



Pre-Health Professions: Respiratory Therapy Associate of Arts or Associate of Science

LAST REVISED: May 26, 2023

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-respiratorytherapy/>) , 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 Campus), 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, and University of Toledo. 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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- attend a community college that does not offer an AAS in Respiratory Therapy
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GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS/OHIO TRANSFER 36		CREDIT HOURS
ENGLISH COMPOSITION AND ORAL COMMUNICATION		3
Course 1:	Any Ohio Transfer 36 approved First Writing (TME001) course	3
MATHEMATICS, STATISTICS, AND LOGIC		4
Course 1:	College Algebra (TMM001)	4
ARTS AND HUMANITIES		6
+ Course 1:	Any Ohio Transfer 36 approved Arts and Humanities course [Recommended: Introduction to Ethics (OAH046) or a medical ethics course]	3
+ Course 2:	Any Ohio Transfer 36 approved Arts and Humanities course	3
SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES		6
+ Course 1:	Introduction to Psychology (OSS015)	3
+ Course 2:	Introduction to Sociology (OSS021)	3
NATURAL SCIENCES		7-10
Course 1:	General Chemistry I with lab (OSC008)	4-5
Course 2:	Biology I with lab (OSC003), Microbiology with lab, or Algebra-Based Physics I with lab (OSC014) ¹	3-5
ADDITIONAL CREDITS		9-12
Course 1:	Any Ohio Transfer 36 approved Second Writing (TME002) course	3
Course 2:	Introductory Statistics (TMM010)	3-4
Course 2:	3-6 additional hours of Ohio Transfer 36 approved courses	3-6
GENERAL EDUCATION/OHIO TRANSFER 36 TOTAL		36-41

Advising Notes:

Where it indicates “Any Ohio Transfer 36 approved,” students should work closely with their advisors.

(+) indicates that the courses chosen should be from two different areas within that category.

¹ Consult with your academic advisor and your receiving institution to determine an appropriate program of study.



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OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS		CREDIT HOURS
Course 1 and 2:	Full-Year Sequence of Anatomy and Physiology I & II with labs (OSC029)	8-10
Course 3:	Medical Terminology (OHL020)	2-3
Courses:	Complete additional science courses (not already completed in the Ohio Transfer 36) based on intended bachelor's program prerequisites. Suggestions include: ¹ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biology I with lab (OSC003) • Microbiology • Algebra-Based Physics I with lab (OSC014) • Algebra-Based Physics II with lab (OSC015) 	3-15
Other/ Electives:	Other courses required to fulfill institutional degree requirements (may include First Year Experience course, Communications course, etc.) or General Electives as needed	0-12
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS TOTAL		19-29
Advising Notes: ¹ Consult with your academic advisor and your receiving institution to determine an appropriate program of study.		

ASSOCIATE DEGREE	TOTAL CREDIT HOURS
ASSOCIATE DEGREE TOTAL	60-65

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. Some bachelor-degree granting institutions require additional general education courses outside of the Ohio Transfer 36 and students may be required to take these courses in their junior or senior year. Students will still be able to follow this pathway and complete their bachelor's degree in approximately 60 additional credit hours.