

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

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 11002 or<br>ENG 11011    | 3            |
| Mathematics, Statistics, and Logic:  | Any Ohio Transfer 36 approved Mathematics course [Recommended: Introductory Statistics (TMM010)]  | MATH 10040 or<br>MATH 10041  | 3-4          |
| Social and Behavioral Sciences:  | Any Ohio Transfer 36 approved Social and Behavioral Sciences course [Recommended: Introduction to Psychology (OSS015) or Introduction to Sociology (OSS021)]  | PSYC 11762 or<br>SOC 12050   | 3            |
| Natural Sciences:  | Any Ohio Transfer 36 approved Natural Sciences course with Lab  | Oho Transfer 36<br>Elective* | 3-4          |
| Natural Sciences:  | Any Ohio Transfer 36 approved Natural Sciences course   | Oho Transfer 36<br>Elective* | 3-4          |
| 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 21011 or<br>COMM 15000   | 0-6          |
| <b>GENERAL EDUCATION TOTAL:</b>  |   |                              | <b>15-24</b> |
| Advising Notes:<br>(*) Indicates that course will be evaluated for applicable equivalency upon transfer at the university. If a Transfer Assurance Guide (TAG) course is taken, the approved course equivalency will be awarded. |   |                              |              |

| ADDITIONAL COURSEWORK  | Credit Hours |
|--|--------------|
| Additional coursework to complete institution's associate degree requirements: This coursework will be evaluated by the receiving institution for potential course applicability or may be accepted as block credit. | 36-50        |
| <b>ADDITIONAL COURSEWORK TOTAL:</b>  | <b>36-50</b> |

| APPLIED ASSOCIATE DEGREE               | Total Credit Hours |
|--|--------------------|
| <b>APPLIED ASSOCIATE DEGREE TOTAL:</b> | <b>60-65</b>       |

| SPECIAL NOTES   |
|---|
| 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. |

The following additional coursework will be required to complete the Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Care at Kent State University Ashtabula Campus after a student has completed an Associate of Applied Science Respiratory Therapy Transfer Pathway degree. Coursework to complete the Bachelor of Science can be completed entirely online through the Ashutabula Campus. 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.

| REMAINING COURSEWORK TO COMPLETE BACHELOR'S DEGREE   |  | Course Number | Credit Hours              |
|--|--|---------------|---------------------------|
| University Requirement:  | Kent Core: Research Writing (if not already completed during the associate degree)               | ENG 21011     | 0-3                       |
| University Requirement:  | Kent Core: Humanities and Fine Arts (if not already completed during the associate degree)       | Varies        | 0-9                       |
| University Requirement:  | Kent Core: Social Sciences (Outside of Psychology)   | Varies        | 3                         |
| University Requirement:  | Kent Core Additional   | Varies        | 6                         |
| University Requirement:  | Upper-Division Elective (If needed to research 39 total UD credit hours)                         | Varies        | 3                         |
| University Requirement:  | Global Diversity Course (if not completed in the associate degree or other Kent Core coursework) | Varies        | 0-3                       |
| Major Requirement:   | Health Care Policy   | NURS 46000    | 3                         |
| Major Requirement:   | Professional Practice in Respiratory Care <sup>2</sup>   | RSPC 30000    | 3                         |
| Major Requirement:   | Leadership and Management in Respiratory Care <sup>2</sup>                                       | RSPC 30002    | 3                         |
| Major Requirement:   | Educational Instruction in Respiratory Care <sup>2</sup>   | RSPC 30004    | 3                         |
| Major Requirement:   | Sleep Medicine and Polysomnography <sup>2</sup>  | RSPC 30006    | 3                         |
| Major Requirement:   | Research Development in Respiratory Care (WIC) <sup>1,2</sup>                                    | RSPC 40002    | 3                         |
| Major Requirement:   | Advanced Practice in Respiratory Care <sup>2</sup>   | RSPC 40004    | 3                         |
| Major Requirement:   | Contemporary Issues and Trends in Respiratory Care <sup>2</sup>                                  | RSPC 40006    | 3                         |
| Major Requirement:   | Chronic Disease Management Principles <sup>2</sup>   | RSPC 40008    | 3                         |
| Major Requirement:   | Information and Patient Care Technology for Healthcare Professionals <sup>2</sup>                | RSPC 40075    | 3                         |
| Major Requirement:   | Practicum for Respiratory Care (ELR) <sup>2</sup>  | RSPC 41092    | 3                         |
| Additional Requirements:   | Information Fluency in the Workplace and Beyond  | LIS 30010     | 3                         |
| Additional Requirements:   | General Psychology (DIVD) (KSS) [if not completed during the associate degree]                   | PSYC 11762    | 0-3                       |
| <b>REMAINING COURSEWORK TO COMPLETE BACHELOR'S DEGREE TOTAL:</b>   |  |               | <b>55-66</b>              |
| Advising Notes:<br><sup>1</sup> A minimum C grade must be earned to fulfill the writing-intensive requirement.<br><sup>2</sup> Progression Requirements: To be able to register for Respiratory Care (RSPC) courses, students must be admitted to professional study. Admission is a selective process. Criteria for admission into professional study are the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence of an earned accredited entry-level associate degree in respiratory therapy/care or accredited entry-level bachelor's degree in respiratory therapy/care</li> <li>Evidence of earned RRT credential</li> <li>Evidence of current active license to practice respiratory therapy</li> </ul> |  |               |                           |
| <b>COMPLETE BACHELOR'S DEGREE</b>  |  |               | <b>Total Credit Hours</b> |
| <b>BACHELOR'S DEGREE TOTAL:</b>  |  |               | <b>120</b>                |

**SPECIAL NOTES**

For more information, please contact:  
Academic Partnerships  
pathways@kent.edu  
330-672-7341  
<https://www.kent.edu/ashtabula/bsrc>

**SAMPLE DEGREE MAP**

**THIRD YEAR**

| SEMESTER 5   |              | SEMESTER 6  |              |
|--|--------------|---|--------------|
| Course Name & Number   | Credit Hours | Course Name & Number                                      | Credit Hours |
| PSYC 11762 General Psychology (DIVD) (KSS) [if not completed during associate degree]        | 3            | LIS 30010 Information Fluency in the Workplace and Beyond | 3            |
| ENG 21011 Research Writing (if not completed during associate degree)                        | 3            | RSPC 30002 Leadership and Management in Respiratory Care  | 3            |
| Kent Core Humanities and Fine Arts (KHUM/ KFA) [if not completed during associate degree]    | 3            | RSPC 30004 Educational Instruction in Respiratory Care    | 3            |
| Kent Core Humanities and Fine Arts (KHUM/ KFA) [if not completed during associate degree]    | 3            | RSPC 40002 Research Development in Respiratory Care       | 3            |
| Kent Core Social Sciences (Outside of Psychology) [if not completed during associate degree] | 3            | RSPC 40004 Advanced Practice in Respiratory Care          | 3            |
| <b>Total Semester 5 Credit Hours</b>   | <b>15</b>    | <b>Total Semester 6 Credit Hours</b>                      | <b>15</b>    |

**FOURTH YEAR**

| SEMESTER 7  |              | SEMESTER 8  |              |
|---|--------------|---|--------------|
| Course Name & Number  | Credit Hours | Course Name & Number  | Credit Hours |
| RSPC 30000 Professional Practice in Respiratory Care                                      | 3            | NURS 46000 Health Care Policy   | 3            |
| RSPC 30006 Sleep Medicine and Polysomnography   | 3            | RSPC 40006 Contemporary Issues and Trends in Respiratory Care                   | 3            |
| Kent Core Humanities and Fine Arts (KHUM/ KFA) [if not completed during associate degree] | 3            | RSPC 40008 Chronic Disease Management Principles                                | 3            |
| Kent Core Additional (KADL) [if not completed during the associate degree]                | 6            | RSPC 40075 Information and Patient Care Technology for Healthcare Professionals | 3            |
| Upper-Division Elective (if needed to reach 39 total UD credit hours)                     | 3            | RSPC 41092 Practicum for Respiratory Care (ELR)                                 | 3            |
| <b>Total Semester 7 Credit Hours</b>  | <b>18</b>    | <b>Total Semester 8 Credit Hours</b>  | <b>15</b>    |