



## **HEALTH SCIENCES DIVISION RESPIRATORY CARE PROGRAM**

Thank you for your interest in the Respiratory Care Program here at Gulf Coast Community College. We offer a two year **Associate in Applied Science** degree which will enable the graduate to sit for the national board exams. Upon successful completion the graduate will be awarded the credential of **Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT)**. This credential is recognized nationally and is required for obtaining a license to practice in the (48) states now requiring licensure. The **Registered Respiratory Therapist ( RRT)** board exam will award the recipient the highest level of credential in the field of Respiratory Care. The student will be eligible to take both exams upon completion of the program.

### **OPPORTUNITIES:**

The field of Respiratory Care is experiencing one of the highest levels of demand for graduates seen in the last decade. Employment opportunities are abundant both locally and nationally. This trend is forecasted to accelerate as the aging population increases.

Starting salaries are between \$25,000 and \$38,000 per year with sign-on bonuses and moving expenses being offered routinely.

### **Respiratory Therapists:**

- Specialize in the evaluation, treatment, and care of patients with breathing disorders.
- Perform procedures crucial in maintaining the lives of seriously ill patients with breathing problems.
- Assist in the treatment and rehabilitation of patients with heart and lung disease.
- Are employed in hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, sleep disorders clinics, pulmonary function labs, hyperbaric chambers, skilled nursing facilities, and home health agencies.

The Respiratory Care Program at Gulf Coast Community College accepts up to sixteen students per year beginning in the fall semester. There are no pre-requisites for acceptance in to the program but preference is given to those students having completed Anatomy and Physiology courses and other required general education courses.

If you have other questions regarding the field of Respiratory Care or would like to speak with an advisor, please contact **Brad Killion, Coordinator of Respiratory Care (850) 872-3837** or email [bkillion@gulfcoast.edu](mailto:bkillion@gulfcoast.edu)



**GULF COAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE: RESPIRATORY CARE PROGRAM  
ADMISSIONS CHECKLIST**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. **Apply for general admissions to Gulf Coast Community College.**  
Call or visit the college Admissions Office to obtain an application for admission and receive information on the college admissions process. Applications are also available online at: [www.gulfcoast.edu](http://www.gulfcoast.edu)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. **Apply for admission to the Respiratory Care Program.**  
Submit the completed application to the Division of Health Sciences.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. **Take the Florida College Placement Test (CPT).**  
Computerized placement tests are given in the **Administration Annex Room #128**. The fee is \$5 (See Placement Testing Schedule for additional information or call the Testing Office at 769-1551 ext. 3533). Study guides for the tests are available in the college book store. The test may be taken a maximum of two times per semester.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. **Provide High School and College transcripts.**  
Official transcripts from high school (or GED) and all colleges attended must be sent to the college Admissions Office. You are responsible for ensuring that all college transcripts are evaluated prior to admission.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. **Submit documentation of additional supportive material.**  
If you have any degrees or certifications or if you have any medical experience, please submit appropriate documentation to the Division of Health Sciences.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. **Submit written statement of “Why I want to be a Respiratory Therapist”.**
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. **Applications are accepted year round. Consideration for selection will begin in January and continue until the class is filled.**

**Applications will be reviewed and preference given for acceptance to those students having completed courses in BSC 2085, OST 1257, ENC 1101, and other required general education courses as listed on the following page.**

**Students may be accepted into the Respiratory Care Program as minimum requirements are met. The following CPT scores will also give students preference in the admissions process but are not necessarily required for admissions.**

English	83
Reading	83
Arithmetic	68
Algebra	72 (or MAT 0024 (or higher) required for graduation)

After provisional acceptance, students will need to complete:

- A. Physical examinations
- B. CPR for the Healthcare Provider certification
- C. HIV / Bloodborne pathogen training
- D. Fingerprinting / Criminal background check
- E. Shadowing Experience



**IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING CRIMINAL BACKGROUND  
CHECKS & FINGERPRINTING POLICY**

**Applicants to the programs in the Health Sciences Division of Gulf Coast Community College work very hard to meet the entry requirements for selection. Our programs make every effort to accept as many academically qualified students as possible. In addition to meeting basic entry requirements, however, applicants must also consider how their personal history may affect their ability to attend clinical in local hospitals, health departments and mental health agencies, sit for various licensure exams, and ultimately gain employment.**

Various clinical sites require level two criminal background / fingerprinting procedures in order to have access to their agencies. Students must have a favorable criminal background check to participate in health science clinical agencies. Students who cannot produce a favorable criminal background check may not be able to participate in clinicals at any participating agency and may be unable to complete the program requirements.

Students who graduate from many health care programs must also pass licensure exams in order to be employable. The various entities that provide testing and licenses for health professionals, oftentimes, require criminal background checks, fingerprinting and drug screening prior to sitting for the exams and applying for licensure. It is possible to successfully graduate from a health sciences program but be denied the opportunity for licensure because of an unfavorable criminal background check. It is also possible to graduate from a program and obtain the health professional license, but be denied some employment options due to an unfavorable drug screen.

We offer this information so that you can make an informed decision concerning making application to one of our programs.



## **CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS**

Gulf Coast Community College (GCCC) students who are granted conditional acceptance into a Health Sciences program must receive a satisfactory criminal background check prior to final acceptance into the program. The background check will be scheduled and performed at the discretion of the Division of Health Sciences at GCCC. Information and instructions on how to complete the background check will be sent by the program coordinator. Criminal background checks performed through other agencies will not be accepted. The student must also be aware that clinical agencies may require an additional background check prior to clinical access. It is possible to graduate from a program at GCCC but be denied the opportunity for licensure because of an unfavorable background check. An applicant must consider how his / her personal history may affect the ability to meet clinical requirements, sit for various licensure exams, and ultimately gain employment. Most healthcare boards in the State of Florida make decisions about licensure on an individual basis. You may visit the Florida Department of Health website ([www.doh.state.fl.us/](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/)) for more information regarding licensure. We offer this information so that you can make an informed decision regarding your future.

### **Please read the following information carefully:**

Any student who has been found guilty of, regardless of adjudication, or entered a plea of nolo contendere, or guilty to, any offense under the provision of 456.0635 (see below) may be **disqualified** from admission to any Health Sciences program. In addition to these specific convictions, there are other crimes which may disqualify applicants from entering into the Health Sciences programs and / or clinical rotations.

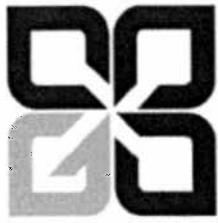
### **456.0635 (2) Medicaid fraud; disqualification for license, certificate, or registration**

Each board within the jurisdiction of the department, or the department if there is no board, shall refuse to admit a candidate to any examination and refuse to issue or renew a license, certificate, or registration to any applicant if the candidate or applicant or any principal, officer, agent, managing employee, or affiliated person of the applicant, has been:

- (a) Convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a felony under chapter 409, chapter 817, chapter 893, 21 U.S.C. ss. 801-970, or 42 U.S.C. ss. 1395-1396, unless the sentence and any subsequent period of probation for such conviction or pleas ended more than 15 years prior to the date of the application;
- (b) Terminated for cause from the Florida Medicaid program pursuant to s. 409.913, unless the applicant has been in good standing with the Florida Medicaid program for the most recent 5 years;
- (c) Terminated for cause, pursuant to the appeals procedures established by the state or Federal Government, from any other state Medicaid program or the federal Medicare program, unless the applicant has been in good standing with a state Medicaid program or the federal Medicare program for the most recent 5 years and the termination occurred at least 20 years prior to the date of the application.

**RESPIRATORY CARE A.A.S. DEGREE**

<b>FALL SEMESTER (FIRST SEMESTER)</b>	<b>CREDITS</b>	<b>SUMMER III-A (THIRD SEMESTER)</b>	<b>CREDITS</b>
RET 1004 Introduction to Science I	1	RET 2878C Respiratory Care III Elective	5
BSC 2085 Anatomy and Physiology I	3	CHM 1032 Elements of Biochemistry	3
BSC 2085L Anatomy and Physiology I Lab	1		3
RET 1483 Pulmonary Assessment I	2		
OST 1257 Medical Terminology	2	<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>
RET 1485 Pulmonary Physiology	2		
RET 1024C Respiratory Care I	6	<b>FALL SEMESTER (FOURTH SEMESTER)</b>	
Computer Competency Test	0		
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>		
<b>SPRING SEMESTER (SECOND SEMESTER)</b>			
RET 2297 Pulmonary Assessment II	1	RET 2280C Respiratory Care IV	7
RET 1295 Clinical Respiratory Medicine I	1	PSY 2012 General Psychology <u>OR</u>	
RET 1005 Respiratory Microbiology	1	SYG 2000 Principles of Sociology	3
RET 1350 Pulmonary Pharmacology I	1	RET 193X Specialization Electives (2 courses)	2
RET 1264 C Respiratory Care II	9	RET 2616 Management	1
Specialization Electives (2 courses)	2	ENC 1101 English	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	RET 2234 Critical Thinking in Resp. Care	1
		RET 2292 Clinical Respiratory Medicine II	1
		<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>
		<b>SPRING SEMESTER (FIFTH SEMESTER)</b>	
<b>SPECIALIZATION ELECTIVE LIST</b>			
RET 1930 Selected Topics Seminar I	1	RET 2534C Respiratory Care V	5
RET 1931 Selected Topics Seminar II	1	Humanities I, II, or III	3
RET 1932 Selected Topics Seminar III	1	BSC 2086 Anatomy and Physiology II	3
RET 1933 Selected Topics Seminar IV	1	BSC 2086L Anatomy and Physiology II Lab	1
RET 1934 Selected Topics Seminar V	1	RET 2007 Pulmonary Pharmacology II	3
RET 1935 Selected Topics Seminar VI	1	(may take prior to graduation)	
		<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>
		<b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>	<b>76</b>



**Gulf Coast  
Community College**

**GULF COAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
RESPIRATORY CARE PROGRAM**

**APPROXIMATE PROGRAM COST  
(FOR FLORIDA RESIDENTS)**

**AS OF AUGUST, 2010**

<b>TUITION:</b> <b>\$91.73 X 76 CREDITS</b>	<b>\$6,971.48</b>
<b>SUPPLIES:</b>	<b>\$100*</b>
<b>BOOKS:</b>	<b>\$600* +</b>
<b>OTHER FEES &amp; INSURANCE</b>	<b>\$355*</b>
<b>TOTAL COST OF PROGRAM:</b>	<b>\$8,026.48</b>

\* **All amounts and fees are approximations only and are subject to change without notice.**

RESPIRATORY CARE  
PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR ADMISSION AND PROGRESSION

<u>ISSUES</u>	<u>STANDARD</u>	<u>SOME EXAMPLES OF NECESSARY ACTIVITIES (NOT ALL INCLUSIVE)</u>
Critical Thinking	Critical thinking ability sufficient for clinical judgment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Identify cause-effect relationships in clinical situations.</li> <li>(2) Develop respiratory care plans</li> <li>(3) Make rapid decisions under pressure.</li> <li>(4) Handle multiple priorities in stressful situations.</li> <li>(5) Assist with problem solving</li> </ol>
Interpersonal	Interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, educational, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Establish rapport with patients/clients and colleagues.</li> <li>(2) Cope effectively with high levels of stress.</li> <li>(3) Cope with anger/fear/hostility of others in a calm manner.</li> <li>(4) Cope with confrontation</li> <li>(5) Demonstrate high degree of patience.</li> </ol>
Communication	Communication abilities sufficient for interaction with others in verbal and written form.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Explain treatment procedures.</li> <li>(2) Initiate health teaching.</li> <li>(3) Document and interpret patient care actions and patient/client response.</li> </ol>
Mobility	Physical abilities sufficient to move from room to room, to maneuver in small spaces and to perform procedures.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Move around in patient rooms, work spaces, and treatment areas.</li> <li>(2) Administer cardio-pulmonary procedures.</li> <li>(3) Walk the equivalent of 5 miles per day.</li> <li>(4) Remain on one's feet in upright position at a work station without moving about.</li> <li>(5) Climb stairs.</li> <li>(6) Remain in seated position.</li> </ol>

ISSUES

STANDARD

SOME EXAMPLES OF NECESSARY  
ACTIVITIES (NOT ALL INCLUSIVE)

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Motor Skills	Gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective care.	(1) Calibrate and use equipment. (2) Position patients/clients. (3) Perform repetitive tasks. (4) Able to grip. (5) Bend at knee and squat. (6) Reach above shoulder level. (7) Lift and carry 25 pounds. (8) Exert 20-50 pounds of force (pushing/pulling).
Hearing	Auditory ability sufficient to monitor and assess health needs.	(1) Hear monitor alarms, emergency signals, auscultatory sounds, cries for help. (2) Hear telephone interactions.
Visual	Visual ability sufficient for observation and assessment necessary in providing care.	(1) Observes patient/client responses. (2) Identifies and distinguishes colors.
Tactile	Tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment.	(1) Perform palpation, functions of physical examination and/or those related to therapeutic interventions.
Environment	Ability to tolerate environmental stressors.	(1) Adapt to shift work. (2) Work with chemicals and detergents. (3) Tolerate exposure to fumes and odors. (4) Work in areas that are close to crowded.



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**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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Please provide information about three people who will always know where to locate you:

Name	Mailing Address	Telephone Number
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____

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**HEALTH RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE and / or VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

**Use additional sheets if necessary**

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**1. EMPLOYER:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Extension \_\_\_\_\_  
                    Street & Number                      City                      State  
Supervisor's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Dates employed: From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_ Nature of your Job Duties: \_\_\_\_\_  
                                    Mo./Yr.                      Mo./Yr.  
Reason for Leaving \_\_\_\_\_ Full-Time \_\_\_\_\_ Part-Time \_\_\_\_\_

**2. EMPLOYER:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Extension \_\_\_\_\_  
                    Street & Number                      City                      State  
Supervisor's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Dates employed: From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_ Nature of your Job Duties: \_\_\_\_\_  
                                    Mo./Yr.                      Mo./Yr.  
Reason for Leaving \_\_\_\_\_ Full-Time \_\_\_\_\_ Part-Time \_\_\_\_\_

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**PLEASE READ AND SIGN THE FOLLOWING**

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I hereby certify that the information contained in this application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any misrepresentation, omission or falsification of information is cause for denial of admission from the program. I understand that illegal use, possession, and/or misuse of drugs are reasons for immediate dismissal from any of the programs in the Health Sciences Division. I further understand that background checks and drug screening are routinely required at most clinical facilities prior to the students' clinical placement.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**RETURN APPLICATION TO:**  
Gulf Coast Community College  
Health Sciences Division – Room 200  
5230 W. U.S. Highway 98  
Panama City, FL 32401-1058

**IN CASE OF EMERGENCY NOTIFY:**  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



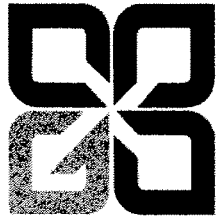
## RESPIRATORY CARE PROGRAM ADVISING SHEET

NON-PROFESSIONAL COURSES	CREDITS	OTHER	✓✓✓
OST 1257 Medical Terminology	2	DE	
BSC 2085 Anatomy & Physiology I	3	DE	
BSC 2085L Anatomy & Physiology I Lab	1	DE	
<b>Choose <u>one</u> of the following:</b>			
CHM 1032 Elements of Biochemistry or Higher level Chemistry	3	DE DE	
Elective	3	DE	
Score of 72 on Algebra CPT or "C" average in MAT 0024			
BSC 2086 Anatomy & Physiology II	3	DE	
BSC 2086L Anatomy & Physiology II Lab	1	DE	
ENC 1101 English	3	DE	
Humanities I, II or III	3	DE	
<b>Choose <u>one</u> of the following:</b>			
SYG 2000 Sociology or PSY 2012 General Psychology	3 3	DE DE	

DE= Available as a Distance Education course for independent study  
\*\*Pre-requisite may be needed

I understand this list represents the 25 hours of non-professional courses required within the Respiratory Care Program. These courses must be completed prior to graduation.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ SS#: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**Gulf Coast**  
Community College

## Respiratory Care Program

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**MUST BE IN YOUR OWN HANDWRITING!!!**

Why are you interested in becoming a Respiratory Therapist?

Please submit your handwritten response to the above question to Mr. Craig Wise (Room 200, Health Sciences Building) for placement in your program application folder.

Gulf Coast Community College  
Health Sciences Division  
5230 West U.S. Highway 98  
Panama City, FL 32401-1058  
Fax: (850) 747-3246

Health Sciences Division – 5230 West U.S. Highway 98 – Panama City, FL 32401