

Allied Health Respiratory Care

Respiratory care practitioners specialize in the management, treatment and evaluation of patients who have problems breathing. They work as a member of a critical care team helping people with potentially life threatening lung disorders such as pneumonia, emphysema or asthma. Graduates choose whether to work with patients in hospitals, clinics, home settings or disease management.

In the respiratory care program, students work in a hospital with experienced professionals to learn techniques critical to the improvement of the patient's health. The Respiratory Care Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC), 1248 Harwood Road, Bedford, TX 76021. The telephone number is (817) 283-2835, or www.coarc.com.

You'll Learn

- How to make patients more comfortable
- To assess patient's respiratory needs
- Comprehensive patient evaluation and care
- Skill development for the practice of respiratory care
- Subject matter covered on national credentialing and licensure examinations
- To develop additional skills and abilities essential to your success on the job

You'll Earn

- An excellent salary usually starting at \$50,000 per year or higher
- The opportunity for a flexible work schedule part- or full-time, shift work or weekends
- A choice of work environments including hospitals, health care facilities, and home health services
- The potential for career advancement in health care or industry
- A respected position as a specialist on the medical care team
- The ability to be independent in your daily activities

You'll Succeed

- More than half of all new jobs require education beyond high school.
- Employees with degrees have better chances for promotion.
- Associate degree holders generally earn 30 percent more than high school graduates (according to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census).
- College credit or advanced placement may be given for relevant work experience.
- Many credits from an associate degree can be applied toward a bachelor's degree.

Get in, Get smart, Get going. . .

Delaware Tech operates on a semester system with new sessions in late August and mid-January, plus summer sessions beginning at the end of May and in mid-June. Non-technology courses may be taken on a part- or full-time basis during any semester or the summer session. Some students may need refresher courses at the basic or pre-tech level; others may receive transfer credit for prior educational experiences. Counselors and advisors are available to help you schedule your courses.

Allied Health technology programs have a selective admission process, separate from College admission (below), which includes academic criteria of an algebra, biology and chemistry course at 2.5 or greater (high school or college) within the past five years and a GPA of 2.5 or greater. The prerequisite course noted below is a requirement for this specific program. Technology courses are sequential, offered only one time per year and are only open to students who have been admitted into the technology program.

People interested in entering Respiratory Care must attend an Allied Health Information Session prior to initiating the process for admission into the technology. Information regarding these sessions may be obtained by calling (302) 283-3100. Visit the Allied Health Web site at www.dtcc.edu/wilmington/ah.

PROGRAM PREREQUISITE

General Chemistry (CHM 110) within the last five years.

TECHNICAL COURSES

Intro to Patient Care introduces the basic techniques of working in patient care.

Intro to Respiratory Care introduces the student to the delivery of respiratory care, with emphasis on principles of gas flow, pressure regulation, production and storage.

Pulmonary Physiology addresses normal structure and function of the human respiratory system, including mechanics of breathing, gas exchange and transport, acid-base balance and control of ventilation.

Neonatal & Pediatric Respiratory Care furthers the student's understanding of neonatal and pediatric disease and effective delivery of respiratory care to these patients.

Special Topics in Respiratory Care presents advanced concepts in respiratory care associated with critically ill patient support.

Pulmonary Pathophysiology I and II introduce the student to evaluation of the patient with pulmonary disease and patterns of restrictive lung disease.

Respiratory Care Procedures I and II give the student the knowledge necessary to effectively administer basic respiratory care modalities and more advanced respiratory care techniques associated with artificial airways and mechanical ventilation.

Cardiovascular Monitoring gives the student knowledge of underlying coronary disease processes, therapeutic measures and electrocardiographic interpretation used to treat the cardiac patient.

Pharmacology presents the basic groups of pharmaceuticals used in health care including their physiologic interaction within the human body.

Clinical Respiratory Care I, II and III allow the student, under supervision, to apply knowledge of respiratory care from the basic to the most advanced techniques and modalities in a patient care setting.

SUPPORT COURSES

Composition
Oral Communications
College Math & Statistics
Anatomy & Physiology I, II
Ethical Issues in Health Care
General Psychology

TO APPLY FOR ADMISSION TO THE COLLEGE

1. Obtain an admission application by calling (302) 283-3100. Admission applications are also available online at www.dtcc.edu/prospective. Complete and return the application to the Wilmington campus with a \$10 fee.
2. Request that your high school and/or college transcripts be sent to the Wilmington Admissions Office.
3. Arrange to take the Computerized Placement Test (CPT) *unless you have already completed college-level math and English courses with a "C" grade or better*. The CPT is administered by the Admissions Office (302) 571-5343 and is used to determine appropriate course placement.
4. Meet with a Delaware Tech Wilmington campus counselor to discuss your CPT results and select your course schedule.
5. Remember to apply and register early for the best selection of courses.