

Associate of Science Degree Program

Most people take breathing for granted. But for thousands of people who suffer from breathing problems, each breath is a major accomplishment. Respiratory therapists treat all types of patients, ranging from premature infants whose lungs are not fully developed, to children having asthma attacks or adults with lung disease. Respiratory therapists are a vital part of the medical team and provide temporary relief to patients with chronic lung conditions such as emphysema and also provide emergency care for patients who suffered from heart failure or a stroke, or are victims of drowning or shock.

Respiratory Therapists most commonly use oxygen or oxygen mixtures, chest physiotherapy, and aerosol medications to help their patients. Therapists also manage breathing machines, called ventilators, which deliver pressurized gasses in the lungs of patients who cannot breathe for themselves. Respiratory therapy personnel are involved in prevention, diagnosis, treatment, management and education related to problems affecting the heart and lungs. Advanced procedures include specialty clinical areas, hyperbaric procedures, and assisting in bronchoscopy. Respiratory Therapists are a very important part of the patient care team.

JOB OUTLOOK:

Job opportunities are expected to remain very good. Employment of respiratory therapists in California is expected to increase much faster than the average for all occupations through 2018 because of an aging population, a development that will heighten the incidence of cardiopulmonary disease. Although hospitals will continue to employ the vast majority of therapists, a growing number of therapists can expect to work outside of hospitals under contract to home health care agencies and nursing homes. Labor Market Source: State of California Employment Development Dept.

WORKING CONDITIONS:

Respiratory therapists generally work between 36 and 40 hours a week. Because hospitals operate around the clock, therapists may work days, evenings, nights, or weekends. Respiratory therapists respond to all patient emergencies. Because of this, they are expected to work under very intense conditions.

EARNINGS:

Median annual base salary of full-time respiratory therapists in California is approximately \$98,582. In California respiratory therapists usually earn from \$82,568 to \$7,635. Labor Market Source: State of California Employment Development Dept.

EMPLOYMENT:

About 9 out of 10 jobs are held in hospital departments of respiratory care, anesthesiology, or pulmonary medicine. Home health agencies, respiratory therapy clinics, and nursing homes account for most of the remaining jobs.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS:

Respiratory care workers must pay attention to detail, understand physicians' orders, lift heavy objects, move quickly in emergencies, and work as part of a team. Operating complicated respiratory therapy equipment requires mechanical ability and dexterity. Respiratory care workers must be able to calculate medication dosages, and gas concentrations and volumes.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING:

Formal training leading to an Associate Degree in Respiratory Care is necessary for entry to this field. Training is offered at the post secondary level by medical schools, colleges, universities,

trade schools, vocational-technical institutes, and the Armed Forces. Formal training programs vary in length and in the credential or degree awarded.

CAREER LADDER: Respiratory therapists advance in clinical practice by moving from general care to the care of critically ill patients who have significant problems in other organ systems, such as the heart or kidneys. Respiratory therapists, especially those with a bachelor's or master's degree, also may advance to supervisory or managerial positions in a respiratory therapy department. Respiratory therapists in home healthcare and equipment rental firms may become branch managers. Some respiratory therapists advance by moving into teaching positions. Some others use the knowledge gained as a respiratory therapist to work in another industry, such as developing, marketing, or selling pharmaceuticals and medical devices. Labor Market Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE DEGREE RESPIRATORY CARE

The Respiratory Care Program at Crafton Hills College is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (www.coarc.com).

Enrollment is limited to 31 students. Acceptance will be based on a point system. Students must complete RESP 050 (Introduction to Respiratory Care), AH 101 (Medical Terminology), and ANAT 101 (Essentials of Human Anatomy and Physiology) and will have three points. Additional points can be earned with the completion of MICRO 102 (Introductory Microbiology), CHEM 101 (Introduction to Chemistry), or general education units required for an Associate of Science Degree and/or completion of an Associate degree or higher. Students with six points will be accepted first, then students with five points, etc., until all 31 seats are filled. It is definitely to a student's advantage to have all six points.

NOTE: Prior to acceptance in this program, the student must show proof of a clear criminal background check.

All prospective students must submit a high school diploma or equivalent before acceptance into the program. If courses are being transferred from other colleges, sealed transcripts must be submitted to the Respiratory Care Program Department and Admissions and Records Office.

In completing these required courses, you will complete the major requirements for the Associate of Science Degree in Respiratory Care. NOTE: As of December 2009 the CRT and as of Fall 2010 RERT certificate is no longer offered.

PREADMISSION COURSES:	UNITS
RESP 050 Introduction to Respiratory Care	2.00
AND	
AH 101 Medical Terminology	3.00
AND	
ANAT 101 Essentials of Human Anatomy and Physiology	4.00

ADDITIONAL ENTRANCE POINTS AND REQUIRED COURSES FOR DEGREE:

MICRO 102 Introductory Microbiology	4.00
CHEM 101 Introduction to Chemistry	4.00

General Education courses required for an Associate of Science Degree in Respiratory Care. Please see a counselor for additional information.

REQUIRED COURSES:	UNITS
RESP 051 Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation: Basic Life Support Healthcare Provider	1.00
RESP 130 Fundamentals of Respiratory Care I	4.00
RESP 131 Fundamentals of Respiratory Care Skills I	11.00
RESP 132 Pulmonary Assessment	4.25
RESP 133 Respiratory Care Clinical Application I	1.25
RESP 134 Introduction to Pharmacology and Drug Therapy	4.25
RESP 135 Fundamentals of Respiratory Care II	4.00
RESP 136 Fundamentals of Respiratory Care Skills II	6.00
RESP 137 Respiratory Care Clinical Application II	7.50
RESP 138 Clinical Medicine I	1.50
RESP 139 Perinatal and Pediatric Respiratory Care	4.25
RESP 230 Advanced Theory of Respiratory Care I	2.25
RESP 231 Advanced Respiratory Care Skills Laboratory I	3.00
RESP 232 Physiologic Basis of Respiratory Disease I	2.50
RESP 233 Advanced Respiratory Care Clinical Application I	3.00
RESP 234 Advanced Theory of Respiratory Care II	4.00
RESP 235 Physiologic Basis of Respiratory Disease II	5.00
RESP 236 Advanced Respiratory Care Clinical Application II	7.50
RESP 237 Advanced Respiratory Care Skills Laboratory II	5.25
RESP 238 Entry Level and Advanced Practitioner Examinations: Review and Seminar	5.00
TOTAL UNITS	103.50

(EXCLUDING GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES)

Lower division requirements for students interested in transferring to a four-year institution in this field may differ from associate degree requirements. Prospective transfer students should complete the general education and lower division requirements of the school to which they will be transferring. See a counselor for details. Information is also available at www.assist.org.

A student receiving a degree in this field will be able to:

- Demonstrate professional behaviors consistent with employer expectations as an advanced-level respiratory therapist
- Comprehend, apply and evaluate clinical information relevant to their roles as an advanced level therapist
- Display the technical proficiency in all the skills necessary to fulfill their roles as an advanced-level therapist

NOTES:

- Prior to starting this program the student must show proof of a clear criminal background check
- Program begins Fall semester only
- All courses in Respiratory Care must be completed within a 1 year period
- A successful passing score on the NBRC secured Vj gtrc kv' O wnr rg/Ej qlcg'cpf "vj g'Erkplecrl'Uko wrvq'Ugrh/Assessment Examinations ctg required for completion of the A.S. Degree in Respiratory Care. Failure to pass one of the exams will require reenrollment in RESP 238, Entry Level and Advanced Practitioner Examinations: Review and Seminar in the Fall Semester
- CHEM 101 and MICRO 102 are also required for the degree
- All courses applied to the A.S. Degree in Respiratory Care must be completed with a grade of "C" or higher.

CONTINUING YOUR EDUCATION

To fulfill the Associate Degree requirements you will need to complete all required general education (G.E.) units in addition to the Respiratory Therapy Core courses. It is important that you check with a counselor to insure that completion of the G.E. requirements is correct and in appropriate categories.

ASSOCIATE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Completion of a minimum of 60 units, completion of the Respiratory Care program core and non-core courses, and required general education are required for the Associates Degree. All courses must be completed with a "C" grade or higher. Detailed Associate Degree Requirements can be found in the current version of the Crafton Hills College Catalog, or see a Counselor to assist you in course selection.

ADMISSION TO CRAFTON HILLS COLLEGE

Admission to Crafton Hills College is open to those who meet any one of the following requirements: 1. Eighteen years of age or older and can benefit from instruction offered by the college or 2. A high school graduate or 3. Have a G.E.D. (General Education Development) Certificate or 4. Have a California High School Proficiency Certificate or 5. Out-of-state residents and citizens of other countries here on student visas may also attend Crafton Hills College, subject to regulations that can be obtained from the Admissions & Records Office. These students will be required to pay non-resident tuition fees. Current high school students may be admitted under special circumstances. Please see the current version of the Crafton Hills College Catalog for eligibility requirements.

Every new student participates in the assessment process. The assessment is designed to measure current skills and is used to determine appropriate placement in English and Math. For additional information you may contact the Assessment Center at (909) 389-3361 or e-mail testcenter@craftonhills.edu. After completing the assessment, it is recommended that students meet with a counselor to discuss appropriate course work in accordance with the student's goals.

Crafton Hills College is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, 10 Commercial Boulevard, Suite 204, Novato, CA 94949, (415) 506-0234, an institutional accrediting body recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation and the U.S. Department of Education.

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