



## Associate of Applied Science Degree

Credit Hours Required for Graduation:  
Associate of Applied Science Degree: ..... 72.0



**For more information contact:**

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A0753 - RESP (06/19)

*The field of respiratory care has a promising future, and SCC is here to help you gain the necessary skills to be successful! Our program prepares students to become practitioners who evaluate, treat and care for patients with breathing or other cardiopulmonary disorders. Respiratory therapists follow specific, well-defined respiratory care procedures under the direction of physicians.*

## Program Overview

Students complete a comprehensive curriculum in assessment, treatment, management, diagnostic evaluation, and care of patients with lung and heart problems. Supervised clinical practice gives students experience in common procedures such as administering medical gases, aerosol and inhaled medications, applying ventilator support, and testing techniques used in diagnosis, monitoring and treatment.

Upon completion of the program, students receive an Associate of Applied Science degree, at which time they are eligible to take the National Board for Respiratory Care exams and apply for state licensure.

Lab and clinical practice for the program is provided in cooperation with a variety of health care facilities throughout the region.

This program is located on the Lincoln Campus and online. Lab and clinical courses are hybrid, meaning a combination of face-to-face and online.

### Traditional Full-Time Track:

The full-time track includes traditional face-to-face classes/labs/clinical rotations. The program is 18 months (three semesters, one summer term) in length and starts in the Fall term. Students can expect to be in class/lab/clinical during the day/evening hours Monday through Friday.

### Online Part-Time Track:

The part-time track provides classes in an online learning environment with lab and clinical rotations completed at a local medical center. The program is 24 months (four semesters, two summer terms) in length and starts in the Spring term. Students should expect to spend approximately 30-35 hours each week on coursework.



## Top Career Options

- Respiratory Therapist



## Graduate Earnings

Recent graduates report an average starting wage of \$19.70 per hour.

The Respiratory Care program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care ([www.coarc.com](http://www.coarc.com)) P. O. Box 54876, Hurst, TX 76054-4876, (817) 283-2835, [www.coarc.com](http://www.coarc.com). Programmatic Outcomes Data can be found at [www.coarc.com/47.html](http://www.coarc.com/47.html).

Distance Education Tuition/Fees would be \$9,288 making the total \$11,288.

2019-2020 Tuition/Fee Rate Per Credit Hour	
Nebraska Resident	\$108
Out-of-state tuition/fee rate	\$129

### Estimated Expenses

Tuition/Fees	\$7776
Books	1205
Special Fees	795
Tools/Supplies	0

**Total: \$9,776**



## Types of jobs available

Respiratory therapists work in a variety of settings. Employment of respiratory therapists is expected to increase faster than the average for all occupations because of substantial growth in the middle-aged and elderly population, a development that will heighten the incidence of cardiopulmonary disease.

Hospitals continue to employ the vast majority of therapists. For pulmonary disease management and prevention of admission to the hospital, a growing number of therapists can expect to work outside of hospitals in home health care services, offices of physicians, outpatient centers, skilled nursing facilities and patients' homes.

## Admission Requirements

1. Online application to the program.
2. Complete program admission criteria and checklist found on the program website at [www.southeast.edu/respiratorycare](http://www.southeast.edu/respiratorycare).
3. Transcripts from high school, GED® or other colleges (if applicable).

## General Education and Program Requirements

Contact your program advisor to select general education courses from each category which will meet your program's graduation requirements. See the General Education pages for a complete list.

(May be transferred or earned at SCC. These courses must be completed before entry to the program. Contact a program advisor for specific courses.)

**(One class from each area below)**

Oral Communications	3.0
Written Communications	3.0
Mathematics	3.0
MATH1100 or higher	
Critical Thinking and Problem Solving: Recommended courses:	3.0
PSYC1250 Interpersonal Relations (3.0) or	
PSYC1810 Introduction to Psychology (3.0) or	
SOCI1010 Introduction to Sociology (3.0)	
AND	
BIOS1140 Human Anatomy with lab (4.0) and	4.0
BIOS2130 Human Physiology with lab (4.0)	4.0
OR	
BIOS2250 Anatomy & Physiology I (4.0) and	4.0
BIOS2260 Anatomy & Physiology II (4.0)	4.0
	20.0 hours

## Respiratory Care Courses

Student must complete the following RESP courses.

Course #	Course title	Credit hrs
RESP1111	Respiratory Anatomy & Physiology	3.0
RESP1114	Respiratory Care Principles	3.0
RESP1122	Respiratory Care Procedures	5.0
RESP1148	Critical Care Management	4.0
RESP1150	Respiratory Pharmacology and Pathology	5.0
RESP1160	Mechanical Ventilation	6.0
RESP1170	Exam Review	3.0
RESP1180	Chronic Cardiopulmonary Management	3.0
RESP1210	Clinical Education: General/Progressive Care	5.0
RESP1220	Clinical Education: Critical Care/Specialty Rotations 1	5.0
RESP1230	Clinical Education: Critical Care/Specialty Rotations 2	5.0
RESP1240	Clinical Education: Internship	2.0
RESP2251	Cardiovascular Principles	3.0
		52.0 hours

## Special Program Requirements

1. All students must receive a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 2.5 in the general education courses and the science courses. Science courses include Anatomy, Physiology. General education courses include oral communication, written communication, math, and critical thinking and problem solving.
2. A current Basic Life Support (BLS) for the Health Care Provider (HCP) by American Heart Association.
3. Submit completed Health Statement to the Health Sciences Division (upon application to the program.) A Criminal Background Check will be required of each student. Based on the background check, a student may be prevented from taking certain courses, accessing certain laboratory experiences, or completing the program.  
A non-refundable fee of \$45 will be assessed for this CBC. Please note: Misdemeanor or felony convictions may prevent a graduate from acquiring a state license. (Contact the State Board of Respiratory Care with questions.)
4. Students admitted to a Health Sciences program at Southeast Community College requiring a clinical rotation at a contracted healthcare facility will submit to initial drug and alcohol testing prior to the first clinical rotation.
5. A two-step skin test for tuberculosis and/or a chest X-ray are required. Flu immunization is required.
6. All RESP courses completed with a grade of 75% (C+) or higher to progress through the program. (Classes must be taken in sequence. If a C+ is not achieved, the student will be unable to progress in the program.)
7. Complete profession awareness activity (Contact Program Director for specific requirements.)
8. Complete program orientation after being accepted into program. Program Director will contact students who are accepted.
9. Program offers web-based courses but requires supervised clinicals/labs at identified locations.

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### Q: What are some tasks performed by respiratory therapists?

- Recommend treatment methods after performing diagnostic testing
- Consult with physicians to recommend a change in therapy based on the evaluation of the patient
- Analyze breathing and blood specimens to determine levels of oxygen and other gases
- Manage ventilators and artificial airway devices for patients who can't breathe normally on their own
- Educate patients and families about lung disease to maximize their recovery, prevent hospital readmission and improve quality of life

### Q: What are some types of jobs that respiratory therapists hold?

- Respiratory therapy is a profession that is constantly changing and growing. Within the profession there are areas of specialization where a therapist can work with children, elderly, in a home-care setting, an acute-care hospital, sleep labs, and diagnostics labs.

### Q: Are there opportunities to continue my education?

- Graduates can continue their education and complete a bachelor's degree at an affiliate university or college, advance into hospital management or education, or change professions into other health care fields.

### Q: What does the job market look like for respiratory therapists?

- According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of respiratory therapists is expected to increase faster than average during the next decade. While U.S. employment in general is forecasted to increase by 15 percent, the need for RTs will grow by up to 26 percent. With demand for RTs on the rise, salaries are following suit.

### Q: How do I get started?

- If you are interested in the Respiratory Care program, contact the program director. He will be able to assist you in scheduling a shadowing experience, determine the prerequisite courses you will need and answer your questions. More information is available about the profession at <http://www.aarc.org/careers/what-is-an-rt/life-breath-video/>

