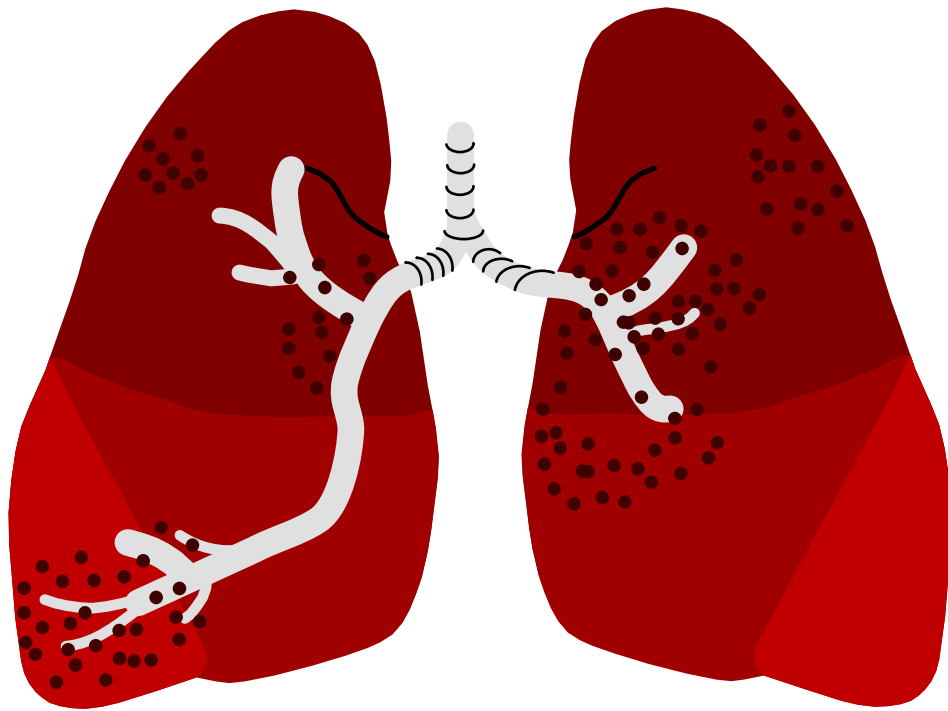


J. Sargeant Reynolds
Community College



School of Nursing and Allied Health

Respiratory Therapy



AAS Degree Program

INFORMATION PACKAGE



Dear Prospective Respiratory Therapy Student,

Thank you for expressing an interest in the Respiratory Therapy Program at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College. The program offers an Associate in Applied Science Degree in Respiratory Therapy and an Advanced Practice Certificate. Enclosed you will find some additional information about the above-mentioned options.

The program also offers a Distance Education component in several areas outside of Richmond. If this delivery method would be of interest to you, please let us know and we will discuss the requirements.

Your educational goals are important to us; we are here to assist you with any of your advising or educational needs. Please feel free to contact the Program Director, Nakia Austin at (804) 523-5009, the Director of Clinical Education, Kathryn Massino at (804) 523-5011 or the Distance Education Coordinator at (804) 523-5013.

We look forward to working with you as a student in the Respiratory Therapy Program,

Sincerely,

Nakia Austin, Program Director

Kathryn J. Massino, Director of Clinical Education

Sherry Compton, Distance Education Coordinator

Respiratory Therapy Associate in Applied Science

Purpose: The degree program in Respiratory Therapy is designed to prepare students for roles as contributing members of the modern health care team concerned with treatment, management, and care of patients with breathing, cardiovascular, and sleep abnormalities.

Occupational Objectives: Occupational objectives include employment opportunities as respiratory therapy practitioners in hospitals, clinics, research facilities, home care agencies and alternate care sites. The respiratory care practitioner will be able to administer gas therapy, humidity therapy, aerosol therapy, hyperinflation therapy, mechanical ventilation, special therapeutic and diagnostic procedures, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, airway management techniques, and to follow therapeutic protocols. The respiratory therapy practitioner works under the supervision of a physician.

Admission Requirements: General college curricular admission

Program Notes: All applicants to the Respiratory Therapy AAS Degree Program must declare their curriculum plan as the Pre-Nursing and Allied Health Career Studies Certificate. (Please see http://www.jsr.vccs.edu/curriculum/plan_info.htm for information on this career studies certificate.) In order to be officially accepted into the Respiratory Therapy AAS Degree Program, applicants will need to fulfill certain pre-requisites included in the career studies certificate and the meet with the program head to review their records. The program head will then notify students as space becomes available.

Students admitted into the Respiratory Therapy Program must complete the requirements listed below before entry into major/clinical courses (RTH 110 and higher.)

1. The HOBET (Health Occupations Basic Entrance Test) available in the Downtown and Parham road Campus Testing Centers
2. The Math Placement Test unless they have transferable College Algebra with a "C" or better. If Developmental Math is required, the student needs to successfully complete through Math 3
3. One unit of high school Biology and Chemistry with a "C" or better or the equivalent (JSRCC BIO 01 and CHM 01)
4. ENG 111 & 112, (2) Social Science Courses, (2) credits of Health and/or PE, NAS 161 & 162 and SDV 100 (College Success Skills)
5. A minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.00 in all pre-requisite courses
6. Grade of "C" or better in NAS 161 & 162
7. Interview with the Respiratory Therapy Program Head or Director of Clinical Education primarily to discuss the requirements and qualifications for a career in Respiratory Therapy.

As an exception, students can take RTH 102 and RTH 121 while completing the Pre-Nursing and Allied Health Career Studies Certificate.

Students will be placed in clinical courses (RTH 190 and higher) when they have:

1. Submitted complete physical and dental examination forms provided by the program.
2. CPR certification (American Heart or American Red Cross), with bi-annual recertification.
3. Completed the Certified Background Check (JSRCC approved Certified Background Check ONLY)

A special physical and dental examination is required for students entering the clinical portion of the program; this includes an immunization schedule. Applicants must be free of any physical or mental condition, which might adversely affect their clinical performance.

Drug Testing and Criminal Background Checks will be required by clinical affiliates. This will be at the student's expense.

A student must obtain permission from the Program Head to continue in Respiratory Therapy under the following conditions: (1) receipt of a grade below a "C" in any major course, (2) receipt of a grade below a "C" in any support course, natural science or mathematics, (3) overall GPA falls below a 2.0 average in any one semester. A student must obtain permission from the program head to take courses out of the sequence in the catalog.

Students are responsible for transportation to and from facilities used for clinical and laboratory experiences.

There are mentorship opportunities in association with clinical courses for qualifying students on a space available basis.

In order to complete the Respiratory Therapy Program students will be required to attend both day and evening classes.

Progression through the Program

The college offers this program in affiliation with the healthcare agencies and practitioners in the communities the college serves. The college relies on its community affiliates to provide clinical education opportunities for its students, expert clinical preceptors, and course instructors for many courses. The often rapid changes in healthcare law, standards of practice, technology, and content of credentialing examinations increasingly necessitates sudden changes in the program's course content, policies, procedures and course scheduling.

As a result the college cannot guarantee every student continuous and uninterrupted clinical and course instruction as outlined in the printed catalog curriculum for this program. Circumstances beyond the control of the college may necessitate the postponement of course offerings or changes in the sequencing and/or location of scheduled courses or clinical assignments. Additionally the college may have to change the instructor for courses after instruction has started.

Length of time a student has to complete the program

1. Full Time Student

Once a student is admitted to an accredited program in Respiratory Care, every effort should be expended to having the student graduate with his/her cohort. However, should circumstances dictate otherwise, the student must complete the program within two years following the graduation of his/her initial cohort/class.

Should the student leave the program within the above time period and subsequently wishes to be readmitted, the student may reapply to the program if the institutional and program regulations permit. Reentry to the program should be on a space available basis, and should only be allowed if the student can graduate within the above timeframe (two years after graduation of his/her cohort). Should program regulations allow the student to request reentry into the program at his/her exit point, an objective evaluation should be used to determine whether such placement of the student within the curriculum is appropriate.

2. Part Time Student

If a student meets the institutional definition of part time status, every effort should be expended to have the student graduate in the shortest time possible. In any case, a student in an associate degree program must complete the program within four years of enrolling in his/her first respiratory class. Should a student leave a program within the applicable time period and subsequently wish to be readmitted, s/he may reapply to the program if institutional and program regulations permit. Reentry to the program should be on a space available basis, and should only be allowed if the student can graduate within the applicable timeframe. Should program regulations allow the student to request reentry into the program at his/her exit point, an objective evaluation should be used to determine whether such placement of the student within the curriculum is appropriate.

Financial Requirements:

Books and Supplies	\$500 1 st Semester \$100 per Subsequent Semester
Identification Badge	\$12.00
Uniform (approximately)	\$ 50.00
Physical and Dental Examination	\$ Varies

(Note: The above costs are approximate and are subject to change.)

Computer Competency Requirement:

Students in this program will meet the college's computer competency requirement by successfully completing [ITE 115](#). Students can also meet this requirement by passing the college's Basic Computer Literacy Exam administered in the testing centers on each campus. In this case, college credit for [ITE 115](#) will be given. Those students not passing the Basic Computer Literacy Exam may retake the exam only once.

Program Exit Exam: Every student is required to pass a comprehensive exit exam before being added to the National Board for Respiratory Care's electronic eligibility database. Fee's for the exam is included in the fall semester tuition. If a student does not pass the comprehensive exit exam, subsequent attempts will be at the student's expense.

Program Accreditation and Practitioner Certification: The Respiratory Therapy Program is accredited through the Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care, 1248 Harwood Road, Bedford, TX 76021-4244, (817) 283-2835 and by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs. Graduates of this program are eligible to take the entry level examination, administered by the National Board for Respiratory Care, Inc. Successful

completion of the entry level exam will award the student with the CRT (Certified Respiratory Therapist) credential. This is required prior to applying for state licensure.

CURRICULUM

COURSE	TITLE	LEC HRS	LAB HRS	CRS CRE
RTH 102	Integrated Sciences for Respiratory Care	3	0	3
RTH 110	Fundamental Theory & Procedures for Respiratory Care	2	6	4
RTH 121	Cardiopulmonary Science I	3	0	3
RTH 135	Diagnostic Therapeutic Procedures I	1	3	2
RTH 145	Pharmacology for Respiratory Care I	1	0	1
*ENG 111	College Composition I	3	0	3
*SDV 100	College Success Skills	1	0	1
*----	Health or Physical Education	0-1	0-2	1
TOTALS		14-15	9-11	18
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RTH 113	Pathophysiology of the Cardiopulmonary System	3	3	4
RTH 131	Respiratory Care Theory & Procedures I	3	3	4
RTH 190	Coordinated Practice in Respiratory Therapy – NCC I& II	0	20	6
RTH 199	Supervised Study in Respiratory Therapy – NCC Exam Prep	1	0	1
*ENG 112	College Composition II	3	0	3
TOTALS		10	26	18
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RTH 132	Respiratory Care Theory & Procedures II	3	3	4
RTH 222	Cardiopulmonary Science II	3	0	3
RTH 190	Coordinated Practice in Respiratory Therapy – NCC Internship	0	10	3
RTH 215	Pulmonary Rehabilitation	1	0	1
RTH 265	Current Issues in Respiratory Care			
*NAS 161	Health Science I	3	3	4
TOTALS		12	16	17
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RTH 290	Coordinated Practice in Respiratory Therapy – ACC/NPCC I & II	0	20	6
RTH 299	Supervised Study in Respiratory Therapy – Exam Prep I	1	0	1
*NAS 162	Health Science II	3	3	4
*----- ¹	Social Science Elective and Humanities	6	0	6
*----- ²	Health or Physical Education	0	0	1
TOTALS		10-11	23-25	18

Total Minimum Credits Required for AAS in Respiratory Therapy

71

*This course is included in the Pre-Nursing and Allied Health Career Studies Certificate. (Please see http://www.jsr.vccs.edu/curriculum/plan_info.htm)

Acceptable Social Science Electives: Psychology, Sociology, Economics, Government, History, Political Science

Acceptable Humanities: ART 100, 101, 102, MUS 121, 122 ASL 125, 220, 225
 Any Philosophy or Religion Course
 English Literature (only if ENG 112 has been completed)
 SPA 233, 234

Respiratory Therapy Advanced Practice Career Studies Certificate

Purpose: This option is designed to increase the clinical skill level and knowledge of the entry level therapist in the management of the critically ill patient. Additional skills in cardiopulmonary diagnostics, rehabilitation, and evaluation and modification of therapy will be taught at the advanced practitioner level.

Occupational Objectives: Opportunities for employment as a professional respiratory therapist exist in hospitals, clinics, research facilities, educational institutions, home health care agencies and alternate care sites. The respiratory care practitioner will be able to administer gas therapy, humidity therapy, aerosol therapy, hyperinflation therapy, mechanical ventilation, special therapeutic and diagnostic procedures, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, airway management techniques, and follow therapeutic protocols. The respiratory therapist works under the supervision of a physician.

Admission Requirements: General college curricular admission. In addition, the applicant must be a Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT) or eligible for such certification.

Program Notes: Entry into the Respiratory Therapy Advanced Practice Curriculum also requires a personal interview with the Program Head or Director of Clinical Education. A special physical and dental examination is required for students accepted in the Advanced Practice Program; which includes an immunization schedule. Applicants must be free of any physical or mental condition, which might adversely affect their clinical performance.

Drug Testing and Criminal Background Checks may be required by clinical affiliates. This will be at the student's expense.

A student must obtain permission from the program head to continue the major in Respiratory Therapy under the following conditions: (1) Receipt of a grade below a "C" in any major course, (2) Overall GPA falls below a 2.0 average in any one semester. A student must obtain permission from the Program Head to take courses out of the sequence in the catalog. Current certification in CPR is required for enrollment in clinical courses. Current certification in ACLS and CRT certification is required for enrollment in all clinical internship courses taught in hospital intensive care units. Students are responsible for transportation to and from facilities used for clinical and laboratory experiences.

In order to complete the Respiratory Therapy Advanced Practice Program students will be required to attend both day and evening classes.

Progression through the Program

The college offers this program in affiliation with the healthcare agencies and practitioners in the communities the college serves. The college relies on its community affiliates to provide clinical education opportunities for its students, expert clinical preceptors, and course instructors for many courses. The often rapid changes in healthcare law, standards of practice, technology, and content of credentialing examinations increasingly necessitates sudden changes in the program's course content, policies, procedures and course scheduling.

As a result the college cannot guarantee every student continuous and uninterrupted clinical and course instruction as outlined in the printed catalog curriculum for this program. Circumstances beyond the control of the college may necessitate the postponement of course offerings or

changes in the sequencing and/or location of scheduled courses or clinical assignments. Additionally the college may have to change the instructor for courses after instruction has started.

Length of time a student has to complete the program

1. Full Time Student

Once a student is admitted to an accredited program in Respiratory Care, every effort should be expended to having the student graduate with his/her cohort. However, should circumstances dictate otherwise, the student must complete the program within two years following the graduation of his/her initial cohort/class.

Should the student leave the program within the above time period and subsequently wishes to be readmitted, the student may reapply to the program if the institutional and program regulations permit. Reentry to the program should be on a space available basis, and should only be allowed if the student can graduate within the above timeframe (two years after graduation of his/her cohort). Should program regulations allow the student to request reentry into the program at his/her exit point, an objective evaluation should be used to determine whether such placement of the student within the curriculum is appropriate.

2. Part Time Student

If a student meets the institutional definition of part time status, every effort should be expended to have the student graduate in the shortest time possible. In any case, a student in an associate degree program must complete the program within four years of enrolling in his/her first respiratory class. Should a student leave a program within the applicable time period and subsequently wish to be readmitted, s/he may reapply to the program if institutional and program regulations permit. Reentry to the program should be on a space available basis, and should only be allowed if the student can graduate within the applicable timeframe. Should program regulations allow the student to request reentry into the program at his/her exit point, an objective evaluation should be used to determine whether such placement of the student within the curriculum is appropriate.

Financial Requirements:

Books and Supplies	\$150.00 – 250.00/Semester
Identification Badge	\$12.00
Uniform (approximately)	\$50.00
Physical and Dental Examination	Varies

Note: The above costs are approximate and are subject to change.

Program Exit Exams: Every student is required to pass comprehensive exit exams before being added to the National Board for Respiratory Care's eligibility database. Fees for the exams are included in the spring and summer semester tuition. If a student does not pass the secured exams taken in the summer, any subsequent attempts are at the student's expense.

Program Accreditation and Therapist Certification: The Respiratory Therapy Program is accredited through the Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care, 1248 Harwood Road, Bedford, TX 76021-4244, (817) 283-2835 and by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs. Graduates of the Respiratory Therapy Advanced Practice Program who also have an AAS degree in Respiratory Therapy are eligible to take the Registry Examinations administered by the National Board for Respiratory Care, Inc.

CURRICULUM

COURSE	TITLE	LEC. HRS.	LAB. HRS.	CRS. CRE
RTH 223	Cardiopulmonary Science III	2	0	2
RTH 225	Neonatal and Pediatric Respiratory Procedures	2	3	3
RTH 227	Integrated Respiratory Therapy Skills II	2	0	2
RTH 235	Diagnostic and Therapeutic Procedures II	2	3	3
RTH 236	Critical Care Monitoring	2	3	3
RTH 290	Coordinated Practice in Respiratory Therapy – ACC/NPCC III & IV	0	30	9
RTH 299	Supervised Study in Respiratory Therapy – Exam Prep III	2	0	2
---- ¹	General Education Elective	3	0	3
	Total	15	39	27

¹Selection of a course to fulfill the general education elective requirement must be approved by the academic division administering this program.

