



Respiratory Care

Associate of Applied Science

EFFECTIVE BEGINNING ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-25

LAST REVISED: April 18, 2025

Respiratory Therapy is a specialized healthcare field where practitioners are trained and licensed to assess, treat, and care for people suffering from lung and heart diseases. Respiratory Therapists are required to have at minimum an associate degree in respiratory therapy/care, but many employers give preference to or pay higher salaries to Respiratory Therapists with a bachelor's degree. The Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) accredits associate degree programs and two types of bachelor's degree programs, Entry into Practice and Degree Advancement.

Degree Advancement bachelor's programs are for students who have already completed an associate degree program in respiratory therapy/care holding the Respiratory Therapist credential from the National Board for Respiratory Care and wish to further their education and professional advancement opportunities with a bachelor's degree. The curriculum typically consists of general education coursework necessary to meet bachelor's degree requirements as well as coursework in leadership, management, education, research, and advanced clinical practice skills. Because these programs require an earned associate degree in respiratory therapy/care for admission, they typically require approximately 60 credit hours to complete, for a total of 120-126 credit hours.

Entry into Practice bachelor's programs are for students who do not have previous respiratory therapy degrees or credentials. The first half of the curriculum typically consists of general education requirements and pre-respiratory therapy coursework/prerequisites, and the second half consists of respiratory therapy professional coursework. Because these programs do not require an associate degree, they typically require 120-126 credit hours to complete, but students can transfer in most general education and prerequisite coursework.

Sources: American Association for Respiratory Care (<http://www.aarc.org/>) (<https://be-an-rt.org/what-is-respiratory-therapy/>) , Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (<https://www.coarc.com/>)

Ohio Guaranteed Transfer Pathways offer students wishing to pursue a career in the field of Respiratory Therapy two different pathway options.

Option 1: The Statewide Guaranteed Respiratory Associate of Applied Science (AAS) Respiratory Therapy/Care to CoARC Degree Advancement Bachelor's Programs at Kent State University Ashtabula, University of Akron, University of Cincinnati, University of Toledo, and Youngstown State University. This pathway may be a good option for students who:

- know they want to pursue a career in respiratory therapy and want to get hands-on experience earlier in their academic career
- want to enter the workforce after completing their associate degree in respiratory therapy/care and continue their education later and/or while working (in a more flexible, online program)
- want to transfer to a university that only offers a Degree Advancement bachelor's program in respiratory therapy/care

Option 2: Alternatively, students may complete the Associate of Science (AS) or Associate of Arts (AA) Ohio Guaranteed Pre-Health Professions Transfer Pathway. This pathway is designed to transfer into CoARC Entry into Practice Bachelor's Programs offered at Bowling Green State University (Firelands campus), Ohio State University, University of Akron, University of Toledo, and Youngstown State University. This pathway may be a good option for students who:

- attend a community college that does not offer an AAS in Respiratory Therapy
- are interested in health professions such as respiratory therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy, but are not yet decided on a specific field
- want to transfer to a university that offers an Entry into Practice bachelor's program in respiratory therapy/care



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In addition to the course requirements outlined in the tables below, the Ohio Guaranteed Respiratory Therapy Transfer Pathway also requires:

1. The associate degree must be from a CoARC-accredited Respiratory Therapy/Care program
2. Students must have earned the Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) credential from the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC); or have earned the Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT) credential from NBRC and be eligible to take and complete the RRT exam sequence

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS		COURSE NUMBER	CREDIT HOURS
English Composition:	Any Ohio Transfer 36 approved First Writing (TME001) course	ENG 1010/101H	3
Mathematics, Statistics, and Logic:	Any Ohio Transfer 36 approved Mathematics course [Recommended: Introductory Statistics (TMM010)]	MATH 1410	3
Social and Behavioral Sciences:	Any Ohio Transfer 36 approved Social and Behavioral Sciences course [Recommended: Introduction to Psychology (OSS015) or Introduction to Sociology (OSS021)]	PSY 1010/101H	3
Natural Sciences:	Any Ohio Transfer 36 approved Natural Sciences course with Lab	BIO 2500	4
Natural Sciences:	Any Ohio Transfer 36 approved Natural Sciences course	BIO 1100	3
Other:	Additional Ohio Transfer 36 approved courses as curriculum permits [Recommendations include: Second Writing (TME002); Arts and Humanities (Ethics course suggested); Public Speaking (OCM013) or Oral Communication course]	ENG 1020/102H	3
		PHIL 2050/205H	3
GENERAL EDUCATION TOTAL:			22
Advising Notes: Where it indicates “Any Ohio Transfer 36 approved,” students should work closely with their advisors. ¹ Consult with your academic advisor and your receiving institution to determine an appropriate program of study.			



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ADDITIONAL COURSEWORK		COURSE NUMBER	CREDIT HOURS
Program Admission Requirement:	Anatomy and Physiology I	BIO 2331	4
Program Admission Requirement:	Introduction to Respiratory Care	RESP 1100	1
Basic Skills:	Respiratory Care Equipment	RESP 1300	4
Major Technical Course:	Cardiopulmonary Physiology	RESP 1310	3
Major Technical Course:	Anatomy and Physiology II	BIO 2341	4
Major Technical Course:	Acid-Based and Hemodynamics	RESP 1320	2
Major Technical Course:	Cardiopulmonary Assessment and Pulmonary Diseases	RESP 1330	5
Major Technical Course:	Pharmacology for Respiratory Care	RESP 1340	2
Major Technical Course:	Introduction to Mechanical Ventilation	RESP 2210	1
Major Technical Course:	Basic Therapeutic Procedures	RESP 2300	3
Major Technical Course:	Respiratory Care Field Experience I	RESP 2940	1
Major Technical Course:	Mechanical Ventilation	RESP 2310	4
Major Technical Course:	Pediatric/Neonatal Respiratory Care	RESP 2320	2
Major Technical Course:	Respiratory Care Field Experience II	RESP 2950	2
Major Technical Course:	Respiratory Home Care/Rehabilitation	RESP 2330	1
Major Technical Course:	Patient Management Problems	RESP 2342	2
Major Technical Course:	Respiratory Care Field Experience III	RESP 2960	2
ADDITIONAL COURSEWORK TOTAL:			43
APPLIED ASSOCIATE DEGREE			Total Credit Hours
APPLIED ASSOCIATE DEGREE TOTAL:			65

SPECIAL NOTES

The Respiratory Care program at Tri-C requires the following courses as part of the program admission requirements: BIO 2231, MATH 1190 or higher - MATH 1410 is recommended, RESP 1100, BIO 1100 or CHEM 1010/1020, and ENG 1010 or ENG 101H. This coursework is included in the degree map below. This program also includes a summer session with 5 credit hours.

Some bachelor-degree granting programs may be competitive and admission into the program is not guaranteed. Students should check with individual institutions for their program admission requirements.

Bachelor-degree granting institutions may require additional general education courses since students will not complete the Ohio Transfer 36 by following this pathway and will take these courses upon transfer.

For more information, please contact:

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<https://www.tri-c.edu/programs/health-careers/respiratory-care/index.html>



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SAMPLE DEGREE MAP

Program Admission Requirements

COURSE NAME & NUMBER	CREDIT HOURS
BIO 1100 Introduction to Biological Chemistry	3
BIO 2331 Anatomy and Physiology I	4
Math 1410 Elementary Probability and Statistics I	3
ENG 1010/101H College Composition I/ Honors	3
RESP 1100 Introduction to Respiratory Care	1
Total ADMISSION REQUIREMENT Credit Hours	14

FIRST YEAR

SEMESTER 1		SEMESTER 2	
COURSE NAME & NUMBER	CREDIT HOURS	COURSE NAME & NUMBER	CREDIT HOURS
RESP 1300 Respiratory Care Equipment	4	BIO 2341 Anatomy and Physiology II	4
RESP 1310 Cardiopulmonary Physiology	3	RESP 1320 Acid-Based and Hemodynamics	2
ENG 1020/102H College Composition II/ Honors	3	RESP 1330 Cardiopulmonary Assessment and Pulmonary Diseases	5
PSY 1010/101H General Psychology/Honors	3	RESP 1340 Pharmacology for Respiratory Care	2
		PHIL 2050/205H Bioethics/Honors	3
Total SEMESTER 1 Credit Hours	13	Total SEMESTER 2 Credit Hours	16

SUMMER SESSION

COURSE NAME & NUMBER	CREDIT HOURS
RESP 2210 Introduction to Mechanical Ventilation	1
RESP 2300 Basic Therapeutic Procedures	3
RESP 2940 Respiratory Care Field Experience I	1
Total SUMMER SESSION Credit Hours	5



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SECOND YEAR

SEMESTER 3		SEMESTER 4	
COURSE NAME & NUMBER	CREDIT HOURS	COURSE NAME & NUMBER	CREDIT HOURS
BIO 2500 Microbiology	4	RESP 2330 Respiratory Home Care/ Rehabilitation	1
RESP 2310 Mechanical Ventilation	4	RESP 2342 Patient Management Problems	2
RESP 2320 Pediatric/Neonatal Respiratory Care	2	RESP 2960 Respiratory Care Field Experience III	2
RESP 2950 Respiratory Care Field Experience II	2		
Total SEMESTER 3 Credit Hours	12	Total SEMESTER 4 Credit Hours	5