Respiratory Therapy

Taylor Health Science Building, 2nd Floor
1526 South Medical Center Drive
St. George, UT 84790
435-879-4961
https://health.dixie.edu/respiratory-therapy/

To find faculty and staff phone numbers and email addresses, please consult the University Directory (http://www.dixie.edu/directory/directory.php).

Program Director
Debbie Forbush, BS, RRT

Health Sciences Advisor
Rachel Harris

Dean
Eliezer Bermúdez, PhD

Department Chair
Drew Wilcox, PTA, MHA

Administrative Assistant
Kathryn Preiss

Program Description
Respiratory therapists, also known as respiratory care practitioners, provide treatment, evaluation, monitoring and management of patients with breathing disorders or cardiovascular problems. Care provided by respiratory therapists may include administration of oxygen, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, management of mechanical ventilators, administering drugs to the lungs, monitoring cardiopulmonary systems and measuring lung function. Respiratory therapists treat all types of patients, ranging from premature infants whose lungs are not fully developed to elderly people with lung disease.

Accreditation
The Respiratory Therapy program at Dixie State University of Utah has full accreditation from the Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC). This accreditation status guarantees our graduates will be eligible to sit their national credentialing examinations (these examinations are recognized as part of the licensure criteria in the U.S. and Canada). Contact at the Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care at:

CoARC
1248 Harwood Road
Bedford, TX 76021-4244
Phone: 435-354-8519
www.coarc.com (http://www.coarc.com)

Course Prefixes
• RESP

Degrees
• Associate of Applied Science in Respiratory Therapy (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/respiratorytherapy/associate_of_applied_science_in_respiratory_therapy)

Program Admission
To be considered for admission to the Respiratory Therapy program, an applicant must first be accepted as a Dixie State University student. Then, the applicant must complete a separate application to the Respiratory Therapy program.

Application deadline varies. Applications are available from the Respiratory Therapy program website at: https://health.dixie.edu/respiratory-therapy/program-admissions/.

Admission to the Respiratory Therapy program is based upon academic performance in both general education and specific program prerequisite courses in addition to other selection criteria, including:
1. Submission of a complete Program Application
2. Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.25 or higher
3. Completion with a “C” or better of specified program prerequisite courses
4. Individual interview with the Respiratory Therapy Program Selection Committee

Additional factors that will be taken into consideration for program admission include previous health care experience and weighted GPA in specific prerequisite courses. A criminal background check and selected immunizations will be required upon acceptance to the program.

### Program Prerequisites

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 2420</td>
<td>Human Physiology</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>&amp; BIOL 2425</td>
<td>and Human Physiology Lab</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 1010</td>
<td>Introduction to Writing (EN)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>or ENGL 1010D</td>
<td>Introduction to Writing (EN)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 2010</td>
<td>Intermediate Writing Selected Topics: (EN)</td>
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<tr>
<td>MATH 1040</td>
<td>Introduction to Statistics (MA) (preferred)</td>
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<tr>
<td>or MATH 1030</td>
<td>Quantitative Reasoning (MA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>or MATH 1050</td>
<td>College Algebra / Pre-Calculus</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHEM 1010</td>
<td>Introduction to Chemistry (PS) ¹</td>
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<tr>
<td>or CHEM 1110</td>
<td>Elementary General/Organic Chemistry (PS)</td>
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<td>PSY 1010</td>
<td>General Psychology (SS, GC)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>or PSY 1100</td>
<td>Human Development Through Lifespan (SS) (GC)</td>
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<td>or FSHD 1500</td>
<td>Human Development Lifespan (SS, GC)</td>
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<td>or SOC 1010</td>
<td>Introduction to Sociology (SS, GC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>or SOC 1020</td>
<td>Social Problems (SS, GC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>or SOC 1200</td>
<td>Sociology of the Family (SS)</td>
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¹ Chemistry labs (CHEM 1015 or CHEM 1115) are recommended, but not required for program admission.

Students must complete specified prerequisite courses (and the CNA course) prior to admission to the Respiratory Therapy Program. Respiratory Therapy Program courses include 59 semester hours that must be completed sequentially. Students will be eligible for employment after graduation and meeting licensure requirements.

### Career Information

Respiratory therapists care for patients who have trouble breathing—for example, from a chronic respiratory disease, such as asthma or emphysema. Their patients range from premature infants with undeveloped lungs to elderly patients who have diseased lungs. They also provide emergency care to patients suffering from heart attacks, drowning, or shock.

#### Job Outlook*

Employment of respiratory therapists is projected to grow 23 percent from 2016 to 2026, much faster than the average for all occupations. Growth in the middle-aged and elderly population will lead to an increased incidence of respiratory conditions such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and pneumonia. These respiratory disorders can permanently damage the lungs or restrict lung function.

#### Salary Range*

The median annual wage for respiratory therapists was $58,670 in May 2016. The lowest 10 percent earned less than $42,490, and the highest 10 percent earned more than $81,550.