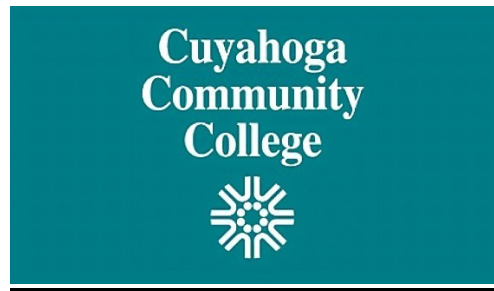


Respiratory Care Technology Application Information Packet



Thank you for your interest in the Respiratory Care Program at Cuyahoga Community College. This application packet has everything you need to know to successfully apply to the program. Please read and review thoroughly before applying.

Web Sites

Respiratory Care Technology <http://www.tric.edu/respiratory>
American Association for Respiratory Care.....<https://www.aarc.org/> The
Respiratory Care Program, Associate of Applied Science degree, Western
campus is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care
www.coarc.com
The National Board for Respiratory Care..... [Home - The National Board for
Respiratory Care \(nbrc.org\)](http://www.nbrc.org/)

E-mail addresses

PROGRAM DIRECTOR:

CLINICAL DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION:

Ashley Kuzma, BS, RRT, NPS

Ashley.Kuzma@tri-c.edu

FULL TIME FACULTY:

Darrell Clemetson, MA RRT-NPS, CPFT

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Respiratory Care

Across the United States and in Northeast Ohio, there is a growing need for Respiratory Therapists.

US News & World Report 2021 Best Jobs Report ranking for Respiratory Therapist

- #22 Best Health Care Jobs
- #57 of the Best 100 Jobs
- Median Salary \$61,330 annually
- Projected employment to grow 23% from 2016-2026
 - 26,300 respiratory therapists- Projected
 - Local respiratory therapist job postings 50-60 new posting this past month

What will you do as a Respiratory Therapist?

- Act as a consult, assessing patients for treatments and establishing patient care plans
- Specialize in Neonatal/Pediatrics, Hyperbaric Oxygen, Pulmonary Function Testing,
- Research, Homecare or Pulmonary Rehabilitation
- Participate as a member of a "Patient Transport Team" via helicopter, airplane or ambulance
- Administer oxygen and medications in the treatment of cardiopulmonary diseases
- Assist the physician in the performance of specialty procedures
- Actively manage critically ill patients on life support equipment (mechanical ventilation)
- Perform manual and invasive techniques required to remove lung secretions
- Place artificial airways in critically ill patients (intubate)
- Actively participate in emergency codes (CPR)
- Treat cardiopulmonary collapse by protocol
- Obtain, analyze and interpret arterial blood gases
- Educate patients
- Perform ECG

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What exactly is a Respiratory Therapist?

A: A therapist is one who has successfully completed an accredited, respiratory degree program and has passed both the entry-level certification and advanced practitioner, registry examinations. A therapist is one who assesses patients for appropriate respiratory treatment and care, administers medications in support of the cardiopulmonary system. A therapist will routinely draw arterial blood for analysis, administers life- support, inserts artificial airways, administers CPR and may be part of a hospital's transport team. A therapist often instructs patients in disease management and equipment operation and maintenance.

Q: Where are therapists employed?

A: Most therapists are employed in hospitals. More and more therapists are being employed in homecare companies and few are employed in physician's offices There is a current shortage of therapists in most employment settings!

Q: How long is the program; can I complete the program on a part-time basis? A:

The program is 2 years. Part-time basis is determined by the amount of classes completed prior to formal, program acceptance. The program has 3 semesters of clinical rotations your last 3 semesters. These rotations are weekly Wednesday – Friday, totaling 24 hours. All classes for the program must be taken in their designated semester.

Q: Is the program offered in the evenings or weekends; can I work while attending the program?

A: It is a day program only. Most people find part-time work manageable. Increased, outside employment may be detrimental to successful, academic progress! After successful completion of Summer clinicals, you may apply for a limited permit (license), which will enable healthcare institutions to hire you on a part-time basis, depending on their needs.

Q: I already have credits; can I complete the program in less than 2 years? A:

No, unfortunately the courses are only offered on a yearly basis.

Q: What is a typical salary for a therapist?

A: In the Greater Cleveland area, a registered therapist with experience can earn over \$50,000. Starting salaries vary between \$58,735 - \$70,275 (mean salary \$64, 637 sources salary.com 1/2018).

Q: How many applicants are received each year; How many are accepted?

A: We can accept 25 students (which depends on the number of available clinical sites) to start in Fall semester. Under rolling admissions, the first 25 applicants who have completed files will be accepted and be required to attend a general counseling session, prior to Fall semester. The next 25 applicants with completed files will be admitted into the next Fall semester, etc.

Q: Is financial aid available?

A: Generally, yes. Students may qualify for the usual Federal or State programs. Once accepted into the program, the respiratory program offers selected candidates two (2), program specific scholarships that will help pay for tuition and/or texts. For more information on college financial aid and/or scholarships, contact the Western Campus' Financial Aid Office at 216-987-5100. The Respiratory Program Manager will inform each class of specific, program-based scholarships offered.

Q: Can I transfer credits from another college or university?

A: Generally, yes. Students are encouraged to schedule an appointment with a counselor after transcripts have been forwarded.

Admission and Application Requirements

Before starting the application process, it is recommended that you meet with an academic counselor to go over your academic roadmap, and to ensure you meet program admission requirements.

You will need the following to apply to the Respiratory Care Program:

1. TRI-C APPLICATION: Completion of Tri-C Application for Admission/Readmission Form [Tri-C Getting Started: Cleveland Ohio](#)
2. HEALTH CAREERS APPLICATION: Completion of Health Careers Application Form [hcappplication.pdf \(tri-c.edu\)](#)
Link to Health Careers Program Application <https://www.tri-c.edu/programs/health-careers/documents/hc-application.pdf>
3. OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS: OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS ARE REQUIRED FROM ALL COLLEGES, AND UNIVERSITIES ATTENDED OTHER THAN TRI-C

One copy to the Office of Admissions and Records at the Tri-C campus you have designated as your "campus of record". Your application will not be considered complete until all external transcripts have been evaluated by the college Admissions and Records Department. This process takes 8 weeks.

One copy to you at your home address. DO NOT OPEN THE SEALED ENVELOPE. The transcript in the unopened envelope should be sent in as part of your completed application packet.

Some colleges and universities offer online platforms to obtain and send official transcripts electronically. This is also acceptable to attach to your application, and is preferred.

Even if you have already submitted transcripts to Tri-C for your Tri-C application, you **STILL** need to include them in your Respiratory Care application.

4. HOSPITAL OBSERVATION: Contact a Respiratory Department in a hospital, 200 beds or larger. Arrange for a therapist to take you to selected areas of practice. A completed Hospital Observation Form (located at the end of this packet) is required. All applicants are to be dressed appropriately/professionally or the observation will be cancelled.

This requirement is currently being waived due to COVID19. You do not need to complete this portion of the application at this time.

5. OTHER: Applicants must submit additional documentation pertaining to any felony convictions or who have a history of chemical/substance abuse. Any falsification of information provided in the application will automatically disqualify the applicant for admission to the program. Candidates will submit to a criminal background check, prior to entering the program. Accepted candidates will be required to attend a group information session prior to Fall Semester.

6. PREREQUISITE COURSES: **Candidates must achieve a minimum of a 3.0** cumulative grade point average (based on a 4.0 scale) for the prerequisite courses listed below.

7.

Prerequisite courses may only be repeated once to improve grade; and a “W” or withdrawal from a course counts as one (1) attempt.

All Prerequisite Courses (except English and Math) must have been completed within the past five (5) years

A grade of “B” or better must be earned in science courses [BIO 1100 or (CHEM 1010 & Chem 1020) and BIO 2331]

A grade of “B” or better must be earned in RESP 1100 “Introduction to Respiratory Care”

ENG-1010 College Composition, or transfer equivalent English will be accepted

MATH-1240 Contemporary Mathematics or transfer equivalent/higher level Math will be accepted except MATH-1800/2800 may not be used to meet this requirement.

BIO-1100 Introduction to Biological Chemistry or CHEM-1010 and CHEM1020, or other equivalent/higher level Chemistry is accepted

BIO-2331 Anatomy and Physiology I

RESP-1100 Introduction to Respiratory Care

8. OVERALL GPA: 3.0 or higher required in all other coursework.

Please use the link below to view the admission requirements on the Respiratory Care Webpage for Tri-C:

[Respiratory Care, Associate of Applied Science < Cuyahoga Community College \(tri-c.edu\)](#)

Turning in the Respiratory Care Application

1. Instructions for electronic submission

Email all portions of your application to the following emails:

Program Director:

TBD

Associate Dean Miria Batig:

Miria.Batig@tri-c.edu

**Please CC the Clinical
Director of Education in the
Emailed Application:**

Ashley.kuzma@tri-c.edu

Background Check Information

A BCI is a search and report of criminal records, also known as a background check. The BCIs are conducted by ADB Complio and completed by the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation. The BCIs include fingerprinting, a social security

number trace, county record search, state search and a check of Federal Bureau of Investigation records.

All health career programs at Tri-C are considered selective admission programs. These programs have a limited number of openings each year and have specific admission requirements that must be met prior to admission. The completion of a criminal background check (BCI) is one of the admission requirements to a Health Career program. The background checks are required in order to (i) ascertain the ability of students to eventually become licensed, registered and/or certified in their health career profession and (ii) the ability of the students to attend mandatory clinical, practicum and/or internship rotations at internal and external facilities in accordance with the requirements of the applicable program of study.

NOTE: BCI's must be performed within 6 months of starting the program. Therefore, you must complete this process between February 1st and no later than June 1st. After receiving provisional acceptance into the program, the program director will give you further instructions on how to set up your ADB Complio account, give you the mandatory training information. This training and account set up is mandatory.

Any student who does not complete the BCI process in time with results in, will not be able to start the Respiratory Care Program.

For Frequently Asked Questions regarding the BCI process, log onto: <http://www.tric.edu/programs/healthcareers/Pages/bcifaq.aspx> or contact Brittany Pearsall at brittany.pearsall@tri-c.edu

Miscellaneous Application Information

Incomplete Applications

Applications which are incomplete or do not meet the admission requirements will be disqualified. The applicant will be notified and may re-apply, but their subsequent re-application will be assigned a new date and reviewed in the order it is submitted.

Application Review

Your application is first thoroughly reviewed to make sure it is complete AND meets all requirements. Once that has been done, the program director will

reach out for acceptance and/or placed on a wait list depending on occupancy of cohort. All students will be provisionally accepted until BCIs are complete. Please do not start the BCI process until you receive the specific instructions.

Space Limitation

The number of students accepted into the program is determined by the availability of space in the program's hospital/clinical affiliates. Each year, approximately 25 students are accepted into the Respiratory Care Technology Program.

Waiting List

Applicants placed on a waiting list are those who have completed all program admission requirements but were not the first 25 completed applicants to apply. This next group of approximately 25 who successfully completed the admission requirements will be admitted the following Fall semester, etc.

Financial Information

Tuition Costs

Please go to the college webpage for details on tuition

[Tri-C Tuition and Payment Schedule: Cleveland oh](#)

***fees subject to change

Students enrolled in the Respiratory Care Program may be eligible for veterans' benefits under the G.I. Bill.

Students may apply for the following Scholarships and/or financial assistance programs.

Please go to the college webpage for details on scholarships and financial aid

<https://www.tri-c.edu/paying-for-college/financial-aid-and-scholarships/scholarships/index.html>

Kress-Burke Memorial Scholarship: for selected, second-year, respiratory student(s) David Gillespie Memorial Scholarship: for selected first-year, respiratory student

Many scholarships are offered by the Tri-C Foundation

Financial Aid, State and/or Federal including loans (see Financial Aid for details)

Clinical Course Information

Clinical courses begin in the Summer term which is the start of the second year of the curriculum. Clinical Courses require 24 hours/week of clinical time on Wednesday, Thursday, and/or Friday: either 3 8-hour shifts or 2 12-hour shifts each week. Hospital assignments are made by the Director of Clinical Education.

Technical Standards:

Candidates considered for the Respiratory Care profession, must possess abilities and skills related to critical thinking, physical, visual, auditory, oral communication, coordination, and affective behaviors. Individuals with a documented disability through Cuyahoga Community College's Access Office, are entitled to reasonable accommodations, but should be able to perform in a reasonably independent manner. Practitioners must be able to:

- Demonstrate critical thinking skills required:
 - to analyze, synthesize, and accurately interpret information
 - to measure, calculate, and reason
 - in making sound decisions under emergency situations These skills allow respiratory therapists to make proper assessments, sound judgments, and prioritize assignments based on need.
- Possess the physical skills, manual dexterity, and energy required to:
 - stand for long periods of time, usually, a majority of the work period
 - walk quickly or run to emergency events at any given time
 - move patients in or out of bed or chairs; should be able to lift a minimum of 50 pounds
 - manually compress a resuscitation bag with both hands
 - ensure a proper seal with a resuscitation mask
 - perform Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)
 - perform chest percussion
 - initiate or maintain a patent airway

These skills allow respiratory therapists to have substantial physical skills required to assist patients' breathing, movement or resuscitative efforts.

- Maintain visual acuity (with or without correct sight) to be able to read:
 - small print on labels or accurately deliver medications
 - physically assess patients in relation to:
 - ✦ color of skin and/or mucus membranes

- ✦ chest configuration
- ✦ peripheral perfusion
- ✦ color/consistency of upper and lower airway secretions

These skills allow respiratory therapists to make proper assessments, effectively read patient charts, and safely identify medications.

- Possess adequate auditory characteristics (corrected or uncorrected) that will enable the respiratory therapist to:
 - determine the differences in pitch related to heart and lung sounds
 - determine the differences in sound volume related to heart and lung sounds
 - hear a hospital pager
 - hear the differences in pitches related to medical equipment alarms
 - accurately take blood pressure measurements

These skills allow respiratory therapists to obtain an oral, medical history, and properly assess patients.

- Demonstrate oral and written communication skills in the English language for the purpose of:
 - effective communication to all health care personnel
 - communicating/educating/instructing patients and/or family members in respiratory related procedures
 - rapid and accurate dissemination of information in emergency settings
 - document clearly, and effectively (written or digital formats)

These skills allow respiratory therapists to communicate in English, both orally and written formats with instructional staff, patients, families, and members of the health care team.

- Hand-eye coordination, that will enable the respiratory therapist to:
 - safely perform arterial blood sampling
 - calibrate and assemble necessary equipment

These skills allow respiratory therapists to properly set-up and adjust medical equipment necessary for monitoring data necessary to treat and/or assess physiologic patient parameters.

- Demonstrate affective skills related to:

- punctuality and attendance as policy dictates
- empathy for patients and their families
- the protection of patient confidentiality
- trauma and grief experiences
- self-motivation
- ethical and professional treatment of patients, patients' families, and health care personnel

These skills allow respiratory therapists to display attitudes and actions which are consistent with the ethical standards of the profession.

CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE OBSERVATION
VERIFICATION FORM RESPIRATORY CARE PROGRAM

Applicant is to be dressed appropriately/professionally or the observation will be cancelled.

THIS IS CURRENTLY BEING WAIVED DUE TO COVID-19 – this form does not need to be completed for the application

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Applicant's Name (please print)

Student Number

To Whom It May Concern:

The bearer of this letter is an applicant to the above listed Respiratory Care Program. All applicants to this program are required to observe activities performed by a Respiratory Therapist in order to gain some familiarity with the tasks and responsibilities required of the profession. We would appreciate your verification of the following information.

- I. The applicant has observed activities commonly occurring on general medical or post surgical floors. Yes [] No []

- II. The applicant has observed activities commonly occurring in critical care units. Yes [] No []

- III. The applicant has observed activities commonly occurring in the pulmonary function laboratory. Yes [] No []

Should you desire, you may write a brief evaluation of the applicant's interest and/or qualifications.

Signature/Respiratory Care Representative

Date of Observation

Hospital

Phone Number