



**TIDEWATER COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
From here, go anywhere.™

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in the Respiratory Therapy Program. This packet includes information on the profession, admission process and procedures, and the Respiratory Therapy curriculum. College and program applications are available in the Welcome and Entry Center, at the Virginia Beach Campus, in the Regional Health Professions Center; the Health Professions Program Administrative Assistant's office in room MN 103, in the Regional Health Professions Center. The Respiratory Therapy Program begins in May of each year with a program application deadline of **March 15th**. Applications will be accepted at any time during the year after you complete the program pre-requisites, however, the earlier you apply the better your chances are for acceptance.

Admission to the program requires students to submit two applications. First, complete the Tidewater Community College Admission form for TCC, and second, the Health Professions Program Application form (with prerequisites completed) to be submitted by March 15th to apply for the Respiratory Therapy Program. Please complete the Health Professions Program Application and submit to Gloria Singleton, Domicile Health Professions and Records, Room A-100A, Tidewater Community College, 1700 College Crescent, Virginia Beach, VA 23453. After you have applied to the program you may contact Gloria Singleton at (757) 822-7340 to check on your application status. Please take the time to verify receipt of your application and transcripts. **Only students with *completed* applications can be considered for the program.**

**Be sure to have *official* college transcripts sent *directly* to Central Records Office, Tidewater Community College, PO Box 9000, Norfolk, VA 23509-9000 from the appropriate institution's registrar.**

Acceptance into the Respiratory Therapy Program will be based on the size of the applicant pool and quality of the applicants. Admission is based on a point system that includes the students cumulative GPA, number of non-respiratory classes taken and the grades from those classes listed in the Respiratory curriculum, and an interview.

The **minimum** prerequisite educational requirements include: high school graduation or GED; BIO 141, ENG 3, and MTH 3. It is recommended to also have BIO 142, CHM 121, and SDV 101 and the social science and humanities with priority given to those applications. Previous college transcripts must be sent to TCC and evaluated for credit. Students must attend an information session with program faculty. Students may require developmental studies, which must be completed before they are considered for admission to the program.

Prior to graduation from the program, students must demonstrate computer competency in word processing, spreadsheet, database, and internet/e-mail. You can either take ITE 115-Introduction to Computer Applications and Concepts, or call the Counseling Center at (757) 822-7211 to schedule a computer competency test.

Information on grants, loans, and scholarships is available from the Financial Aid Office and can be reached by calling (757) 822-7292. The Veterans Affairs Office will assist you with your application if you are eligible for VA educational benefits. The Veterans Affairs Office can be reached by calling (757) 822-7235.

The Respiratory Therapy Program holds an Open House on the **third** Thursday of each month (except December) from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., room MN-206 in the Regional Health Professions Center, Virginia Beach Campus. For an applicant to be considered they must attend an open house.

As a student in the Respiratory Therapy Program, the individual must attend approximately 600 or more hours of clinical training in a hospital or health care facility. The student must possess the physical ability to aide in the lifting and moving of patients; to pull/push and control the movement of machinery, i.e., ventilators and oxygen cylinders; to view digital displays and monitor oscilloscope readouts; to hear audible alarms; to auscultate blood pressure and heart and lung sounds; to perform tasks requiring fine motor control, and to interact effectively with patients and the health care team.

Please note that The Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) is the accrediting body for Respiratory Therapy Programs at Tidewater Community College.

Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC)

1248 Harwood Road  
Bedford, TC 76021-4244  
Phone: 817-283-2835  
Fax: 817-354-8519

Tidewater Community College maintains and promotes equal opportunity without regard to ethnicity, color, gender, age (except where gender or age is a bona fide occupational qualification), religion, handicap, national origin, or other non-merit factors. Disclosure of social security number, age, gender, and ethnicity is optional.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Ferguson, MS, RRT  
Director, Respiratory Therapy Program  
Office: 757-822-7413

[jferguson@tcc.edu](mailto:jferguson@tcc.edu)

<http://www.tcc.edu/healthprofessions>

## **KNOW THE FACTS -- FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### ***WHAT IS RESPIRATORY THERAPY?***

Respiratory Therapy is one of many allied health professions. The profession developed out of needs of critical and rehabilitative heart and lung patients of the early 1940's. Respiratory care practitioners work as members of the critical care team in treating individuals who are seriously ill. Using sophisticated medical equipment, respiratory therapists help people with such lung disorders as asthma, emphysema, pneumonia, and bronchitis. This may include using equipment that will mechanically breathe for the patient.

### ***WHAT CREDENTIAL CAN I RECEIVE UPON GRADUATION?***

Students completing the Associate in Applied Science program are qualified to take the CRT exam, the Advanced Practitioner Exam, and the Clinical Simulation Exam offered by the NBRC. After passing these exams you are a Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT).

### ***WHAT IS REQUIRED FOR ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAM?***

The **minimum** eligibility requirement for admission to the program are BIO 141 - Human Anatomy & Physiology I, MTH 3 - Algebra I, and ENG 111 - College Composition I.

### ***WHAT CAN I DO IF I DON'T MEET THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION OR I FEEL IT HAS BEEN TOO LONG SINCE I HAD THE NECESSARY MATH AND SCIENCE?***

Tidewater Community College offers a wide variety of developmental courses. These courses will provide students with the necessary knowledge to succeed in the program. Developmental Math, English, Biology and Chemistry are offered at various times both day and night. Biology 141 courses are offered each semester.

### ***WHEN IS IT NECESSARY TO TAKE THE MATH AND ENGLISH PLACEMENT TESTS GIVEN BY THE COUNSELING CENTER?***

It is recommended that these tests be taken as early as possible so that if developmental work is necessary, a student can complete it prior to the start of the program. Please call the Counseling Center at (757) 822-7212 for testing dates.

### ***ARE THERE JOBS AVAILABLE?***

Since the program's inception in 1975, all graduates have accepted positions immediately upon graduation. The future continues to be very bright for employment in Respiratory Therapy. The number and types of employers actively seeking qualified respiratory care practitioners has increased considerably. Today's practitioner may work in large and technologically advanced critical care units; perform in small rural hospitals; work with home care providers; pulmonary rehabilitation; pulmonary function diagnostics; private physicians, and long-term care facilities. According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics the need for Respiratory Therapist will grow by 26 percent. The 2009 Human Resources study from the AARC states the projected average annual earning of RT's working is \$62,223.

### ***ARE ALL CLASSES OFFERED ONLY DURING THE DAY?***

Respiratory Therapy classes are only offered at the Virginia Beach campus of TCC during the day identified by the prefix letters RTH. You may take all non-Respiratory Therapy courses in the curriculum either during the day or evening at any of the TCC campuses (Chesapeake, Norfolk, Portsmouth, or Virginia Beach).

### ***MUST COURSES BE TAKEN IN THE ORDER THEY APPEAR IN THE CURRICULUM?***

You must take all Respiratory Therapy courses in the order in which they appear in the curriculum. Each course prepares you for the next course, and each is offered only once a year. You may take any non-Respiratory Therapy course during the semester it appears in the curriculum or before that semester. It is strongly recommended that all non-Respiratory Therapy courses be taken prior to entry into the program to lighten the course load.

**HOW MANY HOURS A WEEK WILL I BE IN CLASS?**

You will attend class an average of 26 hours a week during the program. Of course, if you have already completed any required course work you will attend class fewer hours.

**I DON'T BELIEVE I CAN HANDLE SO MANY CREDIT HOURS EVERY SEMESTER. WHAT COURSES CAN I TAKE BEFORE I ENTER THE THERAPIST PROGRAM?**

Any course that is not a Respiratory Therapy course (RTH prefix) can be taken before you are accepted into the program. You can complete courses such as BIO 141 and 142, ENG 111, HLT 155, Humanities Elective, Social Science Elective, and SDV 101 before you enter the program.

**HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO COMPLETE THE RESPIRATORY THERAPIST PROGRAM?**

The present program is structured to allow an entering college freshman with only BIO 141 to complete the 72-semester hour curriculum in six (6) semesters after admission. However, competitive applicants will have completed as many of the non-respiratory classes prior to entering the program.

**WHERE ARE THE CLINICAL ASSIGNMENTS IN THE PROGRAM?**

Clinical assignments include the following hospitals:

- Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters, Norfolk, Virginia
- Chesapeake Regional Medical Center, Chesapeake, Virginia
- Sentara Princess Ann, Virginia Beach, Virginia
- Sentara Norfolk General Hospital, Norfolk, Virginia
- Sentara Careplex, Hampton, Virginia
- Portsmouth Naval Hospital, Portsmouth, Virginia
- Sentara Leigh Hospital, Norfolk, Virginia
- DePaul Medical Center, Norfolk, Virginia
- Riverside Medical Center, Newport News
- Bon Secours Maryview
- Lake Taylor Long Term Care Facility
- Sentara Virginia Beach General Hospital, Virginia Beach, Virginia
- Additional sites as available

**ARE THERE ANY COSTS INVOLVED IN THE RESPIRATORY THERAPY PROGRAM?**

Prospective students are notified that medical facilities require both criminal/sex offender background checks as well as drug screens prior to being authorized to attend clinical. The cost of the background check is the responsibility of the student.

A student can expect to spend approximately \$1,388 in addition to tuition for the cost of required software (DataArc CD-rom), recommended texts, uniforms, a stethoscope, state and regional educational meeting fees, and student membership in the national association for respiratory care.

**ARE THERE SCHOLARSHIPS AND LOANS AVAILABLE TO SELECTED APPLICANTS?**

Yes. Traditional College loans and scholarships are available to many students; please contact the financial aid office for more information.

**IF I AM GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL IN JUNE, WHAT ARE MY CHANCES FOR ACCEPTANCE INTO THE RESPIRATORY THERAPY PROGRAM FOR THE SUMMER?**

You will still need at least two semesters of coursework to be eligible for the program. Our recommendation would be to take at minimum two (2) semesters and complete as many of the non-respiratory classes in the curriculum before applying.

RESPIRATORY THERAPY PROGRAM  
ADMISSIONS PROCESS CHECKOFF LIST

The following steps must be completed as soon as possible.

Please check each item as you complete it.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Obtain a Respiratory Therapy Program Packet. Packets are available at the Welcome and Entry Service Center on the Virginia Beach Campus (757-822-7172), the Counseling office (757-822-7211), or TCC Information Center (757-822-1122), or the Health Professions Division website [www.tcc.edu/healthprofessions](http://www.tcc.edu/healthprofessions).
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Complete and return an Application for Admission to Tidewater Community College to the TCC Virginia Beach Campus Welcome and Entry Service Center in the Princess Anne Building, Room A-111.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Visit the Health Professions website at: <http://www.tcc.edu/healthprofessions> to learn more about the program, including frequently asked questions.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Attend the Respiratory Therapy Program Open House held on the **third** Thursday of each month (except December) from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. located in the Regional Health Professions Center, Room MN-206 on the Virginia Beach Campus. **This is mandatory.**
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Take the TCC English and math placement tests if required. It is recommended you take them as soon as possible to allow adequate time to take any developmental courses required prior to taking any RTH courses. Consult the Counseling Center for information concerning your need to take these tests and for times given.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Submit the Health Professions Application form for the Respiratory Program to Gloria Singleton, Health Professions /Domicile, Room A-100A, Tidewater Community College, 1700 College Crescent, Virginia Beach, VA 23453. If transferring credits provide an unofficial copy of your transcript.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Have official college transcripts sent directly to Tidewater Community College Central Records Office, PO Box 9000, Norfolk, VA 23509-9000 from the appropriate institution's registrar. Student copies are not acceptable. Missing transcripts are the greatest cause of delay in the application process and are the applicant's responsibility. Any college course work transferred to TCC requires a transcript evaluation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Submit your completed "Request for Evaluation of Previous Higher Educational Experiences" form to the Central Records Office, Tidewater Community College, PO Box 9000, Norfolk, VA 23509-9000. This form is located on the website at: <https://www.tcc.edu/secure/forms/evaluationrequest.php>
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Please bring this completed form with you to the information session.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Entered TCC: \_\_\_\_\_

EMPL ID: \_\_\_\_\_ Counselor: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Registered Respiratory Therapist (181)</b> <b>Associate of Applied Science Degree: Registered Respiratory Therapist</b>
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**SEMESTER 1                  Summer (Based on a Fall Semester start)**

Prerequisite	Course No	Course Title	Credits	When Taken	Grade
_____	BIO 141	Human Anatomy and Physiology I <sup>1</sup>	4	_____	( )
Placement	ENG 111	College Composition I <sup>1</sup>	3	_____	( )
MTH 3; Instructor Permission	RTH 102	Integrated Sciences for Respiratory Care	3	_____	( )
Instructor Permission	RTH 120	Fundamental Theory for Respiratory Care Procedures	2	_____	( )
Instructor Permission	RTH 131	Respiratory Care Theory and Procedures I	4	_____	( )
_____	SDV 101	Orientation to Health Care	<u>1</u>	_____	( )
<b>Semester Total</b>			<b>17</b>		

**SEMESTER 2                  Fall**

Prerequisite	Course No	Course Title	Credits	When Taken	Grade
BIO 141	BIO 142	Human Anatomy and Physiology II <sup>1</sup>	4	_____	( )
Instructor Permission	RTH 121	Cardiopulmonary Science I	3	_____	( )
Instructor Permission	RTH 132	Respiratory Care Theory and Procedures II	4	_____	( )
Instructor Permission	RTH 145	Pharmacology for Respiratory Care I	1	_____	( )
Instructor Permission	RTH 190	Coordinated Internship	<u>3</u>	_____	( )
<b>Semester Total</b>			<b>15</b>		

**SEMESTER 3                  Spring**

Prerequisite	Course No	Course Title	Credits	When Taken	Grade
Instructor Permission	RTH 217	Pulmonary Rehabilitation, Home Care, and Health Promotion	2	_____	( )
Instructor Permission	RTH 235	Diagnostic and Therapeutic Procedures II	3	_____	( )
Instructor Permission	RTH 236	Critical Care Monitoring	3	_____	( )
Instructor Permission	RTH 290	Coordinated Internship	3	_____	( )
_____	_____	Social Science Elective <sup>2</sup>	<u>3</u>	_____	( )
<b>Semester Total</b>			<b>14</b>		

**SEMESTER 4****Summer**

Prerequisite	Course No	Course Title	Credits	When Taken	Grade
Instructor Permission	RTH 222	Cardiopulmonary Science II	3	_____	( )
_____	HUM ____	Humanities Elective <sup>2</sup>	<u>3</u>	_____	( )
<b>Semester Total</b>			<b>6</b>		

**SEMESTER 5****Fall**

Prerequisite	Course No	Course Title	Credits	When Taken	Grade
CHM 01	CHM 121	Health Science Chemistry I	4	_____	( )
Instructor Permission	RTH 225	Neonatal and Pediatric Respiratory Procedures	3	_____	( )
Instructor Permission	RTH 290	Coordinated Internship	<u>4</u>	_____	( )
<b>Semester Total</b>			<b>11</b>		

**SEMESTER 6****Spring**

Prerequisite	Course No	Course Title	Credits	When Taken	Grade
_____	HLT 155	Current Issues in Health Care	2	_____	( )
Instructor Permission	RTH 290	Coordinated Internship	3	_____	( )
Instructor Permission	RTH 298	Seminar and Project in Respiratory Therapy	1	_____	( )
_____	_____	Social Science Elective <sup>2</sup>	<u>3</u>	_____	( )
<b>Semester Total</b>			<b>9</b>		
<b>Total Minimum Credits. . . . .</b>			<b>72*</b>		

<sup>1</sup> Placement test or prerequisite required.

<sup>2</sup> Eligible courses are listed on page 34 in the 2009-2010 catalog. See your academic advisor or counselor to choose the appropriate course(s).

<sup>3</sup> BIO 141 Human Anatomy and Physiology I is a prerequisite to entrance into the program and is included in the total credits.

**NOTES:**

- < Program requirements may change in accordance with federal, state, or industry standards. Call 822-7255 for the most current information.
- < In order to graduate with the associate's degree, you must meet the college's computer competency requirement. Consult your academic advisor or counselor to determine how to satisfy this requirement.
- < The Respiratory Program is fully accredited through the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care Education (CoARC).
- < Tidewater Community College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award the Associate Degree.