

Respiratory Care

Overview – ([Download Program Application](#))

Respiratory Care (RC) practitioners are trained in a variety of therapeutic and diagnostic skills that enable them to assist with the treatment of individuals with pulmonary and cardiac disorders. Respiratory therapists perform many types of assessment and therapy including life support procedures and management of ventilators in the critical care unit. Entry into the Respiratory Care profession requires an associate degree from an accredited program as well as successful completion of national credentialing examinations.

Students preparing for the program will complete 38 credit hours of general education, science, and mathematics courses at Oklahoma City Community College (OCCC) and then make application to the 12-month Respiratory Care (RC) program at Francis Tuttle. If the applicant has possible transfer credit, they should have their college transcript(s) evaluated at OCCC for approval.

The RC program provides targeted instruction in respiratory care including respiratory theory, laboratory practice, and clinical experience, preparing students to take the national credentialing exams. Upon completion, students will receive the Respiratory Care Therapist Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree from OCCC. They are then eligible to take the two national examinations required to earn a Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) credential. Specifically, graduates are eligible to take both the Therapist Multiple Choice Written Examination and the Clinical Simulation Examination. Successful completion of both exams earns the credential of Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) and qualifies the graduate to obtain a license to practice as a Respiratory Care Practitioner in Oklahoma and most other states.

Entrance Requirements

The Respiratory Care Program admits two classes per year – one starting in June (graduating the following May) and one starting in January (graduating in December). A selective admissions process is used. Students are selected for admission based on specific criteria including preference points and GPA. Applications must be submitted by September 30th for the January start and by March 1st for the June start.

Before applying to the RC Program, students should ensure they meet the following minimum criteria for admission:

- 1) Student in good standing at OCCC
- 2) 18 years of age or older
- 3) Minimum cumulative retention G.P.A. of 2.0 or higher for all college level coursework
- 4) Have completed or be currently enrolled in the required 38 credit hours of general education, science, and mathematics courses. These required courses are listed in the OCCC catalogue (under the program degree plan) and in the RC program application packet.
- 5) Have completed the following courses (a subset of the 38 required, prerequisite courses) with a final grade of “C” or better:

Human Anatomy and Physiology I (BIO 1314)

Human Anatomy and Physiology II (BIO 1414)

Contemporary Mathematics (MATH 1503) or Functions and Modeling (MATH 1483)

Ethics in Health and Human Services (PSY 2233)

Introduction to Respiratory Care (RC 1132)

Cardiopulmonary Anatomy and Physiology (RC 1343)

Note: If an applicant is enrolled in one or more of the above courses at the time of application and is accepted, the course(s) must be completed prior to starting the RC program.

In addition to the admission requirements already described, there are additional criteria related to physical examination requirements, drug screening, and criminal history. Interested applicants should obtain the Respiratory Care Application Packet from the Francis Tuttle website, the Francis Tuttle Career Planning Center, or the OCCC advisement office, and should carefully

review the admissions process.

The RC curriculum is rigorous and has required attendance and high performance standards for completion. The demanding full-time schedule and the rigor of the program make it unfeasible to take additional courses during enrollment in the 12-month program at Francis Tuttle. By completing all general education and science courses at OCCC in advance, a student will be able to immediately graduate upon completion of the 12-month RC program. Graduates are then eligible to take the required credentialing exams and enter the field with an Oklahoma Respiratory Care Practitioner's License.

Students are not prohibited from working while enrolled in the RC Program. However, due to the demanding full-time schedule and the rigor of the program, applicants are strongly encouraged to plan for no more than part-time employment while completing the 12-month RC curriculum.

Employment Opportunities

Hospitals, Pediatric/Neonatal Care Units, Home Health Agencies, Skilled Nursing Facilities, Equipment Sales, Pulmonary Function Labs, Durable Medical Equipment, Rehabilitation Facilities

About This Occupation

Respiratory Care Practitioners (RCP's) work in an extremely busy environment and deal with critically ill patients and their families. They must be able to work effectively as part of a multidisciplinary team and must be able to communicate effectively with team members, patients, and families, even under stressful conditions. Respiratory Therapists must have the ability to analyze data, evaluate patients, and make critical thinking decisions that directly affect their patient's wellbeing.

To perform necessary job functions, Respiratory Care Practitioners must have visual acuity sufficient to read monitors from a distance of 6 to 8 feet and to observe and assess patient condition. They must also be able to read patient charts and small print on laboratory reports, medication containers, and technical manuals. In addition, they must have auditory acuity sufficient to accurately assess heart and breath sounds, understand instructions in a normal tone of voice without seeing the speaker's face, and hear and respond to audible alarms.

When working in this field, steady physical activity is required and may consist of walking, standing, and assisting in moving patients and/or equipment. Daily tasks require occasional lifting up to 30-40 lbs. When dealing with patient care there is occasional to frequent exposure to communicable disease, and direct contact with blood or other bodily fluids requires that personal protective equipment be worn in these circumstances.

Accreditation

The Respiratory Care Program is fully accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC). Programmatic outcomes from the most recent Annual Report of Current Status can be reviewed at

<http://www.coarc.com/Students/Programmatic-Outcome-Data.aspx>.

Program Goals and Standards

To prepare graduates with demonstrated competence in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains of respiratory care practice as performed by respiratory therapists.

Majors:

Advanced Respiratory Therapist – 1,300 hours for which students will receive 30 credit hours at Oklahoma City Community College (OCCC) towards completion of the AAS degree.

Respiratory Care

Who Can Attend:	Adults
Total Hours Required:	1,300 hours for which students will receive 30 credit hours at Oklahoma City Community College (OCCC) towards completion of the AAS degree.
Financial Aid Eligibility:	This career major is eligible for financial aid through OCCC. Students who meet OCCC's requirements may continue to receive financial aid through OCCC during their enrollment in the 12-month program at Francis Tuttle Technology Center.
Salary Range:	\$21.00-\$26.00 per hour (average)
Program Length:	Full-Time: 12 months (Francis Tuttle coursework only) Prior coursework at OCCC is required to enter the program.
Locations:	Rockwell Campus, Campus Center Building, Health Science Center
Times:	Both classroom and clinical attendance are required. Students attend Monday-Friday, 8:00 am - 3:00 pm for classroom and laboratory work. Clinical Rotation Days are usually 6:30 am - 3:00 pm or 6:30 am - 7:00 pm. Two start dates are available each year. See the Entrance Requirements section for application deadlines and other information.
Licensure/ Certifications:	Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) National Credential - \$390.00* *This credential requires successful completion of two national examinations. Francis Tuttle will pay the cost of the Therapist Multiple Choice Examination Oklahoma Respiratory Care Practitioners License - \$100.00
College Credit:	30 credit hours Oklahoma City Community College (OCCC) awards the Associate in Applied Science in Respiratory Care. A total of 68 college credit hours is required for completion of the AAS degree. General education, math, and science courses totaling 38 credit hours are completed at OCCC. The remaining 30 credit hours are awarded for completion of the 12-month, 1300 hour Respiratory Care program at Francis Tuttle.
Costs	
Tuition and Fees:	After admission to the program, students enroll each semester through OCCC for RC courses taught at Francis Tuttle. Tuition is as follows: Resident Tuition (30 credit hours at \$135.29 per credit hour) - \$4,058.70 Non-Resident Tuition (30 credit hours at \$326.99 per credit hour) - \$9,809.70 Francis Tuttle Application Fee (non-refundable) - \$15.00
Textbooks, Supplies and Certifications (Estimate):	Textbooks and Software - \$1,500.00 Physical Exam and Immunizations – \$250.00 Uniforms and Equipment - \$300.00 Drug Testing and background checks - \$120.00 Certifications – \$490.00
Total Estimated Cost:	In-State Adult Students - \$6,733.70 Out-of-State Adult Students - \$12,484.70

Note: This cost represents only the 12-month RC program at Francis Tuttle. Tuition, textbooks, and other costs for courses to be taken at OCCC are determined by the college.

Courses: Basic Respiratory Procedures – 150 hours
Respiratory Pathology & Pharmacology - 50 hours
Advanced Respiratory Procedures – 240 hours
Diagnostics & Outpatient Services – 80 hours
Pediatric & Neonatal Respiratory Care – 48 hours
Clinical Application of Respiratory Therapy I – 184 hours
Critical Care Respiratory Therapy – 148 hours
Respiratory Care Advanced Practice – 200 hours
Clinical Application of Respiratory Therapy II – 200 hours

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT US

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PORTLAND CAMPUS

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RENO CAMPUS

7301 W. RENO AVE.
405.717.4611

FINANCIAL AID

ALL CAMPUSES
405.717.4315

Nondiscrimination Policy

It is the policy of Francis Tuttle not to discriminate with regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital or veteran status, or disabilities. This policy shall be followed in the operation of its educational programs and activities, recruitment, admissions, employment practices, and other educational services. Inquiries concerning application of this policy

may be directed to the Human Resources Director, who serves as the Coordinator of Title IX; Section 504; and Americans with Disabilities Act for all campuses, at 12777 N. Rockwell, Oklahoma City, OK 73142-2789, (405) 717-7799