

Respiratory Therapy

The Respiratory Therapy curriculum prepares individuals to perform as professional respiratory therapists. In these roles, individuals complete diagnostic tests, physical exams, treatments, patient, and family education; assist physicians with procedures; and manage patients with heart and lung diseases.

Students learn to master many skills for treating patients with cardiopulmonary diseases. These skills include assessment, life support, monitoring, and drug administration involving patients of all ages in various settings (emergency room, critical care, or general floor). Graduates of accredited programs are eligible to take the Therapist Multiple-Choice (TMC) Examination and Clinical Simulation Examination (CSE) from the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC). Graduates may be employed in acute and long-term care hospitals, clinics, physician offices, nursing homes, education, industry, and home care.

For specific information about potential positions and wages in respiratory therapy employment, visit the Central Piedmont Career Coach website.

RCP 110. Intro to Respiratory Care. 4.0 Credits. Class-3.0. Clinical-0.0. Lab-3.0. Work-0.0

This course introduces the role of the respiratory care practitioner within interprofessional teams and interacting with diverse populations. Topics include medical gas administration, basic patient assessment, infection control, and medical terminology using proper written and oral communication methods to prepare students for clinical practice. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate competence in respiratory therapy concepts and procedures through written and laboratory evaluations.

Prerequisites: Take BIO 163 BIO 165 BIO 166 BIO 168 or BIO 169, minimum grade of C

RCP 111. Therapeutics/Diagnostics. 5.0 Credits. Class-4.0. Clinical-0.0. Lab-3.0. Work-0.0

This course provides emphasis on therapeutic and diagnostic procedures. Topics include applying problem solving strategies in the patient care setting, applying ethical principles in decision making, and practicing professional responsibilities, which will prepare students for clinical practice. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate competence in respiratory therapy concepts and procedures through written and laboratory evaluations.

Prerequisites: Take RCP 110

RCP 113. RCP Pharmacology. 2.0 Credits. Class-2.0. Clinical-0.0. Lab-0.0. Work-0.0

This course covers the drugs used in the treatment of cardiopulmonary diseases. Emphasis is placed on the uses, actions, indications, administration, and hazards of pharmacological agents. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate competence through written evaluations.

Prerequisites: Take BIO 163, BIO 165, BIO 166, BIO 168, or BIO 169, minimum grade of C

Corequisites: Take RCP 110, RCP 114, RCP 122, and RCP 123

RCP 114. C-P Anatomy & Physiology. 3.0 Credits. Class-3.0.

Clinical-0.0. Lab-0.0. Work-0.0

This course provides a concentrated study of cardiopulmonary anatomy and physiology essential to the practice of respiratory care. Emphasis is placed on cardiovascular and pulmonary physiology, acid/base balance, and blood gas interpretation. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate competence in these concepts through written evaluation.

RCP 115. C-P Pathophysiology. 2.0 Credits. Class-2.0. Clinical-0.0. Lab-0.0. Work-0.0

This course introduces the etiology, pathophysiology, clinical signs and symptoms, diagnoses, prognoses, complications, and management of cardiopulmonary diseases. Emphasis is placed on developing, evaluating, and modifying respiratory care plans based on evidence-based medicine protocols and clinical practice guidelines. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate competence in cardio-pulmonary disease concepts through written evaluations.

RCP 122. Special Practice Lab. 1.0 Credit. Class-0.0. Clinical-0.0. Lab-2.0. Work-0.0

This course provides additional laboratory learning opportunities in respiratory care. Emphasis is placed on therapeutic procedures and equipment management. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate competence in concepts and procedures through laboratory evaluations.

Prerequisites: Take BIO 163, BIO 165, BIO 166, BIO 168, or BIO 169, minimum grade of C

Corequisites: Take RCP 113, RCP 114, and RCP 123

RCP 123. Special Practice Lab. 1.0 Credit. Class-0.0. Clinical-0.0. Lab-3.0. Work-0.0

This course provides additional laboratory learning opportunities in respiratory care. Emphasis is placed on therapeutic procedures and equipment management. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate competence in concepts and procedures through laboratory evaluations.

Prerequisites: Take BIO 163, BIO 165, BIO 166, BIO 168, or BIO 169, minimum grade of C

Corequisites: Take RCP 113, RCP 114, and RCP 122

RCP 145. RCP Clinical Practice II. 5.0 Credits. Class-0.0. Clinical-15.0. Lab-0.0. Work-0.0

This course provides entry-level clinical experience. Emphasis is placed on therapeutic and diagnostic patient care. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate clinical competence in required performance evaluations.

Prerequisites: Take RCP 110, RCP 113, and RCP 114, minimum grade of C

Corequisites: Take RCP 111

RCP 152. RCP Clinical Practice III. 2.0 Credits. Class-0.0. Clinical-6.0. Lab-0.0. Work-0.0

This course provides entry-level clinical experience. Emphasis is placed on therapeutic and diagnostic patient care. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate clinical competence in required performance evaluations.

Prerequisites: Take RCP 111, RCP 115, and RCP 145, minimum grade of C

RCP 210. Critical Care Concepts. 4.0 Credits. Class-3.0. Clinical-0.0. Lab-3.0. Work-0.0

This course provides further refinement of acute patient care and underlying pathophysiology. Topics include a continuation in the application and management of mechanical ventilation, assessment underlying pathophysiology, and introduction of critical care monitoring. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate competence in respiratory therapy concepts and procedures through written, laboratory and/or clinical simulation evaluations.

Prerequisites: Take RCP 111, RCP 115, RCP 145, RCP 152, and MED 120, minimum grade of C; Take MAT 143, MAT 152, or MAT 171
Corequisites: Take RCP 222, RCP 235, and RCP 214

RCP 211. Adv Monitoring/Procedures. 4.0 Credits. Class-3.0. Clinical-0.0. Lab-3.0. Work-0.0

This course includes advanced information gathering and decision making for the respiratory care professional using evidence-based respiratory care protocols. Topics include advanced cardiac monitoring, special procedures, respiratory care protocols, and disease management. Upon completion, students should be able to assess, recommend, and independently modify respiratory care protocols through written, laboratory and/or clinical simulation evaluations.

Prerequisites: Take RCP 210, RCP 214, RCP 235, and RCP 222, minimum grade of C
Corequisites: Take RCP 247

RCP 214. Neonatal and Pediatric Respiratory Care. 2.0 Credits. Class-1.0. Clinical-0.0. Lab-3.0. Work-0.0

This course provides comprehensive coverage of the concepts of neonatal and pediatric respiratory care. Emphasis is placed on pathophysiology, patient assessment and special therapeutic needs of neonates and children based on evidence-based medicine protocols and clinical practice guidelines. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate competence in the neonatal and pediatric respiratory care concepts through written, laboratory and/or clinical simulation evaluations.

Prerequisites: Take RCP 111, RCP 115, RCP 145, and RCP 152, minimum grade of C

RCP 222. Special Practice Lab. 1.0 Credit. Class-0.0. Clinical-0.0. Lab-2.0. Work-0.0

This course provides additional laboratory learning opportunities in respiratory care. Emphasis is placed on therapeutic procedures and equipment management. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate competence in concepts and procedures through laboratory evaluations.

Prerequisites: Take RCP 111, RCP 115, RCP 145, and RCP 152, minimum grade of C

RCP 223. Special Practice Lab. 1.0 Credit. Class-0.0. Clinical-0.0. Lab-3.0. Work-0.0

This course provides additional laboratory learning opportunities in respiratory care. Emphasis is placed on therapeutic procedures and equipment management. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate competence in concepts and procedures through laboratory evaluations.

RCP 235. RCP Clinical Practice IV. 5.0 Credits. Class-0.0. Clinical-15.0. Lab-0.0. Work-0.0

This course provides advanced practitioner clinical experience. Emphasis is placed on therapeutic and diagnostic patient care. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate clinical competence in required performance evaluations.

Prerequisites: Take RCP 111, RCP 115, RCP 145, and RCP 152, minimum grade of C
Corequisites: Take RCP 210

RCP 247. RCP Clinical Practice V. 7.0 Credits. Class-0.0. Clinical-21.0. Lab-0.0. Work-0.0

This course provides advanced practitioner clinical experience. Emphasis is placed on therapeutic and diagnostic patient care. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate clinical competence in required performance evaluations.

Prerequisites: Take RCP 210, RCP 211, RCP 214, RCP 222, and RCP 235, minimum grade of C
Corequisites: Take RCP 211