

Health Professions Academic Preparation

RESPIRATORY CARE

There are a couple of pathways available toward entering a career in respiratory care. This handout will focus on the pathway for students who, with no prior respiratory experience or education, intend to earn a baccalaureate degree through an undergraduate program of respiratory care. At The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio's (UTHSCSA) School of Health Professions, this requires two phases. The first is the completion of prescribed pre-respiratory care coursework at an undergraduate institution. After being accepted into the School of Health Professions at UTHSCSA, a student can then complete the second phase of upper-division respiratory care courses leading to a Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Care (B.S.). **The following courses represent what courses should be taken at UTSA to fulfill the core and program prerequisites for entry into the UTHSCSA School of Health Professions Respiratory Care Program.** There is some variation in requirements from other respiratory care programs. Thus, students are advised to consult individual programs for their specific and most current information.

Required Areas of Study	UTSA Course	Grade/Sem	Prerequisites/ Corequisites
UTHSCSA Core Curriculum			
English (6 hrs lecture)	WRC 1013		
	WRC 1023		WRC 1013
College Algebra (3 hrs lecture) <i>NOTE: MAT 1023 can fulfill UTHSCSA math requirement, but MAT 1073 should be taken in preparation for other RC prerequisite courses at UTSA.</i>	MAT 1073 or Higher		Satisfactory performance on placement exam
US History (6 hrs lecture)	HIS 1043, HIS 1053 or HIS 2053		
	HIS 1043, HIS 1053 or HIS 2053		
US Government (6 hrs lecture)	POL 1013		
	POL 1133 or POL 1213		
Visual/Performing Arts (3 hrs lecture)	Any ART, AHC, MUS or THR course		
Humanities (3 hrs lecture)	Any HUM, PHI, or literature course		
Continued on Reverse			

Program Prerequisites-Must receive C or better			
Anatomy (3 hrs lecture; 1 hr lab) <i>NOTES: Most institutions offer combined Anatomy and Physiology courses while UTSA offers them as separate courses. Therefore the courses should be completed at the same institution.</i> <i>BIO 3123 was formerly BIO 2123; BIO 2083 was formerly AHS 2083; BIO 3132 was formerly BIO 2132; BIO 2091 was formerly AHS 2091.</i>	¹ BIO 3123; or ² BIO 2083		¹ BIO 1413; ² BIO 1404 or BIO1233
	¹ BIO 3132 Lab; or ² BIO 2091 Lab		¹ BIO 1413; ² BIO 1404 or BIO 1233
Physiology (3 hrs lecture; 1 hr lab) <i>NOTES: Please see above.</i> <i>BIO 2103 was formerly AHS 2103; BIO 2111 was formerly AHS 2111.</i>	¹ BIO 3413; or ² BIO 2103		¹ BIO 2313, MAT 1193, and STA 1403; ² BIO 1404 or 1233
	¹ BIO 3422 Lab; or ² BIO 2111 Lab		¹ Completion of or concurrent enrollment in BIO 3413; ² BIO 1404 or 1233
Microbiology (3 hrs lecture; 1 hr lab) <i>NOTE: BIO 1053 was formerly AHS 1053; BIO 1061 was formerly AHS 1061.</i>	¹ BIO 3713; or ² BIO 1053		¹ BIO 1122 and BIO 1413; ² BIO 1404 or 1233
	¹ BIO 3722 Lab; or ² BIO 1061 Lab		¹ BIO 1122 and BIO 1413; ² BIO 1404 or 1233
Chemistry (3 hrs lecture; 1 hr lab)	¹ CHE 1103; or ² CHE 1143		¹ CHE 1073 or satisfactory score on placement exam <i>and</i> completion of or concurrent enrollment in MAT 1073; ² Grade of "B" or higher on chemistry placement exam
	CHE 1122 Lab <i>and</i> CHE 1120 Lab Lecture		Completion of or concurrent enrollment in CHE 1103 or CHE 1143
Physics (3 hrs lecture; 1 hr lab)	PHY 1603		MAT 1023 (not recommended for pre-Respiratory Care students) or MAT 1073; MAT 1193 or MAT 1214 and completion of or concurrent enrollment in MAT 1224 or STA 1403
	PHY 1611 Lab		Completion of or concurrent enrollment in PHY 1603; Completion of or concurrent enrollment in PHY 1943
Medical Terminology (1 hr lecture)	Not offered at UTSA <i>Can be taken at community college, online, or in continuing education department with certificate of completion.</i>		
Statistics (3 hrs lecture)	¹ STA 1043, STA 1053, ² PSY 2073, or higher		¹ Satisfactory score on placement exam (for STA 1053 and STA 1043); ² MAT 1023, MAT 1033, or MAT 1073 <i>and</i> one PSY course
Psychology (3 hrs lecture)	PSY 1013		

Please also note that the previously listed UTSA courses and prerequisites are for students following the 2010-2012 Undergraduate Catalog. Students following another undergraduate catalog should consult an advisor with any questions about course numbering.

Foundation Courses: For students who are not prepared to go directly into the required courses, it will be necessary to enroll first in foundation courses such as basic chemistry and an appropriate mathematics course. It may also be necessary to take the mathematics and chemistry placement tests to determine proficiency. For additional information, please consult an advisor early in your studies.

Application Process: There is not a centralized application service for respiratory care programs; each school has its own application process. Please consult individual programs for specific information. For your convenience, the American Association for Respiratory Care has a list of accredited respiratory therapist programs available at:
http://www.aarc.org/education/accredited_programs/.

The UTHSCSA Respiratory Care program permits prospective students to apply online once they have reached at least sophomore standing. In some instances, it may be possible for students to be conditionally admitted before the prerequisites are completed. Official transcript(s) from each institution attended must be sent in advance of the May 15th deadline for fall semester admission.

Applicants must have an overall grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 with all program prerequisites completed with a grade of a “C” or better in order to be **considered** for admission. However, the average GPA for accepted students is significantly higher. The UTHSCSA School of Health Professions calculates two GPAs for admission. The **prerequisite GPA** is calculated using all “Program Prerequisite” coursework grades. If a course is repeated, the highest grade is used. The second GPA for admission is the **overall GPA**. Grades from all courses completed are used in calculating this GPA, except for those from remedial or developmental, physical education, or technical courses. If a course is repeated, both the original and the repeated grades will be calculated into the overall GPA. Qualified applicants will be required to interview with department faculty.

Additional program facts, application information and admissions requirements can be found at the UTHSCSA School of Health Professions Welcome Center website at:
<http://www.shpwelcome.uthscsa.edu/index.asp>

Letters of Evaluation: At this time the UTHSCSA School of Health Professions Respiratory Care program does not require letters of evaluation. However, for respiratory care programs at other institutions, this might be an essential part of their application. Upon request, the UHPO can provide suggestions for asking for letters of evaluation successfully.

Personal Statement: The UHPO staff will read and provide feedback to students regarding their personal statements given sufficient time, preferably two weeks prior to when comments are needed. We also recommend that students visit The Writing Center at www.utsa.edu/twc for further review.

Interviews: The UHPO can offer some advice as students prepare for interviews and, after interviews, would like to debrief with students about their impressions. The University Career Center also facilitates interview workshops and conducts mock interviews to provide students with feedback. For more information about their services, contact them at the Main Campus [UC 2.02.04 or (210) 458-4589] or Downtown Campus [BV 1.304 or (210) 458-2910].

Community Service/Volunteering/Shadowing: An integral part of preparation for respiratory care school entails involvement in community service projects and volunteer work in a hospital or clinical setting. These activities serve to familiarize prospective respiratory therapists with the realities of everyday clinical practice as well as to underscore the role of respiratory therapists and healthcare in relation to broader community level concerns and issues. A list of opportunities is available on the UHPO website (www.utsa.edu/healthprofessions). We do not, however, have a list available for shadowing experiences. Students must exercise personal initiative and develop relationships that would allow them to have this direct contact with a respiratory therapist in everyday clinical practice.

Additional Information/Resources: The UHPO keeps and maintains resources that will be available to students in our office. These include books, journals, handouts, and other resources. Useful information about respiratory care as a profession and other respiratory care programs can be found on the website of the American Association for Respiratory Care (<http://www.aarc.org/>), American Lung Association (<http://www.lungusa.org>), and the National Board for Respiratory Care, Inc. (<http://www.nbrc.org>). Students are also encouraged to look at the websites of individual programs for specific information. For students considering remaining in San Antonio, the Welcome Center at the UTHSCSA School of Health Professions is another useful source of information. Students may visit the center to speak directly with representatives of the School of Health Professions and to obtain all pertinent information regarding the Respiratory Care program at UTHSCSA. Students can also make appointments by calling 210-567-8744 or sending an email to shpwelcome@uthscsa.edu.

Health Professions Advising: The UHPO provides advising and support to students interested in pursuing careers in the health professions, including respiratory care. This consists of academic preparation assistance as well as information about health careers, application procedures, and entrance exams for undergraduates, postbaccalaureate students, non-degree seeking students, and alumni. Students are encouraged to seek advice and consult with the UHPO advising staff early in their college career. For more information about our appointment and walk-in schedules and our other services, please contact us:

The University Health Professions Office (UHPO)
University of Texas at San Antonio
Multidisciplinary Studies Building, Room 3.02.10 (Main Campus)

www.utsa.edu/healthprofessions

(210) 458-5185

hpoffice@utsa.edu

