

RESPIRATORY CARE SCIENCE

Associate in Applied Science A.A.S.: Respiratory Care Science Degree

This 69 credit-hour Respiratory Care Science degree program prepares students to practice as nationally credentialed respiratory care practitioners serving as key members of the healthcare team. Skilled in assessing patients with breathing disorders in the emergency room, intensive care units and many other areas in healthcare facilities, respiratory therapists work directly with physicians on newborn, pediatric or adult patients to analyze oxygen levels and breathing difficulty. Therapists administer prescribed medications to relieve breathing distress, provide pulmonary/lung therapies, and conduct lung diagnostics for all ages. Graduates find employment in many settings such as hospitals, pulmonary rehabilitation clinics, doctors' offices, sleep labs, homecare, and air-life transport teams as they provide direct patient care in the emergency room, newborn/pediatric/adult intensive care units, and many other essential areas.

Respiratory care students will attend lab and lecture classes and engage in experiential clinical rotations in area hospitals. The proposed AAS degree program is seeking accreditation from The Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) which will qualify graduates to sit for national board credentialing exams to become a Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) through the National Board for Respiratory Care immediately upon degree completion.

Admission Requirements:

Respiratory Care Science is a limited enrollment program. For admission requirements, please contact the Admissions Outreach Office at 847.925.6700 or visit harpercollege.edu. Students who apply for this limited enrollment program are obligated to meet the current admission requirements and follow program curriculum as defined at the time of acceptance to the program.

PREREQUISITES:

A grade of C or better in all BIO, HSC and ENG coursework is required for all students.

Number	Course Title	Credits	Course Category
BIO 260	Human Anatomy	4	AAS General Education
ENG 101	Composition I	3	AAS General Education
HSC 112	Medical Terminology	2	Program Requirement
	Mathematics ¹	3	AAS General Education

FIRST SEMESTER:

A grade of C or better in all RCS coursework is required for all students.

Number	Course Title	Credits	Course Category
RCS 101	Fundamentals of Respiratory Care	3	Program Requirement
RCS 102	Respiratory Care Instrumentation I	3	Program Requirement
RCS 103	Pharmacology for Respiratory Care	2	Program Requirement
RCS 104	Cardiopulmonary Anatomy and Physiology	2	Program Requirement
RCS 105	Respiratory Care Clinical Practice I	3	Program Requirement

SECOND SEMESTER:

A grade of C or better in all RCS coursework is required for all students.

Number	Course Title	Credits	Course Category
RCS 106	Cardiopulmonary Disease	3	Program Requirement
RCS 107	Critical Care Concepts	3	Program Requirement
RCS 108	Respiratory Care Instrumentation II	3	Program Requirement
RCS 109	Respiratory Care Clinical Practice II	3	Program Requirement

THIRD SEMESTER:

A grade of C or better in all RCS coursework is required for all students.

Number	Course Title	Credits	Course Category
RCS 210	Respiratory Care Clinical Practice III	3	Program Requirement
RCS 211	Neonatal/Pediatric Respiratory Care	2	Program Requirement
SPE 101	Fundamentals of Speech Communication	3	AAS General Education

FOURTH SEMESTER:

A grade of C or better in all RCS coursework is required for all students.

Number	Course Title	Credits	Course Category
BIO 230	Microbiology	4	AAS General Education
RCS 212	Mechanical Ventilation	3	Program Requirement
RCS 213	Respiratory Care Clinical Practice IV	3	Program Requirement
RCS 214	Respiratory Care Rehabilitation/Diagnostics	2	Program Requirement

FIFTH SEMESTER:

A grade of C or better in all RCS and CHM coursework is required for all students.

Number	Course Title	Credits	Course Category
CHM 100	Chemistry for the Health Sciences	4	AAS General Education

PSY 101	Introduction to Psychology ¹	3	AAS General Education
RCS 215	Respiratory Care Research	2	Program Requirement
RCS 216	Respiratory Care Icu Internship	3	Program Requirement

¹ MTH 101 or higher.

+ This course meets the World Culture and Diversity graduation requirement.