tasks requiring fine motor control, and to interact effectively with patients and the health care team. All student must complete an in-depth physical prior to beginning their clinical activities. A physician must deem an applicant as possessing the physical attributes one needs to perform the tasks of a respiratory therapist prior to beginning the clinical component of the program. If there is any doubt that you would not meet the guidelines, please complete the physical prior to beginning the program.

2. Submit a satisfactory health status as certified by submission of a completed Health Professions Physical form signed by a licensed healthcare provider within the last twelve months. The Health Physical form is available in the Division of Health Professions Administrative Office, or online at www.tcc.edu/healthprofessions
3. Submit Immunization Testing record - Health Professions students must comply with both Virginia Law and clinical facility requirements related to immunizations. Healthcare professions include inherent health and safety risks. All health profession students are required to be compliant with Virginia laws related to immunizations for the protection of themselves and patients.
4. Submit documentation of a negative two-step TB test or, if a previous positive TB test was obtained, record of a negative chest X-ray.
5. Completion of a criminal background check and possibly a drug screen, depending on clinical site requirements, prior to placement for clinical rotations. All respiratory therapy students must complete the background check through CertifiedBackground. They will certify that the student has not been convicted of any offenses prohibiting them from attending clinical.
6. Maintain a 'C' grade point average or better to remain in good standing. Students whose academic performance is below a 'C' grade point average will be readmitted to the program at the discretion of the Program Director and according to space.

Prior to graduation from the program, students must demonstrate computer competency in word processing, spreadsheet, database, and internet/e-mail. You can either take ITE 115-Introduction to Computer Applications and Concepts, or call the Counseling Center at (757) 822-7211 to schedule a computer competency test or to test out of the course.

Tidewater Community College maintains and promotes equal opportunity without regard to ethnicity, color, gender, age (except where gender or age is a bona fide occupational qualification), religion, handicap, national origin, or other non-merit factors. Disclosure of social security number, age, gender, and ethnicity is optional.

RESPIRATORY THERAPY PROGRAM
ADMISSIONS PROCESS CHECKOFF LIST

The following steps must be completed as soon as possible.

Please check each item as you complete it.

- _____ 1. Obtain a Respiratory Therapy Program Packet. Packets are available on the Health Professions Division website <http://www.tcc.edu/healthprofessions>.
- _____ 2. Complete and return an Application for Admission to Tidewater Community College to the TCC Virginia Beach Campus Welcome and Entry Service Center in the Princess Anne Building, Room A-111. This can also be completed on line.
- _____ 3. Visit the Health Professions website at: <http://www.tcc.edu/healthprofessions> to learn more about the program, including frequently asked questions.
- _____ 4. Attend the Respiratory Therapy Program Open House held on the **third** Thursday of each month (except May, August and December) at 4:00 p.m. in the Regional Health Professions Center, Room MN206 on the Virginia Beach Campus. **This is mandatory.**
- _____ 5. Take the TCC English and math placement tests if required. It is recommended you take them as soon as possible to allow adequate time to take any developmental courses required prior to taking any RTH courses. Consult the Counseling Center for information concerning your need to take these tests and for times given.
- _____ 6. Submit the Health Professions Program Application to Enrollment Services, Room A-100A, Tidewater Community College, 1700 College Crescent, Virginia Beach, VA 23453. If transferring credits provide an unofficial copy of your transcript.
- _____ 7. Have official college transcripts sent directly to Tidewater Community College Central Records Office, PO Box 9000, Norfolk, VA 23509-9000 from the appropriate institution's registrar. Student copies are not acceptable. Missing transcripts are the greatest cause of delay in the application process and are the applicant's responsibility. Any college course work transferred to TCC requires a transcript evaluation.
- _____ 8. Submit your completed "Request for Evaluation of Previous Higher Educational Experiences" form to the Central Records Office, Tidewater Community College, PO Box 9000, Norfolk, VA 23509-9000. This form is located on the website at: <https://www.tcc.edu/secure/forms/evaluationrequest.php>
- _____ 9. Please bring this completed form with you to the information session.

KNOW THE FACTS -- FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS RESPIRATORY THERAPY?

Respiratory Therapy is one of many allied health professions. The profession developed out of needs of critical and rehabilitative heart and lung patients of the early 1940's. Respiratory care practitioners work as members of the critical care team in treating individuals who are seriously ill. Using sophisticated medical equipment, respiratory therapists help people with such lung disorders as asthma, emphysema, pneumonia, and bronchitis. This may include using equipment that will mechanically breathe for the patient.

WHAT CREDENTIAL CAN I RECEIVE UPON GRADUATION?

Students completing the Associate in Applied Science program are qualified to take the Therapist Multiple Choice (TMC) exam. There are two cut scores for the TMC exam. Passing the exam below the cut score (but above passing) would allow you to be recognized as a Certified Respiratory Therapy (CRT) practitioner. If you pass the TMC exam above the cut score, you would be allowed to sit for the Clinical Simulation Exam (CSE) offered by the NBRC. Upon successful completion of the CSE exam you would be recognized as a Registered Respiratory Therapy (RRT).

WHAT IS REQUIRED FOR ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAM?

The **minimum** eligibility requirement for admission to the program are BIO 141 - Human Anatomy & Physiology I, MTE 5, ENG 111 - College Composition I, and high school chemistry or CHEM 1.

WHAT CAN I DO IF I DON'T MEET THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION OR I FEEL IT HAS BEEN TOO LONG SINCE I HAD THE NECESSARY MATH AND SCIENCE?

Tidewater Community College offers a wide variety of developmental courses. These courses will provide students with the necessary knowledge to succeed in the program. Developmental Math, English, Biology and Chemistry are offered at various times both day and night. Biology 141 courses are offered each semester.

WHEN IS IT NECESSARY TO TAKE THE MATH AND ENGLISH PLACEMENT TESTS GIVEN BY THE COUNSELING CENTER?

It is recommended that these tests be taken as early as possible so that if developmental work is necessary, a student can complete it prior to the start of the program. Please call the Counseling Center at (757) 822-7211 for testing dates.

ARE THERE JOBS AVAILABLE?

Since the program's inception in 1975, all graduates have accepted positions immediately upon graduation. The future continues to be very bright for employment in Respiratory Therapy. In fact, the number and types of employers actively seeking qualified respiratory care practitioners has increased considerably. Today's practitioner may work in large and technologically advanced critical care units; perform in small rural hospitals; work with home care providers; pulmonary rehabilitation; pulmonary function diagnostics; private physicians, and long-term care facilities. According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics the need for Therapists will grow by 26 percent. The 2009 Human Resources study from the AARC states the projected average annual earning of RT's working in the area is \$62,223.

ARE ALL CLASSES OFFERED ONLY DURING THE DAY?

Most of the Respiratory Therapy classes are only offered at the Virginia Beach campus of TCC during the day. They can be identified by the prefix letters RTH. You may take all non-Respiratory Therapy courses in the curriculum either during the day or evening at any of the TCC campuses (Chesapeake, Norfolk, Portsmouth, or Virginia Beach). Health 155, while not a RTH prefix is a respiratory class and can only be taken within the curriculum.

MUST COURSES BE TAKEN IN THE ORDER THEY APPEAR IN THE CURRICULUM?

You must take all Respiratory Therapy courses in the order in which they appear in the curriculum. Each course prepares you for the next course, and each is offered only once a year. You may take any non-Respiratory Therapy courses during the semester it appears in the curriculum or before that semester. It is strongly recommended that all non-Respiratory Therapy courses be taken prior to entry into the program to lighten the course load.

HOW MANY HOURS A WEEK WILL I BE IN CLASS?

You will attend respiratory classes an average of 26 hours a week during the program. Of course, if you have already completed any required course work you will attend class fewer hours. This does not include additional time practicing in open lab which is required to be successful in the program.

I DON'T BELIEVE I CAN HANDLE SO MANY CREDIT HOURS EVERY SEMESTER. WHAT COURSES CAN I TAKE BEFORE I ENTER THE THERAPIST PROGRAM?

Any course that is not a Respiratory Therapy course (RTH prefix) can be taken before you are accepted into the program (except HLT 155). You can complete courses such as BIO 141 and 142, ENG 111, Humanities Elective, Social Science Elective, CHEM 1, ITE 115 and SDV 101 before you enter the program.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO COMPLETE THE RESPIRATORY THERAPIST PROGRAM?

The present program is structured to allow an entering college freshman with only BIO 141 to complete the 67semester hour curriculum in six (6) semesters after admission. However, it is

recommended that applicants complete all of the non-respiratory classes prior to entering the program.

WHERE ARE THE CLINICAL ASSIGNMENTS IN THE PROGRAM?

Currently the program sends student to the following facilities but the sites are subject to change depending on needs and resources.

- Clinical assignments include the following hospitals:
- Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters, Norfolk, Virginia
- Chesapeake Regional Medical Center, Chesapeake, Virginia
- Sentara Norfolk General Hospital, Norfolk, Virginia
- Sentara Careplex Hospital, Hampton, Virginia
- Sentara Princess Anne Hospital, Virginia Beach, Virginia
- Portsmouth Naval Hospital, Portsmouth, Virginia
- Sentara Leigh Hospital, Norfolk, Virginia
- DePaul Medical Center, Norfolk, Virginia
- Riverside Medical Center, Newport News
- Bon Secours Maryview
- Lake Taylor Long Term Care Facility

ARE THERE ANY COSTS INVOLVED IN THE RESPIRATORY THERAPY PROGRAM?

A student can expect to spend approximately \$900 in addition to tuition for the cost of required software (DataArc CD-rom), recommended texts, uniforms, a stethoscope, state and regional educational meeting fees, and exam review packages.

Prospective students should be aware that criminal/sex offender background checks are required prior to being authorized to attend clinical. Drug screening is at the discretion of the clinical site. The cost of the background check is the responsibility of the student.

ARE THERE SCHOLARSHIPS AND LOANS AVAILABLE TO SELECTED APPLICANTS?

Yes. Traditional College loans and scholarships are available to many students; please contact the financial aid office for more information.

IF I AM GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL IN JUNE, WHAT ARE MY CHANCES FOR ACCEPTANCE INTO THE RESPIRATORY THERAPY PROGRAM FOR THE SUMMER?

You will still need at least two semesters of coursework to be eligible for the program or have participated in a program such as dual enrollment while in high school. Our recommendation would be to take two (2) semesters and complete as many of the non-respiratory classes in the curriculum before applying.



TIDEWATER COMMUNITY COLLEGE
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Official Curriculum Guide

Name: _____

Date Entered TCC: _____

SIS Empl ID: _____

Counselor: _____

Associate of Applied Science: Respiratory Therapy (181)

The Respiratory Therapy program prepares students to work under the direction of a physician in assisting in diagnosis, treatment, and management of patients with cardiopulmonary disorders, and in helping patients to recover their lung function. Respiratory Care Practitioners (RCPs) deliver medications and oxygen, operate life support machines, and assure that patients have open breathing passages, among other duties. Graduates of the program may seek employment in hospital emergency rooms, intensive care units, outpatient clinics, and home health care.

Admission to the college does not guarantee admission to the Respiratory Therapy program. Entrance requirements for this program include completion of ENG 111, MTE 1-5, high school chemistry or CHM 1, SDV 101, and BIO 141 (BIO 142 is recommended), along with both a college and a Division of Health Professions application. An interview with program faculty is also required. Official transcripts from other colleges attended must be submitted to the Central Records Office at Tidewater Community College prior to the application deadline. For further information regarding admission, continuance, and graduation requirements, go to www.tcc.edu (search keywords "respiratory therapy").

The Associate of Applied Science degree in Respiratory Therapy prepares students to take the examinations to become a Registered Respiratory Therapist. The Respiratory Therapy Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care, 1248 Harwood Road, Bedford, Texas, 76021-4244, (817) 283-2835, www.coarc.com.

Pre-Admission Semester

Course No.	Course Title	Credits	When Taken	Grade
BIO 141	Human Anatomy and Physiology I	4	_____	()
ENG 111	College Composition I	3	_____	()
SDV 101	Orientation to Health Care	1	_____	()
Semester Total		8		

SEMESTER 1

Course No.	Course Title	Credits	When Taken	Grade
RTH 102	Integrated Sciences for Respiratory Care II	3	_____	()
RTH 120	Fundamental Theory for Respiratory Care	2	_____	()
RTH 131	Respiratory Care Theory and Procedures I	4	_____	()
Semester Total		9		

SEMESTER 2

Course No.	Course Title	Credits	When Taken	Grade
BIO 142	Human Anatomy and Physiology II	4	_____	()
RTH 121	Cardiopulmonary Science I	3	_____	()
RTH 132	Respiratory Care Theory and Procedures II	4	_____	()
RTH 145	Pharmacology for Respiratory Care I	1	_____	()
RTH 190	Coordinated Internship in Respiratory Therapy	3	_____	()
Semester Total		15		

SEMESTER 3

Course No.	Course Title	Credits	When Taken	Grade
RTH 217	Pulmonary Rehabilitation, Home Care and Health Promotion	2	_____	()
RTH 235	Diagnostic and Therapeutic Procedures II	3	_____	()
RTH 236	Critical Care Monitoring	3	_____	()
RTH 290	Coordinated Internship in Respiratory Therapy	3	_____	()
Semester Total		11		

SEMESTER 4

Course No.	Course Title	Credits	When Taken	Grade
RTH 222	Cardiopulmonary Science II	3	_____	()
RTH 290	Coordinated Internship in Respiratory Therapy	1	_____	()
Semester Total		4		

SEMESTER 5

Course No.	Course Title	Credits	When Taken	Grade
RTH 223	Cardiopulmonary Science III	2	_____	()
RTH 225	Neonatal and Pediatric Respiratory Procedures	3	_____	()
RTH 290	Coordinated Internship in Respiratory Therapy	3	_____	()
_____	Humanities Elective ¹	3	_____	()
Semester Total		11		

SEMESTER 6

Course No.	Course Title	Credits	When Taken	Grade
HLT 155	Current Issues and Health Care	2	_____	()
RTH 290	Coordinated Internship in Respiratory Therapy	3	_____	()
RTH 298	Seminar and Project in Respiratory Therapy	1	_____	()
_____	Social Science Elective ¹	3	_____	()
Semester Total		9		
Total Minimum Credits		67		

¹ Eligible courses are listed on page 40 in the 2014-2015 catalog. See your academic advisor or counselor to choose the appropriate course(s).