

South Plains College Respiratory Care Program

Hello! We are pleased that you are interested in the South Plains College Respiratory Care Program. The Respiratory Care Program classes are offered exclusively on the Reese campus, located at the western edge of the city of Lubbock, and easily accessible via two major thoroughfares, 4th Street and 19th Street. We will be happy to assist you in any way we can. Enclosed is a copy of the current degree plan, an information sheet, and an application to the Respiratory Care Program. Please complete and return the program application to the address listed at the bottom of this page.

The application is not a commitment to attend the Respiratory Care Program, but serves to let us know that you have a serious interest. Please advise us in writing of any address, e-mail and/or phone number changes. Also, please let us know if you wish to withdraw your application from consideration for entry into the Respiratory Care Program.

The respiratory courses always begin in the fall semester. You will need to enroll as a student at South Plains College, and complete the prerequisite courses outlined in this packet. You may take all of the general education courses prior to entering the Respiratory Care Program, which will make the course load easier when you begin our program.

It is an exciting time for the respiratory care profession. America's Career Infonet has targeted respiratory therapy as one of the fastest growing professions. The Bureau of Labor Statistics states that employment of respiratory therapists is projected to grow 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. The 2023 median pay for respiratory therapists nationwide was \$ 77,960 /yr. Career opportunities are excellent and earning potential is competitive with other health professions.

Thank you for your interest in the Respiratory Care Program. I may be contacted as follows:

Ron Edwards, B.S., RRT
Respiratory Care Program Director
South Plains College (Reese Center Building 2 Room 223E)
Mailing Address: 819 Gilbert Dr.
Physical Address: 516 Gilbert Dr.
Lubbock, TX 79416
(806) 716-4625
Email: redwards@southplainscollege.edu

RESPIRATORY CARE PROGRAM

Respiratory Care is a two-year program leading to an Associate of Applied Science degree in Respiratory Care. The program is offered at the Reese Center, starts every August, and requires 21 consecutive months of study. Students attend class and clinicals each semester. The program is five days per week, Monday through Friday, with some clinicals meeting as early as 6:00 a.m. and some classes ending as late as 4:00 p.m. Students may be employed in the field while in school.

Students to be considered for acceptance must have completed all TSI (Texas Success Initiative) requirements, and the prerequisite courses with a grade of “C” or better prior to being accepted into the Respiratory Care program.

Respiratory therapists are primarily involved in acute hospital patient care, specializing in patients with heart and lung disease. We are trained to work in all areas of the hospital, including the medical/surgical floors, adult, pediatric, and neonatal ICU facilities, and Emergency Rooms. Therapists participate in ground, fixed wing, and helicopter transports. We are part of the Code Blue team, and participate in the stabilization of trauma and burn victims. We work with patients of all ages – neonatal, pediatric, adult, and geriatric. Therapists are also involved in home care and pulmonary/cardiac rehabilitation programs. Other places of employment include long-term care facilities, pulmonary function laboratories, self-employed for patient education/counseling services, physician offices, medical sales, clinical specialist to respiratory product manufacturers, sleep labs, smoking cessation programs, and respiratory care education.

A state license is required to practice respiratory care. A permanent license is conferred upon successful completion of the Entry-Level Examination for Certified Respiratory Therapists. A second national exam confers the Registered Respiratory Therapist credential. Specialty exams are available for pediatrics, asthma education, and pulmonary functions.

South Plains College’s Respiratory Care Program has articulation agreements with Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, School of Allied Sciences (BS in Clinical Service Management and BS in Health Sciences- Respiratory Care), Wayland Baptist University (BSOE), and the University of Texas at San Antonio (BS in Respiratory Care).

New graduates earn approximately \$29 / hour base pay in the Lubbock area. Many employers may offer \$3,000 - \$10,000 sign-on bonuses and moving expenses. Opportunities to move into supervisory / specialty positions within the field are excellent. The Respiratory Care Program at South Plains College Reese Center is designed to enable the student to work professionally as a vital member of the health care team. This 21-month program culminates in an Associate of Applied Science degree and eligibility for the National Board for Respiratory Care examinations to become a Certified Respiratory Therapist and a Registered Respiratory Therapist. This program includes an in-depth study of cardiopulmonary anatomy and physiology, as well as therapeutic and diagnostic procedures, and emphasizes competency in critical care medicine.

Persons interested in the Respiratory Care Program must complete the following entrance requirements:

1. Complete the requirements for admission to South Plains College. Provide official high school and college transcripts to the Office of Admissions. Note: College transcripts must also be sent to the attention of Ron Edwards, B.S., RRT, Respiratory Care Program Director, South Plains College, 819 Gilbert Dr., Lubbock, TX 79416.
2. Complete TSI (Texas Success Initiative) requirements.
3. Complete and return the enclosed Respiratory Care Program Application, **Applications and official transcripts must be received by June 12, 2026.** Exceptions may be made by the Respiratory Care Program Director to accommodate students who are in the process of completing the program prerequisites.
4. Admission to the Program may be limited. Candidates for entry into the Program in August of each year must complete the following prerequisite courses with a grade of “C” or better prior to admission. Applicants to the program will be ranked with first consideration given to those students with the highest grade point average **on the prerequisite courses.**
MATH 1314 College Algebra
BIOL 2401 Anatomy and Physiology I
BIOL 2402 Anatomy and Physiology II
5. Upon acceptance into the Respiratory Care Program, documentation of the required immunizations and CPR training must be completed and submitted to the Respiratory Care Program office **no later than the first day of class (date TBA).** Please submit all records at one time. See immunization and CPR requirement below:
 - Tdap or Adacel (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis) vaccine within last 10 years
 - Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR): 2 injections with one since 1980
 - Tuberculin skin test (Mantoux). Test must have been within the last 12 months and be negative. If test shows positive, applicant must furnish documentation that a physician examined the heart and lungs and found no infection. Students are required to repeat the TB skin test every 12 months while in the program.
 - Hepatitis B series. Must have completed 2nd dose no later than the first day of class (date TBA). Note: the first two doses are 30 days apart.
 - CPR Certification: **THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION’S “HEALTHCARE PROVIDER” IS THE ONLY CPR CERTIFICATION AND TRAINING THAT WILL BE ACCEPTED.** To schedule your CPR training, contact First Response Resources at (806) 791-2582. Another source for accepted CPR training is Health & Safety Solutions. Their phone number is (806) 745-8277. You must submit a copy of the front and back of your CPR card and present the actual card for verification of authenticity at the time you turn in your other immunization records. Should your CPR expire while you are in the program, you will be required to renew it. We typically offer CPR at SPC during the first few weeks of your first semester.

- **Please submit copies of your immunization records, not your originals.** You will need your originals after you graduate to obtain employment. Also, the South Plains College secretary does not make copies of these records for students.

6. The following are general physical requirements of a Respiratory Therapist:
 - a. Ability to read and carry out written orders, and to make and report visual observations normally, or with corrective lenses.
 - b. Ability to hear blood pressure, verbal commands, alarms and/or distress calls normally, or with corrective hearing devices.
 - c. Ability and stamina to endure 8 to 12 hour periods of standing and walking; ability to move and or help lift or support patients who may be of a greater weight and size, using proper body mechanics.
7. In order to work in most states, a state respiratory care license is required. Licensing requirements vary from state to state. The State of Texas does **not automatically** refuse to grant licensure because of previous misdemeanor or felony convictions. They will consider many factors regarding your criminal history before making their decision.
8. All South Plains College Health Occupation Division students will have a criminal background check through the Texas Department of Public Safety prior to program admission or to beginning clinical and/or practicum rotations. This background check will be conducted through South Plains College's Director of Health Occupations office. Upon request by clinical/practicum facility or program faculty a subsequent criminal background check may occur for reasonable cause. All convictions will be reviewed by the Director of Health Occupations and the Director of the Respiratory Care Program. Based on their review, the student may not be permitted to continue in the program. Please complete the **"Criminal Background Check"** form that is a part of this packet and return it along with your application.
9. Once the applicant begins in the Respiratory Care Program, their schedule is set. Students need to be aware that the program is a Monday through Friday day schedule. Classroom courses generally meet two to four days per week and are scheduled around the clinical rotations. **Attendance is crucial.**

Ron Edwards, B.S., RRT
Respiratory Care Program Director
(806) 716-4625
Email: redwards@southplainscollege.edu

RESPIRATORY CARE DEGREE PLAN- SPC
ACADEMIC YEAR: 2026-2027

<u>Prerequisite Courses</u>		<u>Credit Hours</u>
MATH 1314	College Algebra	3
BIOL 2401	Anatomy & Physiology I	4
BIOL 2402	Anatomy & Physiology II	4
<u>1st Year Fall Semester</u>		
RSPT 1160	Clinical – Respiratory Care	1
RSPT 2317	Respiratory Care Pharmacology	2
ENGL 1301	Composition I	3
RSPT 1410	Resp. Care Procedures I	4
RSPT 1201	Introduction to Respiratory Care	2
<u>1st Year Spring Semester</u>		
RSPT 1240	Adv. Cardiopulmonary Anatomy & Physiology	2
RSPT 1266	Practicum-Respiratory Care Therapy/Therapist	2
RSPT 1325	Respiratory Care Sciences	3
RSPT 2210	Cardiopulmonary Disease	2
RSPT 1311	Respiratory Care Procedures II	3
<u>1st Year Summer Semester</u>		
RSPT 1167	Practicum–Respiratory Care Therapy/Therapist	2
RSPT 2414	Mechanical Ventilation	4
<u>2nd Year Fall Semester</u>		
RSPT 2247	Specialties in Respiratory Care	2
RSPT 2266	Practicum–Respiratory Care Therapy/Therapist	2
RSPT 2453	Neonatal/Pediatric Cardiopulmonary Care	4
PSYC 2301	General Psychology	3
Humanities/Fine Arts		
Elective†		3
<u>2nd Year Spring Semester</u>		
RSPT 2239	Advanced Cardiac Life Support	2
RSPT 2130	Examination Preparation	1
RSPT 2231	Simulations in Respiratory Care	2
RSPT 2267	Practicum – Respiratory Care	2
RSPT 2325	Cardiopulmonary Diagnostics	3
 Total Hours		 65

Bold denotes general education courses.

†Consult Program Advisor.

Chemistry is highly recommended before entering into the Respiratory Care Program.