



GULF COAST STATE COLLEGE **RESPIRATORY CARE** PROGRAM INFORMATION





RESPIRATORY CARE PROGRAM

Thank you for your interest in the Associate of Science Degree in Respiratory Care. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), employment of Respiratory Therapists is growing much faster than the national average for all occupations. During the period between 2020 and 2028, BLS expects the need for RTs to increase by 19%. The Gulf Coast State College Associate of Science Degree in Respiratory Care is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC #200449).*

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 program curriculum includes classroom, laboratory, and supervised clinical instruction covering cardiopulmonary anatomy, physiology, and pathophysiology, therapeutic treatments, cardiopulmonary diagnostic technology, critical care and life-support technology for adults, children, and infants, respiratory home care, and pulmonary rehabilitation.

Upon successful completion of this program, graduates are eligible to take the Therapist Multiple Choice Examination (TMC) administered by the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC). The Therapist Multiple Choice Examination is designed to objectively measure essential knowledge, skills, and abilities required of entry-level respiratory therapists. There are two established cut scores for the Therapist Multiple Choice Examination. If a candidate achieves the lower cut score, they will earn the Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT) credential. If a candidate achieves the higher cut score, they will earn the CRT credential AND become eligible for the Clinical Simulation Examination (CSE) to earn their Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) credential. The CRT and/or RRT credentials are used as the basis for licensure in 49 states as the basis for licensure to practice respiratory care.

Rolling Selection Criteria

A student may be considered for conditional acceptance (for the next program start date) if you meet the following criteria:

- Completed Respiratory Care program application and applicant checklist.
- Demonstrated competency in Math / Algebra, English, and Reading.
- Completed Anatomy and Physiology I and the Lab (BSC 2085 and BSC 2085L) with a grade of "C" or better
- Completed college-level Math (MAC, MGF, or STA prefix course) with a grade of "C" or better

If you don't meet the Rolling Selection Criteria, you may still be considered for admission. Please consult with us for guidance on the application process.

We are grateful that you are considering Gulf Coast State College for your educational needs. If you have any questions or would like to speak to an advisor, please call 850.872.3837, or e-mail me at jbarber@gulfcoast.edu, or contact Connie "Crickett" Pimentel, Academic Programs Specialist at HealthSciencesGCSC@gulfcoast.edu, or call 850.913.3311.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jennifer Barber

Theresa Porter

Jennifer Barber, Ed.D., MS, BSRC, RRT, RRT-ACCS	Theresa Porter, MHL, RRT
Coordinator/Program Director Respiratory Care Program	Assistant Coordinator/Director of Clinical Education Respiratory Care Program
850.872.3837	850.769.1551, x5835

Gulf Coast State College Respiratory Care Program (CoARC #200449) is fully accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC).



CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

As part of your provisional acceptance into the Respiratory Program, an acceptable background check (including Level II fingerprinting) and drug screening must be completed 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 GCSC. 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 GCSC 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 (<https://www.floridahealth.gov/>) for more information regarding licensure. We offer this information so that you can make an informed decision regarding your future.

Student applicants DO NOT complete background check until provisionally accepted into the Respiratory Care Program. Information and instructions on how to complete the background check will be given to you during the Respiratory Care orientation prior to beginning the Fall semester.

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 the Health Sciences programs and/or clinical rotations. The statute listed below can also be found online:

http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0400-0499/0456/Sections/0456.0635.html.

456.0635 Health care fraud; disqualification for license, certificate, or registration.

- (1) Healthcare fraud in the practice of a healthcare profession is prohibited.
- (2) 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 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 candidate or applicant:
 - (a) Has been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a felony under chapter 409, chapter 817, or chapter 893, or a similar felony offense committed in another state or jurisdiction, unless the candidate or applicant has successfully completed a pretrial diversion or drug court program for that felony and provides proof that the plea has been withdrawn or the charges have been dismissed. Any such conviction or plea shall exclude the applicant or candidate from licensure, examination, certification, or registration unless the sentence and any subsequent period of probation for such conviction or plea ended:
 1. For felonies of the first or second degree, more than 15 years before the date of application.
 2. For felonies of the third degree, more than 10 years before the date of application, except for felonies of the third degree under s. 893.13(6)(a).
 3. For felonies of the third degree under s. 893.13(6)(a), more than 5 years before the date of application;
 - (b) Has been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a felony under 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 plea ended more than 15 years before the date of the application;
 - (c) Has been terminated for cause from the Florida Medicaid program pursuant to s. 409.913, unless the candidate or applicant has been in good standing with the Florida Medicaid program for the most recent 5 years;
 - (d) Has been terminated for cause, pursuant to the appeals procedures established by the state, from any other state Medicaid program, unless the candidate or applicant has been in good standing with a state Medicaid program for the most recent 5 years and the termination occurred at least 20 years before the date of the application; or
 - (e) Is currently listed on the United States Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General's List of Excluded Individuals and Entities, except when such applicant is listed solely based on a default or delinquency on a student loan as provided in s. 120.82.

This subsection does not apply to an applicant for initial licensure, certification, or registration who was arrested or charged with a felony specified in paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) before July 1, 2009.

(3) The department shall refuse to renew a license, certificate, or registration of any applicant if the applicant or any principal, officer, agent, managing employee, or affiliated person of the applicant:

(a) Has been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a felony under chapter 409, chapter 817, or chapter 893, or a similar felony offense committed in another state or jurisdiction, unless the applicant is currently enrolled in a pretrial diversion or drug court program that allows the withdrawal of the plea for that felony upon successful completion of that program. Any such conviction or plea excludes the applicant from licensure renewal unless the sentence and any subsequent period of probation for such conviction or plea ended:

1. For felonies of the first or second degree, more than 15 years before the date of application.
2. For felonies of the third degree, more than 10 years before the date of application, except for felonies of the third degree under s. 893.13(6)(a).

3. For felonies of the third degree under s. 893.13(6)(a), more than 5 years before the date of application.
- (b) Has been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a felony under 21 U.S.C. ss. 801-970, or 42 U.S.C. ss. 1395-1396 since July 1, 2009, unless the sentence and any subsequent period of probation for such conviction or plea ended more than 15 years before the date of the application.
- (c) Has been 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.
- (d) Has been terminated for cause, pursuant to the appeals procedures established by the state, from any other state Medicaid program, unless the applicant has been in good standing with a state Medicaid program for the most recent 5 years and the termination occurred at least 20 years before the date of the application.
- (e) Is currently listed on the United States Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General's List of Excluded Individuals and Entities, except when such applicant is listed solely based on a default or delinquency on a student loan as provided in s. 120.82.

This subsection does not apply to an applicant for renewal of licensure, certification, or registration who was arrested or charged with a felony specified in paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) before July 1, 2009.

(4) Licensed health care practitioners shall report allegations of health care fraud to the department, regardless of the practice setting in which the alleged health care fraud occurred.

(5) The acceptance by a licensing authority of a licensee's relinquishment of a license which is offered in response to or anticipation of the filing of administrative charges alleging health care fraud or similar charges constitutes the permanent revocation of the license.

The following disqualifying offenses under current Florida law for healthcare licensure. The individual must not be awaiting final disposition of charges related to disqualifying offenses. The individual must not have been found guilty, regardless of whether adjudication was withheld, nor have entered a plea of nolo contendere (no contest) or guilty to any disqualifying offense. If the individual was adjudicated delinquent for a disqualifying offense, the record must have been sealed or expunged; otherwise, it remains a disqualifying factor.

The disqualifications apply to applicable offenses under:

Relevant provisions of Florida State law **or** Similar laws in other jurisdictions (laws from other states or countries the applicant originates from).

Specifically, the following pending charges or convictions per statutes: 393.135, 394.4593, 794.011, 825.1025, 826.04, 916.1075, 985.701, 415.111, 825.102, 827.03, 825.103, 827.05, 827.04, 782.04, 782.07, 787.01, 787.02, 784.011, 784.03, 827.071, ch. 796, ch. 800, 798.02, 825.103, 787.025, 874.05, ch. 812, 817.563, ch. 893, 944.47, 985.711, 806.01, 810.02, 810.14, 796, 843.01, 843.025, 847, 944.35(3), 775.21, 775.261 and 943.0435.

Important Note: After acceptance and during enrollment in this program, the student is responsible for notifying the Program Coordinator of any arrest, regardless of adjudication, that occurs after acceptance through graduation. Failure to promptly notify the Program Coordinator shall be grounds for dismissal from the program.

****A physical examination, criminal background check (Level II), and drug screening WILL be required prior to the official program acceptance.***

FOR ACCREDITED PROGRAM APPLICATIONS:

Gulf Coast State College Respiratory Care Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care. This Disclosure is strictly limited to GCSC's determination of whether the Program if successfully completed, would be sufficient to meet the educational licensure requirements in a State, as defined as 34 C.F.R. § 600.2. GCSC cannot provide verification of an individual's ability to meet licensure requirements unrelated to its educational programming.

This Disclosure does not provide any guarantee that any particular State licensure entity will approve or deny your application. Furthermore, this Disclosure does not account for changes in state law or regulation that may affect your application for licensure and occur after this disclosure has been made. Enrolled students and prospective students are strongly encouraged to contact their State's licensure entity to review all licensure or certification requirements imposed by their State(s) of choice.

In accordance with 34 C.F.R. § 668.43, GCSC has determined the Respiratory Care program meets the educational licensure requirements for all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the US protectorates, as defined in 34 C.F.R. § 600.2.

It is strongly encouraged that students, applicants, and prospective students determine any additional requirements for licensure in the State in which they seek to be licensed. Information regarding State licensure can be found at: <https://practitionerportal.nbrc.org/licensure/list>

If you need assistance or have any questions, please contact Dr. Jennifer Barber at jbarber@gulfcoast.edu or 850-872-3837

Readmission Guidelines:

1. A student who withdraws from or earns a grade lower than a "C" in any RET course will not be permitted to continue in the Respiratory Care Program. A student who does not meet the Core Performance Standards of the program will not be permitted to continue in the program.
2. Applicants who wish to apply for readmission should do so prior to March 1 if planning to enroll in the Fall semester, October 1 if planning to enroll in the Spring semester, and February 1 if planning to enroll in the Summer semester.
3. Readmission to the Respiratory Care Program will be dependent upon available resources.
4. In order to be considered for readmission by the Admissions Committee, the applicant must do the following:
 - a. Submit a written request letter (not e-mail) to the Respiratory Care Coordinator/ Program Director presenting evidence to justify readmission.
 - b. Meet current guidelines for admission to the College and the Respiratory Care Program.
5. Readmission may be contingent upon the candidate's agreeing to audit previously completed course work. **Students may not be re-admitted to the last semester they attended.**
6. A student who applies for readmission to the Respiratory Care Program must provide significant evidence, which suggests the potential for future success in the program. This evidence may address such things as unusual circumstances, remedial study, and/or additional preparation.

Respiratory Care Transfer Policy:

Applicants who wish to transfer from another Respiratory Care Program to a GCSC Respiratory Care Program must:

- 1) meet all current admission requirements, 2) apply at least two months prior to the expected date of enrollment, 3) notify the Program Director/Coordinator in writing, stating anticipated entry date and reason for transfer, 4) provide evidence of successful completion of previous core Respiratory Care courses from a CoARC accredited program, and 5) provide a letter from the Program Director stating that the student is in good academic and clinical standing and is eligible to return to the Respiratory Care program they wish to transfer from. Acceptance of any transfer student will be dependent upon available resources. Transferability of GCSC Respiratory Care courses to another institution will be dependent upon the acceptance of the receiving institution.

Advanced Placement Policy:

Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT) can enroll as an Advanced Placement student in the Respiratory Care Program. CRTs with an active license and verifiable clinical experience can receive up to 24 hours of credit toward the Respiratory Care A.S. degree. Requirements for consideration of acceptance into the Advanced Placement sequence will be the same as for those students applying to the first semester of the program. Acceptance of Advanced Placement students will be dependent upon available resources. Please contact Dr. Jennifer Barber jbarber@gulfcoast.edu for an Advanced Placement application.

RESPIRATORY CARE PROGRAM - APPLICANT CHECKLIST

Applications will be considered at any time for the next program start date!
The checklist below will help with the application process.

1. Apply for general admission to Gulf Coast State College (IF NOT CURRENTLY ENROLLED)

Call 850.872.3892 or visit GCSC Enrollment Services to receive information regarding the college admissions process. There is an application fee, and online applications are available at:

https://connect.gulfcoast.edu/portal/application_portal.

Note: While working on admission to this program, you may choose the HLSC – AA, Health Sciences, General Education as your major only if you intend to complete that separate degree either before or after this limited access program. To request a major change, visit <https://www.gulfcoast.edu/admissions/forms.html>, and click on Program Major Change Form

Returning students who have not attended GCSC in the past year must reapply for admission.

2. New students complete a free College Orientation. This orientation may be completed on campus or online. The online instructions can be found at: <https://www.gulfcoast.edu/admissions/new-student-orientation/index.html>. Orientation must be completed to register for courses.

3. Submit a completed Respiratory Care Program application (including the Technical Standards form) online at <https://www.gulfcoast.edu/academics/academic-division/health-sciences/respiratory-care/index.html> by 11:59 p.m., C.S.T., on June 1, 2026. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure their folder is **complete prior to the published application date deadline**. This includes Optional Enhancement Points paperwork (see below).

4. Request OFFICIAL High School transcripts, or equivalent GED scores, and have them sent to GCSC Enrollment Services. *For high school seniors, conditional acceptance can be granted before graduation. However, a high school diploma must be received immediately upon graduation.*

Note: Official transcripts are those **sent** directly from other institutions attended to Enrollment Services at GCSC. Transcripts mailed by you, faxed by you, or hand-delivered by you are **not** considered official transcripts.

5. Request OFFICIAL transcripts from all colleges attended, and have them sent to GCSC Enrollment Services. These must be received and evaluated by Enrollment Services before the application can be considered.

Note: Official transcripts are those **sent** directly from other institutions attended to Enrollment Services at GCSC. Transcripts mailed by you, faxed by you, or hand-delivered by you are **not** considered official transcripts.

6. Demonstrate competency in Math / Algebra, English, and Reading using one of the following methods:

Subject	CLT	PERT	ACT	SAT	College Course
Math/Algebra	16	114	19	480 24 (old)	Eligibility for or successful completion of a 3-credit minimum course with prefix MAC, MGF, or STA. (Flexible placement does not apply.)
English	38	103	17	490 in Critical Reading or	Eligibility for ENC 1101 English Composition I or successful completion of the course. (Flexible placement does not apply.)
Reading	38	106	19	24 (old)	

If the applicant wishes to use test scores to demonstrate competency for any of the above, and the test was not administered at Gulf Coast State College, the applicant must have an OFFICIAL score report sent to the GCSC testing office. **The applicant is responsible for ensuring that the test scores are received and posted to their GCSC computer record by 11:59 p.m., C.S.T., on JUNE 1, 2026.** The PERT is administered in Student Union West, 3rd floor testing area, and may be taken two times per semester. The cost is \$9.00 per testing session. Please consult the Placement Testing Schedule at <https://www.registerblast.com/gcsc/Exam/List>, call (850) 873-3594, or email testingcenter@gulfcoast.edu for additional information.

It is the Applicant's responsibility to make sure their application folder is complete.

After Conditional Acceptance into the Respiratory Care Program, students will need to satisfactorily complete the following by the first day of class.

- a. Creation of a PreCheck/SentryMD account** at the student's expense (\$ 75.00) – specific instructions will be provided in your acceptance packet.
- b. Satisfactory fingerprint/criminal background check** at student's expense (\$ 85.00) – specific instructions will be provided in your acceptance packet.
- c. Current GCSC Physical Examination (less than a year old) and GCSC Immunization Forms,** with satisfactory results signed by a physician are required for the Respiratory Care Program. The GCSC forms to be used will be included in the acceptance packet and available in PreCheck/SentryMD.
- d. Current TB Skin Test, TB blood test, or *current* chest x-ray report** (less than a year old) are required for the Respiratory Care Program. The form will be included in the acceptance packet.
- e. Copy of current, valid American Heart Association Basic Life Support (BLS) CPR certification for Healthcare Provider and maintain current certification throughout the program.**
- f. A 10-panel urine drug screen** at the student's expense – specific instructions will be provided in your acceptance packet.

ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE DEGREE - COURSE REQUIREMENTS and CURRICULUM PLAN

Courses that may be taken prior to entering *OR* during the Respiratory Care Program and must be completed with a "C" or higher are indicated below. Students are *strongly encouraged* to take as many of these courses as possible *prior* to entering the Respiratory Care Program.

BSC 2085	Anatomy and Physiology I	3 credits	Preferred completion before/by the end of Semester 1
BSC 2085L	Anatomy and Physiology I Lab	1 credit	Preferred completion before/by the end of Semester 1
HSC1531	Medical Terminology	2 credits	Preferred completion before/by the end of Semester 1
BSC 2086	Human Anatomy and Physiology II	3 credits	Preferred completion before/by the end of Semester 2
BSC 2086L	Human Anatomy and Physiology II Lab	1 credit	Preferred completion before/by the end of Semester 2
XXX XXXX	College-level Math (MAC, MGF, or STA prefix)	3 credits	Preferred completion before/by the end of Semester 3
XXX XXXX	POS 2041 American National Government or *AMH 2010 United States History I or AMH 2020 United States History II and Civics Literacy examination	3 credits	Preferred completion before/by the end of Semester 3
ENC 1101	English Composition I	3 credits	Preferred completion before/by the end of Semester 4
XXX XXXX	Course in Humanities I, II, or III (designated by • in College Catalog)	3 credits	Preferred completion before/by the end of Semester 4
PSY 2012	Psychology or SYG 2000 Sociology	3 credits	Preferred completion before/by the end of Semester 5

RESPIRATORY CARE CORE COURSES

After acceptance into the Respiratory Care Program, the following required Respiratory Care courses are taken in sequence over 5 semesters (2 in Fall, 1 in Summer, and 2 in Spring). Classes are held Monday through Friday. Class and clinical times vary semester-to-semester.

Course	CRN	Course Name	Credits	Semester Credits
Semester 1: (Fall)	RET 1005 RET 1024 RET 1024L RET 1832	Mgmt of Cardiopul Microbiol & Disorders Respiratory Care I Respiratory Care I Lab Respiratory Care Clinical I	3 3 2 1	9
Semester 2: (Spring)	RET 1264 RET 1264L RET 1400 RET 1483 RET 1485 RET 1833	Respiratory Care II Respiratory Care II Lab Cardiopulmonary Procedures Cardiopulmonary Assessment Cardiopulmonary Anatomy & Physiology Respiratory Care Clinical II	3 2 3 3 3 2	16
Semester 3: (Summer)	RET 1934 RET 2007 RET 2834 RET 2878 RET 2878L	Selected Topics Seminar – ACLS Cardiopulmonary Pharmacology Respiratory Care Clinical III Respiratory Care III Respiratory Care III Lab	1 3 2 3 2	11
Semester 4: (Fall)	RET 2280 RET 2280L RET 2835	Respiratory Care IV Respiratory Care IV Lab Respiratory Care Clinical IV	3 2 2	7
Semester 5: (Spring)	RET 2714 RET 2714L RET 2836	Respiratory Care V Respiratory Care V Lab Respiratory Care Clinical V	3 2 3	8

**AMH 2010 does not meet the course requirement if taken prior to Fall 2024*

GULF COAST STATE COLLEGE RESPIRATORY CARE PROGRAM FEE SCHEDULE

	<u>In-State</u>	<u>Out-of-State</u>
<u>ENROLLMENT FEES</u>		
Placement Tests (if needed)	\$ 9.00	\$ 9.00
GCSC - application fee (new students)	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00
Criminal Background Check	\$ 85.00	\$ 85.00
PreCheck/SentryMD (Compliance Tracker)	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00
Healthcare Interprofessional Training	\$ 119.00	\$ 119.00
BridgesEXP (HCA only)	\$ 40.00	\$ 40.00
BLS	\$ 57.00	\$ 57.00
<u>TEXTBOOK FEES</u>		
Textbooks (approximate)		
Required texts	\$1,997.00**	\$ 1,997.00**
<u>TUITION FEES</u> (see current College Catalog)		
Gen Ed and Corequisites (25 college credits)	\$ 2,468.75 (CC \$98.75)	\$ 8,992.75 (CC \$359.71)
Fall Term - 1st semester (12 college credits)	\$ 1,185.00	\$ 4,316.52
Spring Term - 2nd semester (13 college credits)	\$ 1,283.75	\$ 4,676.23
Summer Term - 3rd semester (8 college credits)	\$ 790.00	\$ 2,877.68
Fall Term - 4th semester (10 college credits)	\$ 987.50	\$ 3,597.10
Spring Term - 5th semester (8 college credits)	\$ 790.00	\$ 2,877.68
<u>LAB FEES</u> (Includes Student Liability/Accident Ins.)		
Fall Term - 1st semester	\$ 687.00	\$ 687.00
Spring Term - 2nd semester	\$ 253.00	\$ 253.00
Summer Term - 3rd semester	\$ 382.00	\$ 382.00
Fall Term - 4th semester	\$ 412.00	\$ 412.00
Spring Term - 5th semester	\$ 476.00	\$ 476.00
SUPPLIES / UNIFORMS:	\$ 200.00**	\$ 200.00**
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Total Program Fees (approx.):	\$12,307.00	\$32,139.96

Fee schedule includes approximate fees for the entire program.
See current information available in the Enrollment Services Office. Anyone requiring financial aid must initiate arrangements with the Financial Aid Office. Refund policy is outlined in the current Gulf Coast State College Catalog.

**** Fees listed above are based on the 2025-2026 academic year and are subject to change without notice due to price changes from the other requirements, manufacturer, or provider.**