RESPIRATORY THERAPY

ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE DEGREE PROGRAM

A Respiratory Therapist (RT) treats people who have breathing or cardiopulmonary difficulties, such as premature infants or adults who have lung diseases such as asthma and COPD. They consult with doctors and develop a treatment plan. A Respiratory Therapist cares for patients in Intensive Care Units on life support.

Accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (COARC) 1248 Harwood Road, Bedford, TX 76021-4244
Telephone: 817-283-2835, Website: www.coarc.com

"My instructors in the RT program were excellent. I can't say enough about their level of education and how it has provided me with the tools necessary to be a competent Respiratory Therapist."



Facilitate and monitor breathing for patients in emergency and surgical care settings



What Respiratory Therapy graduates do:

- Analyze blood specimens
- Manage artificial airways/ventilators
- Diagnose lung/breathing disorders
- Recommend/administer treatments
- Educate patients and families to manage lung diseases

Career Opportunities:

- Hospitals
- Skilled Nursing Facilities
- Physicians' Offices
- Medical Centers
- Non-traditional Job Sites
- Home Care

For further questions about this program, please contact: kvccadmissions@mainecc.edu

RESPIRATORY THERAPY

Associate of Science Degree

First Semester

BIO213	Anatomy and Physiology I	4
MAT111	Quantitative Reasoning	3
RTS111	Introduction to Respiratory Care	5
RTS117	Cardiopulmonary Anatomy & Physiology	3

Second Semester

BIO214	Anatomy and Physiology II	4
ENG101	College Composition	3
RTS112	Therapeutic Modalities in Respiratory Care	5
RTS121	Cardiopulmonary Diagnostics	3

Summer Session (6 Weeks)

PSY101	Intro to Psych	3
RTS127	Resp Pharmacology (6 wks)	2
RTS120	Clinical I (6 wks)	3
RTS223	Mechanical Vent	3

Third Semester

RTS226	Cardiopulmonary Pathology	3
RTS229	Clinical Practicum II	5
RTS224	Concepts in Critical Care	3
SOC___	Social Science Elective	3

Fourth Semester

COM104	Introduction to Communication **OR**	
COM105	Interpersonal Communication	3
HUM___	Humanities Elective	3
RTS225	Perinatal and Pediatric Respiratory Care	3
RTS230	Clinical Practicum III	5
RTS231	Respiratory Care Senior Seminar	1

Total Credits **70**

CRITERIA FOR GRADUATION

Students must complete 70 credits in the Respiratory Therapy program, achieve a minimum grade of "C" in all courses, and attain a final GPA of 2.0 or higher. Upon successful completion of the program, graduates are eligible to sit for credentialing examinations administered by the National Board for Respiratory Care. Graduates are eligible to apply for a Maine license to practice Respiratory Care. (H,SS) Suggested Electives. Please contact your advisor for more information.

RESPIRATORY THERAPY

Associate of Science Degree

DESCRIPTION

This program prepares students to become qualified members of the respiratory care profession. Students are provided the opportunity to acquire knowledge, skills, and behaviors required to evaluate, treat, and manage patients with respiratory diseases and other cardiopulmonary disorders. Throughout the program the student will develop and refine critical thinking skills necessary for implementation of respiratory care protocols and clinical decision making.

The student will develop effective written and verbal communication skills with patients, families and various members of the healthcare team. Upon completion of the program the student will be able to apply evidence- based medicine to clinical practice and be a contributing member of the collaborative healthcare team.

The educational foundation provided will prepare the respiratory therapy graduate for new and emerging responsibilities in a changing healthcare environment.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Please refer to the General admission guidelines which can be found on page 34 in the catalog. Additional admission requirements are as follows:

1. Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS)
   - The TEAS exam is taken remotely and video monitored by ATI (the company that owns the TEAS). You must have access to a computer with video capability to take the TEAS.
   - Students register and pay for the test by setting up an account with ATI at www.atitesting.com and choosing a test date.
   - Students are responsible for having the results of their TEAS exam sent to kvccadmissions@mainecc.edu

- The TEAS may only be taken three (3) times in total. In addition, the TEAS may only be taken twice in the same academic year (September 1 to August 31) with a minimum of 45 days between exam sessions.
- Applicants who have not taken college courses before are strongly encouraged to reach out to the Admissions Office at 453-5822 or kvccadmissions@mainecc.edu before registering for the TEAS to determine the best time to take the TEAS.
- Required Minimum composite score 61st percentile rank.
  - Minimum reading 71st percentile rank.
  - Minimum math 65th percentile rank.
  - Minimum science 51st percentile rank.
  - Minimum English 62nd percentile rank.

PROGRAM MISSION

The mission of the Respiratory Therapy Program at Kennebec Valley Community College is to educate and train competent Respiratory Therapists who will provide patients in all health care settings with appropriate and quality respiratory care services. The program is committed to providing students with a foundation of knowledge, skills, and behaviors that will carry them into the work force and lifelong learning.

EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the Respiratory Therapy program, the graduate is expected to:

1. Be prepared and competent to provide respiratory care services within his/her scope of practice.
2. Demonstrate professional behaviors that allow him/her to function ethically and responsibly by showing tolerance and respect for diversity of culture, age, and gender.
3. Demonstrate effective communication with patients, families, and other members of the health care community.
4. Be capable of critical thinking and problem solving within his/her scope of professional practice.
5. Participate in activities that foster professional growth as lifelong learners.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Applicants to certain programs should be aware that a criminal background check will be required while they are enrolled in the program, or as a condition of employment in the field; certain internship and/or practicum sites, such as health care facilities, may limit or deny clinical privileges to those who have a prior or current criminal record; and certain licensing boards may refuse to issue a license to practice based upon prior or current criminal offense(s). To learn more about whether the program or profession in which you are interested has such requirements or limitations, please see the Department Chair.

Students may be scheduled for day, evening, and night clinical experiences throughout the program. It is expected that students will be able to make the necessary arrangements to complete all scheduled rotations. Students must assume responsibility for transportation and/or living costs to and from statewide clinical sites.

All respiratory therapy courses are Brightspace enhanced courses and some of these courses may be offered in an online format. Ideally, students should have off-campus Internet access in order to complete online course activities.

Once accepted into the program, the student must:

1. Provide proof of immunization against tetanus, measles, mumps, rubella, varicella, Hepatitis B, and a negative test for tuberculosis (PPD). Students who do not furnish proof of adequate immunization will be administratively dismissed from the program.
2. Provide proof of annual PPD after the initial negative PPD.
3. Provide proof of flu immunization annually while participating in the clinical component of the program.
4. Hold current Basic Life Support certification (CPR for the Healthcare Provider from the American Heart Association or Professional Rescuer from the American Red Cross).
5. COVID-19 vaccine as required by the clinical agency.

The **Respiratory Therapy** program technical standards have been developed to inform students of the nonacademic essential functions of the program and profession. Examples are not all inclusive.

Standard	Essential Function	Examples
Communication Oral / Written	• Skills sufficient to communicate information and ideas so others will understand • Skills sufficient to interact with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds	• Document relevant patient information (manual or via computer) using correct terminology and spelling • Interpret doctor's orders • Record patient responses to treatments • Establish rapport with patients, families, and other health care providers

Mobility / Motor Skills	• Motor skills sufficient to move the hands and use hands to grasp or manipulate objects
	• Mobility sufficient to perform physical activities that require considerable use of arms and legs and moving the whole body
	• Mobility sufficient to perform physical activities that require dexterity and flexibility to move body in a variety of positions
		• Utilize instruments with patients
		• Move around in patients' rooms and treatment areas
		• Maneuver in confined spaces
		• Physical activities may include:
		  • Bending
		  • Stooping
		  • Lifting
		  • Reaching

Physical Strength and Stamina	• Ability to stand for extended periods of time • Ability sufficient to lift and carry up to 30 pounds	• Stand and walk up to 12-hour shifts • Lift and/or maneuver patients • Lift and move equipment such as gas cylinders
Sensory **• Sight** **• Sound** **• Taste** **• Touch** **• Smell**	• Visual skills sufficient to see details at close range and manipulate equipment • Listening skills sufficient to communicate with others • Identify various sounds • Ability to touch and locate anatomy on patients to perform physical assessments • Ability to tolerate various odors	• Observe patient responses to treatment • Hear equipment/emergency alarms, call bell, or call for help • Listen to heart, lung, and blood pressure sounds • Feel for pulse • Work with patients with poor hygiene
Environmental / Occupational Exposure	• Frequent exposure to communicable and infectious diseases, secretions, blood, and bodily fluids • Exposure to environmental hazards • Ability to work under high stress situations and respond promptly	• Possible exposure to HIV, hepatitis, etc. • Exposure to X-ray radiation, medicinal preparations, latex, and toxic substances • Respond appropriately in emergency to maintain patient safety and care
Field or Industry Professional Standards	• Criminal background check • CPR certification • Pass drug screening	