



RESPIRATORY CARE PROGRAM

Division Of Life And Health Sciences

GENERAL INFORMATION

Respiratory therapists provide a wide range of *high-tech, high-touch* therapeutic interventions primarily to patients in acute care hospitals. Respiratory therapists deliver care aimed at the prevention, reversal, or support required when disease or trauma cause dysfunction of the cardio-pulmonary system. When indicated, respiratory therapists may connect patients to life support systems and monitor these systems and the patient for as long as life support is indicated. In addition, respiratory therapists provide pulmonary rehabilitation, home-care, cardiopulmonary function testing, sleep apnea treatment and neonatal/pediatric intensive respiratory care.

The Respiratory Care program at El Camino College is designed to provide the general education, and the respiratory care science and clinical courses needed to prepare the graduate to function as a highly skilled respiratory therapist. Academic and respiratory care science courses are taught on campus and the clinical components are conducted at local medical facilities such as Harbor/ UCLA Medical Center, Children's Hospital of Los Angeles, Torrance Memorial Hospital Medical Center, Memorial Hospital of Gardena, Little Company of Mary Hospital, Robert F. Kennedy Medical Center and Daniel Freeman Hospital.

The Respiratory Care program is fully accredited by the AMA Council on Allied Health Education. The certificate of completion and at least 62 accumulated college credits qualify the graduate to be eligible for state, national and international exams to practice entry and advanced levels of Respiratory Care. Graduates may then go on to obtain specialty credentials based on their practice profiles.

EL CAMINO COLLEGE AND PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR ASSOCIATE DEGREE AND THE CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

The **minimum** coursework required in order to successfully complete the program and receive the Association Degree, as well as the AMA Certificate of Completion is: Anatomy 30, Psychology 5, CIS-13, RC-170, RC-172, RC-174, RC-176, RC-178, RC-280, RC-282, RC-284, RC-286, and RC-288. In addition, students must complete the graduation requirements in general education established for the Associate of Science Degree in Respiratory Care at El Camino College. Please confer with Counseling for further program requirements.

COST

In addition to El Camino College fees, the cost of books, lab coats, stethoscopes, and miscellaneous supplies is approximately \$1000 over a two-year period. There are opportunities for students to obtain financial aid and/or become employed in the Respiratory Care profession before graduation.

LENGTH OF PROGRAM AND ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

For the high-school graduate with a "C" average or better in science and mathematics, the program will usually take 2 ½ years to complete, including all prerequisites and preclinical coursework. At the present time, there is no waiting list to enter the clinical phase of the program. A student is formally accepted into the clinical phase of the program after satisfactory completion of prerequisites and preclinical course requirements. A health physical examination is required for admission to the clinical phase of the program. Admission is based on meeting minimum program requirements, physical fitness for clinical practice, and the number of clinical spaces available at the time of application.

To obtain eligibility for admission to the clinical phase of the program, the following are required:

PREREQUISITES

ANAT 30
AND
RC 170

PRECLINICAL

GENERAL
COURSES AND
RC 172, 174

APPLICATION

ADMISSION FORMS
AND
PHYSICAL SCREEN
FORM

MINIMUM CLINICAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- A. Priority consideration is given based on scores in program preclinical respiratory care science courses (RC-170, 172, 174).
- B. All required non-respiratory prerequisite, preclinical, and general education courses must be taken and completed with a “C” grade or better. (e.g. English 1A, Anatomy 30, Psych 5, CIS-13, and the Associate Degree Math Competency). In addition, due to the rigorous schedule in the clinical phase, it is highly recommended the student complete all general education courses required for the associate of science degree. (see program director or counselor)
- C. The physical exam screening form completed by a physician or appropriate health care provider indicating no clinical restrictions.
- D. Submission of a complete clinical admission application by the end of the fall semester preceding the spring semester for which the student is seeking admission.
- E. A multi-county background check with no criminal records that would prevent practice in a health care setting.

Steps to Clinical Admission

- Step 1 - Talk with the program director (660-3248) and meet with a counselor (660-3458), enroll in prerequisites and complete student data form.
- Step 2 - Complete prerequisites and preclinical courses by end of the fall semester prior to clinical admission.
- Step 3 - Submit a completed *clinical admission eligibility form, background check password, and physical exam form with no restrictions* to Program Director by end of fall semester to be eligible for admission the following Spring to the clinical phase of the program.
- Step 4 - Program Director verifies grades and establishes eligibility. It is the student’s responsibility to insure their transcripts are in their ECC file in RECORDS when selection process is occurring prior to the start of the Spring entry semester. Foreign degrees must be verified by an agency acceptable to ECC and is the student’s responsibility and expense. Admission is based on meeting criteria A through E above and number of clinical spaces available at the time of application. If more students are eligible than spaces available in the clinical sites, admission will be determined by established selection criteria using methods which insure equal opportunity to all eligible.
- Step 5 - Students are notified by the program director in writing as to their admission status before the Spring semester begins.
- Step 6 - Student enrolls in first clinical course RC-176.

