Respiratory Care Curriculum

Summer I

Applied Mathematics **OR** MA 109 College Algebra BIO 137 Human Anatomy & Physiology I

Summer II

BIO 139 Human Anatomy & Physiology II ENG 101 Writing I

Fall

Computer literacy Heritage or Humanities Oral Communications

Spring

RCP 110 Cardiopulmonary Anatomy & Physiology

RCP 122 Fundamentals of Respiratory Care

RCP 121 Respiratory Care Practice I

RCP 130 Cardiopulmonary Pharmacology Social Interaction

Summer I

RCP 176 Respiratory Care Practice II RCP 140 Cardiopulmonary Evaluation

Summer II

RCP 201Respiratory Care Practice III RCP 185 Introduction to Mechanical Ventilation

Fall

RCP 195 Patient-Ventilator System Management RCP 210 Cardiopulmonary Pathophysiology RCP 212 Neonatal/Pediatric Respiratory Care RCP 226 Respiratory Care Practice IV

Spring

RCP 228 Preventive & Long-term Respiratory Care RCP 251 Respiratory Care Practice V RCP 240 Advanced Cardiopulmonary Evaluation RCP 245Advanced Cardiac Life Support RCP 260 Respiratory Care Seminar

The Kentucky Community & Technical College System has added a computer literacy requirement.

GUIDELINES FOR ADMISSION TO THE RESPIRATORY CARE PROGRAM

All individuals who want to be considered for admission to the respiratory care program must:

- complete an application for admission to the Respiratory Care Program at Bluegrass Community & Technical College prior to the October 1st deadline. Students currently enrolled at the college during the school year must signify their wish to be considered for the program by submitting a completed Letter of Intent check-list. The form is available from the BCTC Admissions Office (OB 200).
- be eligible for regular college admission status. Individuals enrolled or admitted on academic probation are not eligible to be candidates to the respiratory care program until the academic probation has been cleared.
- Submit results of American College Test (ACT) or the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) if less than 12 credits of college work have been completed. The college courses must be numbered 100 or higher excluding remedial courses.
- submit one official transcript of all post-secondary education attempted. Transcripts must be submitted for each college or university previously attended.
- Statement of Work Experience pertaining to Respiratory Care and/or observation in this area.
- Documentation of attendance at a pre-admission conference. (See dates on RC website)

All of the documentation listed above must be submitted to:

BCTC Office of Admissions 200 Oswald Bldg., 470 Cooper Dr. Lexington, KY 40506-0235 Phone: 859.246.6210

For more information visit the Respiratory Care Program website @: http://www.bluegrass.kctcs.edu/ah/respiratory care program/

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Community & Technical College

HIGHER EDUCATION BEGINS HERE

Respiratory Care Program







A CAREER WITH A FUTURE!

Employment and Financial Outlook for Respiratory Care

- According to the <u>U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics</u>, employment of respiratory therapists is expected to increase faster than average over the next decade, primarily because the aging baby boom generation will increase the number of older people, who tend to suffer the most from respiratory conditions like pneumonia and COPD and who often have respiratory complications due to heart disease and other common diseases of acing.
- While U.S. employment in general is forecast to increase by 15 percent, the need for RCPs will grow by up to 26 percent!
- With demand for RTs on the rise, salaries are following suit. According to the 2009 Human Resources study from the AARC, the projected average annual earnings of RTs working in the U.S. is \$62,223. In this study, and depending on the area of the country, therapists just beginning their careers reported average annual earnings ranging from \$42,078-\$47,297.





Respiratory Care Program

What is Respiratory Care?

Respiratory Care is a health care specialty that offers a set of unique challenges in the area of prevention, diagnosis, treatment, management, and rehabilitation of people with lung problems. The respiratory care practitioner works in a fast-paced environment where technology and scientific responsibilities are matched by a real need for human relation skills.

What does a Respiratory Care Practitioner do?

The RCP is involved in a wide variety of life-saving and life supporting situations, working side by side with physicians, nurses and others on the health care team. The practitioner treats patients ranging in age from newborns to senior citizens. The practitioner's expertise is in demand, and opportunities to expand knowledge and skills are great.

RCPs work under the direction of qualified physicians. Their job frequently involves the administration of daily treatments to a variety of patients. Using sophisticated medical equipment, RCPs help people with such lung disorders as asthma, emphysema, pneumonia, and bronchitis. As practitioner, coach, and friend, they use a personal approach to help these patients.

RCPs also work as members of the critical care team in treating individuals who are seriously ill. This may include using equipment that will mechanically breathe for the patient. With the assistance of sophisticated monitoring devices and techniques, the practitioner gives around the clock care to individuals who otherwise would not be able to survive life-threatening conditions.

Other RCPs spend all or part of their time working in pulmonary laboratories where they help evaluate various cardiopulmonary diseases. By performing diagnostics procedures, such as measurement of lung volumes, they assist the physician in determining the type of extent of the patients disease as well as how well the prescribe therapy is working. Regarded as experts in respiratory and cardiovascular systems, RCPs are often called upon to offer advice and help in deciding which course of care to follow.

Career Opportunities

Part of an ever-changing profession, some RCPs specialize in particular areas of pulmonary care. There is an increasing demand for RCPs to work in the following areas...

- Newborn Care and Pediatrics
- Cardiopulmonary Diagnostics
- ♦ Health Education
- ♦ Pulmonary Rehabilitation
- ♦ Management
- ♦ Home Care
- ♦ Skilled nursing facilities
- Sleep laboratories

RCPs are expanding their scope of practice. In addition to the hospital, many RCPs now work in home care, long term care facilities and physician offices. RCPs have been identified as one of the best candidates for cross training among allied health care providers because of their broad knowledge base, technical expertise, and assessment skills. Coupled with an aging population and the ever increasing number of cardiopulmonary disorders being diagnosed, the demand for RCP will remain high.

Salaries for the entry level RCP are competitive with other health care professionals with similar education backgrounds.

The Bluegrass Community & Technical College Respiratory Care Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) upon the recommendation of the Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC).



