

2012-
2013

Advanced-Practice Respiratory Therapist Program Information

Big Sandy Community and Technical College does not discriminate based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, or age in their programs or activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies: Jackie Cecil, Human Resources Director, One Bert T. Combs Dr., Prestonsburg, KY 41653; 606-886-3863, ext. 65371.

Big Sandy Community and Technical College is a member of the Kentucky Community & Technical College System (KCTCS)

www.kctcs.edu

Big Sandy Community and Technical College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) to award the associate degree. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Big Sandy Community and Technical College.

www.sacs.org

Big Sandy



Community & Technical College

HIGHER EDUCATION BEGINS HERE

2012-2013





Dear Prospective Student,

Think about it...it's only 7:34 a.m. and YOU just brought a newborn baby who had been struggling to breathe back to life! How does this sound for a career that is exciting and rewarding? This could be YOUR career as a Respiratory Therapist!

Respiratory Care is the allied health profession that cares for patients with deficiencies and abnormalities of the cardiopulmonary system. The respiratory therapist sees a diverse group of patients ranging from newborn and pediatric patients to adults and the elderly. Disease states or conditions often requiring respiratory care include asthma, emphysema, chronic obstructive lung disease, pneumonia, cystic fibrosis, infant respiratory distress syndrome, and conditions brought on by shock, trauma or postoperative surgical complications.

Respiratory therapists are also involved in many specialty areas in the hospital such as newborn labor and delivery, neonatal and pediatric intensive care units, pulmonary function laboratory, sleep laboratory, adult intensive care units, extracorporeal membrane oxygenation, and EKG testing. In addition to hospitals, the respiratory therapist delivers respiratory care in the home, rehabilitation agencies, nursing homes, outpatient clinics, and physician offices.

According to the *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, employment of respiratory therapists is expected to grow by 28% between 2010 and 2020, faster than average for all occupations. Growth in the middle-aged and elderly population will lead to an increase in various respiratory conditions that cause lung dysfunction, necessitating this need for qualified respiratory therapists.

The Respiratory Care program at Big Sandy Community & Technical College is 2 years in length, and upon completion, awards the Associate in Applied Science degree. Students who are interested in the program must attend a pre-admission conference. Prospective students must have completed with a "C" or better or meet entrance requirements for BIO 137, ENG 101, and MAT 110/MAT145/MAT 150 to be considered for program admission. Additionally, students who are applying for Fall 2013 are required to compile their program application portfolio and submit it to the admissions office on the Prestonsburg campus by 4:30 p.m. on March 1, 2013.

I hope you take the time to consider this excellent career opportunity in the field of Respiratory Care. I am attaching various program documents for your review. If you need additional information, please contact me at (606)788-2822 or by email at melissa.skeens@kctcs.edu. Again, thank you for your interest in the Respiratory Care program. We look forward to serving you in the future. Remember, Respiratory Care is a career for life...and breath!

Sincerely,

Missy

Missy Skeens, BA, RRT-NPS, RPFT
Respiratory Care Program Director/ Professor of Respiratory Care
Big Sandy Community & Technical College
Mayo Campus
513 Third St.
Paintsville, KY 41240

Describe the program to me, please!

The Respiratory Care program prepares the graduate to take an active role in the maintenance and/or restoration of cardiopulmonary homeostasis. The curriculum includes intensive course work in the supporting sciences and general education areas. Classroom instruction is supplemented with learning experiences in the campus laboratory and in area clinical affiliates. Students enrolled in the Respiratory Care program are required to achieve a minimum grade of "C" in each Respiratory Care course.

Although hospitals employ the majority of respiratory therapists, other employers include home care providers, medical clinics, nursing homes, and industry. Graduates are qualified to take the National Board for Respiratory Care examination in order to receive the Certified Respiratory Therapist (C.R.T.) credential. Graduates who successfully completed the CRT examination may additionally write the advanced practice examinations and receive the Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) credential.

*Note: The Kentucky Board for Respiratory Care may deny mandatory certification for convicted felons. Questions should be directed to the Kentucky Board for Respiratory Care. Find phone, address, and other info at <http://kbrc.ky.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

* Note: Computer literacy must be documented by competency exam or by completing a computer literacy course.

Once accepted into the program, students **MUST** complete an **AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION** CPR Course and present the Director of Clinical Education (DCE) with a current CPR Certification Card on the first day of class.



How do I apply for the program?

1.) Attend a pre-admission conference.

2.) Schedule clinical observation at the hospital or other clinical facility of your choice (if you choose to do so) and document experience. This MUST be scheduled in advance—often up to ONE MONTH to allow for adequate time to complete hospital requirements such as background checks, volunteer training, etc. as mandated by the facility at which the student chooses to complete the observation.

3.) Complete admission portfolio and follow guidelines below:

*** To be considered for admission by the committee, each applicant must compile an admissions portfolio that includes the items below, plus documentation of any clinical observation completed (if you chose to complete observation hours), and submit to the admissions office on the Prestonsburg campus. Students must also attend a pre-admission conference. The completed portfolio should be placed into a file with the student's name and social security number and submitted by 4:30 p.m. March 1, 2013, to be considered for admission, beginning in the program courses August 2013.**

a. Application for admission according to established KCTCS and college guidelines

b. Letter of intent to the Program Director –for this, BSCTC utilizes the Respiratory Care Program Application (provided during program pre-admission conferences and found on BSCTC program website)

c. Official transcripts of ALL previous postsecondary education

d. Submission of documentation indicating that minimum admission requirements have been met to enter BIO 137, MAT 110 OR MAT 145 OR MAT 150, and ENG 101 or documentation of successful completion of these courses (i.e. ACT/Compass placement scores or transcripts indicating completions of classes with a 'C' or better)

Should it become necessary to limit enrollment in the Respiratory Care Program, the System Guidelines will be followed and, in addition, the following preference may be given to:

1. who have completed 12 or more credit hours of college work with a GPA of 2.5 or better
2. Students who have completed the biological science requirements with a grade of 3.0 or above

Re-admission

Continuous enrollment (semesters) in the program and a grade of "C" or better are necessary for successful completion of the Respiratory Care program. A student who withdraws from or earns lower than a grade of "C" in a Respiratory Care course will be dropped from the Respiratory program.

1. Application for readmission should be made by the program deadline established at each college.
2. Readmission to the Respiratory Care Program will be dependent upon available resources.

3. In order to be considered for readmission by the Respiratory Care Admissions Committee the applicant must:
 - a. submit a written request to the program director presenting evidence to justify readmission; and
 - b. meet current admissions guidelines.
4. If more than two (2) years have elapsed since initial enrollment in the program, the applicant must successfully complete available comprehensive Respiratory Care examinations or repeat the course(s).
5. If one (1) year or more has elapsed since her/his last formal clinical practice, a student must successfully demonstrate competency, or enroll in the appropriate Respiratory Care clinical component(s).
6. A student may be readmitted to the Respiratory Care program no more than two (2) All students are considered equally based on the current admission point system in the respiratory program. There is no advanced-placement in the program. To review the college's General Admission Guidelines, visit the BSCTC website and check out:

http://www.bigsandy.kctcs.edu/Admissions/Admissions_Guidelines.

Also for more information on transfer credit, international students, and other BSCTC policies/procedures, visit the website at <http://bigsandy.kctcs.edu>.

What About Advanced Placement?

All students are considered equally based on the weighted point system, thus there is no advanced placement in this program. Students who are eligible may receive transfer credit (see college catalog). Students who currently hold the CRT credential may receive credit for specified RCP courses (see college catalog or contact Program Director for more information).

Is the Advanced-Practice Respiratory Therapist Program Accredited?

YES! The BSCTC Advanced-Practice Respiratory Therapist Program underwent a full onsite review by the Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) in March, 2012, where ALL required standards were met. The program received 'Continuing Accreditation' from CoARC. For more information on CoARC and program accreditation, visit the CoARC website at <http://www.coarc.com>.

CoARC 1248 Harwood Rd., Bedford, TX 76021-4244 817-283-2835

What Classes Do I Need to Complete the Program?

The Advanced-Practice Respiratory Therapist Program is an Associate in Applied Science degree program, and upon completion, the graduate will be eligible to write the Registered Respiratory Therapist exam once he/she successfully completes the Certified Therapist examination (as required of ALL respiratory care practitioners). Also included in the program is an ‘embedded’ certificate, Electrocardiographic and Cardiac Monitoring Technician for students who must exit early and meet the requirements or simply as an additional credential for those who complete the AAS degree.

Program Title: AAS: Advanced Practice Respiratory Therapist

<u>Course Prefix</u>	<u>Course Number</u>	<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Credit Hours</u>
BIO	137	Human Anatomy & Physiology I*	4
BIO	139	Human Anatomy & Physiology II*	4
MT	150	College Algebra* OR	3
MT	110	Applied Mathematics* OR	(3)
MT	145	Contemporary College Mathematics*	(3)
		Oral Communications*	3
		Social Interaction*	3
		Writing I/Accessing Information*	3
		Heritage/Humanities*	3
		General Education Total	23
		<i>Recommended Additional Course(s)</i>	
ENG	102	Writing II	(3)
BIO	226	Principles of Microbiology OR	(3)
BIO	225	Medical Microbiology	(4)

Technical Courses

RCP	110	Cardiopulmonary Anatomy & Physiology	3
RCP	120	Theory & Principles of Respiratory Care	4
RCP	125	Cardiopulmonary Evaluation	4
RCP	130	Pharmacology	3
RCP	150	Clinical Practice I	2
RCP	175	Clinical Practice II	3
RCP	180	Ventilatory Support	3
RCP	190	Advanced Ventilatory Support	2
RCP	200	Clinical Practice III	3
RCP	204	Emergency and Special Procedures	3
RCP	214	Advanced Diagnostic Procedures	3
RCP	210	Cardiopulmonary Pathophysiology	3
RCP	212	Neonatal/Pediatric Respiratory Care	3
RCP	225	Clinical Practice IV	3
RCP	228	Preventive and Long Term Respiratory Care	2
RCP	250	Clinical Practice V	3
		Elective (BCTC requires RCP 260)	0-1
		Technical Course Credit Total	47
		Total Credits	68-70

Program Title: Electrocardiographic and Cardiac Monitoring Technician

<u>Course Prefix</u>	<u>Course Number</u>	<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Credit Hours</u>
BIO	137	Human Anatomy & Physiology I*	4
BIO	139	Human Anatomy & Physiology II*	4
MT	150	College Algebra* OR	3
MT	145	Contemporary College Mathematics* OR	(3)
MT	110	Applied Mathematics*	(3)
Technical Courses			
RCP	110	Cardiopulmonary Anatomy & Physiology	3
RCP	125	Cardiopulmonary Evaluation OR	4
RCP	150	Clinical Practice I OR **	2

** In addition Twenty (20) hours of documented clinical electrocardiographic experience or documented Electrocardiographic & Cardiac Monitoring Competence is required.

Total Credits

18-20

* General Education Course

* **General Education Course**

How Does A Typical Semester Look?

First-Year

Summer Term	BIO 137	Human Anatomy & Physiology I*	4 Cr
	MAT 110	Applied Mathematics OR	3 Cr
	MAT 150	College Algebra* OR	(3 Cr)
	MAT 145	Contemporary College Math	(3 Cr)
	TOTAL		7 Cr
Fall Term	RCP 110	Cardiopulmonary Anatomy & Physiology	3 Cr
	RCP 120	Theory & Principles or Respiratory Care	4 Cr
	RCP 150	Clinical Practice I	2 Cr
	ENG 101	Writing I*	3 Cr
		Social Interaction*	3 Cr
TOTAL		15 Cr	
Spring Term	RCP 125	Cardiopulmonary Evaluation	4 Cr
	RCP 130	Pharmacology	3 Cr
	RCP 190	Ventilatory Support	3 Cr
	RCP 175	Clinical Practice II	3 Cr
		Heritage/Humanities*	3 Cr
TOTAL		16 Cr	

Second-Year

Summer IntSes	ENG 102	Writing II (Optional Recommended)* Course	3 Cr
Summer Term	BIO 139	Anatomy & Physiology II* Oral Communications*	4 Cr 3 Cr
		TOTAL	7 Cr
Fall Term	RCP 190	Advanced Ventilatory Support	2 Cr
	RCP 204	Emergency & Special Procedures	3 Cr
	RCP 210	Cardiopulmonary Pathophysiology	3 Cr
	RCP 228	Preventive & Long-Term Respiratory	2 Cr
	RCP 200	Clinical Practice III	3 Cr
		TOTAL	13 Cr
Spring Term	RCP 212	Neonatal/Pediatric Respiratory Care	3 Cr
	RCP 214	Advanced Diagnostic Procedures	3 Cr
	RCP 225	Clinical Practice IV	3 Cr
	RCP 250	Clinical Practice V	3 Cr
	BIO 225/226	Microbiology (Optional Recommended)*	3-4 Cr
		TOTAL	12-16 Cr

When a student has completed his/her general education courses prior to being accepted into the program, he/she will still follow a *similar* schedule in only the RCP courses. *Typically*, students enrolled in the Respiratory Therapist program attend **RCP** courses (general education courses will vary depending on the course, semester, and instructor) Monday-Thursday, with Fridays reserved for tutoring and open lab. This schedule is *SUBJECT TO CHANGE*, however.

Students begin clinical rotations their first semester after being accepted into the program, with a typical week in the first semester including 1 clinical day, 1 lab day, and 2 lecture days. The second and third semesters generally have a schedule that includes two days of lecture and lab courses and two full (8-12 hour) clinical days, while the final semester includes 1 lecture/lab day, 3 clinical days, and ½ day (usually Friday morning) of review for board exams.

(All scheduling is subject to change as deemed necessary by program personnel)



What are the Program Competencies?

Upon completion of this program, the graduate can:

General Education Competencies:

Students should prepare for twenty-first century challenges by gaining:

- A. Knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural worlds through study in the sciences and mathematics, social sciences, humanities, histories, languages, and the arts.
- B. Intellectual and practical skills, including
 - inquiry and analysis
 - critical and creative thinking
 - written and oral communication
 - quantitative literacy
 - information literacy
 - teamwork and problem solving
- C. Personal and social responsibility, including
 - civic knowledge and engagement (local and global)
 - intercultural knowledge and competence
 - ethical reasoning and action
 - foundations and skills for lifelong learning
- D. Integrative and applied learning, including synthesis and advanced accomplishment across general and specialized skills.

Technical Competencies:

1. Perform cardiopulmonary diagnostic procedures, patient assessment, and respiratory care planning.
2. Administer therapeutic and life support procedures in the management of patients with cardiopulmonary impairment.
3. Evaluate appropriateness of prescribed respiratory care and recommend modifications where indicated.
4. Select, assemble, check, correct malfunctions, and assure cleanliness and calibration of respiratory care equipment.
5. Maintain an ethical and effective relationship with the health care team.
6. Perform essential elements of patient education.

7. Demonstrate an awareness of organizational and management principles as related to respiratory care.
8. Perform and act on the results of advanced patient assessment techniques.
9. Assist the physician in special procedures of cardiopulmonary care.
10. Demonstrate skills and attitudes needed to maintain professional and technical competence.
11. Demonstrate the ability to think abstractly, reason logically, and apply problem solving skills in the practice of respiratory care.

**CERTIFICATE - ELECTROCARDIOGRAPHIC AND CARDIAC
MONITORING TECHNICIAN (EMBEDDED)**

General Education Competencies:

Students should prepare for twenty-first century challenges by gaining:

- A. Knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural worlds through study in the sciences and mathematics, social sciences, humanities, histories, languages, and the arts.
- B. Intellectual and practical skills, including
 - inquiry and analysis
 - critical and creative thinking
 - written and oral communication
 - quantitative literacy
 - information literacy
 - teamwork and problem solving
- C. Personal and social responsibility, including
 - civic knowledge and engagement (local and global)
 - intercultural knowledge and competence
 - ethical reasoning and action
 - foundations and skills for lifelong learning
- D. Integrative and applied learning, including synthesis and advanced accomplishment across general and specialized skills.

Technical Competencies:

1. Perform cardiopulmonary diagnostic procedures including electrocardiograms, and patient assessment.
2. Recognize and interpret common cardiac rhythms and determine the need to communicate changes.

3. Perform emergency initiation of cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
4. Assemble, check, correct malfunctions, and assure cleanliness of cardiac monitoring equipment.
5. Maintain an ethical and effective relationship with the health care team.
6. Assist the physician in special procedures of cardiopulmonary

What are the technical standards for the program?

The respiratory therapist specializes in the application of scientific knowledge and theory to practical clinical problems of respiratory care as outlined in a description of the occupation found in the guidelines and essentials of the accredited educational program for the respiratory therapist. Therefore, in order to be successful in the program, a candidate should possess:

1. sufficient tactile and visual acuity, such as is needed in the accurate monitoring of life support systems and for the observation necessary for patient assessment;
2. sufficient auditory perception to receive verbal communication from patients and members of the health care team to assess health needs of people through the use of monitoring devices such as cardiac monitors, stethoscopes, inhalators and fire alarms, etc.;
3. sufficient gross and fine motor coordination to respond promptly and to implement respiratory therapy skills including the manipulation of equipment to meet health needs;
4. sufficient communication skills (verbal, non-verbal, and written) to interact with individuals and to communicate their needs promptly and effectively; and
5. sufficient intellectual and emotional functions to plan and implement respiratory care.

What about Costs?

In addition to college tuition/fees (please see the BSCTC website for tuition and other financial information at http://www.bigsandy.kctcs.edu/Costs_and_Financial_Aid), and ‘general’ costs such as travel/fuel, room and board, etc. the following is an ESTIMATE of costs incurred by students in the Advanced-Practice Respiratory Therapist Program:

Uniforms (3 x \$30.00)	\$90.00	Name Tag	\$10.00
Stethoscope	\$40.00	ACLS/PALS/NRP Cert	\$120.00
Leather Shoes	\$50.00	Lab Coat w/Monogram	\$45.00
Background Checks	\$180.00	Program Exit Exams	\$115.00
Textbooks & Supplies	\$1400.00	Exam Review	\$300.00

What about grading in the program?

The Advanced-Practice Respiratory Therapist Program has set high standards for academic achievement. To progress through the program, students must achieve a 'C' in each RCP course. Current standards, *although subject to change*, for attaining a 'C' in the RCP courses require students to receive a 78%. Requirements within each specific course are left to the individual instructor (i.e. required content such as exams, quizzes, etc.). Withdrawal policies for each course are based on the individual instructor and BSCTC academic calendar for the semester (i.e. deadlines for withdrawing without a grade or with a grade of 'W').

Please see the Program Handbook and Clinical Handbook for other grading information.

BSCTC Academic Probation, Academic Suspension, and Reinstatement

Academic Probation: A student earning a cumulative grade point average below a 2.0 at the end of a term shall be placed on academic probation. A student shall be removed from academic probation by earning at least a 2.0 cumulative grade point average.

Academic Suspension (Dismissal): If a student is placed on academic probation for two consecutive terms (which is noted on the transcript as "subject to dismissal" the second time) and does not earn either a cumulative GPA or a term GPA of at least a 2.0 in the third term, the student shall be academically suspended. Non-enrollment has no effect on probation status. The president (or designee) may grant an exception based upon an individual's case. A student on academic suspension may not enroll in any courses which count toward a KCTCS degree.

Reinstatement: A student who has been academically suspended may be reinstated by the president (or designee) after remaining out of the College for at least one 16-week semester and providing evidence of ability to perform at the level required. A student who has been academically suspended shall, upon reinstatement, be placed on academic probation and be subject to academic suspension if the student fails to earn a current term GPA of 2.0 during the first term of reinstatement. Upon a second suspension, a student may be reinstated by the president (or designee) after remaining out of the College for at least two 16-week semesters and providing evidence of ability to perform at the level required.

Can I work in the hospital outside of clinical rotations?

While students **must not** receive/accept any remuneration in exchange for work performed during their clinical rotations as part of their educational program, it is possible for students who successfully complete their first year of coursework in the program (RCP courses) to apply for a limited mandatory certificate to practice. Students must apply for this license to practice through the Kentucky Board for Respiratory Care. Once the limited mandatory certificate is obtained, students may work **OUTSIDE** clinical educational hours as employees of the hospitals/other clinical facilities. It is very important, however, that there is a clear distinction made between the student and employee role within the facility and that hours/activities document such.

As a high school student, what type of courses do I need to take to prepare for the Respiratory Care program?

A high school student who is interested in entering the respiratory care profession should focus his/her studies on science and math. Students should take courses in health, biology, anatomy and physiology, chemistry, physics and math. Good writing skills are also important to the respiratory therapist since he/she is responsible for appropriate patient documentation pertaining to his/her work, thus good English is a must. Since students enrolled in the respiratory care program are expected to maintain at least a "C" average in all RCP courses to remain in the program, and academic standards to achieve a "C" are high (currently 78%), setting and achieving high academic goals in high school are important to the future therapist!

What about the national board exams and the credentials I can earn?

The National Board for Respiratory Care offers voluntary certification and registration to students who graduate from one of the many CoARC accredited programs. Students who graduate from any accredited respiratory care program are eligible to sit for the entry-level examination, and pursue the credential of Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT). Those who graduate from advanced-level programs and/or meet experience/education requirements, and who have successfully passed the CRT exam, are then eligible to attempt the advanced-level exam and receive the Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) credential. In some health care facilities, there are a couple of differences in the two credentials: job description and pay scale. In many hospitals, advanced care, such as intensive care units and emergency room care, is covered by RRT's, with CRT's doing more general respiratory care procedures. Also, the pay scale for RRT's is usually higher than that of CRT's. Supervisory positions are usually reserved for RRT's, too.

In addition to the CRT and RRT credentials, respiratory therapists who meet education and experience requirements are also eligible to sit for "specialty" exams. Those who have an interest in pulmonary function testing, a diagnostic method of measuring patient lung volumes and capacities, may decide to attempt two exams: Certified Pulmonary Function Technologist (CPFT), entry-level pulmonary functions, and Registered Pulmonary Function Technologist (RPFT), advanced-level pulmonary functions. Therapists who are especially drawn to infant and pediatric patients may opt to sit for the Perinatal/Pediatric Specialist exam. The newest credentials available to the Respiratory Therapist include the Asthma Educator-Certified (AE-C) and the Adult Critical Care Specialist (ACCS).

How much should I expect to earn as a Respiratory Therapist?

While the monetary aspect of the career is varied according to the region where one is employed, the level of respect and self-satisfaction are priceless! According to the Occupational Outlook Handbook, the median annual wage of respiratory therapists was \$54,280 in May 2010. However, salaries may be slightly higher or lower based on the region and the specific facility in which one is employed, and also on the job description where the therapist is employed.

Where can I find out more about this career and getting enrolled in an accredited program?

To find out more about your local program offered by Big Sandy Community & Technical College, please contact one of the following program faculty:

Missy Skeens, BA, RRT-NPS, RPFT
Respiratory Care Program Director/ Professor of Respiratory Care
Phone: 606-788-2822
Email: melissa.skeens@kctcs.edu

Terri LeBrun, MS, RRT
Director of Clinical Education/Professor of Respiratory Care
Phone: 606-788-2813
Email: terri.stacey@kctcs.edu

Gina Goodman, RRT
Associate Professor of Respiratory Care
Phone: 606-788-2865
Email: gina.goodman@kctcs.edu

To find out more about the Respiratory Therapist's educational requirements and the profession, check out the following informative sites on the World Wide Web:

<http://kbrc.ky.gov/>
Kentucky Board of Respiratory Care

<http://www.ksrc.com/>
Kentucky Society for Respiratory Care

<http://www.nbrc.org/>
National Board for Respiratory Care

<http://aarc.org/>
American Association for Respiratory Care

<http://www.coarc.com/>
Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care