

Respiratory Therapy

Respiratory therapy is an allied health profession specializing in the diagnosis, treatment, and care of patients suffering from cardiopulmonary disease.

The program provides didactic instruction and supervised clinical practice in Southern California hospitals. Graduates of the VVC Respiratory Therapy Program, as a result of the education and training they receive, pass the state licensing and national registry exams at a rate much greater than the national average. The Victor Valley College Respiratory Therapy Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (www.coarc.com), 1248 Harwood Road, Bedford, TX 76021-4244, (817) 283-2835.

Separate application must be made to the Respiratory Therapy Program. Seating is limited to a maximum of twenty-six students per class.

Applications are available from the Allied Health website www.vvc.edu/academic/respiratory-therapy/ or from the Counseling Department.

Pre-course requirement paid for by student: 1) National background check; 2) Titers demonstrating immunity to Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Varicella, Mumps, Measles, Rubella; 3) Two Tuberculosis tests within 3 months of course start; 4) Physical examination by physician; and 5) Background check and drug testing the first week of the course. Please contact Respiratory Therapy program director for information and forms.

Career Opportunities

Respiratory Care Practitioner, Critical Care Specialist, Diagnostic Testing Specialist, Education, Home Care Neonatal/Pediatric Specialist, Pulmonary Rehabilitation, Research

Faculty

Traci Marin | Michael Haines

Degrees and Certificates Awarded

Associate in Science, Respiratory Therapy
Respiratory Therapy Certificate

Program Learning Outcomes

A student receiving a degree or certificate in this field will be able to:

- Demonstrate the ability to comprehend, apply, and evaluate clinical information relative to their role as an advanced-practiced therapist (Cognitive Domain)
- Demonstrate the technical proficiency in all skills necessary to fulfill the role of Registered Respiratory Therapist (Psychomotor Domain).
- Demonstrate behaviors consistent with professionalism and meet employer expectations for the Registered Respiratory Therapist (Affective Domain).

Associate Degree

To earn an Associate in Science degree with a major in Respiratory Therapy (04957), complete all requirements for the Respiratory Therapy Certificate. The Respiratory Therapy Certificate above includes all requirements for both a certificate and an Associate in Science degree in Respiratory Therapy.

Transfer

A handout with all transfer requirements for a B.S. degree in Health Care Services, Respiratory Therapy, and other related medical degrees from Loma Linda University is available in the Counseling Department, or visit www.llu.edu.

Respiratory Therapy

RESPIRATORY THERAPY, A.S. (04957) AND CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT (20544)		
This certificate prepares the student to take the State examination to practice as an entry level practitioner and the National Examination for Advanced level practitioner.		
Units Required: 82.0		
<i>Group A: All of the following must be completed:</i>		
RSPT 50	Polysomnography I	4.0
RSPT 230	Introduction to Respiratory Therapy	3.0
RSPT 231	Basic Fundamentals of Respiratory Therapy	10.0
RSPT 232	Patient Assessment and Clinical Application of Respiratory Therapy	10.0
RSPT 233	Intensive Respiratory Care and Advanced Pulmonary Physiology	13.0
RSPT 234	Neonatal / Pediatric Respiratory Therapy Care and Related Pathophysiology	13.0
RSPT 239	Introduction to Continuous Mechanical Ventilation Support	2.0
BIOL 211	Human Anatomy	5.0
BIOL 221	General Microbiology	5.0
BIOL 231	Human Physiology	5.0
ENGL 101	English Composition and Reading	4.0
PSYC 101	Introductory Psychology	3.0
<i>Group B: One of the following must be completed:</i>		
CMST 106	Interpersonal Communication	3.0
CMST 107	Family Communication	3.0
CMST 108	Group Discussion	3.0
CMST 109	Public Speaking	3.0
One course which meets the VVC Logic/Mathematical general education requirement for Category V		
One course which meets the VVC Humanities general education requirement for Category III		
One Physical Education Course and one course which meets the VVC American Institutions general education requirement for Category IIB.		

The Respiratory Therapy Faculty accepts and operates within the framework of the philosophy and objectives of Victor Valley College.

The Associate Degree in Respiratory Therapy provides a foundation for continuing personal, professional and educational development, and includes the study of the arts, sciences and humanities. The program is designed to produce a competent, self-directed respiratory therapist who, in a variety of settings, can assume leadership in planning, providing, and evaluating respiratory care of individuals and groups; who participates in the determination of the goals of the profession; and who actively searches for knowledge in respiratory therapy and related fields essential to the development and application of scientific respiratory care.

The respiratory therapy graduate receives the Associate of Science Degree and is eligible to take the National Registry Exam for Respiratory Therapists and the entry level exam for licensure in the State of California.

In order to be admitted to the Respiratory Therapy Program, separate application must be made in addition to application to the college. The annual deadline date for submitting applications to be considered for respiratory therapy is May 15. Applications can be obtained through www.vvc.edu/academic/respiratory-therapy/ the Allied Health Office or the Counseling Department. Prerequisites: CHEM 100, BIOL 100 or 107, and MATH 90 must be completed with a grade of "C" or higher before entry into the program.

Respiratory Therapy Courses

RSPT 50 POLYSOMNOGRAPHY I

Units: 4.0 | 48-54 hours lecture and 48-54 hours laboratory

(No prerequisite)

Topics include sleep terminology, sleep structure and disorders, complete patient set-up and data acquisition. Students will also learn the basics of noninvasive treatments for certain sleep disorders.

RSPT 90 ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY 1

Units: 10.0 | 64-72 hours lecture and 288-324 hours laboratory

(Prerequisite: Acceptance into the Respiratory Therapy Program. Recommended preparation: BIOL 211, BIOL 231 and MATH 90.)

This course is designed to prepare students for an entry level career in a hospital or clinic as an echocardiographer. Topics include physics, instrumentation, cardiac anatomy and physiology, cardiac disease specific calculations, standard exam calculations and protocol.

RSPT 91 ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY 2

Units: 10.0 | 64-72 hours lecture and 288-324 hours laboratory

(No prerequisite. Recommended preparation: RSPT 90 with a grade of "C" or better.)

This course expands on echocardiography subjects presented in RSPT 90. Topics include assessment of pericardial diseases, vascular disorders, electrocardiogram (ECG) and advanced topics.

RSPT 138 COOPERATIVE EDUCATION

See Cooperative Education listing (1-8 units). [CSU](#)

RSPT 149 INDEPENDENT STUDY

See Independent Study listing (1-3 units) [CSU](#)

RSPT 221 BASIC CARDIOPULMONARY CLINICAL PRACTICUM AND CASE STUDIES

Units: 3.0 | [CSU](#) | 144-162 hours laboratory

(Prerequisite: RSPT 231 or RSPT 90)

Clinic-based practicum in which students perform a variety of cardiopulmonary assessments and therapies appropriate to their level in the respiratory therapy and echocardiography courses. Students present case studies based on patient-information gathering that include history and physical, review of systems, rationale for diagnostics and treatment, vital signs, medical history, questionnaire, scores, treatments, and study data.

RSPT 222 ADVANCE CARDIOPULMONARY CLINICAL PRACTICUM AND CASE STUDIES

Units: 3.0 | [CSU](#) | 144-162 hours laboratory

(Prerequisite: RSPT 233)

Critical care clinic-based practicum in which students perform a variety of cardiopulmonary assessments and therapies. Students present case studies based on critical care patient-information gathering that include history and physical, review of systems, rationale for diagnostics and treatment, vital signs, medical history, questionnaire, scores, treatments, and study data.

RSPT 230 INTRODUCTION TO RESPIRATORY THERAPY

Units: 3.0 | [CSU](#) | 48-54 hours lecture

(Prerequisite: Acceptance to the Respiratory Therapy Program)

This course introduces the student to respiratory therapy as a health science profession, including history, professional requirements, responsibilities, professional organizations, and credentialing of the respiratory care practitioner. Provides basic anatomy and physiology, physics and math, and basic cardio-pulmonary pathology in order to give the student a foundation of theory and application.

Respiratory Therapy Courses

RSPT 231 BASIC FUNDAMENTALS OF RESPIRATORY THERAPY

Units: 10.0 **CSU** | 64-72 hours lecture and 324 hours laboratory

(Prerequisite: RSPT 230 with a grade of "C" or better.)

This course continues with a more advanced discussion of medical terminology, anatomy, physiology and cardiopulmonary pathology as it relates to the clinical applications of medial gas therapy, humidity and aerosol therapy, therapeutic and diagnostic modalities, and infection control. Students will be provided with an extensive orientation to the hospital environment and the administration of basic respiratory therapy to patients.

RSPT 232 PATIENT ASSESSMENT & CLINICAL APPLICATION OF RESPIRATORY THERAPY

Units: 10.0 **CSU** | 64-72 hours lecture and 288-324 hours clinical

(Prerequisite: RSPT 231 with a grade of "C" or better.)

This course is a more in-depth study of the theory and application of respiratory therapy. Its content includes airway management, pulmonary assessment, advanced cardiopulmonary physiology and the pharmacology associated with pulmonary patients. The student will spend 16 hours a week in the hospital administrating respiratory modalities to patients.

RSPT 233 INTENSIVE RESPIRATORY THERAPY CARE

Units: 13.0 **CSU** | 64-72 hours lecture and 54 hours laboratory plus 432 hours clinical

(Prerequisite: RSPT 239, BIOL 211 or BIOL 231, with a grade of "C" or better.)

A more advanced study of the theory and application of respiratory care. The content will include: mechanical life support, cardiopulmonary physiology, equipment utilized in the critical care unit, microbiology, hematology, and advanced patient assessment.

RSPT 234 NEONATAL & PEDIATRIC RESPIRATORY THERAPY CARE AND RELATED PATHOPHYSIOLOGY

Units: 13.0 **CSU** | 64-72 hours lecture 48-54 hours laboratory and 384-432 hours clinical

(Prerequisite: RSPT 233 and BIOL 221 with a grade of "C" or better.)

This course is a more advanced study of the theory and application of neonatal/pediatric respiratory care. The content will include: mechanical life support, respiratory pathophysiology, equipment utilized in the NICU/PICU, microbiology, umbilical line, capillary blood samples and analysis, endotracheal intubation, and principles of PALS and NRP.

RSPT 239 INTRODUCTION TO MECHANICAL VENTILATION SUPPORT

Units: 2.0 **CSU** | 16-18 hours lecture and 48-54 hours laboratory

(Prerequisite: RSPT 232 with a grade of "C" or better.)

This course introduces the principles of mechanical ventilation, allows hands-on experience with current ventilators, and reinforces therapeutic care.

RSPT 243 CLINICAL SIMULATION

Units: 1.0 **CSU** | 16-18 hours lecture

(Prerequisite: RSPT 233 minimum grade C or RCP/CRT credentials with "registry eligibility" as designated by the NBRC/RCB.)

This course will prepare individuals for the National Board of Respiratory Care's (NBRC) Written Respiratory Registry Test (WRRT) and Clinical Simulation examinations. Those already certified (Certified Respiratory Therapist) and designated registry eligible by the NBRC will be able to review, evaluate, and improve their clinical assessment, decision making, and test taking skills.