

# **El Camino Community College**

## **2020 CAREER EDUCATION (CE) SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS**

### **HEALTH SCIENCE AND ATHLETICS**

#### **RESPIRATORY CARE**



**DEAN:**  
DR. RUSSELL SERR

**CONTRIBUTOR(S):**  
PROF.ROY MEKARU  
FACULTY COORDINATOR/PROGRAM DIRECTOR

*CE programs must conduct a full program review every 4 years. The comprehensive program review includes responses to the CE supplemental questions below. Every two years (once between full program reviews) these supplemental questions must be answered and submitted to Academic Affairs for posting on the College website.*

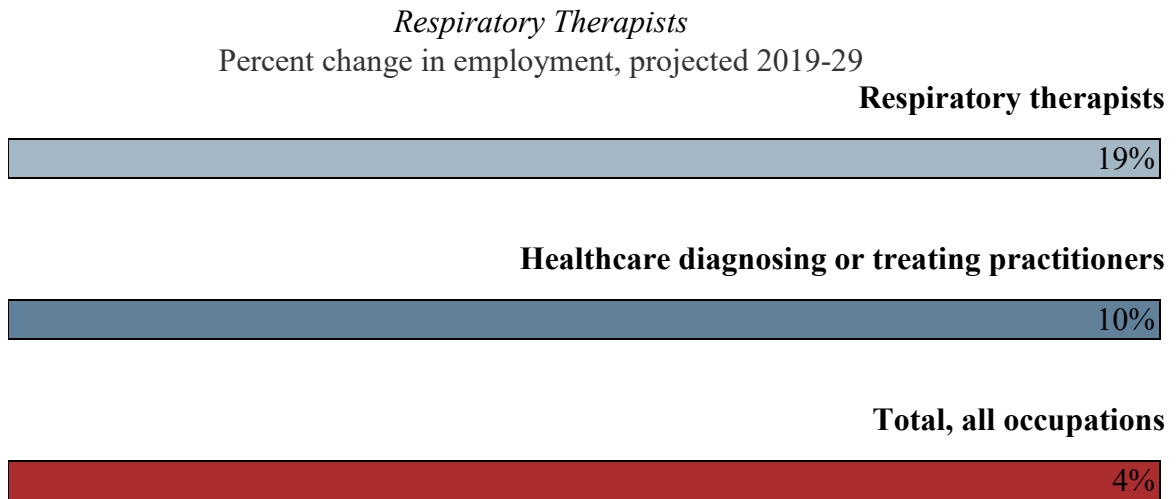
**Use labor market data, advisory committee input/feedback, and institutional and program-level data to respond to the following questions:**

- 1. How strong is the occupational demand for the program?** In your response, describe any changes in demand over the past 5 years and discuss the occupational outlook for next 5 years. Provide applicable labor market data (e.g., US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Development Department) that address state and local needs.

[Respiratory Therapists : Occupational Outlook Handbook: : U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics \(bls.gov\)](https://www.bls.gov/occupational-outlook-handbook/)

**Last Modified Date:** Tuesday, September 1, 2020

**Job Outlook:** [About this section](#)



Note: All Occupations includes all occupations in the U.S. Economy.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Projections program

Employment of respiratory therapists is projected to grow 19 percent from 2019 to 2029, much faster than the average for all occupations. Growth in the middle-aged and older population will lead to an increased incidence of respiratory conditions such as pneumonia, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and other disorders that can permanently damage the lungs or restrict lung function. The aging population will in turn lead to an increased demand for respiratory therapy services and treatments, mostly in hospitals.

In addition, a growing emphasis on reducing readmissions in hospitals may result in more demand for respiratory therapists in nursing homes and in doctors' offices.

Advances in preventing and detecting disease, improved medications, and more sophisticated treatments will also increase the demand for respiratory therapists. Other conditions affecting the general population, such as respiratory problems due to smoking and air pollution, along with respiratory emergencies, will continue to create demand for respiratory therapists.

## **Job Prospects**

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Job prospects will be best for therapists willing to travel to look for job opportunities. Some areas will be saturated with workers, and other areas (more often, rural areas) will be in need of respiratory therapists' services. Certification is generally recommended, as it may increase an applicant's competitiveness in the job market.

- 2. How does the program address needs that are not met by similar programs in the region?** In your response, identify any distinctive components of the program (e.g., curriculum, facilities, resources) and/or describe any unique contributions the program or its students/graduates make to the community served.

El Camino College demographics show that El Camino College is approximately 86-90% minorities. The Respiratory Care Program has an enrollment that reflects that same percentage. Gender statistics show that El Camino College is 51% female/ 49%male.

The faculty is 80% ethnically diverse. The Faculty is, 40% female and 60% male providing gender diversity. While not quite reflective of the student population, the program continues to move in that direction.

Strong workforce monies. Perkins Grant and Madden Foundation Awards have allowed the program to simulate an adult ICU complete with state-of-the-art ventilators and 2 adult human patient simulators. Also, the same monies have paid for the most current infant ventilators, incubators, and two Pediatric/Neonatal Human {patient Simulators), that help simulate a NEONATAL/Pediatric ICU as well.

The Program machinery is so current that the ventilators have twice been loaned to Torrance Memorial Medical Center during surges in the COVID-19 to prevent ventilator shortages at that facility.

- 3. What are the completion, success, and employment rates for students in the program?** In your response, identify the standards set by the program and discuss any factors that may impact completion, success, and employment rates among students in the program. Describe the status of any action plans for maintaining/improving rates relative to such benchmarks.

Graduation Year	Number of Students Starting	Number of Actual Graduates	Graduates Obtaining License to Practice	Grads employed	Percent employed v. possible to be employed	Employer Satisfaction (CoARC Surveys)	Graduate Satisfaction (CoARC Surveys)
2017	20 (2015)	15	13	13	100%	100%	100%
2018	22 (2016)	17	13	10	77%	100%	100%
2019	22 (2017)	15	15	12	80%	100%	100%
2020	20 (2018)	15	15	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
2021	21 (2019)	19 (eligible)	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

**COMPLETION**

1. CoARC (the Accreditation Agency for Respiratory Care) has set the threshold for Retention Rate @70% of the incoming students over a 3-year period. The Program has a 73.4% retention rate from 2018-2020.

(The pandemic has not altered our retention rate for 2020 and 2021. The Program is still above the threshold of 70%.)

2. The class of 2021 has 19 possible graduates who will be finishing **ON TIME\*\***, in spite of the pandemic effects on education.

**SUCCESS**

The CoARC 2020 RCS report shows that 87% of the graduates from 2017-2019 obtained a license to practice in California. This above the standard of 80% set by CoARC in 2017.

**EMPLOYMENT**

The CoARC 2020 RCS report showed from 2017-2019, 85% of those who obtained a license, became employed

4. List any licensure/certification exam(s) required for entry into the workforce in the field of study and report the most recent pass rate(s) among program graduates. In your response, identify any applicable performance benchmarks set by regulatory agencies and describe the status of any action plans for maintaining/improving pass rates relative to such benchmarks.

Graduation Year	Number of Students Starting	Number of Actual Graduates	Graduates Obtaining License to Practice	Grads employed	Percent employed v.	Employer Satisfaction (CoARC Surveys)	Graduate Satisfaction
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					possible to be employed		(CoARC Surveys)
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The CoARC 2020 RCS report shows that 87% of the graduates from 2017-2019 obtained a license to practice in California. Again, this above the standard of 80% set by CoARC in 2017.

**5. Are the students satisfied with their preparation for employment? Are the employers in the field satisfied with the level of preparation of program graduates?** Use data from student surveys, employer surveys, and other sources of employment feedback to justify your response.

Graduation Year	Number of Students Starting	Number of Actual Graduates	Graduates Obtaining License to Practice	Grads employed	Percent employed v. possible to be employed	Employer Satisfaction (CoARC Surveys)	Graduate Satisfaction (CoARC Surveys)
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The CoARC 2020 RCS Report revealed that graduate satisfaction and employer satisfaction was 100% those years.

6. **Is the advisory committee satisfied with the level of preparation of program graduates? How has advisory committee input and feedback been used in the past two years to ensure employer needs are met by the program?** Describe the status and impact of any advisory committee recommendations.

California Education Code 78016 requires that the review process for CE programs includes the review and comments of a program's advisory committee. **Provide the following information:**

- a. Advisory committee membership list and credentials.
- b. Meeting minutes or other documentation to demonstrate that the CE program review process has met the above Education Code requirement.

The Advisory Committee could not come to an agreeable date to meet via Zoom in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2020 due to pandemic issues within our various clinical sites. The plan is to meet this in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021.

I have attached the last meeting to show that the Advisory Committee had been meeting to that point.

**El Camino College  
Health Sciences and Athletics  
Respiratory Care Advisory Meeting Minutes  
November 12, 2019**

**Attendance**

Roy Mekaru – Director/Coordinator  
Russell Serr – Dean, Health Sciences & Athletics  
Amanda Meredith – Program Graduate  
Onyednachi Ikonte - Providence Little Company of Mary  
Pam Michaels – Torrance Memorial Medical Center  
Victoria Robertson- Clinical Coordinator  
Taryn Parker – Respiratory Faculty  
Julie Meredith

**Absent:**

Kathy Benson - Harbor UCLA  
Denise Anderson -Gardena Memorial  
Ed Guerrero - Children's Hospital Los Angeles

**Meeting Commenced at 11:05am**

**Introductions**

Roy introduces the new interim dean of Health Sciences and Athletics Dr. Russell Serr. We also have a new Medical Director – Dr. Brian Sherman. Dr. Sherman has taught at Fresno junior college and is very familiar with the program and very enthusiastic. He is trying to come by but has another meeting today. Dr. Mellman had a conflict with another opportunity. He will be missed. Congratulations to Victoria Robertson who is now tenured faculty.

**COARC**

Website - COARC website was down while they were redoing it. The company they used went out of business. Report for 2019 data will be filed with 2020 report. Roy went through the data with the others. There is no issues that are identified from the hospital sites.

Future change in standards – COARC is proposing changing the standards. In the past the educational standards were based on how many people graduated and got their degrees. Now they have changed it to not only how many people graduated and got their degrees but also how many passed their test on the first time. One of the other proposed changes is that they are looking at the student's deficiencies in thirteen topic areas that they test and students need to be within 80% of the national average in those areas. We will need to ramp up the vigor of the program to meet these standards. The biggest for us is software. We will need software solutions to meet needs, practice multiple choice tests, simulation authoring, and customized video creation. Students also respond well to videos.

Bachelor program status discussion. There is still discussions on the requirement of having a bachelor's degree. There is a pilot program currently for California community college in offering a bachelor program for certain subjects with Respiratory Care being one of them for seven years. We are already prepared with our curriculum and would only need to add two more classes.

### **Resource Update**

Strong Workforce Money has been put on hold. The money was going to be used for PFT lab with simulators. We will have to apply for grants and beg the clinicals for donations. We are waiting to see what happens. Dr. Serr has been an advocate and helping as we will be seeking alternate funding. We have a whole infant lab now. A years' worth of training before they get to you at the clinical site. Equipment is old and starting to break down. We had purchased a preowned ventilator that is not working we are going to have it repaired.

Providence Little Company of Mary may have one they will check it out and get back to Roy.

### **Discussion**

Roy appreciates the input from the clinical sites. They alter the program as things are brought up. Victoria checks in with the Clinical Site Directors to make sure there are no problems. When we get a student that the hospital is having a problem with, they have a remedial process and timeline for the student to catch up.

Amanda (former program graduate) - Most of the time when the students come to CHLA she tells them its like a two-year interview. There is a lot to see but you have to sometimes take the initiative.

Pam TMMC- Revisited the idea of students spending time in the sleep lab. Raymond Adoc (El Camino Respiratory Faculty) transferred from the PFT lab to the sleep lab at UCLA. Pam says she can put a few students in the PFT lab at Torrance Memorial Medical Center if they want the students there.

Vicki would like the students to go in as many areas as they possibly can go to.

### **Job Outlook**

They are posting job information on the Allied Health Floor by the Respiratory Care Lab.

Little Company will be having some job openings coming up due to retirements in Torrance and San Pedro.

Torrance Memorial has 8 jobs open. One fulltime in the NICCU. Looking for experience in working in a NICCU and also experience with adults. Also a fulltime PFT job with experience.

Taryn Parker (Respiratory Care Faculty) would like to offer an hour lecture about interviewing process. To give them some training about the process.

### **Meeting Adjourned 11:49am**

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