RESPIRATORY CARE PROGRAM
ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE DEGREE

PROGRAM INFORMATION
The Respiratory Care Program is designed to prepare California licensed respiratory care practitioner at the registered respiratory therapist level. It focuses on diagnostic procedures, treatment, and management of patients with conditions affecting the cardiopulmonary system. The respiratory care practitioner works closely with the physician in assessing the patient and planning the proper respiratory care protocol.

The Respiratory Care curriculum is a two-year program designed to prepare the student for employment and to participate as a member of the healthcare team by providing direct patient care. Experience in respiratory care is provided in selected local hospitals where the student participates in clinical externships. Safe, ethical, and professional levels of practice are necessary for retention of students in the Respiratory Care Program.

The student is responsible for providing uniforms (scrubs and lab coats), laboratory fees, malpractice insurance, necessary equipment, and transportation to off-campus locations. All costs/fees are subject to change.

The two-year program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC), P.O. Box 54876, Hurst, TX 76054-4876; (817) 283-2835. www.coarc.com

REQUIREMENTS FOR ENROLLMENT IN THE RESPIRATORY CARE PROGRAM
1. Graduation from an accredited high school in the United States or successful completion of the General Education Development (GED) or California High School Proficiency Exam (CHSPE) as defined by the current requirements of the State of California and the National Board for Respiratory Care:
   a. Students with a high school diploma from a school outside the United States must have transcripts evaluated by a National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES) approved independent agency. Such cases will be evaluated on an individual basis.
   b. Students who possess an Associate of Arts/Associate of Science degree or higher from a regionally accredited college are exempt from the educational requirement stated above.
   c. Students who have attended college outside the United States must have transcripts evaluated by a NACES approved independent agency, demonstrating AA/AS degree or higher. Such cases will be evaluated on an individual basis.
2. An overall G.P.A of 2.5 in the following science prerequisites: BIOL 430 (Anatomy & Physiology), BIOL 431 (Anatomy & Physiology), BIOL 440 (General Microbiology) or BIOL 442 (General Bacteriology), PHYS 310 (Conceptual Physics), and AH 110 (Medical Language for Healthcare Providers).
3. A cumulative G.P.A of 2.0 in all college courses
4. Curriculum Planning Summary Sheet dated within the same calendar year the pre-enrollment application is submitted
5. Satisfaction of math competency for graduation is strongly encouraged

POTENTIAL AND RETURNING APPLICANTS
For the initial evaluation of all transcripts and previous coursework and to determine if the above eligibility requirements have been met, an appointment must be scheduled with an ARC Counselor at (916) 484-8572. For course equivalency of pre-respiratory care and degree major courses completed outside of the Los Rios Community College District, students must provide course descriptions (from the semester in which the courses were completed). Course descriptions are not needed for courses listed in ARC's Nursing Articulation Grid (http://www.arc.losrios.edu/Programs_of_Study/Health_and_Education/Nursing.htm).

REQUIREMENTS AND COURSES REQUIRED FOR THE ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN RESPIRATORY CARE

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**PREREQUISITES:** BIOL 430, BIOL 431, BIOL 440 or BIOL 442, PHYS 310, AH 110

**Additional Graduation Requirements:** Humanities, American Institutions, Living Skills, Ethnic / Multicultural Studies, Communication & Analytical Thinking, Competency in Reading and Math, ENGWR 300 or ESLW 340, PSYC 300 or 320 or 390 or ANTH 310

**Prerequisites and Corequisites for Degree Major Courses:**
- BIOL 430 has prerequisites of CHEM 305, 309, or 400 with a grade of "C" or better; AND ENGWR 102 or ESLW 320 with a grade of "C" or better AND MATH 120, 124, 125, or 129 with a grade of "C" or better, or placement into transfer-level math and English through the assessment process.
- BIOL 440 has prerequisites of CHEM, 305, 309, or CHEM 400 with a grade of "C" or better.
- BIOL 442 has prerequisites of CHEM 306, CHEM 309, or CHEM 400 with a grade of "C" or better; or CHEM 305 AND BIOL 300 or BIOL 303 or BIOL 310 with a grade of "C" or better.
- PHYS 310 has an advisory of MATH 100.
- Student must complete the general education graduation requirements for an A.S. Degree. Please see a counselor to obtain your educational plan.
- It is strongly recommended that math competency be met prior to entering Respiratory Care Program.

**OUTSIDE WORK**
Outside work is not recommended due to the long hours required.

**APPLICATION PERIOD**

**APPLICATION PERIOD:** First Monday of September up to the second Friday of October.

**DOWNLOAD THE APPLICATION FORM:** The application form will be available a few days before the first Monday of September. You may download the Application Form from the Respiratory Care website or you can get a hardcopy from the Health and Education Division office in HEED Room 770.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** 
**Second Friday of October, no later than 3:00 pm** – Submit all required paperwork at the Health and Education Division Office during normal business hours. 
In-person submission or mailed applications must be received (not postdated) by the due date and time as stated on the application form. 
The Respiratory Care Department is not responsible for applications lost in the mail, nor if it arrives after the due date. Give ample time when you decide to mail in your applications.

*** IN-PROGRESS COURSES are no longer accepted. Applicants must have completed ALL required prerequisites prior to the application period. ***

The Respiratory Care Program admits students once a year. Applications can be obtained from the Health and Education Division office or online at: http://www.arc.losrios.edu/Programs_of_Study/Health_and_Education/Respiratory_Care.htm

**SELECTION PROCEDURE**

Selection is based on a computerized random selection process from among the qualified applicants. Only applicants who meet the educational and pre-enrollment requirements and follow the pre-enrollment procedures will be considered for the program. Meeting all these requirements does not guarantee acceptance into the program. Once accepted to the Respiratory Care Program, students, **MUST** attend a **Mandatory New Student Orientation**, and **at their own expense**, must provide the following:

1. Health History and Report of Medical Examination with required inoculations prior to the first day of class.
2. Drug screening test and background check (required by clinical facilities). **NOTE:** If drug screening and background checks do not clear, the student may not be able to meet clinical requirements and may have to be dropped from the program.
3. Proof of malpractice insurance (malpractice insurance is not refundable).

Accepted applicants who **DO NOT** attend or are **LATE** at the Mandatory New Student Orientation may forfeit their place in the Program. If you have any questions or inquiries, you may send an email to: ARCRespCare@arc.losrios.edu
CURRICULUM: To remain in the program, students must maintain a “C” or better grade in all courses and complete the general education requirements for the A.S. degree.

FIRST YEAR

| Spring Semester | RC 110  | Cardiopulmonary Pathologies for Respiratory Care | 3  |
| RC 111  | Principles of Respiratory Care | 7  |
| June - July | CPR | Must achieve AHA-approved certification in BLS & ACLS | 10 |
| Fall Semester | RC 121  | Concepts of Airway Care and Mechanical Ventilation | 4  |
| RC 122  | Airway Care and Mechanical Ventilation Laboratory | 1  |
| RC 123  | Clinical Externship I | 3  |
| RC 124  | Respiratory Care Pharmacology | 3  |

SECOND YEAR

| January-March | CPR | Must achieve AHA- & AAP-approved NRP and AHA-approved PALS |
| RC 130  | Respiratory Care in Neonatal & Pediatric Populations and Diagnostic Studies | 4  |
| RC 131  | Respiratory Care in Neonatal & Pediatric Populations and Diagnostic Studies Laboratory | 1  |
| RC 132  | Clinical Externship II | 6  |
| Summer | Must achieve S.T.A.B.L.E. certification | 11 |
| Fall Semester | RC 140  | Professional Development in Respiratory Care | 2  |
| RC 142  | Clinical Externship II | 6  |

TOTAL UNITS 40

STATE LICENSING, NATIONAL REGISTRATION AND CERTIFICATION
Successful completion of the Respiratory Care Program qualifies the graduate for an Associate in Science degree and eligibility to sit for the advanced practitioner Therapist Multiple Choice Examination and the Clinical Simulation Examination administered by the National Board for Respiratory Care (www.nbrc.org), earn the Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) credential, and apply for the Respiratory Care Practitioner (RCP) License issued by the Respiratory Care Board (RCB) of California (www.rcb.ca.gov).

NOTE: In accordance with Article 5 of the Respiratory Care Practice Act, a person convicted of any offense other than a minor traffic violation may not qualify to be licensed as a Respiratory Care Practitioner. Questions regarding this matter must be directed to the Respiratory Care Board, or visit their website at www.rcb.ca.gov.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS FOR SUCCESS IN THE RESPIRATORY CARE PROGRAM

Physical Demands
- Perform prolonged, extensive, or considerable standing/walking, lifting, positioning, pushing, and/or transferring patients
- Possess the ability to perform fine motor movements with hands and fingers
- Possess the ability for extreme heavy effort (lift and carry at least 50 pounds or more)
- Perform considerable reaching, stooping, bending, kneeling, and crouching

Sensory Demands
- Color vision: ability to distinguish and identify colors (may be corrected with adaptive devices)
- Distance vision: ability to see clearly 20 feet or more
● Depth perception: ability to judge distance and space relationships
● Near vision: ability to see clearly 20 inches or less
● Hearing: able to recognize a full range of tones

**Working Environment**

● May be exposed to infectious and contagious disease, without prior notification
● Regularly exposed to the risk of bloodborne diseases
● Exposed to hazardous agents, body fluids and wastes
● Exposed to odorous chemicals and specimens
● Subject to hazards of flammable explosive gases
● Subject to burns and cuts
● Contact with patients having different religion, culture, ethnicity, race, sexual orientation, psychological and physical disabilities, and under a wide variety of circumstances
● Handle emergency or crisis situations
● Subject to many interruptions
● Requires decisions/actions related to end of life issues
● Exposed to products containing latex

**English Language Skills**

Although proficiency in English is not a criteria for admission into the Respiratory Care Program, students are encouraged to be able to speak, write, and read English to complete classes successfully and to ensure safety for themselves and others. Students are required to speak English in the clinical setting.

*American River College does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, creed, disability, marital status, veteran status, national origin, race or sex.*

**NOTE: Information on this General Information Sheet subject to change without prior notice.**