

RESPIRATORY THERAPY

Faculty

Program Director: Doug Neubert (RRT)
Clinical Director: Ronnette Hand (RRT)
Medical Director: Don Smith, M.D. (Pulmonologist)

Respiratory therapists are health-care specialists who evaluate, treat and care for patients with breathing disorders; and work under the direction of a physician and assist in the diagnosis, treatment and management of patients with pulmonary disorders. Casper College's Associate of Science program in Respiratory Therapy spans 24 months of continuous education, including two summer sessions. Clinical instruction is conducted primarily at the Wyoming Medical Center, with rotations to home health agencies in town. A summer neonatal clinical rotation will occur during the students' second year and will involve traveling out of state to a Level III nursery.

Graduates of this program will be eligible to sit for the Certification and Registry national exams, earning the credentials of Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT), and Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT).

Background check and drug/alcohol policy

Students enrolled in any of the health science programs will participate in clinical experiences in a variety of agencies. Prior to participating in the clinical experiences, students will be subject to that agency's requirements for a background check, drug testing and/or drug abuse prevention policies. Students are then subject to the random drug testing policy of that agency.

Following graduation, several of the state and/or national licensing or certification (registry) boards, including the Wyoming State Licensing Board in Respiratory Care, may refuse to allow a graduate to sit for the required exam or issue a license or certification to a person who has a prior felony conviction or proven history of drug or alcohol abuse. Applicants to whom this applies should consult the program director for further information.

Clinical accessibility policy

The respiratory therapy program utilizes a variety of health care agencies in the community for clinical experience for the students. If you have been employed in one or more of the agencies and are not eligible for rehire as an employee, the agency may not permit you to participate in the essential clinical component of the program.

Please contact the human resources department of the affected agency and request documentation that states the agency position on your participation in the clinical component of the program. If you receive a negative response from the agency, you are automatically ineligible to apply. A response indicating you will be permitted to attend clinicals in the agency will be given to the program director prior to the selection process for admission to the program. If you are unable to fulfill clinical requirements due to a previous employer issue and have not complied with the above, you could be dismissed from the program.

Physical Abilities for Student Seeking Admission to the Respiratory Therapy Program

For the purpose of the Respiratory Therapy Program, a qualified individual is one who, with or without reasonable accommodation or modification, meets the essential eligibility requirements for participation in the program.

The field of respiratory therapy is a practice discipline with cognitive, sensory, affective, and psychomotor performance requirements. Based on these requirements, a list of "Core Performance Standards" has been developed. These standards are part of each respiratory therapy course and some of the standards are more prevalent than others.

These standards should be used to assist students in determining whether accommodations or modifications are necessary for the student to meet program requirements. Students who identify potential difficulties with meeting the "Core Performance Standards" must communicate their concerns to the Student Services department as well as the program director. Determination is made on an individual basis as to whether or not the necessary accommodations or modifications can be made reasonably.

Core Performance Standards for Admission and Progression

Critical thinking: Critical thinking ability to exercise clinical judgment in a timely manner.

Interpersonal: Interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact therapeutically with patients/clients, families and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds.

Communication: Communication skills sufficient for interaction with patients/clients, families, staff, faculty and other students in verbal, nonverbal, and written form.

Mobility: Physical abilities sufficient to move from room to room, safely perform treatments/procedures and assist patients/clients; lift and transfer patients/clients; manipulate equipment; walk and/or stand for extended periods of time.

Motor skills: Gross and fine motor skills sufficient to provide safe and effective patient/client care.

Hearing: Auditory ability sufficient to monitor and safely assess patient/client needs.

Visual: Visual ability with or without corrective lenses sufficient for observation and assessment necessary in safe patient/client care.

Tactile: Tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment.

Program admission requirements

New students are selected once a year, mid-spring semester (non-smokers preferred). Students failing to complete all the requirements by this time will have to wait for program selection the following year. Professional education starts at the beginning of the summer semester. A maximum of 12 students are admitted each year.

Academic requirements

Students must:

1. Contact program faculty member for program application;
2. Be admitted as a classified student to Casper College before the deadline;
3. Be 18 years of age or older;
4. Have completed the following college courses with a minimum GPA of 2.3:

a. ZOO 2040 Human Anatomy	3
ZOO 2041 Human Anatomy Lab	1
ZOO 2110 Human Physiology	4

- b. MATH 1000 Problem Solving (minimum) 3
 c. HLTK 1200 Medical Terminology 3
 d. ENGL 1010 English Composition I 3

5. Participate in an observation period and a personal interview (spring semester);

6. Present evidence of a recent health examination completed by the applicant's physician after interview.

Associate of Science Degree Respiratory Therapy

(Recommended Curriculum)

General education coursework can be completed from within or outside of the major field of study.

General Education (Minimum 32 credits)	Credits
1. Exploration and Participation	
MATH 1000 Problem Solving (minimum) ...	3
PHYS 1050 Concepts of Physics	or
CHEM 1005 Basic Chemistry	and
CHEM 1006 Basic Chemistry Lab	4
ZOO 2040 Human Anatomy	3
ZOO 2041 Human Anatomy Lab	1
ZOO 2110 Human Physiology	4
2. Communication	
ENGL 1010 English I: Composition	3
ENGL 1020 English II: Composition	3
3. Relationship with the World	
U.S. and Wyoming constitutions	3
Cultural environment	3
PSYC 1000 General Psychology	or
SOC 1000 Introduction to Sociology	3-4
4. General Education Electives	
Must be chosen from areas 1, 2, or 3 above.	
5. Physical Education	1

Major Requirements

HLTK 0950 Basic Life Support for Health Care	3
HLTK 1200 Medical Terminology	3
RESP 1500 Introduction to Respiratory Therapy ...	3
RESP 1505 Cardiopulmonary Anatomy and Physiology	2
RESP 1507 Respiratory Therapy I	4
RESP 1515 Respiratory Lab I	1
RESP 1518 Respiratory Practicum I	3
RESP 1523 Respiratory Pharmacology	2
RESP 1527 Respiratory Therapy II	3
RESP 1535 Respiratory Lab II	1
RESP 1538 Respiratory Practicum II	4
RESP 1543 Respiratory Perinatal and Pediatrics ...	2
RESP 2500 Respiratory Specialty Practicum	3
RESP 2507 Respiratory Therapy III	3
RESP 2515 Respiratory Pathology	2

RESP 2545 Respiratory Lab III	1
RESP 2548 Respiratory Practicum III	4
RESP 2557 Respiratory Therapy IV	3
RESP 2570 Respiratory Simulations	2
RESP 2575 Respiratory Lab IV	1
RESP 2578 Respiratory Practicum IV	4

To continue in the Associate of Science Respiratory Therapy Program, a student must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.3 or better and earn a "C" or better in all respiratory, allied health, and laboratory science courses.

A minimum of 64 approved semester credits are required for graduation. For specific graduation requirements see "Academic Policies" and "Degree Requirements."

Suggested Course Sequence

Summer I

RESP 1500 Introduction to Respiratory Therapy ...	3
RESP 1505 Cardiopulmonary Anatomy and Physiology	2

Fall I

RESP 1507 Respiratory Therapy I	4
RESP 1515 Respiratory Lab I	1
RESP 1518 Respiratory Practicum I	3
RESP 1523 Respiratory Pharmacology	2

Spring I

RESP 1527 Respiratory Therapy II	3
RESP 1535 Respiratory Lab II	1
RESP 1538 Respiratory Practicum II	4
RESP 1543 Respiratory Perinatal and Pediatrics ...	2

Summer II

RESP 2500 Respiratory Specialty Practicum	3
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Fall II

RESP 2507 Respiratory Therapy III	3
RESP 2515 Respiratory Pathology	2
RESP 2545 Respiratory Lab III	1
RESP 2548 Respiratory Practicum III	4

Spring II

RESP 2557 Respiratory Therapy IV	3
RESP 2570 Respiratory Simulations	2
RESP 2575 Respiratory Lab IV	1
RESP 2578 Respiratory Practicum IV	4

ONLY COURSES NUMBERED 1000 OR ABOVE CAN BE USED TOWARD THE ASSOCIATE OF ARTS, ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE, ASSOCIATE OF BUSINESS, ASSOCIATE OF FINE ARTS AND ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREES.