



Respiratory Therapy Associate of Applied Science

EFFECTIVE BEGINNING ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-26

LAST REVISED: January 16, 2026

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



Transfer Credit Ohio

Ohio Guaranteed Transfer Pathways

STARK STATE COLLEGE

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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	ENG124	3
Mathematics, Statistics, and Logic:	Any Ohio Transfer 36 approved Mathematics course [Recommended: Introductory Statistics (TMM010)]	MTH105 (To be submitted) ¹	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)]	PSY121 or SOC121	3
Natural Sciences:	Any Ohio Transfer 36 approved Natural Sciences course with Lab	BIO221	4
Natural Sciences:	Any Ohio Transfer 36 approved Natural Sciences course	BIO121 and BIO122 or BIO123	5-8
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] ²	BIO125	3
GENERAL EDUCATION TOTAL:			21-24
Advising Notes: ¹ “To be submitted” indicates that the course does not currently carry the statewide course equivalency guarantee. However, the institution is working towards this goal and will act in good faith to ensure the appropriate equivalency is given that counts toward the degree. ² Because of the strong emphasis on science in this major, applicants must have successfully completed chemistry and biology in high school. Students who did not complete the courses in high school, and those who prefer to refresh their knowledge of the material, should complete the listed pre-requisites of BIO123 (or BIO121 and BIO122) and MTH105 at Stark State College.			

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.

For more information, please contact:

Brooke Owen

Respiratory Care

bowen@starkstate.edu

330-966-5458 ext. 5330

www.starkstate.edu



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ADDITIONAL COURSEWORK		COURSE NUMBER	CREDIT HOURS
College Requirement:	Student Success Seminar	SSC101	1
Major Requirement:	Medical Terminology (if not taken during general education)	BIO125	0-3
Major Requirement:	Introduction to Respiratory Care with lab	RCT121 and RCT121L	3
Major Requirement:	Medical Gas Administration with Lab	RCT122 and RCT122L	3
Major Requirement:	Respiratory Care Pharmacology	RCT124	2
Major Requirement:	Airway Management Procedures with Lab	RCT123 and RCT123L	3
Major Requirement:	Practicum I Clinical	RCT125C	2
Major Requirement:	Practicum I Seminar	RCT125	1
Major Requirement:	Critical Care with Lab	RCT126 and RCT126L	3
Major Requirement:	Practicum II Clinical	RCT128C	1
Major Requirement:	Practicum II Seminar	RCT128	1
Major Requirement:	Respiratory Diseases	RCT129	3
Major Requirement:	Cardiopulmonary Anatomy & Physiology	RCT220	4
Major Requirement:	Practicum III Clinical	RCT224C	2
Major Requirement:	Practicum III Seminar	RCT224	1
Major Requirement:	Advanced Respiratory Care Procedures Lab	RCT226	1
Major Requirement:	Neonatal/Pediatrics for Respiratory Care with Lab	RCT227 and RCT227L	3
Major Requirement:	Patient Assessment and Monitoring	RCT223	3
Major Requirement:	Practicum IV Clinical	RCT225C	3
Major Requirement:	Practicum IV Seminar	RCT225	1
Major Requirement:	Practicum IV Laboratory	RCT225L	1
ADDITIONAL COURSEWORK TOTAL:			42-45

APPLIED ASSOCIATE DEGREE	Total Credit Hours
APPLIED ASSOCIATE DEGREE TOTAL:	63-69



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SAMPLE DEGREE MAP

FIRST YEAR

SEMESTER 1		SEMESTER 2	
COURSE NAME & NUMBER	CREDIT HOURS	COURSE NAME & NUMBER	CREDIT HOURS
SSC101 Student Success Seminar	1	ENG124 College Composition	3
RCT121 and RCT121L Introduction to Respiratory Care with Lab	3	RCT123 and RCT123L Airway Management Procedures with Lab	3
RCT 122 and RCT 122L Medical Gas Administration with Lab	3	RCT125 Practicum I Seminar	1
RCT124 Respiratory Care Pharmacology	2	RCT125C Practicum I Clinical	2
BIO125 Medical Terminology	3	RCT129 Respiratory Diseases	3
Total SEMESTER 1 Credit Hours	12	Total SEMESTER 2 Credit Hours	12

SUMMER SEMESTER

COURSE NAME & NUMBER	CREDIT HOURS
RCT126 and RCT126L Critical Care with Lab	3
RCT128 Practicum II Seminar	1
RCT128C Practicum II Clinical	1
Total SUMMER SEMESTER Credit Hours	5

SECOND YEAR

SEMESTER 3		SEMESTER 4	
COURSE NAME & NUMBER	CREDIT HOURS	COURSE NAME & NUMBER	CREDIT HOURS
RCT220 Cardiopulmonary Anatomy & Physiology	4	BIO221 Principles of Microbiology with Lab	4
RCT224 Practicum III Seminar	1	RCT223 Patient Assessment and Monitoring	3
RCT224C Practicum III Clinical	2	RCT225 Practicum IV Seminar	1
RCT226 Advanced Respiratory Care Procedures Laboratory	1	RCT225L Practicum IV Lab	1
RCT227 and RCT227L Neonatal/Pediatrics for Respiratory Care with Lab	3	RCT225C Practicum IV Clinical	3
Psychology or Sociology elective	3		
Total SEMESTER 3 Credit Hours	14	Total SEMESTER 4 Credit Hours	12