

## RESPIRATORY THERAPY PROGRAM INFORMATION

Respiratory therapists work with physicians and other allied health professionals to diagnose and treat patients with disorders associated with the respiratory and cardiovascular systems. Therapists may be required to exercise considerable independent clinical judgment under the direct or indirect supervision of a physician and are trained to act as technical resource persons for both physicians and other health care professionals.

The Respiratory Therapy Program (RPT) is a balanced curriculum, including both respiratory and general education courses. Course content includes the role of the respiratory therapist, health care concepts, and technical observations and skills. It provides the student with a strong background in the use of respiratory equipment, cardiopulmonary anatomy and physiology, pharmacology, diagnostic procedures, sleep disorders, and pathophysiology. The student receives direct, hands-on patient care experience in various hospitals and facilities throughout his or her clinical education. The respiratory courses **must** be taken in sequential order. New classes begin in the fall semester of each year.

The Shelton State Respiratory Therapy Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) ([www.coarc.com](http://www.coarc.com)). The program has been placed on Probationary Accreditation as of November 3, 2023. Students graduating under the Probationary Accreditation status are considered graduates of CoARC accredited program. Additionally, successful completion of the program under Probationary Accreditation enables the student to become a CRT after completing the National Board for Respiratory Care exams. CoARC is located at 264 Precision Blvd Telford, TN 37690. CoARC can be contacted by phone at 817.283.2835.

### Minimum Admission Requirements for the RPT Program

- I. June 1 application deadline with selection of students in July of each year
- II. An official transcript of all college work
- III. A copy of current class schedule, if enrolled
- IV. An overall GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale on all college work completed and a cumulative GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale on all prerequisite courses
- V. Completion of all prerequisite courses with a letter grade of C (70) or above: MTH 100, ENG 101, BIO 201, BIO 202, and RPT 256 (with a letter grade of C (75) or above)  
**Note:** BIO 202 must be taken within the last **three** years.
- VI. Submission of a **hard copy** of Next-Generation or ACT reading scores  
**Note:** The Next-Generation reading score must be 244 or higher and taken within the last three (3) years or the ACT reading score must be seventeen (17) or higher and taken within the last three years
- VII. Attendance at a Health Services Program Information Session within the last year prior to making application to the program

## Calculation of Points for Students Meeting Minimum Respiratory Therapy Program Admission Standards

After meeting all minimum requirements, applicants are rank ordered using a point system based on the following:

1. Points are given for the following required academic courses for the Respiratory Therapy Program: ENG 101, MTH 100 or higher, BIO 201, BIO 202, RPT 256. Points for grades are as follows: A = 3 points, B = 2 points, C = 1 point
2. An overall GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale is required on all college work completed. Points for overall GPA are as follows: 4.000-3.500 = 4 points, 3.499-3.000 = 3 points, 2.999-2.500 = 2 points, and 2.499-2.000 = 1 point
3. Fifteen (15) points may be awarded for the successful completion of the following courses: ORI 101; CIS 146; PSY 200; SPH 106 or 107; RPT 211. Points for grades are as follows: A = 3 points, B = 2 points, C = 1 point.
4. An additional four (4) points may be awarded for the following: six (6) months of work experience in a health-related field with direct patient care or the completion of a health-related program

**A total of thirty-eight (38) points is possible with the selection criteria.**

**NOTE: Selection of students is made in July of each year for admission in the fall semester. Application does not ensure acceptance to RPT.**

### CURRICULUM SEQUENCE FOR RESPIRATORY THERAPY PROGRAM

#### Prerequisite Courses

Course	Total Credits	Theory/Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours	Total Contact Hours
ORI 100 Orientation to College	2	2	0	0	2
BIO 201 Anatomy & Physiology I*	4	3	2	0	5
BIO 202 Human Anatomy and Physiology (Lab 2:1)	4	3	2	0	5
ENG 101 English Composition I	3	3	0	0	3
MTH 100 Intermediate Algebra	3	3	0	0	3
RPT 256 Writings and Research for the RCP I	1	1	0	0	1
<b>Semester Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>

\*BIO 103 is a pre-requisite for BIO 201 or satisfactory score on approved ACS placement exam.

**First Semester**

Course	Credit Hours	Theory/Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours	Total Contact Hours
RPT 210 Clinical Practice I (Preceptor 5:1)	2	0	0	10	10
RPT 211 Introduction to Respiratory Care*	2	2	0	0	2
RPT 212 Fundamentals of Respiratory Care I (Lab 2:1)	4	2	4	0	6
RPT 213 Anatomy & Physiology for the Respiratory Care Practitioner	3	3	0	0	3
RPT 214 Pharmacology for the Respiratory Care Practitioner	2	2	0	0	2
CIS 146 Microcomputer Applications	3	3	0	0	3
<b>Semester Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>26</b>

\*RPT 211 may be taken prior to acceptance into the RPT Program, but must be taken within 3 years of program enrollment.

**Second Semester**

Course	Credit Hours	Theory/Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours	Total Contact Hours
RPT 220 Clinical Practice II (Preceptor 5:1)	2	0	0	10	10
RPT 221 Pathology for the Respiratory Care Practitioner I	3	2	2	0	4
RPT 222 Fundamentals of Respiratory Care II	4	2	4	0	6
RPT 223 Acid Base Regulation and Arterial Blood Gas Analysis	2	2	0	0	2
RPT 234 Mechanical Ventilation for the Respiratory Care Practitioner	4	2	4	0	6
PSY 200 General Psychology	3	3	0	0	3
<b>Semester Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>31</b>

**Third Semester**

Course	Credit Hours	Theory/Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours	Total Contact Hours
RPT 230 Clinical Practice III (Preceptor 5:1)	2	0	0	10	10

RPT 232 Diagnostic Procedures for the Respiratory Care Practitioner	2	1	2	0	3
RPT 233 Special Procedures for the Respiratory Care Practitioner	2	2	0	0	2
RPT 242 Perinatal/Pediatric Respiratory Care (Lab 2:1)	3	2	2	0	4
SPH 106 Fundamentals of Oral Communication or SPH 107 Fundamentals of Public Speaking	3	3	0	0	3
<b>Semester Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>22</b>

#### Fourth Semester

Course	Credit Hours	Theory/Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours	Total Contact Hours
RPT 240 Clinical Practice IV (Preceptor 5:1)	4	0	0	20	20
RPT 241 Rehabilitation and Home Care for the Respiratory Care Practitioner	2	2	0	0	2
RPT 243 Computer Applications for the Respiratory Care Practitioner (Lab 3:1)	2	0	4	0	4
RPT 244 Critical Care Considerations for the RPT Care Practitioner	2	0	0	0	2
RPT 266 Seminar in Respiratory Medicine I	1	1	0	0	1
RPT 268 Writing & Research for the RCP II	1	1	0	0	1
<b>Semester Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>30</b>

#### Program Totals

<b>Credit Hours</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>Total Contact Hours</b>	<b>1905 (127 x 15)</b>
<b>General Education Hours</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Respiratory Therapy Hours</b>	<b>50</b>

## POLICIES FOR THE RESPIRATORY THERAPY PROGRAM

### Grading Policy & Academic Standards

In the Respiratory Therapy Program, each student is routinely evaluated based on comprehension of theoretical concepts, safe performance and psychomotor skills in clinical areas, and ethical and affective behavior expected of the professional practitioner. The Respiratory Therapy Program uses the following academic grading system:

A = 100-90	Excellent
B = 89-80	Good
C = 79-75	Average
D = 74-60	Failing
F = 59-0	Failing

### Academic Progression Policy

1. A student must achieve a minimum grade of C (75) or above in every RPT course.
2. Respiratory courses are taught sequentially. **(A student must have a minimum grade of 75 in every course in each semester's work to proceed to the courses taught in the next semester.)**
3. Students will be tracked and counseled related to academic progress. A plan for success will be developed when deficiencies are noted, and the plan will be placed in the student's file.
4. If a student makes a grade below 75 in any RPT in any RPT course, the student must withdraw from the program immediately.
5. The student may apply for re-admission to the program. Acceptance is conditional based on the following:
  - a. Completion of application for readmission
  - b. Fulfillment of admission criteria both academic and clinical
  - c. Availability of space in next class and the next clinical courses
  - d. Admission to the program only once previously
  - e. Successful completion of validation requirements in psychomotor domain and cognitive/knowledge/academic content domain

**Note:** An explanation of these validation requirements can be found in the Respiratory Therapy Program Student Handbook.
6. After readmission, if a student does not achieve the minimum grade of 75 in the second attempt of the same RPT course or fails to achieve the minimum grade of 75 in any other RPT course, then the student will be withdrawn from the program. The student may seek admission as a new student after a period of three (3) years.
7. A student absent from the respiratory course sequence for more than three semesters may apply as a new student.
8. A student will not be readmitted to the program more than once.

## Health & Health Related Policies

Because participation in clinical instruction is an integral part of the Respiratory Therapy Program curriculum, each student is required to comply with all the policies and procedures of the contracted clinical agencies and the RPT Program. Therefore, each student is expected to uphold the contractual terms upon being admitted to the RPT Program. All costs/expenses associated with meeting the health and general policy requirements of the program are the responsibility of the student. The policies and procedures below are required by all students upon acceptance to the Respiratory Therapy Program.

1. Students are required to submit a completed RPT Medical Form. (This requires a current physical examination.)
2. Students are required to have the following vaccinations:
  - a. Hepatitis B Series or evidence of immunity
  - b. MMR (German measles, mumps, or rubella) if born after 1957 or evidence of immunity
  - c. Varicella immunity (immunization record or titer)
  - d. Proof of tetanus vaccination
  - e. Current seasonal flu vaccine
  - f. Documentation of a two-step TB skin test
  - g. Proof of COVID vaccination or acceptable religious or medical exemption (**Note:** Some clinical agencies may require proof of COVID and will not accept religious or medical exemption.)
3. Students are required to complete current cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certification at the healthcare provider level (BLS/infant/child).
4. Students are required to purchase liability and accident insurance available through the College.
5. Students are required to complete a pre-clinical drug screening. Students must have a negative screening prior to being assigned a clinical agency. The complete drug screen policy is located in the RPT Program Student Handbook.
6. Students are required to submit to background check prior to assignment to clinical lab/rotations. All students must sign a release form giving permission for a background check to be performed as required by federal law. Students must abide by the RPT Program background check policy and the clinical agency policy to which they are assigned. Every effort will be made to provide students with the required clinical experiences to meet program objectives. Any student denied access by a clinical affiliate will be subject to dismissal from the program.
7. Students are required to complete training on universal precautions, OSHA requirements, and the prevention and management of the spread of diseases. Training is given in the introductory/fundamentals course. Additional information is given related to hospital policies, including but not limited to issues of confidentiality, procedures, fire and safety, and documentation policies.

## Essential Function Standards

The Alabama College System and SSCC endorse the Americans with Disabilities Act. In accordance with College policy, when requested, reasonable accommodations may be provided for individuals with disabilities.

Physical, cognitive, psychomotor, affective, and social abilities are required in unique combinations to provide safe and effective respiratory care. The applicant/student must be able to meet the essential function standards with or without reasonable accommodations throughout the program of learning. Admission, progression, and graduation are contingent upon one's ability to demonstrate the essential functions delineated for the Respiratory Therapy Program with or without reasonable accommodations. ***The student may request disability accommodations in writing to the Office of Specialized Student Services, which is located on the second floor of the Martin Campus. Any reasonable accommodations made by the RPT Program must originate from the Office of Specialized Student Services.***

**Note: Respiratory Therapy Program information, policies, and curriculum are subject to change without prior notice due to accrediting agency requirements.**

### RPT Program Location

Shelton State Community College  
C. A. Fredd Campus, Building 500  
3401 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401

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