

RESPIRATORY CARE, ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE DEGREE

Banner Code: 1_AS_RSPC
Financial Aid Eligible

Respiratory Care is an allied health specialty dealing with the diagnosis, treatment, and management of patients with acute and chronic diseases affecting the pulmonary system. Respiratory Care Practitioners/Respiratory Therapists work in all areas within the hospital, especially within the critical care areas with patients who are in a life-threatening phase of their illness. Additionally, some Respiratory Care Practitioners/Respiratory Therapists work with home care agencies to treat patients in their homes. Duties include analysis of pulmonary function and arterial blood gases, life support ventilation, CPR, assessment of pulmonary status, airway care, plus other related duties. Specialties in Respiratory Care include adult critical care, neonatal and pediatric critical care, pulmonary function testing, home care and rehabilitation, management, and education.

The Respiratory Care program at Orange Coast College is a two-year Associate in Science Degree program beginning each fall semester. Courses within the program include lectures, skills application of procedures and techniques in a laboratory setting on campus, and approximately 1000 hours of clinical practice. Clinical practice is within area hospitals performing the latest procedures in medicine. There is also a series including discussions with physicians.

The Respiratory Care program at Orange Coast College is a fully accredited entry-level practitioner program, accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC).

Program graduates are eligible candidates for the Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT) and Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) credential from the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC). Licensure in the state of California as a Respiratory Care Practitioner (RCP) requires the RRT credential and satisfying all other requirements for licensure set forth by the Respiratory Care Board of California. The employment outlook for Respiratory Care Practitioners/Respiratory Therapists is good throughout the United States.

National Credential: CRT and RRT issued by the National Board for Respiratory Care. State License: Respiratory Care Practitioner issued by the Respiratory Care Board of California.

Program Admission

1. Allied Health A010 course – application and orientation.
2. The student must complete the general education requirements for Mathematics and English composition for the Associate in Science Degree and the program prerequisites prior to acceptance to the program.

Program Outcome

The outcome of the program is to prepare students as competent Respiratory Care Practitioners for employment in the field as respiratory

care professionals providing cognitive, psychomotor, and affective qualities to meet community needs.

Employment possibilities include:

- Registered Respiratory Therapist
- Respiratory Therapy Specialist
- Respiratory Care Practitioner

Review Graduation Requirements (<https://catalog.cccd.edu/orange-coast/graduation-requirements/associate-degree/>) and General Education (<https://catalog.cccd.edu/orange-coast/general-education-patterns/>).

Course	Title	Units
AS Degree GE must be completed for program admission.		
Program Prerequisites		
ALH A010	Health Occupations	0.5
ALH A111	Medical Terminology	3
BIOL A221	Anatomy-Physiology	4
CHEM A110	Introduction to Chemistry	5
MATH A030	Intermediate Algebra (or higher)	4
Required Courses		
ALH A115	Patient Care	2
ALH A120	Human Diseases	2
ALH A130	Applied Pharmacology	3
BIOL A114	Basic Microbiology	2
PSG A100	Polysomnography Basics	1
RSPC A185	Respiratory Anatomy and Physiology	3
RSPC A190	Basic Respiratory Care Equipment	3
RSPC A191	Clinical Lab 1	1.5
RSPC A192	Clinical Lab 2	2.5
RSPC A195	Respiratory Pharmacology	1
RSPC A196	Introduction to Mechanical Ventilation	0.5
RSPC A255	Home Care and Rehabilitation	1
RSPC A260	Arterial Blood Gases, Theory and Practice	2
RSPC A265	Pulmonary Pathology	3
RSPC A270	Ventilators and Respiratory Management	3
RSPC A275	Respiratory Care Procedures	3
RSPC A276	Clinical Lab 3	4.5
RSPC A278	Pulmonary Case Assessment	1
RSPC A279	Physician Series 1	0.5
RSPC A280	Advanced Monitoring, Procedures and Therapies in Critical Care	2
RSPC A285	Pulmonary Function Testing	1
RSPC A286	Clinical Lab 4	4
RSPC A287	Clinical Internship	2.5
RSPC A290	Neonatal Intensive Care	2
RSPC A296	Respiratory Care Board Review	1
Total Units		68.5

Requirement	Units
Minimum Program Major Units	68.5
AS General Education Option 1, 2, or 3	Varies
Total Minimum Degree Units	83.5-86.5

Polysomnography Cross-Training Option

This option is recommended for Respiratory Care graduates who would like to cross-train as Polysomnographic Technologists. Upon completing the cross-training courses, students will earn an additional AS in Polysomnography.

Program Option Prerequisite

Respiratory Care, Associate in Science Degree

Course	Title	Units
PSG A140	Introduction to Polysomnography	4
PSG A150	Intermediate Polysomnography	3
PSG A155	Cardiac Rhythm Analysis	0.5
PSG A160	Polysomnography Testing	2
PSG A165	Polysomnography Clinical 1	1
PSG A170	Polysomnographic Practice	0.5
PSG A175	Polysomnography Clinical 2	3
PSG A190	Introduction to Polysomnography Anatomy and Physiology	3
PSG A250	Polysomnography Record Review	3
PSG A260	Advanced Polysomnography	3
PSG A265	Polysomnography Clinical 3	3
PSG A280	Pediatric Sleep Medicine	2
PSG A285	Polysomnography Internship	2.5
PSYC A130	Life Span Developmental Psychology	3
Total Units		33.5

Requirement	Units
Total Units	117-120

¹ Required Clinical: course must be taken in sequence. Contact the department for additional information.

Program Sequence

These sequences at Orange Coast College are general course curriculum maps for students to finish all major and general education requirements for two-year completion of degrees, and/or fulfillment of transfer requirements. The course sequence may include course prerequisites and other placement requirements. **Students are advised to meet with an Orange Coast College Counselor to review course selections and sequences to ensure that completion of this program will meet a student's transfer and career goals.**

For terms less than 15 units, students should meet with a counselor to reconfigure their sequence to maintain financial aid eligibility with a full-time course load.

Course	Title	Units
Year 1		
Semester 1		
OCC AS GE A1- CHOOSE ONE		3
ALH A010	Health Occupations	0.5
BIOL A221	Anatomy-Physiology	4
MATH A030	Intermediate Algebra (Or Higher) ¹	4
OCC AS GE AREA A2- CHOOSE ONE ²		3-4
Units		14.5-15.5

Course	Title	Units
Semester 2		
OCC AS GE AREA D- CHOOSE ONE		3
ALH A111	Medical Terminology	3
OCC AS GE AREA C2- CHOOSE ONE		3
CHEM A110	Introduction to Chemistry	5
OCC AS GE AREA C1- CHOOSE ONE		3
Units		17

Year 2		
Semester 1		
ALH A115	Patient Care ³	2
ALH A120	Human Diseases	2
BIOL A114	Basic Microbiology	2
RSPC A185	Respiratory Anatomy and Physiology	3
RSPC A190	Basic Respiratory Care Equipment	3
RSPC A195	Respiratory Pharmacology	1
Units		13

Semester 2		
ALH A130	Applied Pharmacology	3
RSPC A191	Clinical Lab 1	1.5
RSPC A260	Arterial Blood Gases, Theory and Practice	2
RSPC A275	Respiratory Care Procedures	3
PSG A100	Polysomnography Basics	1
Units		10.5

Summer		
RSPC A192	Clinical Lab 2	2.5
RSPC A196	Introduction to Mechanical Ventilation	0.5
Units		3

Year 3		
Semester 1		
RSPC A265	Pulmonary Pathology	3
RSPC A270	Ventilators and Respiratory Management	3
RSPC A276	Clinical Lab 3	4.5
RSPC A279	Physician Series 1	0.5
Units		11

Semester 2		
RSPC A255	Home Care and Rehabilitation	1
RSPC A278	Pulmonary Case Assessment	1
RSPC A280	Advanced Monitoring, Procedures and Therapies in Critical Care	2
RSPC A285	Pulmonary Function Testing	1
RSPC A286	Clinical Lab 4	4
RSPC A287	Clinical Internship	2.5
RSPC A290	Neonatal Intensive Care	2
RSPC A296	Respiratory Care Board Review	1
Units		14.5
Total Units		83.5-84.5

¹ Highly recommended for Allied Health programs, some state licenses will require Algebra 2 or higher-level math to be completed at the college level. If 100-level Math courses (any math except MATH A220) satisfy AS Math Requirement and OCC AS GE AREA A2

- ² OCC AS GE AREA A2 - Required if 100-level MATH will not be taken to meet Math competency.
- ³ Acceptance into the OCC Respiratory Care program required to begin major coursework (Cohort Restriction)