

THE PROGRAM

THE PROFESSION

Respiratory Care, also known as respiratory therapy, is the allied health profession responsible for caring for patients with deficiencies and abnormalities of the cardiopulmonary system. Respiratory care is a dynamic and exciting health profession offering many opportunities for the new graduate.

Areas of respiratory care include basic care (oxygen, aerosol, and chest physiotherapy), critical care (ventilator management and physiologic monitoring), perinatal and pediatric respiratory care, cardiopulmonary diagnostics, pulmonary laboratory, home care, and pulmonary rehabilitation.

The respiratory therapist may often see a diverse group of patients ranging from the newborn and pediatric patients to adults and the elderly. Disease states or conditions often requiring respiratory care include asthma, emphysema, chronic obstructive lung disease, pneumonia, cystic fibrosis, infant respiratory distress syndrome, and conditions brought on by shock, trauma or post-operative surgical complications.

Respiratory therapists are also involved in many specialty areas in the hospital such as newborn labor and delivery, neonatal and pediatric intensive care units, pulmonary function laboratory, sleep laboratory, adult intensive care units, extracorporeal membrane oxygenation, and EKG testing. The respiratory therapist with a baccalaureate degree is prepared to deliver respiratory care in the hospital, home, and alternate care sites.

The respiratory care therapist with a baccalaureate degree is an advanced level practitioner and is eligible to sit for the national board exam for certification as a respiratory therapy technician, to become registered as a respiratory therapist, and to take specialty examinations in perinatal/pediatrics and pulmonary function technology.

The Bachelor of Science degree in Respiratory Care requires a minimum of 127.5 semester hours of credit for graduation. This is an integrated program, requiring 56 semester hours of program prerequisites and pre-professional requirements at the lower-division level prior to admission to UTHSCSA for the **professional phase** (20 months) in the junior and senior years. The **pre-professional phase** requirements may be completed at any regionally accredited college or university. Dedicated to clinical and academic excellence, the professional phase includes over 1000 hours of in-hospital clinical practice. As a leadership program in respiratory care, this course of study aspires to provide graduates with the foundation needed to assume professional leadership roles in clinical practice, clinical specialty areas, research, education and management.

GENERAL EDUCATION AND PREPROFESSIONAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS

<u>Semester</u>	<u>Hours</u>
General Education Requirements	
English (<i>including 3 hrs Composition</i>)	6
United States History (<i>American History or 3 hrs each in Texas and American History</i>)	6
United States Government (<i>including 3 hrs of study of the Texas Constitution</i>)	6
Mathematics (<i>College Algebra or higher</i>)	3
Electives (Recommended courses include humanities and social sciences; specifically excluded are remediation course work, work from technical institutions or programs, and other course work deemed inappropriate by the department.)	9
Pre-professional Course Requirements	Hours
Human Anatomy and Physiology (<i>or 4 hrs Anatomy & 4 hrs Physiology</i>)	8
Chemistry (<i>with Lab</i>)	4
Physics (<i>with Lab</i>)	4
Microbiology (<i>with Lab</i>)	4
Psychology	3
Medical Terminology	3
Statistics	3
	59

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Admission to the program is on a competitive basis. Student selection is based on a number of factors including overall grade point average, prerequisite grade point average, consistency of academic performance, course work completed prior to application, and interpersonal abilities.

Requirements for admission to the professional phase of the program in respiratory care include:

- *Completion of prescribed lower-division course work with a minimum overall GPA of 2.5.*
- *Completion of all pre-professional respiratory care required courses with a grade of "C" or better.*
- *Sophomore standing at the time of application and the ability to complete all pre-professional course work by the beginning of the fall semester of the junior year.*
- *A personal interview with departmental faculty.*
- *Completed application to the program, submission of the official transcripts for all college course work completed, and passing background check.*

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Application for admission into the professional phase of the Respiratory Care Program should be made through the Registrar's Office at UTHSCSA before May 15 for admission into the class entering in August.

Prospective applicants may submit transcripts to:

Allied Health Professions Admissions Office
Office of the Registrar – MSC 7702
The University of Texas Health Science
Center at San Antonio
7703 Floyd Curl Drive
San Antonio, Texas 78284-3900
(210) 567-2660

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information on the program and unofficial transcript evaluation, contact the Allied Health Welcome Center:

Phone: 210-567-8744
Email: ahwelcome@uthscsa.edu

Respiratory Care Department Information:
Phone: 210-567-8850
Email: www.uthscsa.edu/shp/rc

ADVANCED STANDING

Individuals holding the Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) credentials awarded by the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) may be eligible for advanced standing in the Respiratory Care Program. For additional information, contact the Department of Respiratory Care at (210) 567-8850.

This is not an official publication of the UTHSCSA.

– PROFESSIONAL PHASE – RESPIRATORY CARE PROFESSIONAL COURSES

Students accepted into the professional phase begin upper-division course work in the fall semester of the junior year. Course work in the professional phase must be taken on a full-time basis and in sequence.

JUNIOR YEAR

<u>Fall Semester</u>	<u>Hours</u>
RESC 3002 Fundamentals of Respiratory Care	4.5
RESC 3005 Respiratory Care Pharmacology	4
RESC 3007 Cardiopulmonary Physiology	5
RESC 3011 Patient Assessment	<u>3</u>
	16.5
<u>Spring Semester</u>	
RESC 3012 Patient Care Monitoring	3.5
RESC 3018 Diseases Affecting the Respiratory Care System	5
RESC 3021 Mechanical Ventilation	3
RESC 3019 Clinical Practice I	<u>4</u>
	16.0
<u>Summer Semester</u>	
RESC 3023 Pulmonary Function Testing	2.5
RESC 3025 Critical Respiratory Care	4
RESC 3029 Clinical Practice II	<u>2.5</u>
	9.0

SENIOR YEAR

<u>Fall Semester</u>	
RESC 4012 Disease Management, Rehabilitation and Extended Care	3
RESC 4001 Cardiopulmonary Technology	3
RESC 4003 Pediatric and Neonatal Respiratory Care	4
RESC 4009 Clinical Practice III	<u>5</u>
	15.0
<u>Spring Semester</u>	
RESC 4002 Geriatric Respiratory Care	2
RESC 4013 Management	2
RESC 4015 Education in Respiratory Care	2
RESC 4017 Introduction to Research	4
RESC 4019 Clinical Practice IV	4
RESC 4029 Clinical Specialization	<u>3</u>
	15.0
TOTAL	<u>71.5</u>

Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Care



Department of Respiratory Care
School of Health Professions

The University of Texas
Health Science Center
At San Antonio

7703 Floyd Curl Drive
San Antonio, TX 78229