

# Respiratory Therapy



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The University of Rio Grande/Rio Grande Community College, in conjunction with Buckeye Hills Career Center, offers an allied health program in Respiratory Therapy. The Respiratory Therapy program curriculum includes courses in allied health sciences, math, chemistry, pharmacology and the professional courses in the respiratory therapy field. Upon completion of the curriculum, the student will be granted an Associate of Applied Science degree in Respiratory Therapy from the University of Rio Grande/Rio Grande Community College. The graduate will be eligible to apply to the National Board for Respiratory Care for his/her certification and registry exams.

A respiratory therapist, also known as a respiratory care practitioner, evaluates, treats, and cares for patients with breathing or other cardiopulmonary disorders. Respiratory therapists, practicing under physician direction, assume primary responsibility for all respiratory care treatments and diagnostic procedures. The Registered Respiratory Therapist also provides supervision and direction to the Certified Respiratory Therapy Technicians.



The Respiratory Therapy program at the University of Rio Grande/Rio Grande Community College/

Buckeye Hills Careers Center was selected by CoARC to receive the *Distinguished RRT Credentialing Success Award 2019 and 2020*. The RRT is considered the advanced level credential for the field of Respiratory Therapy. To be eligible for this award the program must have outcome data, meet or exceed all thresholds for accreditation, and demonstrate outstanding credentialing success by the program's graduates. Receiving this honor is a tribute to the commitment of the students, graduates, and all staff members of the Respiratory Therapy program at the University of Rio Grande/Rio Grande Community College/ Buckeye Hills Careers Center. As a healthcare profession, respiratory therapy is practiced under medical direction across the healthcare continuum. Respiratory therapy is specifically focused on the assessment,

treatment, management, control, diagnostic evaluation, education, and care of patients with deficiencies and abnormalities of the cardiopulmonary system, as well as on the prevention of the development of these deficiencies. Critical thinking, patient and environment assessment skills, Respiratory therapists work with sophisticated medical equipment such as mechanical ventilators that breathe for people who can't breathe on their own, and also work with other devices that require a knowledge and ability to apply high-tech devices in the care and treatment of patients. Respiratory therapists assess patients to ensure the treatments are working properly, and how to make the changes necessary to arrive at the best outcome for the patient.

Approximately 81% of respiratory jobs are in hospitals, mainly in departments of respiratory care; anesthesiology; or pulmonary medicine. Most of the remaining jobs were in offices of physicians or other health practitioners, consumer-goods rental firms that supply respiratory equipment for home use, nursing care facilities, employment services, and home healthcare services. (bls.gov)

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of respiratory therapists is expected to grow by 19% from 2019 to 2029, much faster than the average for all occupations. The increasing demand will come from the substantial growth in the middle-aged and elderly population. Growth in demand also will result from the expanding role of respiratory therapists in case management, disease prevention, emergency care, and the early detection of pulmonary disorders. (bls.gov)



# Respiratory Therapy

## Curriculum

PRE-PROFESSIONAL SEMESTER*			Credit Hrs.
LA	10001	Gateway To Success	1
BIO	11204	Essentials of A&P OR BIO 10104 Principles of A&P I	4
CHM	10404	Principles of Chemistry	4
AHC	13303	Medical Terminology I	3
AHC	10101	Intro to Allied Health Professions*	1

### FALL SEMESTER, 1ST YEAR

	Credit Hrs.
RCP 10204 Respiratory Fundamentals I	4
RCP 10501 Respiratory Practicum I	1
RCP 22502 Cardiopulmonary A & P I	2
PHT 14303 Pharmacy Math for RCP	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10</b>

### SUMMER SEMESTER, 2ND YEAR

	Credit Hrs.
RCP 20104 Mechanical Ventilation Tech.	4
RCP 20203 Neonatal & Pediatric Resp. Care	3
RCP 20502 Respiratory Practicum III	2
ENG 11103 Composition I	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>

### FALL SEMESTER, 2ND YEAR

	Credit Hrs.
RCP 21302 Cardiopulmonary Diagnostics	2
RCP 21502 Respiratory Practicum IV	2
RCP 20103 Management of the Critical Patient	3
ENG 11203 Composition II or	3
ENG 21403 Business Technical Writing	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10</b>

### SPRING SEMESTER, 1ST YEAR

	Credit Hrs.
PHT 14302 Pharmacology for RCP	2
RCP 10403 Cardiopulmonary Patho.	3
RCP 11603 Respiratory Fundamentals II	3
RCP 11502 Respiratory Practicum II	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10</b>

### SPRING SEMESTER, 2ND YEAR

	Credit Hrs.
RCP 21202 RCP Seminar—Board Review	2
RCP 21602 Respiratory Practicum V	2
PSY 11103 General Psychology	3
COM 11103 Fund. of Speech Communication	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10</b>

\*HIGHLY RECOMMENDED THAT YOU COMPLETE THESE COURSES BEFORE STARTING THE PROGRAM

\*Prerequisite for all Allied Health Majors. Not included in curriculum total.

\*\*Prerequisites: High School Biology and Chemistry or college-level equivalent courses passed with “C” or higher

The clinical education courses will be conducted at a variety of hospitals, clinics, and diagnostic centers within a 60-mile radius of the University (other sites may be used outside this radius but only on a as-needed basis). Students are responsible for their own transportation to and from the various clinical education sites. The clinical education courses will be scheduled for day, evening, midnight, and weekend rotations due to the different types of exams and events that occur in the various clinical sites. This will provide the student a better overall understanding of the diversity of the respiratory therapy field. Students must receive a background check (federal and state) with clear results and pass random drug/alcohol tests in order to remain in program. Students are responsible for all testing, background check and certification fees.

### Admission Requirements

- Meet all University of Rio Grande/Rio Grande Community College admission requirements and be officially admitted to Rio Grande.
- Take the Rio Grande entrance exam (Placement Test) to determine placement into math and English courses.
- Only students who are officially admitted into the RCP program can take the RCP courses.
- RCP application forms, high school transcripts and/or college transcripts must be submitted together in an envelope to Dr. Stephanie Wells-Mullins, Chair, School of Allied Health and Exercise Studies, by April 1 each year to be considered for admission starting Fall Semester. (RCP APPLICATIONS ARE ONLY GOOD FOR ONE YEAR. AFTER STUDENTS ARE CHOSEN FOR THE NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR, ALL APPLICATIONS WILL BE DISCARDED. YOU MUST REAPPLY EACH YEAR.)

### Academic Requirements

- High school or college cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher. (High school seniors may apply without attending a year of college first.) Students with GEDs must successfully complete 24 semester hours of college coursework with a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher before applying. College GPA is used after completing at least 12 semester hours as a full-time student.
- Successful completion of AHC 10101 – Intro. to Allied Health Professions (waived for entering high school seniors and transfer students.)
- Take an entrance exam given in the Spring semester before interviews are conducted (after application deadline).
- One unit each of high school biology, algebra, and chemistry or college-level equivalents—all with a minimum grade of C.
- Developmental courses in English, writing, reading and/or math must be completed before admission into the program.

A complete list of all entrance requirements, application procedures, and selection process for the Respiratory Therapy program is available upon request in the current college catalog or at [www.rio.edu](http://www.rio.edu)

**Contact: Dr. Stephanie Wells-Mullins, Chair**  
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