

# Respiratory Care Technology

## Associate of Applied Science in Respiratory Care Technology

Respiratory care is the allied health profession that cares for patients with deficiencies and abnormalities of the cardiopulmonary system. The respiratory therapist sees a diverse group of patients ranging from newborn and pediatric patients to adult and elderly. Disease states or conditions often requiring respiratory care include asthma, emphysema, chronic obstructive lung disease, pneumonia, cystic fibrosis, infant respiratory distress syndrome and conditions brought on by shock, trauma or postoperative surgical conditions.

### Career Opportunities

Career opportunities abound in hospitals, medical centers, rehabilitation, skilled nursing facilities and home care. The demand for respiratory therapists is expected to continue to increase according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. For example, the Bureau of Labor Statistics projects: "Employment of respiratory therapists is expected to grow 19 percent from 2012 to 2022, **faster than the average** for all occupations.

The increasing demand will come from substantial growth in the middle-aged and elderly population - a development that will heighten the incidence of cardiopulmonary disease. 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.

### Curriculum

Classroom instruction is accompanied by laboratory experiences and clinical instruction is provided at local clinical sites. Under the supervision of licensed respiratory care professionals who serve as clinical instructors, students perform tests and procedures on patients, thus achieving mastery of the techniques taught in the laboratory.

Certified or certification-eligible individuals seeking registry eligibility may be qualified for advanced standing in the major. Credit for previous coursework and/or work experience may be given, or the student may earn credit for some courses by passing an exam.

Students pursuing the associate of applied science in respiratory care technology degree program must complete a minimum of 69 hours, with 15 hours in residence preceding graduation. The Respiratory Care Program at Bowling Green State University Firelands College is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care ([www.coarc.com](http://www.coarc.com)).

### Degree Requirements

#### Length of Program

The program consists of six semesters and is sequenced so that four semesters of professional coursework follow two semesters of prerequisite (preprofessional) coursework.

#### BG Perspective

English 3-6 hours  
 Psychology 3-4 hours  
 Elective 3 hours\*\*

#### Basic Courses

Statistics or Math 3-5 hours  
 Chemistry or Allied Health Technology 3-4 hours  
 Medical Terminology 2 hours  
 Allied Health Technology or Biology 8-12 hours  
 Medical or Bioethics 2-3 hours

#### Core Courses

Respiratory Care 44 hours

\*\* not required if taking CHEM 109/110 instead of AHTH 132

### Program Admission

Students interested in the respiratory care technology degree program must make formal application. Students must meet the following criteria for consideration:

1. Be formally admitted to BGSU;
2. Submit a program application to the academic advisor (Ms. Robin Garland for LCCC campus based students; Mr. Rod Roark for BGSU Firelands based students). Applications are due by April 1 for fall admission;
3. Be a graduate of an accredited high school and have attained an overall GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 point scale in high school, or have earned the GED;
4. Complete prerequisites (preprofessional requirements) with a grade of "C" or higher in all AHTH, BIOL, CHEM, and AHS coursework or equivalent coursework if transferring from another accredited institution;
5. Maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher (on a 4.0 point scale) for all college/university coursework;
6. Complete a hospital/medical center tour of a respiratory care or cardiopulmonary services department and submit the observation verification form to the academic advisor;
7. Complete an interview with the respiratory care admissions committee. Note: All admissions are subject to approval by the respiratory care admissions committee.
8. Complete a criminal background check.

### Clinical Admission

To be admitted to the clinical portion of the degree program, students must meet the following requirements:

1. Have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 point scale;
2. Have a "C" or higher in all RESP, AHTH, CHEM and BIOL coursework;
3. Obtain and provide documentation for all required health work, including a physical examination, lab work, and immunizations according to clinical policy (see RESP policy and procedure manual);
4. Meet all clinical policy requirements as stated in the Respiratory Care Clinical Policy and Procedure manual (e.g., Physical Requirements Policy).

## Program Progression

After gaining admittance into the degree program, students must continue to meet the following standards to progress:

1. Maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher;
2. Earn a grade of "C" or higher in all RESP courses;
3. Successfully complete (pass according to National Board for Respiratory Care "cut scores") the following NBRC/AMP self assessment examinations prior to graduation: Therapist Multiple Choice (TMC) Exam at the RRT level (see Directed Practice Syllabi);
4. Comply with RESP policies and procedures.

Clinical slots may be limited during a given year. In the event that more students meet clinical admission standards than there are slots available, admission will be determined by a rank ordering based upon grade point average and program hours completed.

The student is responsible for the following expenses incurred as a result of participation in clinical training. Prospective students may contact the program director for information on estimated costs for:

1. Pre-clinical physical exam, lab work and immunizations;
2. Textbooks and/or clinical training manuals and folders;
3. Transportation to and from clinical training sites;
4. Meals while at clinical sites (students generally receive and cafeteria discounts offered to employees);
5. Scrub attire, lab coats and/or uniforms;
6. Stethoscope;
7. NBRC/AMP Self-Assessment Examinations (students are required to take the Therapist Multiple Choice and Clinical Simulation exams).

The following are generally provided at no cost to the student:

1. Hospital ID/nametags;
2. Parking at most clinical sites;
3. Professional liability insurance (minimum \$1,000,000/\$3,000,000 coverage).

Scholarships are available for eligible respiratory care students through the BGSU Firelands Scholarship Program. Other organizations also sponsor scholarships for which students preparing for allied health careers may be eligible.

## Learning Outcomes

Graduates from the Respiratory Care Technology degree program will possess the following knowledge, skills and behaviors:

1. The ability to comprehend that body of technical information according to nationally accepted standards as being related to the role and scope of practice for the advanced respiratory care practitioner, and to utilize and apply that knowledge appropriately in the diagnostic evaluation, treatment and management of patients;
2. The ability to perform all of the clinical procedural skills associated with the role and scope of practice of the advanced respiratory care professional;
3. The set of personal and professional behaviors expected of the advanced respiratory care professional.

## For Further Information

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## Your University Opportunity

BGSU Firelands, located in Huron, Ohio, is a regional campus and one of the seven undergraduate colleges of Bowling Green State University. We offer many of the advantages and resources of a major university, but in a smaller, more personal environment.

Generally, students are able to complete at least two years of coursework toward most of the 200-degree programs at BGSU before transferring to the main campus, or to another college or university.

BGSU Firelands offers students a wireless environment campus wide. Kiosks and public-access computers located in most campus buildings provide easy Internet access. In addition, there are several on-campus computer labs with a variety of computers and software programs.

The library, containing more than 30,000 volumes, is computer-linked to the more than 4 million items available through BGSU's libraries to provide excellent research opportunities.

Academic advisors work individually with students to plan their degree programs and small class sizes allow students to have close, personal contact with their professors. Free tutoring is readily available through the Teaching and Learning Center. Scholarships, grants and loans are available to assist students with tuition.

**NOTE:** Information in this guide is subject to change without notice. To learn more about the official program of study for Respiratory Care Technology, please check the undergraduate catalog online at [www.bgsu.edu/catalog](http://www.bgsu.edu/catalog)