

# RESPIRATORY CARE, ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE DEGREE

Financial Aid Eligible

Banner Code: 1\_AS\_RSPC

Control Number: 04007

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 Outcomes

1. 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

## Associate in Science Degree Requirements

1. **UNIT REQUIREMENT** - 60 UNITS, with at least a 2.0 grade point average. At least 12 of the units must be earned at OCC, with a minimum of one course taken for a letter grade. At least 3 units in an advanced course from the program must be completed at OCC. A student must be enrolled at the time of application for graduation. Units earned at an accredited college or university on a credit/no credit basis will be counted toward the degree requirements of the college, to a maximum of 15 units.
2. **MAJOR REQUIREMENT** - Complete the AA or AS major requirements as detailed in the Degree and Certificate section of this catalog.
3. **MATHEMATICS REQUIREMENT** - Demonstrate competence in mathematics by either obtaining a satisfactory grade (grade of "C" or better or "pass") in a mathematics course at or above the level of Intermediate Algebra as demonstrated by prior coursework, or by demonstrating competency that is comparable through the completion of a college-level math course that has Intermediate Algebra as a prerequisite: Psychology A160 or Math A100 or higher, with the exception of Math A220.
4. **GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENT** - Students may choose to complete Option 1 (OCC AA GE) (<https://catalog.cccd.edu/orange-coast/general-education-patterns/associate-arts-general-education-option-1/>), Option 1 (OCC AS GE) (<https://catalog.cccd.edu/orange-coast/general-education-patterns/associate-science-general-education-option-1/>), Option 2 (CSU GE) (<https://catalog.cccd.edu/orange-coast/general-education-patterns/associate-degree-general-education-option-2/>), or Option 3 (IGETC) (<https://catalog.cccd.edu/orange-coast/general-education-patterns/associate-degree-general-education-option-3/>) (<https://catalog.cccd.edu/orange-coast/general-education-patterns/associate-degree-general-education-option-3/>) to satisfy the general education requirement. See the General Education Patterns section of this catalog for more information.

## Program Prerequisites

Course	Title	Units
AS Degree GE must be completed for program admission.		
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

**Total Units** **16.5**

Course	Title	Units
<b>Year 1</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
ALH A115	Patient Care	2.5
ALH A120	Human Diseases	2

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Course	Title	Units
BIOL A114	Basic Microbiology	2
RSPC A185	Respiratory Anatomy and Physiology	3
RSPC A190	Basic Respiratory Care Equipment	3
RSPC A195	Respiratory Pharmacology	1
<b>Units</b>		<b>13.5</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
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
<b>Units</b>		<b>10.5</b>
<b>Summer</b>		
RSPC A192	Clinical Lab 2	3
<b>Units</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>Year 2</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
RSPC A265	Pulmonary Pathology	3
RSPC A270	Ventilators and Respiratory Management	3
RSPC A276	Clinical Lab 3	4
RSPC A279	Physician Series 1	0.5
<b>Units</b>		<b>10.5</b>
<b>Interession</b>		
RSPC A255	Home Care and Rehabilitation	1
<b>Units</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
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	3
RSPC A287	Clinical Internship	2
RSPC A290	Neonatal Intensive Care	2
RSPC A296	Respiratory Care Board Review	1
<b>Units</b>		<b>12</b>
<b>Total Units</b>		<b>50.5</b>

Requirement	Units
Minimum Program Major Units	67
AS General Education Option 1, 2, or 3	Varies
Total Degree Units	82

### 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

Requirement	Units
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Course	Title	Units
<b>Year 1</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
NDT A110	Basic Electroencephalography	4
PSG A150	Intermediate Polysomnography	3
PSG A160	Polysomnography Testing	2
PSG A165	Polysomnography Clinical 1	1

Course	Title	Units
PSG A170	Polysomnographic Practice	0.5
PSG A175	Polysomnography Clinical 2 <sup>1</sup>	1
<b>Units</b>		<b>11.5</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
HMDV A180	Child Growth and Development	3
NDT A115	Advanced Electroencephalography	4
NDT A190	Introduction to Neuro Anatomy and Physiology	3
PSG A250	Polysomnography Record Review	2
PSG A260	Advanced Polysomnography	3
PSG A265	Polysomnography Clinical 3	2
PSG A270	Physician Lecture Series	1
PSG A285	Polysomnography Internship	2
<b>Units</b>		<b>20</b>
<b>Total Units</b>		<b>31.5</b>

Requirement	Units
Total Units	113.5

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