

# Respiratory Therapist

Program Code 105151

## Associate Degree - Two Years Plus One Summer

Offered at the Green Bay campus. For information: (920) 498-5444.

Toll-free: (800) 422-NWTC, ext. 5444.

### Program Description

The Respiratory Therapist program trains students in the diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation of patients with chronic and acute diseases of the heart and lungs.

### Program Outcomes

- Apply advanced-level respiratory therapy concepts to patient care situations.
- Demonstrate technical proficiency required to fulfill the role of an advanced-level Respiratory Therapist.
- Practice respiratory therapy according to established professional and ethical standards.

### Clinical Practicum

Students will be required to purchase a uniform, pay for liability insurance, provide their own transportation to assigned sites, and cover any other expenses related to clinical experiences. Students may be expected to travel distances, participate in p.m. clinicals, or weekend rotations.

NWTC is required to comply with the Wisconsin Caregiver Law (1997 WISCONSIN ACT 27.) The completion of a caregiver background check includes the review of criminal records for convictions of serious crimes or a history of improper behavior. Students accepted into health programs must complete a background information form disclosing any acts, crimes, or convictions prior to program entry. The information provided in the background information form must be truthful and match any findings on the criminal record check. Students with a criminal history may be denied access to clinical placement at the discretion of the clinical site. Consequently, should a student have a history of convictions of serious crimes or a history of improper behaviors, NWTC cannot guarantee clinical placement, or guarantee graduation within typical program timing.

### Accreditation

The Respiratory Therapist program is accredited by the Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC)  
1248 Harwood Road  
Bedford, TX 76021-4244  
(817) 283-2835

### Board/Certification Examinations

Graduates are eligible to take the National Board for Respiratory Care Credentialing Examinations.

### Employment Potential

A graduate of this program will have the potential for employment in a hospital, nursing home, and homecare setting as a:

- Staff Therapist
- Pulmonary Rehabilitation Therapist
- Perinatal/Pediatric Therapist
- Pulmonary Function Technologist
- Sleep Disorder Center Technician
- Shift Supervisor
- Department Manager
- Home Care Therapist/Manager
- Nursing Home Therapist
- Respiratory Care Educator
- Medical Equipment and Supplies Sales Representative

### Requirements for Program Admission

- Completed application.
- High school transcript or equivalent (such as an HSED or GED® Transcript).
- Academic Skills Assessment, ACT assessment taken within the last three years.
- One year of Algebra with a “C” or better (or attain program benchmark for Algebra on the Academic Skills Assessment).
- One year of Biology AND one year of Chemistry, or equivalent, with a grade of “C” or better. If in high school, “C” in two semesters of each.
- One year of Physics OR one year of advanced math, or equivalent, with a grade of “C” or better. If in high school, “C” in two semesters of each.

### Priority Admission

Applicants with documentation of completion of General Anatomy and Physiology, with a “B” or better, will receive priority standing among that year’s applicant pool.

### Requirements for Program Entry

- Meet established Academic Skills Assessment program benchmarks, or achieve minimum standard composite score of 20 on the ACT. Proof of remediation may be demonstrated by an Academic Skills Assessment post-test **or** completion of an approved course in the content requiring remediation.
- Attend mandatory spring Program Orientation.
- Complete physical examination within three months before entering program and maintain current immunization information.
- Complete an American Heart Association Health Care Provider CPR course. Students are required to maintain a current CPR card on a one-year renewal cycle to comply with affiliating agency requirements.
- Submit Caregiver Background Check paperwork.
- Complete optional four hour job shadow.

### Curriculum

The Respiratory Therapist Associate Degree is a two-year, one-summer, five-semester program. Upon graduation, a student will have completed 70 credits.

Summer semester core classes are scheduled to begin mid-May and end mid-July.

#### First Semester

Catalog No.	Description	Credits
10-501-101	Medical Terminology	3
* 10-515-170	Respiratory Therapy Survey	4
10-801-196	Oral/Interpersonal Comm	3
* 10-806-177	Gen Anatomy & Physiology	4
10-809-198	Intro to Psychology	3
<b>Semester Total</b>		<b>17</b>

#### Second Semester

* 10-515-171	Respiratory Therapeutics 1	3
* 10-515-173	Respiratory Pharmacology	3
* 10-515-174	Respiratory & Circulatory Phys	3
10-801-195	Written Communication	3
* 10-806-197	Microbiology	4
<b>Semester Total</b>		<b>16</b>

#### Summer Semester

* 10-515-172	Respiratory Therapeutics 2	3
* 10-515-175	Respiratory Therapy Clinical 1	2
<b>Semester Total</b>		<b>5</b>

#### Third Semester

* 10-515-176	Respiratory Disease	3
* 10-515-177	Respiratory Life Support	4
* 10-515-178	Respiratory Therapy Clinical 2	3
* 10-515-179	Respiratory Therapy Clinical 3	3
10-809-196	Intro to Sociology	3
<b>Semester Total</b>		<b>16</b>

#### Fourth Semester

* 10-515-162	Clinical Simulation Rev 1	1
* 10-515-163	Clinical Simulation Rev 2	1
* 10-515-180	Respiratory Neonatal/Peds Care	2
* 10-515-181	Respiratory Diag & Monitor	3
* 10-515-182	Respiratory Therapy Clinical 4	3
* 10-515-183	Respiratory Therapy Clinical 5	3
10-809-172	Race Ethnic & Diversity	3
<b>Semester Total</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>70</b>

\* No final grade lower than a “C” is acceptable in any of the courses marked with an asterisk. A student who withdraws or receives a grade lower than a “C” in a program course may apply for re-entry into the program. Consideration for re-entry will be at the discretion of the re-entry team and will be dependent on clinical availability.

This program is fully eligible for financial aid.

## Please Note

- Some courses have prerequisites (listed at the end of each course description, if applicable) that need to be taken prior to enrolling in those courses.
- Many courses are offered via our Flexible Learning Options (online, accelerated, ITV, video, weekend, and self-paced) and may be taken in any order as long as prerequisites are met. To find out which program courses are offered through Flexible Learning Options, go to [www.nwtc.edu](http://www.nwtc.edu) or consult a counselor, (920) 498-5444.
- Descriptions of courses not found on this page can be found in the back of this catalog.

## Course Descriptions

*These courses provide an opportunity for students to develop the knowledge, skills, and understanding required for employment in this field.*

**10-501-101 MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY** ...focuses on the component parts of medical terms: Prefixes, suffixes, and root words. Students practice formation, analysis and reconstruction of terms. Emphasis on spelling, definition and pronunciation. Introduction to operative, diagnostic, therapeutic and symptomatic terminology of all body systems, as well as systemic and surgical terminology.

**10-515-162 CLINICAL SIMULATION REVIEW 1** ...preparation for the testing processes utilized by the National Board for Respiratory Care; all testing processes will be reviewed utilizing appropriate content. (Corequisites: 10-515-182, Respiratory Therapy Clinical 4; 10-515-183, Respiratory Therapy Clinical 5)

**10-515-163 CLINICAL SIMULATION REVIEW 2** ...the diagnosis, management, and treatment received by cardiopulmonary patients. (Corequisites: 10-515-182, Respiratory Therapy Clinical 4; 10-515-183, Respiratory Therapy Clinical 5)

**10-515-170 RESPIRATORY THERAPY SURVEY**...examines the role of the respiratory therapist within the healthcare community. Reviews the ethical, legal, and regulatory principles that guide practice across diverse populations. Introductory patient assessment and critical thinking processes used in the development of respiratory care plans are explored. (Prerequisite: Accepted into Respiratory Therapy program)

**10-515-171 RESPIRATORY THERAPEUTICS 1** ...introduces the topics of medical gas administration and humidity and aerosol therapy. The learner will apply physics, math and patient assessment concepts to oxygen, aerosol and humidity. (Prerequisites: 10-515-170, Respiratory Therapy Survey; 10-806-177, General Anatomy & Physiology)

**10-515-172 RESPIRATORY THERAPEUTICS 2** ...introduces therapeutic procedures including arterial puncture, bronchial hygiene, lung expansion therapy and pulmonary rehabilitation. (Prerequisite: 10-515-171, Respiratory Therapeutics 1)

**10-515-173 RESPIRATORY PHARMACOLOGY** ...examines basic pharmacology principles, drug dosage, and calculations. Medications for inhalation including mucolytics, bronchodilators, anti-inflammatories. Also includes cardiac drugs, anesthetic drugs, neuromuscular blockers and antimicrobials. (Prerequisite: 10-806-177, General Anatomy & Physiology)

**10-515-174 RESPIRATORY & CIRCULATORY PHYSIOLOGY** ...provides the student with an in depth knowledge of the structure and function of the respiratory and circulatory systems necessary to function as a competent Respiratory Therapist. (Prerequisite: 10-806-177, General Anatomy & Physiology)

**10-515-175 RESPIRATORY THERAPY CLINICAL PRACTICE 1** ...introduces respiratory therapy practice in the hospital setting. Includes the development of skills such as basic therapeutics, patient assessment, medical record review, safety practices, patient interaction and communication. This course includes the complete program competency list. At the completion of this clinical learners must demonstrate competence in a minimum of 5 (required and/or simulated) competencies. The instructor may identify specific competencies to be addressed during this or any clinical. (Prerequisites: 10-515-170, Respiratory Therapy Survey; 10-515-171, Respiratory Therapeutics 1; Corequisites: 10-501-101, Medical Terminology; 10-515-172 Respiratory Therapeutics 2 )

**10-515-176 RESPIRATORY DISEASE** ...exploration of signs, symptoms, causes, progression and treatment of obstructive, restrictive and infectious diseases or disorder of the body that affect the respiratory system. (Prerequisites: 10-515-170, Respiratory Therapy Survey; 10-806-177, General Anatomy & Physiology)

**10-515-177 RESPIRATORY LIFE SUPPORT TECHNOLOGY** ...focuses on adult respiratory critical care including management of mechanical ventilation and artificial airways. (Prerequisites: 10-515-172, Respiratory Therapeutics 2; 10-515-174, Respiratory & Circulatory Physiology; 10-515-175, Respiratory Therapy Clinical 1)

**10-515-178 RESPIRATORY THERAPY CLINICAL PRACTICE 2** ...continued development of Respiratory Therapy clinical skills including respiratory therapeutics. Focuses on monitoring, analyzing and interpreting data to make appropriate modifications in patient care. This course includes the complete program competency list. At the completion of this clinical learners must demonstrate competence in a minimum of 12 (required and/or simulated) competencies. (Prerequisite: 10-515-175, Respiratory Therapy Clinical 1)

**10-515-179 RESPIRATORY THERAPY CLINICAL PRACTICE 3** ...continued development of Respiratory Therapy clinical skills including respiratory therapeutics. Focuses on monitoring, analyzing and interpreting data to make appropriate modifications in patient care. This course includes the complete program competency list. At the completion of this clinical learners must demonstrate competence in a minimum of 19 (required and/or simulated) competencies. (Corequisite: 10-515-178, Respiratory Therapy Clinical 2)

**10-515-180 RESPIRATORY NEONATAL/PEDIATRIC CARE** ...provides a comprehensive orientation to the field of neonatal and pediatric respiratory care to include fetal development, birth, neonatal physiology, pulmonary dynamics, abnormal cardiopulmonary conditions, diseases, noninvasive and invasive therapeutic interventions. (Prerequisite: 10-515-177, Respiratory Life Support Technology)

**10-515-181 RESPIRATORY & CIRCULATORY DIAGNOSTICS & MONITORING** ...advanced invasive and noninvasive diagnostic cardiopulmonary procedures including pulmonary function, hemodynamics and rescue medicine. (Prerequisites: 10-515-173, Respiratory Pharmacology; 10-515-176, Respiratory Disease; 10-515-177, Respiratory Life Support Technology)

**10-515-182 RESPIRATORY THERAPY CLINICAL PRACTICE 4** ...continued development of Respiratory Therapy clinical skills including respiratory therapeutics. Focuses on monitoring, analyzing and interpreting data to make appropriate modifications in patient care. This course includes the complete program competency list. At the completion of this clinical learners must demonstrate competence in a minimum of 26 (required and/or simulated) competencies. (Prerequisite: 10-515-179, Respiratory Therapy Clinical 3)

**10-515-183 RESPIRATORY THERAPY CLINICAL PRACTICE 5** ...focuses on the completion of respiratory therapy competencies and transition to employment. This course includes the complete program competency list. At the completion of this clinical learners must demonstrate competence in all of the (required and required/simulated) competencies. (Corequisite: 10-515-182, Respiratory Therapy Clinical 4)