

# Respiratory Therapist AAS DEGREE

## Program Overview

Respiratory Therapists (RTs) provide care and treatment for cardiac and pulmonary issues. Practitioners perform diagnostic tests, administer medical gas therapy, access and record patient emulations and implement care for acute and chronically ill patients. They provide mechanical ventilation, therapeutic procedures, and cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Laboratory procedures include pulmonary function testing; sleep study, arterial blood gas draw and analysis, hemodynamic measurements and radiologic evaluation.

Preparation best suited for this program includes excellent reading skills, biology, chemistry and physics. Further, one should have good manual dexterity and an ability to lift fifty pounds. The goal of the program is to prepare graduates with demonstrated competence in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains of respiratory care practice as performed by registered respiratory therapists (RRT). Upon completion of the program the student is eligible to take the National Board Certification exam. Certification is required for licensure. Upon successful completion of the exams, the graduate will be awarded the credentials of Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT).

## Career Opportunities

Employment of respiratory therapists is expected to increase much faster than the average for all occupations because of substantial growth of the middle-aged and elderly population, a development that will heighten the incidence of cardiopulmonary disease. Respiratory Therapists are employed by hospitals, clinics or laboratories and home care agencies. Graduates may find employment through contacts made during the clinical training experiences and employment requests received by the instructional staff.

Licensing or certification exams are independent of graduation requirements.

## Program Outcomes

1. Graduates demonstrated knowledge and skills in Respiratory Therapy clinical experiences.
2. Graduates demonstrated knowledge and skills in Respiratory Therapy clinical simulations.
3. Graduates prepared to take the National Certification Exam.
4. Graduates prepared for employment as Respiratory Therapists.
5. Graduates communicate effectively with the Health Care Team.

## Program Faculty

Gregory Morgan  
gregory.morgan@saintpaul.edu

Judy Russell  
judy.russell@saintpaul.edu

### Full-Time Only

Students in this program must be enrolled full-time with a cohort of students. Technical courses are offered only during the day.

### Textbook and Supply Costs

Students should expect to spend approximately \$2,000, beyond the cost of tuition and fees, for books, for lab coat and other supplies. Additional costs include an ACLS, PALS, BLS course.

## Application Process

In addition to completing the regular Saint Paul College application and admission process, students interested in the Respiratory Therapist program must submit a completed Application to Respiratory Therapist Major form and meet the following criteria:

- Completion of the following required General Education courses:
  - BIOL 1730 Human Body Systems
  - ENGL 1711 English Composition
- Documented readiness for, or completion of, the following required General Education course:
  - CHEM 1711 Principles of Chemistry 1  
Prerequisite for Chemistry 1 is MATH 0920 Intermediate Algebra or appropriate assessment score or CHEM 1700 Chemistry Concepts
- GPA of 3.0 or above

The Respiratory Therapist Admissions Committee will review each application on the basis of overall academic ability, GPA of college level courses, assessment scores, and meeting the above criteria. Notification of acceptance into the Respiratory Therapist Major will be sent by mail 6-weeks after the deadline date stated on the Application to Respiratory Therapist Major form.

The Application to Respiratory Therapist Major form is available online: [saintpaul.edu/programs/Pages/respiratory-therapist.aspx](http://saintpaul.edu/programs/Pages/respiratory-therapist.aspx)

*See back of this guide for  
Program Requirements and Start Dates,  
Course Sequence & Transfer Opportunities*

### Minimum Program Entry Requirements

Students entering this program must meet the following minimum program entry requirements:

**Reading:** Score of 250+ or grade of "C" or better in READ 0722

**Writing:** Score of 250+ or grade of "C" or better in ENGL 0922

**Quant. Reasoning, Algebra & Stats:** Score of 250+ or **Adv. Algebra & Functions:** Score of 215+ or grade of "C" or better in MATH 0910

### Assessment Results and Prerequisites:

Students admitted into Saint Paul College programs may need to complete additional courses based on assessment results and course prerequisite requirements. Certain MATH, READ, and ENGL courses have additional prerequisites.

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Saint Paul College's Respiratory Therapist Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care ([www.coarc.com](http://www.coarc.com)). Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care:

1248 Harwood Road  
Bedford, TX 76021-4244  
Phone: 817.283.2835

*Information is subject to change.  
This Program Requirements Guide is not a contract.*

# Respiratory Therapist AAS DEGREE *(continued)*

## Program Requirements

- Check off when completed
- All classes must be successfully completed with a grade of "C" or better.

### General Education Requirements

#### Preliminary courses prior to application. . . . . Cr

The following (2) General Education courses must be completed prior to submitting your application form for the Respiratory Therapy Major.

- Goal 1: ENGL 1711 Composition 1 . . . . . 4
- Goal 3: BIOL 1730 Human Body Systems. . . . . 3
- Total Prior to Application. . . . . 7**

#### Preliminary courses prior to RESP courses. . . . . Cr

The following (4) General Education courses must be completed before you will be allowed to register for the first RT core course RESP1411 Respiratory Care Essentials.

- HLTH 1410 Medical Terminology . . . . . 1
- COMM 17XX (Goal 1 only). . . . . 3
- Goal 3: CHEM 1711 Principles of Chemistry 1 . . . . 4
- Goal 5: History, Social Sciences and Behavioral Sciences . . . . . 3
- Goal 6: PHIL 1722 Health Care Ethics . . . . . 3
- Total Prior to Respiratory Core . . . . . 14**

#### General Education Subtotal. . . . . 21

- Completion or Evidence of American Heart BLS with AED(CPR) course prior to the first RC Clinical. RESP1581 Respiratory Care Clinical 1.

#### Respiratory Care Core Courses . . . . . Cr

- RESP 1411 Respiratory Care Essentials . . . . . 2
- RESP 1412 Respiratory Care Essentials Lab. . . . . 1
- RESP 1510 Cardiopulmonary Pathophysiology 1. . . 3
- RESP 1521 Respiratory Care Therapeutics. . . . . 4
- RESP 1523 Respiratory Care Therapeutics Lab . . . 2
- RESP 1540 Respiratory Care Pharm . . . . . 2
- RESP 1580 Introduction to Clinical. . . . . 1
- RESP 1581 Respiratory Care Clinic 1 . . . . . 3
- RESP 1582 Respiratory Care Clinic 2 . . . . . 3
- RESP 1583 Respiratory Care Clinic 3 . . . . . 6
- RESP 1597 Respiratory Care Clinic 4 . . . . . 5
- RESP 1599 Respiratory Care Clinic 5 . . . . . 4
- RESP 2411 Mechanical Vent. . . . . 3
- RESP 2412 Mechanical Vent Lab . . . . . 1
- RESP 2420 Cardiopulmonary Pathophysiology 2. . . 1
- RESP 2430 Neonatal/Pediatric RC . . . . . 2
- RESP 2440 Mgmt of the Critical Ill. . . . . 4
- RESP 2450 Cardiopulmonary Diagnostics . . . . . 1
- RESP 2452 Advanced Simulation . . . . . 3
- RESP 2458 Multidisciplinary RT . . . . . 1
- RESP 2470 Registry Review . . . . . 3
- RESP 2510 Survey of Human Disease . . . . . 2
- Respiratory Care Core Subtotal. . . . . 57**

#### Total Program Credits . . . . . 78

## Program Start Dates

Fall

### Course Sequence

This course sequence is required for the remaining RESP courses. Students should consult with the Program Advisor each semester. Must complete all courses with a "C" or better to go onto next semester.

#### First Semester Fall

- RESP 1411 Respiratory Care Essentials . . . . . 2
- RESP 1412 Respiratory Care Essentials Lab . . . . . 1
- RESP 1540 Respiratory Care Pharm . . . . . 2
- RESP 1580 Introduction to Clinical . . . . . 1
- Total Semester Credits. . . . . 6**

#### Second Semester Spring

- RESP 1510 Cardiopulmonary Pathophysiology 1 . . . . 3
- RESP 1521 Respiratory Care Therapeutics . . . . . 4
- RESP 1523 Respiratory Care Therapeutics Lab . . . . 2
- RESP 1581 Respiratory Care Clinic 1. . . . . 3
- Total Semester Credits. . . . . 12**

#### Third Semester Summer

- RESP 1582 Respiratory Care Clinic 2. . . . . 3
- RESP 2411 Mechanical Vent . . . . . 3
- RESP 2412 Mechanical Vent Lab . . . . . 1
- RESP 2420 Cardiopulmonary Pathophysiology 2 . . . . 1
- Total Semester Credits. . . . . 8**

#### Fourth Semester Fall

- RESP 1583 Respiratory Care Clinic 3 . . . . . 6
- RESP 2430 Neonatal/Pediatric RC. . . . . 2
- RESP 2440 Mgmt of the Critical Ill . . . . . 4
- RESP 2510 Survey of Human Disease . . . . . 2
- Total Semester Credits. . . . . 14**

#### Fifth Semester Spring

- RESP 1597 Respiratory Care Clinic 4. . . . . 5
- RESP 2452 Advanced Simulation . . . . . 3
- RESP 2458 Multidisciplinary RT . . . . . 1
- RESP 2450 Cardiopulmonary Diagnostics . . . . . 1
- RESP 2470 Registry Review. . . . . 3
- Total Semester Credits. . . . . 13**

#### Sixth Semester Summer

- RESP 1599 Respiratory Care Clinic 5 . . . . . 4
- Total Semester Credits. . . . . 4**

#### Total Respiratory Care Core Credits. . . . . 57

**Total General Education Credits**  
(prior to beginning the RESP major). . . . . 21

#### Total Program Credits . . . . . 78

## Transfer Opportunities

Saint Paul College has a transfer articulation agreement between the following program and post-secondary institutions for the baccalaureate degree programs listed below.

For more information please go to [saintpaul.edu/Transfer](http://saintpaul.edu/Transfer).

### Respiratory Therapist AAS

- BA Health Care Administration  
Concordia University, St. Paul
- BA Individualized Studies  
Metropolitan State University
- BS Healthcare and Human Service  
Management  
Saint Mary's University,  
Twin Cities Campus