

HEALTH SCIENCES

GUIDED PATHWAY: RESPIRATORY CARE PROGRAM – RESPIRATORY CARE AAS

For more information, visit www.dcccd.edu/RespCare and your academic advisor at El Centro College.

This is an example course sequence for students interested in pursuing an associate's degree in Respiratory Care. It does not represent a contract, nor does it guarantee course availability. Following this pathway will help you earn an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree in Respiratory Care. For official degree requirements, [click here](#).

The Respiratory Care Program is a two-year AAS degree program with a [competitive admissions process](#). The Respiratory Care Program prepares students to become respiratory therapists and perform complex patient care procedures in specialized patient care units and diagnostic laboratories.

The Associate of Applied Science degree is awarded for successful completion of the program, enabling the graduate to apply for Therapist Multiple Choice Examination (TMC). The TMC Examination evaluates the abilities required of Respiratory Therapists at entry into practice and determines eligibility for Clinical Simulation Examination *CSE). The TMC Examination has a 2 cut scores. You must achieve the high cut score to become eligible for the CSE, and a passing score on the CSE is required to earn the RRT credential. The low cut score earns credentials as a Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT). Earning the CRT credential allows the graduate to obtain licensure as a Respiratory Care Practitioner (RCP) in the State of Texas. Gainful employment information for this degree can be found at www.dcccd.edu/gainfulemp. Courses that complete the Degree (D) are noted below.

Visit www.nxccc.org/pathways to view guided pathways created for students who complete an AAS degree and the options for transfer to complete a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Science. Speak with an academic advisor at your college to choose courses that will help you to transfer to a specific university.



ONLY Offered at ECC

COLLEGE READINESS REQUIREMENTS (only for the AAS)

Enrolling in one or more courses may be necessary if assessment activities and previous academic experiences indicate a need for additional knowledge and skills:

PROGRAM SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS ⁱⁱⁱ

Completion of one of the following:

| READING & WRITING PLACEMENT | MATH PLACEMENT | ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY | |
|--|--|---|---|
| TSI READING MET: <u> </u> YES <u> </u> NO TSI WRITING MET: <u> </u> YES <u> </u> NO <i>IF TSI OR ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY NOT MET, INSERT COURSE(S) NEEDED</i> | TSI MATH MET: <u> </u> YES <u> </u> NO | ENGLISH PROFICIENCY: <u> </u> YES <u> </u> NO | 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Completion of six Health Professions Readiness courses that satisfy the Health Professions Readiness I & II Skills Achievement Awards. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DREA/DWR/DIRW (Circle One) | <input type="checkbox"/> DMAT _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> ESOL _____ | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Two years' employment as a healthcare worker within a medical related laboratory AND Direct patient care experience within the last 5 years |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: _____ | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Current credential in a healthcare profession (e.g., RN, Medical Assisting, Radiography, Paramedic, LVN, etc.) |

Exemptions/waivers may exist. Speak with an academic advisor regarding placement in college readiness courses and your ability to enroll in core academic coursework.

SEMESTER-BY-SEMESTER MAP FOR FULL-TIME STUDENTS ^{iv}

| D | PREREQUISITE SEMESTER 1 ^v | ACTION ITEMS |
|---|--|---|
| ◆ | ENGL 1301 – Composition I (core course) | <input type="checkbox"/> Meet with your advisor to confirm academic and career goals before the end of the semester. <input type="checkbox"/> Meet with a career advisor or coach to research your career options. |
| ◆ | MATH 1314 – College Algebra (core course) | |
| ◆ | BIOL 2401 – Anatomy and Physiology I ^{vi} (core course) | |
| ◆ | HUMA 1315 – Fine Arts Appreciation ^{vii} (core course) | |
| TOTAL SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS: 13 | | |
| D | PREREQUISITE SEMESTER 2 | ACTION ITEMS |
| ◆ | SPCH 1311 – Introduction to Speech Communication ^{viii} (core course) | <input type="checkbox"/> Meet with your advisor to request an official program of study audit, confirm or update your academic/career path and program of study. |
| ◆ | PSYC 2301 – General Psychology (core course) | |
| ◆ | BIOL 2402 – Anatomy and Physiology II (core course) | |
| TOTAL SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS: 10 | | |
| D | PROGRAM SEMESTER 1 | ACTION ITEMS |
| ◆ | RSPT 1227 – Applied Physics for Respiratory Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Meet with the clinical coordinator regarding placement for the Clinical. |
| ◆ | RSPT 1431 – Respiratory Care Fundamentals II | |
| TOTAL SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS: 6 | | |
| D | PROGRAM SEMESTER 2 | ACTION ITEMS |
| ◆ | RSPT 1307 – Cardiopulmonary Anatomy and Physiology | <input type="checkbox"/> Meet with the clinical coordinator regarding placement for the Clinical. |
| ◆ | RSPT 2317 – Respiratory Care Pharmacology | |
| ◆ | RSPT 1311 – Respiratory Care Procedures II | |
| ◆ | RSPT 2258 – Respiratory Care Patient Assessment | |
| ◆ | RSPT 2310 – Cardiopulmonary Disease | |
| ◆ | RSPT 1360 – Clinical-Respiratory Care Therapy/Therapist | |
| TOTAL SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS: 17 | | |
| D | PROGRAM SEMESTER 3 | ACTION ITEMS |
| ◆ | RSPT 2453 – Neonatal/Pediatric Cardiopulmonary Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Meet with the clinical coordinator regarding placement for the Practicum. <input type="checkbox"/> Meet with a career advisor or coach for assistance in preparing for job search, if needed. |
| ◆ | RSPT 2314 – Mechanical Ventilation | |
| ◆ | RSPT 2325 – Cardiopulmonary Diagnostics | |
| ◆ | RSPT 2231 – Simulations in Respiratory Care | |
| ◆ | RSPT 1141 – Respiratory Home Care/Rehabilitation | |
| ◆ | RSPT 2362 – Clinical-Respiratory Care Therapy/Therapist | |
| TOTAL SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS: 16 | | |
| D | PROGRAM SEMESTER 4 | ACTION ITEMS |
| ◆ | RSPT 2263 – Clinical-Respiratory Care Therapy/Therapist | <input type="checkbox"/> After reviewing your degree plan and program of study, apply for Graduation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Meet with Health Occupations Admissions Office to apply for the Surgical Technologist AAS. ○ Sign up for commencement. <input type="checkbox"/> Join the Alumni Network! |
| ◆ | RSPT 2166 – Practicum (or Field Experience)-Respiratory Care Therapy/Therapist | |
| TOTAL SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS: 3 | | |
| AAS DEGREE MINIMUM 65: SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS PATHWAY TOTAL: 65 SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS | | |

A minimum grade requirement of "C" or better is required in all courses.

ⁱ Degree plans may change in later catalogs. You may use this pathway if you entered one of the seven colleges on or before this date.

ⁱⁱ Students must earn at least 25% of the credit hours (15 hours) required for graduation through instruction by the DCCCD college awarding the degree.

ⁱⁱⁱ To apply to the Respiratory Care program, an applicant must meet the conditions of one of the listed Application Eligibility categories. Detailed information is in the [application packet](#).

^{iv} This is not an official degree plan. For official degree requirements, [click here](#).

^v Prerequisite Semesters 1 and 2 can be modified for part-time enrollment. Once you are admitted to the program, you must enroll as outlined in Program Semesters 1-4.

^{vi} To register for BIOL 2401 you must complete the prerequisite: A grade of "C" or better in BIOL 1406.

^{vii} There are several options to fulfill this requirement. See Health Occupations Admissions Office for a specific list.

THIS PATHWAY WAS LAST UPDATED ON JULY 23, 2019