Respiratory Therapy

206 Taylor Health Science Bldg.
(435) 879-4999
http://dixie.edu/health/respiratory_therapy/

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

Program Chair
Debra Forbush, B.S.

Health Science Advisor
Esther Pugmire

Interim Dean
Patricia Wintch RDH, MSDH

Administrative Specialist
Merilee Gustafson

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 Rd.
Bedford TX 76021-4244
(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 home page on the Dixie State University of Utah website (http://dixie.edu/health/respiratory_therapy.php).

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>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 2420 &amp; BIOL 2425</td>
<td>Human Physiology and Human Physiology Lab</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 1010 or ENGL 1010D</td>
<td>Introduction to Writing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 2010</td>
<td>Interim Writing Selected Topics:</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>MATH 1040 or MATH 1030 or MATH 1050</td>
<td>Introduction to Statistics (preferred)</td>
<td>3-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>or MATH 1050</td>
<td>Quantitative Reasoning</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHEM 1010 or CHEM 1110</td>
<td>Intro to Chemistry</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or PSY 1100 or FSHD 1500 or SOC 1010 or SOC 1020 or SOC 1200</td>
<td>Human Development Through Lifespan</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>or SOC 1020</td>
<td>Social Problems</td>
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<tr>
<td>or SOC 1200</td>
<td>Sociology of the Family</td>
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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 Opportunities**

Most respiratory therapists work in hospitals, although some may work in nursing care facilities or in the home health industry.

**Job Outlook**

Over the 2014-2024 decade, a 12% increase is expected in employment for respiratory therapists. This faster-than-average growth is due to an increase in the middle-aged and elderly populations, and the consequent increase of respiratory conditions.

**Salary Range**

In May 2015, the median annual wage for respiratory therapists was $57,790. The lowest 10 percent earned less than $41,970, and the highest 10 percent earned more than $80,440.

* From the Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2015