

Technical Standards for Respiratory Care

In order to be considered a candidate for the Respiratory Care program and profession, students must be able to reasonably perform the following skills as indicated in the following Technical Standards. These skills are related to the affective, cognitive and psychomotor domains as indicated by the Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC):

Affective: The affective domain includes communication, attitude and behavior.

Students must be able to effectively communicate with all stakeholders in the classroom and clinical setting. They must possess the skills necessary to effectively communicate and follow directions in English, both verbally and written, using appropriate grammar, spelling and vocabulary in an unassisted manner. They must display empathy, maturity and emotional stability. They must demonstrate ethical and professional behavior as expressed by the AARC's Statement of Ethics and Professional Conduct which can be found in this manual.

Cognitive: The cognitive domain includes the knowledge base required to perform proper patient assessment, collect and interpret data, as well as the ability to use critical thinking and problem solving skills when formulating care plans, delivering therapy and managing life support.

Students must possess the visual skills (with or without correction) and auditory skills (with or without correction) needed to perform proper patient assessment. They must be able to read medical documentation and small print on labels to accurately administer medications. Students must be able to hear conversations and monitoring equipment, perform auscultation, palpation, and percussion. They must be able to use a telephone, distinguish background noises and use a computer. They must demonstrate skills necessary to collect, interpret, and analyze patient data and make appropriate recommendations.

Psychomotor: The psychomotor domain includes performance of patient care, to include, but not limited to; patient assessment, performance of respiratory modalities and diagnostic procedures.

Students must possess the physical and manual dexterity required to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) for long periods of time on adults, pediatrics and neonates, compress a resuscitation bag for extended periods, perform chest percussion, stand for long hours, assess and assist with transferring immobile patients in and out of chairs or beds, lift and/or move a minimum of 50 pounds and be able to walk quickly or run to emergencies in the hospital, often requiring the use of stairs. Students must be able to physically withstand 12-hour clinical rotations.

Recommended Schedule for General Education Courses

	Course	Description	Credit Hours
Fall 1	BIOL 2010	Human Anatomy and Physiology I	4
	MATH 1530 or higher	Introductory Statistics or higher	3

Program Selection Criteria

The program has limited enrollment. A cohort of twenty-two students are admitted into the Respiratory Care Technology program each year. A General Education core GPA of 2.5 or higher is required for application to the program. Students are strongly encouraged to earn grades of B or higher. The program uses competitive, point-based, selection criteria to select each cohort of students. Applicants are tentatively accepted for admission based on GPA in General Education courses, knowledge of the profession, and interview skills, and completion of all pre-acceptance requirements. Applicants are notified of acceptance or non-acceptance in the program during the latter part of December through the applicants email address listed on the program application.

60% of the interview score is based on General Education grades:

By end of fall semester, applicants should complete the general education core consisting of:

- Natural Science BIOL 2010
- Mathematics MATH 1530 or higher
- English ENGL 1010
- Social/Behavioral Science PSYC 1030, SOCI 1010, or SOCI 1040 recommended

Graduates are eligible to begin working in the field after obtaining a state licensure from the Board for Respiratory Care through the state of Tennessee. Licensure information can be found at <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/rc-board.html>.

Average Program Costs

Fees

Full-time Status

Seminar Expenses (not including travel)

- AARC membership (program admission required) \$25
- TSRC State Seminar \$90
- Vanderbilt Seminar \$25

Post-Graduation Fees

- Student Background Check \$38
- State Licensure \$150
- NBRC Entry Level Exam \$190
- Advanced Practitioner Exam \$200

Note: All fees are estimated, nonrefundable, the responsibility of the student, and subject to change.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is respiratory care?

Respiratory care is a health care profession that deals with the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation of lung disorders. Respiratory therapists work under the direction of physicians to care for patients who have trouble breathing for example, from a chronic respiratory disease, such as asthma or emphysema. Their patients range from premature infants with undeveloped lungs to elderly patients who have diseased lungs. They also provide emergency care to patients suffering from heart attacks, drowning, or shock. For additional information go to <https://www.aarc.org/careers/what-is-an-rt/>.

Can I work while in the program?

The program is very rigorous and requires a full-time commitment. Most students who work full-time while in the program are not successful. Some students are able to decrease their work hours in order to concentrate on the program. Potential students must take into consideration the time needed to study and complete assignments when considering work schedules. Students must earn at least a final grade of C or better to continue in the program

With an A.A.S. degree, will I be able to transfer to a four-year school to obtain a Bachelor's degree?

What are the typical working hours for this profession?

Most hospitals in Middle Tennessee require 12-hour work shifts. Respiratory therapists may work on day or nightshift. Weekend and holiday staffing is required based on the policy of the facility. Keep in mind that hospitals never close, therefore, staffing is needed 24 hours a day seven days a week. Some hospital have per diem positions where employees work as needed instead of full-time. For those employed in clinics, rehabilitation units, or home care settings, regular day hours are 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM or 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

If I am accepted into the program, what is my next step?

Acceptance notifications are typically sent out at the end of December. Read the acceptance letter and all additional information very carefully as instructions on 'next steps' will be included.

Is the COVID-

Any Windows enabled tablet provided it has a **full version** of Windows installed (7, 8, 8.1, or 10)

At least 10-