

Respiratory Care

NURSING & ALLIED HEALTH

636.584.6616

eastcentral.edu/allied-health/respiratory-care/



PROGRAM

The AAS in Respiratory Care is a one-plus-one hybrid degree program which prepares students to practice as Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) and to become state licensed as a Respiratory Care Practitioner after successfully completing the Therapist Multiple-Choice (TMC) and Clinical Simulation Exam (CSE) administered by the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) to obtain the Registered Respiratory Therapy (RRT) credential. East Central College (ECC) is one of five colleges in the Missouri Health Professions Consortium (MHPC) currently selected to offer the program and serves as the fiscal agent. Through the combination of general education coursework, professional-level coursework, classroom, laboratory practice and clinical experiences, students learn the profession of respiratory care.



EMPLOYMENT & SALARY OPPORTUNITIES

The respiratory therapy profession is experiencing a much faster than average projected growth. Per the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the profession will grow 13 percent from 2023 to 2033. In May 2023, the median salary was \$77,960. The following industries employ the largest number of respiratory therapists, and their annual median salaries were:

• Hospitals	\$78,300
• Physician Practices	\$77,580
• Skilled Nursing Facilities	\$73,390

“East Central College and the Missouri Health Professions Consortium is currently in the process of seeking CoARC accreditation for a respiratory care program. However, East Central College and the Missouri Health Professions Consortium can provide no assurance that accreditation will be granted by the CoARC.”



COARC c/o Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care • 264 Precision Boulevard • Telford, TN 37690
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CAREER

Registered Respiratory Therapists evaluate, treat, and care for patients with impaired lung and heart function. Patients with breathing disorders and other cardiopulmonary disorders range in age from premature infants with undeveloped lungs to children/adults with asthma and older adults experiencing chronic lung and heart diseases such as emphysema, COPD, and congestive heart failure.

The program prepares graduates to work in a variety of settings which include pediatric and adult hospitals, rehabilitation centers, physician practices, home care and medical care companies, ground and air ambulance services, pulmonary function laboratories, and sleep study centers. The Respiratory Therapy program will provide each graduate with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to potentially make a difference in the lives of patients seeking treatment.



ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To enter the program, students must have completed:

- High school diploma or the equivalent
- Application for admission to ECC
- A placement test as specified by the college
- Application to the Respirator Care program- admission is selective
- Pre-requisite college GPA of 2.5 or greater
- TEAS Exam within the last two years with a minimum composite score of 58%
- Completion of all prerequisites with a "C" or better
- 8 Hours of job shadowing
- Satisfactory criminal background check and drug screening once accepted to the program

Program Prerequisites/Gen Ed

Prior to entering the program, students must complete the following prerequisite coursework and meet the required 2.5 cumulative GPA.

Course	Hours
• COL*100 Campus Orientation	0.0
• COL*101 Falcon Seminar	1.0
• ENG*101 or ENG*114 English Comp I or Honors Comp I	3.0
• COM*101 or COM*110 Oral Communications or Public Speaking	3.0
• MTH*110/140/150 Intermediate Algebra, Contemporary Math, Statistics, or higher	3.0
• HST/PSC Core 42 Civics	3.0
• PSC*CIVICS Civics Achievement Exam	3.0
• PSY*101 General Psychology	3.0
• HSC*113 Medical Terminology	3.0
• BIO*206 Human Anatomy & Physiology I Lecture & Lab	4.0
• BIO*207 Human Anatomy & Physiology II Lecture & Lab	5.0
Total:	28.0

*Respiratory Care is a hybrid program. Coursework is delivered via internet-based technology. Labs and clinical experiences are in person.

Prerequisites for Human Anatomy & Physiology I and II Lecture/Lab:
 - CHM 106 Chemistry for Health Science Lecture/Lab or one year High School Chemistry with a "C" or better (within five years)
 - BIO 111 General Biology Lecture/Lab or two years high school biology with lab (must have at least a "B" grade within the last five years)

MHPC Respiratory Care Program (44 Credit Hours)

	Hours
Fall	
• RSC*101 Fundamentals of Respiratory Care	3.0
• RSC*105 Introduction Respiratory Disease	3.0
• RSC*110 Respiratory Physiology	3.0
• RSC*115 Respiratory Equipment & Therapeutics	2.0
• RSC*120 Respiratory Care Clinical I	1.0
• RSC*121 Respiratory Care Lab I	1.0
Total:	15.0
Spring	
• RSC*150 Advanced Respiratory Care	3.0
• RSC*155 Mechanical Ventilation	3.0
• RSC*160 Cardiopulmonary Diagnostics	2.0
• RSC*165 Respiratory Pharmacology	2.0
• RSC*170 Respiratory Care Clinical II	1.0
• RSC*171 Respiratory Care Lab II	1.0
Total:	14.0
Summer	
•RSC*201 Neonatal & Pediatric Respiratory Care	3.0
•RSC*205 Specialized Respiratory Procedures	2.0
•RSC*220 Respiratory Care Clinical III	1.0
•RSC*221 Respiratory Care Lab III	2.0
•RSC*250 Respiratory Care Clinical IV	1.0
•RSC*251 Respiratory Care Lab IV	3.0
•RSC*290 Respiratory Care Capstone	3.0
Total:	15.0