

# Chattanooga State



Respiratory Care  
Program

**Your Guide**

# Respiratory Care Program

## Important information: Respiratory Care Program at Chattanooga State

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**Location:**  
Respiratory Care Program  
Health Science Center (HSC) Building  
4501 Amnicola Hwy.  
Chattanooga, TN 37406

**Division Office:**  
HSC Room 2088

**Phone:**  
(423) 697-4450 • Fax: (423) 634-3071

**Application Coordinator:**  
(423) 697-2504  
Fax: (423) 697-2628

**N/AH Advisor:**  
(423) 697-4782  
(call for appointment to set up  
your academic plan)

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*All forms and important information can be found on these two Web sites:  
N/AH Web site: [http://www.chattanoogaastate.edu/Allied\\_Health](http://www.chattanoogaastate.edu/Allied_Health)  
RC Web site: [http://www.chattanoogaastate.edu/Allied\\_Health/resp\\_care](http://www.chattanoogaastate.edu/Allied_Health/resp_care)*

## Respiratory Care Program Goals

Graduates of the Respiratory Care program will:

1. Show the ability to interpret, comprehend, apply and evaluate patient data and clinical information relative to their role as an advanced level respiratory therapist.
2. Demonstrate proficiency in all mechanical and physical skills necessary to fulfill their role as an advanced level respiratory therapist.
3. Demonstrate behaviors and attitudes consistent with professional and employer expectations for an advanced level respiratory therapist.

## Purpose

The Division of Nursing/Allied Health at Chattanooga State Community College exists to prepare competent workers to meet the current and emerging needs of the workplace.

## Licensure

The Respiratory Care program at Chattanooga State is an advanced practitioner program preparing students to become Registered Respiratory Therapists. The program is two years (six semesters) long. After completion of the program, graduates are eligible to take the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) Entry Level Exam to become Certified Respiratory Therapists and then two additional exams to become Registered Respiratory Therapists. Training involves a combination of classroom, laboratory and clinical practice at several hospitals in the region. After passing the entry level National Board, graduates will meet the requirements to apply for a license in the state of Tennessee. Other states have similar requirements.

# Program Content

## Summary of Required Hours

A minimum grade of “C” is required for all courses in the “Summary of Required Hours.”

Course No.	Course Title	Semester Hours		
		FALL	SPR	SU
<b>Freshman Year</b>				
BIOL 2010,2020	Human Anatomy and Physiology I, II	4	4	
BIOL 2230	Microbiology			4
ENGL 1010	Composition I	3		
RC 111,112,113	Principles of Respiratory Care Procedures I, II, III	3	4	4
RC 142	Cardiopulmonary Anatomy & Physiology	3		
RC 143	Pharmacology		2	
RC 241	Arterial Blood Gas Analysis		2	
RC 242	Cardiopulmonary Pathophysiology			3
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		13	12	11
<b>Sophomore Year</b>				
RC 210	Mechanical Ventilation	4		
RC 212	Cardio Pulmonary Diagnostic Testing		3	
RC 213	Advanced Respiratory Topics		3	
RC 214	Advanced Practice			3
RC 221,222,223	Respiratory Care Clinical Practicum I, II, III	5	5	4
RC 243	Neonatal and Pediatric Respiratory Care	3		
	Humanities/Fine Arts Elective		3	
	Social/Behavioral Science Elective			3
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		12	14	10

**Total Hours: 72**

### Notes:

1. Students are required to be at college level in math prior to entering the program.
2. All developmental classes must be completed before admission to the program. This includes math, reading and writing.
3. Students must have completed a high school chemistry class with a “B” or higher OR complete a college level chemistry with a “C” or better.
4. Required sciences (BIOL 2010, BIOL 2020, BIOL 2230) and chemistry (if needed) must be completed before students can progress to the program’s second year (fourth semester).
5. Students must complete a health physical and other items before proceeding to the clinical classes. See health verification policy below.
6. Students must complete a criminal background check after admission to the program but prior to entering the first program course. See below.
7. The schedule of the clinical classes (RC 221, 222, 223) may vary from semester to semester based upon need and hospital situations. RC 221 and RC 222 are usually scheduled on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for eight hours every day, generally 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. RC 223 usually consists of two 12-hour shifts which may be Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.. A schedule will be distributed at the beginning of each semester.
8. All of the clinical sites have a no-smoking policy in the building. Several hospitals have also instituted a no-smoking policy on their campuses, including sidewalks, parking lots, etc. Due to these restrictions and to promote respiratory health in patients and students, no student will be allowed to smoke or use tobacco products on hospital property.

## Work Settings

Most therapists work in hospitals which are staffed 24-hours a day. There are other opportunities in nursing homes, home health companies, physicians offices and in sales of medical equipment. Some respiratory therapists may also specialize in education, neonatal care (newborn babies) or management.

Currently, there is a nationwide shortage of respiratory therapists. Starting salaries for respiratory therapists in the Chattanooga area are \$32,000 to \$36,000.

## Accreditation

The Respiratory Care program is fully accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC).  
1248 Harwood Road  
Bedford, TX 76021-4244  
817 283-2835  
www.coarc.com

## Application Procedures

1. Obtain and submit an application to the Chattanooga State Admissions Office, along with the application fee if you are a new student at Chattanooga State.
2. Obtain an application packet to the Respiratory Care Program from the Division of Nursing/Allied Health and all the necessary forms and information for application to the program. Call (423) 697-4450 or visit the Web Site at [www.chattanoogastate.edu/allied\\_health](http://www.chattanoogastate.edu/allied_health). Note: The Allied Health Application form should be turned in before test scores and other forms are submitted.
3. Submit a completed Allied Health Application Form and other required program information.

Send to:

Chattanooga State Community College  
Application Coordinator, Allied Health  
4501 Amnicola Hwy., Chattanooga, TN 37406  
Call (423) 697-2504 or fax: (423) 697-2628

**Note: The following information should ALL be submitted:**

- Allied Health Application.
- Copies of high school and/or college transcripts—(College transcripts are required for students who are currently in college.)

**Note to applicants: It is your responsibility to:**

- Verify with the Admissions Office the receipt of any transcript and/or transfer credit.
- Request evaluation of transfer credits by the Admissions Office.
- Provide a copy of transfer credits approved by the Admissions Office as part of your official application to a health program at Chattanooga State.
- Tennessee residents are given priority consideration. Transcripts will be evaluated for transfer credits only after admission requirements are complete.
- Take the TEAS.

Students must have completed all developmental courses to meet minimal eligibility requirements for program courses. For students who have not had college-level courses, ACT test results or the COMPASS results must also be submitted. Most sciences must be taken within a five-year limit and require a “C” or better.

## Deadlines

All required program admission materials must be submitted to the Respiratory Care Program by May 15 for priority consideration for fall admission. After this date, application materials will be accepted only if there are not enough qualified applicants to reach the program enrollment capacity for the fall class.

## Selection

Admission to the Respiratory Care Program is a competitive process. Selection into the program is based on a comparative analysis of test scores and transcripts. Transcript information considered by the selection committee includes grade point average and courses completed.

The goal of all Chattanooga State health programs is to prepare practitioners who can function in the health care arena to ensure the safety of patients. Program standards are in place to assure that students have the potential to perform as advanced level practitioners. These program standards are available in the Nursing/Allied Health Division office. Acceptance into a health program is contingent upon the student's demonstrated ability to meet these standards.

## Information Sessions

The Respiratory Care program offers information sessions. Topics for discussion include:

- Application process
- Entrance examinations
- The profession and history of the profession
- Future of the profession
- Careers
- Salaries
- Curriculum
- Licensing and credentialing examinations

For dates and times visit the Nursing/Allied Health Web site or call (423) 697-4450.

## Definition

Respiratory therapists are an important part of the health care team who work under the direction of a physician. They work with patients of every age who suffer with breathing problems. Those people include premature babies, heart attack and accident victims, post-surgery patients and those with chronic lung diseases such as asthma, emphysema and cystic fibrosis. These patients may need to receive oxygen or breathing medications and treatments. Respiratory therapists are also an important part of the hospital's emergency team which performs cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). Patients who can't breathe well enough on their own are placed on mechanical ventilators, which are monitored and operated by therapists in intensive care units. Therapists may also work with chronic lung patients in rehabilitation programs or in nursing homes. Other therapists may work in diagnostic departments where they measure lung volumes of patients to determine if there is abnormal function.

## Preparation

To prepare to enter the Respiratory Care program, high school students should take mathematics (including algebra and trigonometry) and sciences (including chemistry and biology) in addition to core high school courses.

Although you must be accepted to the Respiratory Care program before taking Respiratory Care classes (those with an "RC" course prefix), it is recommended that you complete as many of the other courses in the curriculum as possible prior to acceptance. This will not shorten the two years required to complete the program, but will reduce your class load in the program.

## Continuation/Retention Policy

The Respiratory Care faculty will make all fair and reasonable efforts to help the student be successful in the Respiratory Care program. Efforts usually include extensive counseling and remediation with faculty and/or referral to Career Planning and Counseling for additional assistance. However, all courses with RC prefixes **must** be passed with a grade of "C" or better in order to proceed to the next Respiratory Care course in the sequence. All courses with biology and chemistry prefixes must be

passed and completed with a “C” or better to proceed to the second year Respiratory Care classes. A minimum overall semester grade point average of 2.0 must be maintained. Individual course and laboratory requirements are indicated in each course syllabus. A student who develops significant physical limitations or emotional distress during the course of the program, may be asked to undergo additional physical or psychological evaluations to determine their ability to continue in the program. The program courses follow an attendance policy. Excessive unexcused absences, as defined in the Respiratory Care student handbook and course syllabi, will result in lowering the student’s final grade.

## **Internet Access**

Students will be required to access “eLearn” on the Chattanooga State Tiger Web site which has an individual site for each class. The site for each class will contain syllabi, class and department policies, test objectives, supplemental material, announcements and academic references. Each student is expected to access this site at least once a week and whenever he or she is notified of a new posting to the site by the instructor. Students may access several computer labs on campus, including the respiratory lab HSC 2057, when it is not in use.

## **Technical Standards**

### **Capabilities Necessary to Perform Procedures in Program**

- Self mobility. Ability to push or pull wheeled equipment (such as cylinders or ventilators) weighing up to 300 pounds.
- Ability to sight patient for identification and observation of condition. Ability to read patient I.D. band, information in patient chart and on paper or computer screen.
- Ability to position patient in bed for therapy. Able to assist in moving patient from bed to gurney and back. Able to support head, neck and spine when moving patients with spinal injury.
- Ability to read controls, LED’s, LCD’s, manometers, spirometers, syringe markings, and equipment instruction manuals.
- Ability to reach equipment controls, visualize displays, connect flowmeters and hoses to wall outlets. Ventilator controls are approximately 36-48 inches from floor. Wall gas outlets are approximately 60 inches from floor.
- Ability to handle instruments such as syringes, laryngoscopes, stopcocks, stethoscopes, respirometers, calculators, computer keyboards, etc.
- Ability to hear breath sounds, Karotkoff sounds (BP), heart sounds and ventilator alarms.
- Ability to read written passages, communicate orally and in writing (both handwritten and typed).
- Ability to endure long periods of physical activity including standing, walking and light to moderate lifting.
- Ability to accurately palpate pulses.
- Ability to make accurate observations, perceive events realistically, think clearly, objectively and rationally. Ability to function in routine, stress and emergency situations. Ability to assess, make judgments and perform indicated procedures rapidly.

If you feel you would need special accommodations to perform any of these tasks, please contact the Chattanooga State Disabilities Office.

## **Americans With Disabilities**

Students who have educational, psychological, and/or physical disabilities may be eligible for accommodations that provide equal access to educational programs and activities at Chattanooga State. These students should notify the instructor immediately, and should contact Disabilities Support Services (S-113, phone (423) 697-4452) within the first two weeks of the semester in order to discuss

individual needs. The student must provide documentation of the disability so that reasonable accommodations can be requested in a timely manner. All students are expected to fulfill essential course requirements in order to receive a passing grade in a class, with or without reasonable accommodations.

If a student has a disability which may require assistance or accommodations or wishes to file a complaint regarding ADA compliance, he/she should contact Disabilities Support Services.

## **Health Verification**

Prior to entering any classes that involve actual patient care (clinical), each student is required to meet the health requirements of all clinical sites. This includes successful passing of a physical examination, laboratory tests, drug screen and documentation of various immunizations. Some patient care facilities are now requiring annual influenza vaccines. The specific requirements may vary from year to year, based on clinical site requirements and federal and state regulations. Students who do not meet these requirements cannot continue in the program. Contact the Program Director for details.

## **Criminal Background Checks**

Following acceptance and prior to entering the first career course in designated healthcare programs, each student must undergo a criminal background check in order to comply with policies of affiliating clinical practice agencies. It shall be the student's responsibility to comply with instructions provided upon acceptance and provide the results by a designated date. The check will be at the expense of the student. Students who do not meet this requirement in a timely manner or whose background does not meet agency standards will not be able to successfully complete the program. Additionally, a criminal background may preclude licensure or employment. Individuals with a question concerning this should schedule an appointment with the Program Director.

## **The Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS):**

The TEAS test results will be used when applying for any degree program in the Nursing/Allied Health Division. The test includes 85 scored multiple-choice questions divided into two subsections:

Reading: paragraph comprehension, passage comprehension and inferences/conclusions (40 items)

Mathematics: whole numbers, metric conversion, fractions, decimals, algebraic equations, percentages and ratio/proportion (45 items)

The scores of the two tests are averaged into a composite score that is used in the selection process. Please visit the N/AH Web site at [http://www.chattanoogastate.edu/Allied\\_Health](http://www.chattanoogastate.edu/Allied_Health) to find out more information regarding the test and registration procedures. You can purchase a Study Guide in our Chattanooga State Bookstore.

## **Admissions Checklist**

Utilize these checklists as a guide for successfully completing your application requirements. All application materials must be postmarked by May 15 of each year for priority consideration.

It is the student's responsibility to read the program information booklet and follow these admission checklists in order to successfully complete the programs admission process. The student should also follow-up to make sure their file is complete with all program forms, transcripts, etc. before the program deadline date.

Note: It is the student's responsibility to notify the application coordinator for any changes needed on submitted materials (address, name, phone numbers, etc.) to assure your program file will remain up-to-date.

**Chattanooga State Checklist (if not a current student):**

- Complete college application
- Provide official transcripts to the Admissions Office and request evaluation for transfer credits.

*Note: It is the applicant's responsibility to verify with the Admissions Office the receipt of any transcript and to request evaluation of transfer credits by the Admissions Office.*

- Take the ACT, SAT or COMPASS, if applicable

**Respiratory Care Checklist:**

The following two (2) materials must be turned in together:

- Allied Health Application
- Submit transcripts (copies are acceptable).

**Important Notes for Current Students:**

- 1) If you are claiming high school chemistry with a "B" or better, a copy of your high school transcript is required.
- 2) Spring grades are used in the point calculation; therefore a final transcript must be submitted as soon as springs grades are in. Faxed copies are acceptable.
- 3) Transcripts from Chattanooga State are not necessary, but all other college transcripts are required.

**Applications and forms must be mailed together to:**

Chattanooga State Community College  
N/AH Application Coordinator  
4501 Amnicola Hwy.  
Chattanooga, TN 37406

- Take the TEAS Test by the priority deadline date of May 15

**Financial Aid Notes**

Students wishing to receive financial aid should pay special attention to the satisfactory academic progress regulations regarding maximum time frame. This policy states, "A student may attempt up to 102 credit hours, plus up to 30 transitional studies hours, before he/she becomes ineligible for financial aid. The time frame for students seeking a SECOND associate degree is also determined by the 102 credit hour limit plus transitional studies credit hours. Credit hours from the FIRST degree WILL be counted toward the second degree program."

Please see your advisor if you have questions regarding the number of credit hours you have attempted. If you need further clarification regarding the satisfactory academic progress policy for financial aid, please see someone in the Financial Aid Office.

## Respiratory Care Program Cost 2011-2012

These are estimated program costs. Actual costs may vary due to changes in tuition and/or fee increases as determined by the Tennessee Board of Regents. This cost will also be reduced for students since some of the required course work is completed prior to acceptance into the program. These general and support courses taken before the program admission is to lessen course load in a given semester. Estimates below for textbooks are only for program courses.

Note: College fees are included in the maintenance cost.

Link to Chattanooga State Current Web site Fees

<http://www.chattanoogaestate.edu/bursar>

Maintenance Fees	In-State	Out-of-State
<b>Pre-Admission Costs:</b>		
College one time application fee	15.00	15.00
TEAS Admission test	35.00	35.00
<b>First Semester (13 hours) (fall)</b>		
Maintenance fee	1,731.50	6,623.50
Criminal Background Check	56.00	56.00
Textbooks	250.00	250.00
AARC Membership	45.00	45.00
<b>Second Semester (12 hours) (spring)</b>		
Maintenance fee	1,705.50	6,517.50
Physical Examination	300.00	300.00
Hepatitis B (estimate)	175.00	175.00
Stethoscope	50.00	50.00
Lab Supply Bag	250.00	250.00
Textbooks	125.00	125.00
<b>Third Semester (11 hours) (summer)</b>		
Maintenance fee	1,574.00	5,985.00
Liability Insurance	11.00	11.00
Textbooks	350.00	350.00
<b>Fourth Semester (12 hours) (fall)</b>		
Maintenance fee	1,705.50	6,517.50
Uniform	250.00	250.00
Textbooks	200.00	200.00
Graduation Fee	25.00	25.00
SAE Fee	50.00	50.00
AARC Membership	45.00	45.00
<b>Fifth Semester (14 hours) (spring)</b>		
Maintenance fee	1,757.50	6,729.50
Textbooks	450.00	450.00
SAE Fee	50.00	50.00
<b>Sixth Semester (10 hours) (summer)</b>		
Maintenance fee	1,435.00	5,445.00
SAE Fee	50.00	50.00
Textbooks	100.00	100.00
NBRC examination fee for CRT exam	190.00	190.00
RRT exams (after graduation)	390.00	390.00

A National Leader in Technology



## **Nursing/Allied Health Division**

### **Respiratory Care Program**

4501 Amnicola Hwy.

Chattanooga, TN 37406-1097

[www.chattanoogaestate.edu](http://www.chattanoogaestate.edu)

423-697-4450

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