



Respiratory Care Technology Program Admission Requirements

(revised 10/2016)

Dear A.A.S. Respiratory Care Technology Applicant:

This packet contains information which you may find useful while preparing for entrance into the program. Please read all information carefully. To be considered for the Respiratory Care program, applicants must participate in a formal interview with the members of the Health Sciences Division. "Program Acceptance Priority Given to In-state Residents" may apply. **Prior to being interviewed, the following pre-requirements (steps #1 – #7) must be completed:**

1. College Admission –

Complete the College Admission Application requirements with Volunteer State Community College's Office of Admissions. The website is <http://www.volstate.edu/Admissions/apply.php>. Students must satisfactorily meet all admission requirements of the college.

2. Transcripts –

Applicants must forward all official high school transcripts, GED scores and previous college transcripts to the Office of Records and Registration. To be fully admitted to a degree-seeking program, transfer students must provide official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended where an academic record exists. Once received, all official transcripts are reviewed by the Transcript Analyst in the Office of Records and Registration. The student will be notified via email by the Transcript Analyst regarding transfer coursework that was accepted. All general education courses must be transferred or course substitution forms must be completed.

If the prior post-secondary institution is not regionally accredited, the courses will not be automatically accepted at VSCC. The student must meet with Kellie Jones (www.kellie.jones@volstate.edu), Completion Advisor in the Health Sciences Division. She will guide the student through the process of obtaining the required documentation which may include a course-by-course "Substitution Form" signed by each dean or program chair responsible for courses in which the student seeks credit. Completed forms will be forwarded to the Office of Records and Registration and entered in the system. Please allow 2-3 weeks for this process.

3. Testing –

If you are a new student without ACT scores and are:

- a. Under 21 years old, submit ACT scores that are less than 3 years old;
- b. Over 21 years old, take the COMPASS Placement Test.

An advisor will determine testing needs and refer the student accordingly.

4. Registration –

If *Learning Support* courses aren't required, the student should register for courses that satisfy the General Education core as indicated (see college catalog, this Information Packet or RPC website). Only upon being formally admitted into the program, will students register for Respiratory Care courses other than the Introduction to Respiratory Care course, which is available to all interested students.

The A.A.S. Respiratory Care Technology program is fully accredited by:

Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC)

(817) 283-2835, www.coarc.com

1248 Harwood Road, Bedford, Texas 76021-4244

5. Change of Major – If you are interviewing for the program, go to the Admission’s Office and complete a “Change of Major” form to reflect the following:

*Major – Pre Respiratory Care (pre-RPC), Advisor – Mallory Higginbotham**

*She can be contacted for advising at 615-230-3349, Mallory.higginbotham@volstate.edu.

6. Program Application –

Complete the application for the Respiratory Care Technology program and submit it to Respiratory Care faculty by **October 1st** of each year. The application form is the last page of this packet. The application indicates your interest in our program and will allow you to be contacted for the formal interview process occurring in November.

7. Pre-Acceptance Immunizations and Vaccinations

***MMR**

***Varicella**

***Hepatitis B**

***Tetanus**

Each pre-RPC student must provide proof of 2 doses of the Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) vaccine AND the varicella vaccine with each given at least 28 days apart OR documentation of blood test (serology) showing immunity. Pre-RPC students must provide proof of immunity of Hepatitis B by either submitting documentation of 3 doses of Hepatitis B vaccine, proof that the first injection has been obtained, OR by blood test (serology) showing immunity to Hepatitis B virus. Pre-RPC students must provide documentation of receiving a tetanus vaccination within the last ten years.

About the Respiratory Care Program

Once admitted into the Respiratory Care Technology program at Volunteer State Community College, students begin full-time coursework for four semesters to complete the A.A.S. Respiratory Care Technology degree. Respiratory Care coursework begins in January 2016 – Spring semester and ends in May of the following year. Classes are only offered at the Gallatin campus during the daytime. There are no night courses offered for the Respiratory Care degree core classes.

Graduates earn an Associate’s of Applied Science degree in Respiratory Care Technology at the Advanced Practitioner level, also known as Registry level. This gives graduates the opportunity to earn the Registered Respiratory Therapist credential (RRT) which is an advanced-level credential for employment purposes. The credential of “RRT” is earned after successfully completing both Therapist Multiple Choice examination to obtain the Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT) credential and the Clinical Simulation examination to obtain the RRT credential. The CRT and RRT are credentials offered by the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) through passage of the national credentialing examinations. The RRT is the highest possible credential.

Graduates are eligible to begin working in the field after obtaining a state license to practice from the Health Related Boards of Tennessee. The Respiratory Care Technology program typically experiences 100% employment after graduation, and the first time pass rate on the credentialing exam is higher than national average.

The salary for a first year graduate may vary. Typically, first year RRT graduates average a base pay of approximately \$22+ per hour. With the addition of shift differential, graduates may average more. The median annual salary for a Respiratory Therapist is approximately \$50,000 according to the U.S. Department of Labor at <https://www.onetonline.org>. The percent of projected growth in the job market is faster than average at 15% to 21% for 2012 – 2022.

Certified to Registered Respiratory Therapist Bridge Option

Prerequisites for the CRT to RRT bridge program for students who already possess the “CRT” credential and wish to earn the AAS-Respiratory Care Technology degree in order to sit for the “RRT” exams:

A minimum of 48 hours successfully completed in Respiratory Care from an accredited college or credentialed by the NBRC as a Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT) is preferred. Additional consideration for acceptance will be provided to those who are currently working in the field of Respiratory Care. CRT to RRT bridge applicants are responsible for contacting the NBRC at www.nbrc.org to ensure eligibility requirements are met. Once eligibility requirements have been determined, the CRT therapist should then submit the Respiratory Care Technology Application (the last page) and contact the program’s director, Kim Christmon, for advising: kim.christmon@volstate.edu or 615-230-3329, Toll Free-1-888-335-8722 extension 3329.

Selection Criteria

This section provides information regarding the interview and selection criteria for the program.

40% of your interview score is based on your General Education grades:

By end of fall semester, applicants should complete the general education core consisting of:

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Natural Science: | BIOL 2010 <u>or</u> CHEM 1030 <u>or</u> PHYS 1030 <u>or</u> PSCI 1030 |
| English: | ENGL 1010 |
| Fine Arts/Humanities: | PHIL 121 <u>or</u> PHIL 1030 recommended |
| Mathematics: | MATH 1010 or higher |
| Social Sciences: | PSYC 1030 <u>or</u> SOCI 1010 <u>or</u> SOCI 1020 recommended |
| Computers: | Complete the Computer Competency Exam (phone 615-230-3484) <u>or</u> enroll for the course INFS 1010 |

A General Education core GPA of 2.5 or higher is required for application to the program. Students are strongly encouraged to earn grades of “B” or higher. Interview scores will have a greater emphasis placed on the Natural Science and Math courses. Applicants may be awarded additional points for completion of AHC 115 (Medical Terminology) and BIOL (2020) Human Anatomy and Physiology II.

40% of your interview score is based on Knowledge of Respiratory Care:

The knowledge the interviewee expresses verbally and written is assessed. To increase knowledge of the Respiratory Care profession, please visit the following websites:

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| www.aarc.org | (Our national professional society website) |
| http://www.aarc.org/links/links.asp | |
| www.tntsrc.org | (Our state professional society website) |
| www.nbrc.org | (Our credentialing center website) |
| www.volstate.edu/respiratorycare/ | (Our program’s website) |
| www.youtube.com | (Search for “respiratory care” or “cardiopulmonary”) |
| https://www.onetonline.org/ | (Website sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor) |

20% of your interview score is based on Demeanor and Communication:

Applicants are expected to dress professionally for the interview, wearing clean and neat clothes. An unprofessional look may earn a lower score. Applicants are expected to act appropriately and answer questions in a knowledgeable, polite and attentive manner. All applicants will be notified, at the end of the fall semester, of their standing in the program.

Respiratory Care Technology Suggested Schedule

| | Course | Description | Credit Hours |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Fall 1 | BIOL 2010 | Human Anatomy and Physiology I | 4 |
| | MATH 1010 or higher | Math for Liberal Arts or higher | 3 |
| | ENGL 1010 | English Composition I | 3 |
| | Fine Arts/Humanities Course | PHIL 121 or PHIL 1030 recommended | 3 |
| | Social Science | PSYC 1030 or SOCI 1010 or SOCI 1020 recommended | 3 |
| | | Total | 16 |
| | See http://www.volstate.edu/ComputerLiteracy/ for Computer Literacy Requirements | | |

Special Note: Pre-RCP students interested in learning more about the profession of Respiratory Care may also wish to enroll in RPC 101* Introduction to Respiratory Care which is offered as an online class during the summer and fall semesters.

| | Course | Description | Credit Hours |
|-----------------|----------|-------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Spring 1 | RPC 220* | Arterial Blood Gas Anatomy & Physiology I | 4 |
| | RPC 201* | Fundamentals of Respiratory Care I | 4 |
| | RPC 229* | Fundamentals of Mechanical Ventilation I | 4 |
| | | Total Spring Hours | 12 |

| | Course | Description | Credit Hours |
|-----------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Summer 1 | RPC 202* | Fundamentals of Respiratory Care II | 4 |
| | RPC 230* | Fundamentals of Mechanical Ventilation II | 4 |
| | RPC 281C* | Clinical Practice I | 4 |
| | | Total Summer Hours | 12 |

| | Course | Description | Credit Hours |
|---------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Fall 2 | RPC 203* | Fundamentals of Respiratory Care III | 3 |
| | RPC 260* | Pulmonary Pathology | 3 |
| | RPC 282C* | Clinical Practice II | 6 |
| | RPC 289* | Current Topics in Respiratory Care | 1 |
| | RPC 290* | National Certification Review | 3 |
| | | Total Fall Hours | 16 |

| | Course | Description | Credit Hours |
|-----------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Spring 2 | RPC 204* | Fundamentals of Respiratory Care IV | 4 |
| | RPC 225* | Arterial Blood Gas Anatomy & Physiology II | 4 |
| | RPC 283C* | Clinical Practice III | 4 |
| | RPC 291* | National Registry Review | 4 |
| | | Total Spring Hours | 16 |
| | | Total Major Core Hours | 56 |

Average Program Costs (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

1. Tuition per Semester for In-State Residency:

| Full-time status (costs shown for 12 hours) | Part-time status |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Maintenance Fee | \$156.00 per hour up to 12 credit hours; \$30/credit hour for each hour greater than 12 |
| Tuition | 0.00 |
| Technology Fee | \$112.50 |
| Total Cost per Semester | *relative to number of registered class hours (see above) |
| Other fees: | |
| Student Access Fee | \$11.00 |
| Student Activity Fee | \$7.00 |
| Student Government | \$5.00 |
| International Fee | \$10.00 |
| Technology Fee | \$9.00 *relative to # hours registered |
| Sustainable Campus Fee | <u>\$1.00</u> |
| | \$43.00 |

| | | |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------|----------|
| 2. Books and Supplies (estimated) | Spring semester (I) | \$200.00 |
| | Fall semester | \$100.00 |
| | Summer semester | \$200.00 |
| | Spring semester (II) | \$100.00 |

3. Clinical costs (estimated)

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| PALS instruction | \$170.00 |
| ACLS instruction | \$170.00 |
| Basic Life Support Class | \$60.00 |
| *Medical Health Insurance | *Check with Your Provider |
| Disease Screening (titers) | \$80.00 |
| Hepatitis B Injections | \$90.00 *Pre-admission requirement |
| Varicella Vaccination | \$50.00 *Pre-admission requirement |
| Measles Vaccination (MMR) | \$50.00 *Pre-admission requirement |
| TB Skin Test | \$20.00 |
| Tetanus Shot | \$20.00 |
| Malpractice Insurance | \$35.00 |
| Lab Coat | \$30.00 |
| Scrub Suits (per pair) | \$40.00 |
| Stethoscope | \$12.00 |
| All White Tennis Shoes | \$50-100.00 |
| VSCC Patch | \$15.00 |
| Hospital Parking | \$30.00 |

4. Seminar Expense

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| AARC membership (program admission required) | \$ Free |
| TSRC State Seminar | \$90.00 |
| Vanderbilt Seminar | \$25.00 |
| Summer Seminar | <i>Free for AARC student members</i> \$00.00 |

5. Background Check (quantity appx. 2)

\$46.50 ea. *Pre-admission requirement

6. Drug Screening (may be requested as needed)

Site specific

7. VA Fingerprinting

Site Specific

8. After Graduation Fees

| | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| State Licensure | \$160.00 |
| Criminal Background Check | \$38.00 |
| NBRC Entry Level Exam | \$190.00 |
| Advanced Practitioner Exam | \$200.00 |

Technical Standards for Respiratory Care

In order to be considered a candidate for the Respiratory Care program and profession, students must be able to reasonably perform the following skills as indicated in the following Technical Standards. These skills are related to the affective, cognitive and psychomotor domains as indicated by the Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care:

Affective: The affective domain includes communication and behavior.

Students in the program must be able to effectively communicate as well as receive and follow direction in the clinical and classroom setting. This requires students to possess the skills needed to communicate and follow direction in English, both verbal and written, in an unassisted manner. Students must also conduct themselves in both an ethical and professional manner while in the clinical and classroom settings. All students will be required to follow the AARC's Statement of Ethics and Professional Conduct as indicated in Volunteer State's Respiratory Care Policy and Procedure manual.

Cognitive: The cognitive domain includes the knowledge base and skills required to perform proper patient assessment, collection and interpretation of data, as well as the use of sound judgement.

Students in the program must possess visual skills (with or without correction) and auditory skills (with or without correction) needed to perform proper patient assessment, reading of physician's orders and progress notes, and reading of small print on labels needed to accurately administer medications. Students will also require the skills necessary to interpret patient data and be expected to use sound judgment in the recommendation and delivery of therapy as needed.

Psychomotor: The psychomotor domain includes performance of patient care, to include, but not limited to: patient assessment, performance of respiratory modalities and diagnostic procedures.

Students in the program must possess the physical and manual dexterity required to perform patient assessment on patients who are out of chairs or bed, stand for long hours, lift and/or move a minimum of 50 pounds and laying in bed, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) on adults, pediatrics and neonates, compress a resuscitation bag for long periods of time, perform chest percussion, move patients in and walk quickly or run to emergencies in the hospital, often requiring the use of stairs.

Background Check Policy

Students seeking admission into any Health Sciences program requiring participation in clinical training in area hospitals and related clinics/agencies, including Respiratory Care degree or CRT to RRT bridge programs, must provide evidence of a passing score on a background check prior to official admission into the respective program. Either the failure to provide the required background check results by the due date established or the receipt of anything other than a passing score on the background check will make a student ineligible for admission into the respective program. The cost for background check verification will be approximately \$46.50. Please contact program faculty for further information.

Hepatitis B Vaccination Series

Students seeking admission into any Health Sciences program requiring participation in clinical training in area hospitals and related clinics/agencies, including the Respiratory Care degree or CRT to RRT bridge programs, must provide evidence of completing the Hepatitis B series of injections, proof of Hepatitis B immunity, or proof that the first shot of the series has been received. This documentation will be required only if the student has been conditionally accepted into the program. Failure to provide the required Hepatitis B documentation or failure to receive the full series of vaccination injections will cause the student to forfeit her/his seat in the program.

Drug Screen Policy

As of October 20, 2010, in order to comply with the clinical education policies, all students participating in clinical rotations must undergo a drug screen. The cost of this drug screen shall be absorbed by the student. Any student wishing to participate in clinical rotations will be required to undergo a urine drug screen as required by the clinical affiliate within the thirty (30) days preceding commencement of the clinical rotation. The drug screen due date will be provided to the students by the Director of Clinical Education during the latter part of the Fall Semester.

No student will be permitted to participate in specific clinical rotations until the Background Check, Hepatitis B series, and Drug Screen results have been reviewed and accepted by the program.

Respiratory Care Technology Program Application

***Please print clearly and include all requested information prior to submitting form:**

NAME _____ VSCC ID# _____

VSCC EMAIL _____ BIRTH DATE ___/___/___

PERFERRED EMAIL _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ WORK _____ CELL _____

HAVE YOU ATTENDED ANOTHER COLLEGE PREVIOUSLY? (circle one) YES or NO
IF YES, PLEASE LIST COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY AND DEGREE OR MAJOR AREA

1. _____ / _____

2. _____ / _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

**signature MUST be included upon submission*

A.A.S. RESPIRATORY CARE TECHNOLOGY

ANTICIPATED AREA OF STUDY (*check one*):

New program applicant I am already a CRT and wish to advance to RRT

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED PROGRAM APPLICATION TO:

Volunteer State Community College
Health Sciences Division, Wallace North 102
Attn: Kim Christmon, Program Director
1480 Nashville, Pike, Gallatin, Tennessee 37066-3188

Or fax to 615-230-3224

Or scan and send to kim.christmon@volstate.edu

Volunteer State Community College, a Tennessee Board of Regents Institution, is an equal opportunity institution and ensures equal opportunity for all persons without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability status, age, sexual orientation or status as a qualified veteran with a disability or a veteran of the Vietnam era.