



BSCTC

RESPIRATORY THERAPIST PROGRAM INFORMATION 2011-2012

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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



Higher Education Begins Here!



Advanced-Practice Respiratory Therapist Program (RRT)



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.

The demand for respiratory therapists is expected to continue to increase. Respiratory care is listed as one of the fastest growing professions. Employment of Respiratory Therapists is expected to grow by 18-26% through 2014! This increase in demand is expected because of substantial growth of the elderly population, and increases in the numbers of patients with asthma and chronic lung disease.

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 2012 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, 2012.

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/Associate Professor of Respiratory Care
Big Sandy Community & Technical College
Mayo Campus
513 Third St.
Paintsville, KY 41240

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, 2012, to be considered for admission, beginning in the program courses August 2012.

1. Application for admission according to established KCTCS and college guidelines
2. Letter of intent to the Program Director –for this, BSCTC utilizes the Respiratory Care Program Application (found on BSCTC Program website)
3. Official transcripts of **ALL** previous postsecondary education
4. 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>.

Is the Advanced-Practice Respiratory Therapist Program Accredited?

YES! The BSCTC Advanced-Practice Respiratory Therapist Program received 'Continuing Accreditation' status through the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) in 2010, and is scheduled for a regular on-site review in 2011. For more information on CoARC, please visit their website at www.coarc.com!

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

What classes do I need to complete the program?

Associate in Applied Science Degree—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
		Recommended Additional Course(s)	
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
		* General Education Course	

**Certificate—
Electrocardiographic &
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
MAT	150	College Algebra* OR	3
MAT	146	Contemporary College Mathematics* OR	(3)
MAT	110	Applied Mathematics*	(3)

Technical Courses

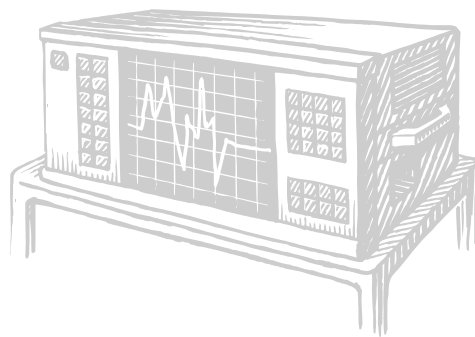
RCP	110	Cardiopulmonary Anatomy & Physiology	3
RCP	125	Cardiopulmonary Evaluation OR	4
RCP	150	Clinical Practice I	2

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

Total Credits

17-20

* General Education Course



What are the Course Competencies for the AAS & Certificate Programs?

AAS ADVANCED PRACTICE RESPIRATORY THERAPIST

Upon completion of this program, the graduate can:

1. Communicate Effectively
 - A. Read and listen with comprehension
 - B. Speak and write clearly using standard English
 - C. Interact cooperatively with others using both verbal and non verbal means.
 - D. Demonstrate information processing through basic computer skills.
2. Think Critically
 - A. Make connections in learning across the disciplines and draw logical conclusions.
 - B. Demonstrate problem solving through interpreting, analyzing, summarizing, and/or integrating a variety of materials.
 - C. Use mathematics to organize, analyze, and synthesize data to solve a problem.
3. Learn Independently
 - A. Use appropriate search strategies and resources to find, evaluate, and use information.
 - B. Make choices based upon awareness of ethics and differing perspectives/ideas.
 - C. Apply learning in academic, personal, and public situations.
 - D. Think creatively to develop new ideas, processes, or products.
4. Examine Relationships in Diverse and Complex Environments
 - A. Recognize the relationship of the individual to human heritage and culture.
 - B. Demonstrate an awareness of the relationship of the individual to the biological and physical environment.
 - C. Develop an awareness of self as an individual member of a multicultural global community.
5. Perform cardiopulmonary diagnostic procedures, patient assessment, and respiratory care planning.
6. Administer therapeutic and life support procedures in the management of patients with cardiopulmonary impairment.
7. Evaluate appropriateness of prescribed respiratory care and recommend modifications where indicated.
8. Select, assemble, check, correct malfunctions, and assure cleanliness and calibration of respiratory care equipment.
9. Maintain an ethical and effective relationship with the health care team.
10. Perform essential elements of patient education.
11. Demonstrate an awareness of organizational and management principles as related to respiratory care.
12. Perform and act on the results of advanced patient assessment techniques.
13. Assist the physician in special procedures of cardiopulmonary care.
14. Demonstrate skills and attitudes needed to maintain professional and technical competence.
15. 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

1. Communicate Effectively
 - A. Read and listen with comprehension
 - B. Speak and write clearly using standard English
 - C. Interact cooperatively with others using both verbal and nonverbal means.
 - D. Demonstrate information processing through basic computer skills.
2. Think Critically

- A. Make connections in learning across the disciplines and draw logical conclusions.
 - B. Demonstrate problem solving through interpreting, analyzing, summarizing, and/or integrating a variety of materials.
 - C. Use mathematics to organize, analyze, and synthesize data to solve a problem.
3. Learn Independently
- A. Use appropriate search strategies and resources to find, evaluate, and use information.
 - B. Make choices based upon awareness of ethics and differing perspectives/ideas.
 - C. Apply learning in academic, personal, and public situations.
 - D. Think creatively to develop new ideas, processes, or products.
4. Examine Relationships in Diverse and Complex Environments
- A. Recognize the relationship of the individual to human heritage and culture.
 - B. Demonstrate an awareness of the relationship of the individual to the biological and physical environment.
 - C. Develop an awareness of self as an individual member of a multicultural global community.
5. Perform cardiopulmonary diagnostic procedures including electrocardiograms, and patient assessment.
6. Recognize and interpret common cardiac rhythms and determine the need to communicate changes.
7. Perform emergency initiation of cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
8. Assemble, check, correct malfunctions, and assure cleanliness of cardiac monitoring equipment.
9. Maintain an ethical and effective relationship with the health care team.
10. Assist the physician in special procedures of cardiopulmonary care.



What about Program Costs?



ALL college and program costs are subject to change including tuition and fees based on mandates at the system level.

Resident Tuition: \$130 per credit hour
Contiguous Counties*: \$260 per credit hour
Non-Resident Tuition: \$445 per credit hour

*Contiguous counties are those which border Kentucky. Tuition is charged for each credit hour enrolled.

Tuition and fees are determined by the Kentucky Community and Technical College System Board of Regents. For payment deadlines, refer to the college academic calendar.

Typical annual budget of other costs for Kentucky residents (per BSCTC website)

11 credit hours/semester (fall and spring)	\$2,860
Books	\$ 750
Personal costs	\$ 800
Transportation	\$2,020
Total (without room and board)	\$6,320

Paying Tuition

Payment of tuition is due the day prior to classes beginning. If you are not eligible to receive financial aid or you do not receive enough aid to cover your tuition balance, you can pay tuition fees at the Business Office window at your local campus or online by logging into your [Student Self Service](#).

Estimated Program Costs

Uniforms (3 x \$35.00)	\$105.00	Name Tag	\$10.00
Stethoscope	\$40.00	Liability Insurance	\$50.00
Leather Shoes	\$50.00	Lab Coat w/Monogram	\$25.00
Background Checks	\$90.00	Program Exit Exam	\$45.00
Textbooks & Supplies	\$1400.00	Exam Review	\$250.00

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 individual course are left to the individual instructor (i.e. required content such as exams, quizzes, etc.). Withdrawal policies for each course are based on 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.



Advanced-Practice Respiratory Therapist Program



Introduction

According to the Occupational Outlook Handbook, employment of respiratory therapists is expected to increase faster than average through the year 2014. This is likely due to the substantial growth of the older population, an event expected to increase the incidence of cardiopulmonary disease. As the number of middle-aged and elderly people increase, so will the need for well-educated, knowledgeable respiratory therapists. Additionally, advancements in the treatment of trauma patients and premature infants will also increase the demand for competent, caring respiratory therapists. Keep reading to find out more about a career for life. . . and breath!!

Exactly what do Respiratory Therapists do?

Respiratory therapists assess, treat, and care for all types of patients with breathing disorders, from the premature infant to the elderly. Respiratory therapists care for patients with emphysema, chronic bronchitis, and asthma. They also care for infants and children with croup and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). In Kentucky, respiratory therapists are licensed to perform respiratory care procedures under medical direction and in accordance with the prescription of a physician. The respiratory therapists' licensed scope of practice in Kentucky include, but is not limited to, the assessment and therapeutic use of the following: medical gases, such as oxygen, exclusive of general anesthesia; aerosols, such as aerosolized medications for asthma, humidification, environmental control systems; medications related to cardiopulmonary procedures, unless prohibited by the medical staff of the licensed health care facility; mechanical or physiological ventilatory (life) support; bronchopulmonary hygiene, such as suctioning the airway, maintenance of natural airways; insertion without cutting tissues (intubation--insertion of a tube into the windpipe) and maintenance of artificial airways; specific assessment and testing procedures, such as drawing and analyzing of arterial blood gases and pulmonary function testing. In addition to providing oxygen therapy for patients who are short of breath and lacking oxygen and providing patients who have stopped breathing with life support, respiratory therapists tasks are expanding into cardiopulmonary procedures such as electrocardiographs (EKGs) and stress testing. Respiratory Therapy is generally fast-paced, and at times extremely intense and stressful work. The respiratory therapists' role in medicine continues to grow and expand year after year!

Where do Respiratory Therapists work?

The majority of respiratory therapists are employed in hospitals. However, as the field grows, so does the number of 'non-traditional' jobs in respiratory care. Respiratory therapists are employed in pulmonary clinics and as case managers. Additionally, durable medical equipment companies employ respiratory therapists for marketing, sales, and management of respiratory equipment and services. Some respiratory therapists choose to specialize in neonatal and pediatric respiratory care and work in neonatal and/or pediatric intensive care units. Also, without qualified respiratory educators, the profession of respiratory therapists would become extinct.

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 required classes, high academic goals in high school are very important.

What type of training/education is required for Respiratory Therapists?

With more than 40 states in the U.S. requiring respiratory therapists to be licensed, proper training and education is a must! Due to national mandates, all upcoming respiratory care courses will be no less than associate degree, which is a minimum of two years. Students enrolled in most respiratory care programs are required to complete general education courses such as English, algebra, psychology, and computer fundamentals. They are also required to complete science courses such as microbiology and human anatomy and physiology. In addition to the general education courses, students receive classroom theory integrated with laboratory practice, and actual "hands-on" clinical practice in respiratory care. Students are required to attend and successfully complete an accredited respiratory care program (i.e. by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care [CoARC]) in order to sit for national board examinations. The program at Big Sandy Community & Technical College has received the 'Continuing Accreditation' status by CoARC, and offers an Associate in Applied Science degree for the Advanced-Practice Respiratory Therapist credential.

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.

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! Median annual earnings of respiratory therapists were \$53,330 in May 2009. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$39,030, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$71,920. 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/Associate Professor of Respiratory Care
Phone: 888-641-4132, ex. 82822
Email: melissa.skeens@kctcs.edu

Terri Stacey, MS, RRT
Director of Clinical Education/Professor of Respiratory Care
Phone: 888-641-4132, ex. 82813
Email: terri.stacey@kctcs.edu

Gina Goodman, RRT
Associate Professor of Respiratory Care
Phone: 888-641-4132, ex. 82865
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