

A.S. Respiratory Care/Therapy Degree 25-26

(Draft)



ABOUT THIS MAJOR

Respiratory care practitioners work in a wide variety of settings to evaluate, treat, and manage patients of all ages with respiratory illnesses and other cardiopulmonary disorders. The respiratory care practitioner participates in clinical decision-making and patient education, develops and implements respiratory care plans, applies patient-driven protocols, utilizes evidence-based clinical practice guidelines, and participates in health promotion, disease prevention, and disease management.

The respiratory care practitioner may be required to exercise considerable independent judgment, under the supervision of a physician, in the respiratory care of patients. For more information, visit the [Health and Safety Sciences](#) division.

TO EARN A DEGREE A STUDENT MUST COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:

- [1] Completion of a minimum of 60-semester units or 90 quarter units of degree applicable courses
- [2] A minimum of 18-semester units in a major
- [3] Completion of 21 units AVC General Education Requirements
- [4] Minimum overall grade point average of 2.0
- [5] A "C" or better in all courses required for the major

A.S. Pre-Respiratory Care/Therapy [Total Units 68]

*The following **program prerequisites must be completed** prior to applying to the program with a **2.0 overall GPA** and grades posted on official transcript at the time of application

Required Courses: (C or better) TOTAL 43 UNITS	
Formal admission to program to enroll in the following courses	
RCP101 - Fundamentals of Respiratory Care	6
RCP102 - Clinical Preparation for Respiratory Care	1
RCP103 - Concepts in Respiratory Care	6
RCP104 - Respiratory Care Pharmacology	3
RCP105 - Fundamentals of Clinical Respiratory Care	5
RCP201 - Neonatal and Pediatric Respiratory Care	3
RCP202 - Fundamentals of Intensive Respiratory Care	4
RCP203 - Seminar and Practicum in Respiratory Care I	6
RCP204 - Seminar and Practicum in Respiratory Care II	9

Complete the following courses: TOTAL 12 UNITS	
AVC GE AREA 3: Arts and Humanities	3
AVC GE AREA 6: ETHNIC STUDIES	3
COMMC1000 - Introduction to Public Speaking	3
OR	
COMMC1000H - Introduction to Public Speaking - Honors	
PSYCC1000 - Introduction to Psychology	3
OR	
PSYCC1000H - Introduction to Psychology - Honors	

RECOMMENDED PATHWAY

Respiratory Care/Therapy Degree

The Recommended Plan of Study is determined by the discipline faculty
Take classes in **Summer** or **Intercession** if needed to complete your degree in a timely manner!

Fall/Spring: Max 19 units | Summer: Max 9 units | Intercession: Max 6 units

Major

General Education

FALL SEMESTER 1

Course	Units
RCP101	3
RCP102	4
COMMC1000 {formally COMM101}	3
AVC GE Area 6: Ethnic Studies	3
Total Units	13

SPRING SEMESTER 1

Course	Units
RCP103	3
RCP104	6
AVC GE AREA 3: ARTS & HUMANITIES	3
Total Units	12

SUMMER 1

Course	Units
RCP105	5
Total Units	5

FALL SEMESTER 2

Course	Units
RCP201	3
RCP202	4
RCP203	6
Total Units	13

SPRING SEMESTER 2

Course	Units
RCP204	3
PSYC C1000 {formally PSY 101}	9
Total Units	12

TOTAL UNITS 55

COUNSELING NOTE SECTION

Prerequisite: If a course is listed as a prerequisite for another course, that prerequisite course must be completed with a satisfactory grade to enroll in the next course. A satisfactory grade is a grade of "A," "B," "C" or "P". Students who enroll in classes for which they do not meet the prerequisites will be involuntarily dropped. Students will be notified of this involuntary drop. Title 5, Section 55200(d)

AVC 25-26 CATALOG: [ACADEMIC POLICIES](#)

* Beginning January 2026, applications for admission will be online only. Check back for more information regarding this change*
Applications will be available to students starting December

Application Deadlines: (dates are subject to change, [check HSS website](#))
-MAY be considered for summer admission.

INFORMATION and RESOURCES

Tutoring Assistance	Career Center	AVC Student Health Services
Transfer Center	Office of Students with Disabilities	Palmdale Center
Basic Needs	Financial Aid	Counseling Division

Additional Information

Additional Information

The respiratory care program serves the community by preparing students for careers in respiratory care. The course of study provides vocational education that leads to an associate in science degree. Students learn the knowledge, skills and attitudes that will enable them to take the national board examinations for respiratory care and become licensed by the Respiratory Care Board of California as a respiratory care practitioner. The graduate will be prepared to take the National Board of Respiratory Care registry examination. After successful completion of the National Board examination, graduates will be eligible for licensure anywhere in the United States.

SELECTION PROCEDURE 1. "Verification of Prerequisite" packets are accepted on a first come, first-served basis. Students will be given spaces in the respiratory care program in numerical order until each class is filled. Students are advised of eligibility to enroll in respiratory care courses by mail. The student is responsible for informing the Health and Safety Sciences Division office of any change of address and/or telephone number.

2. A physical examination will be required after verification of prerequisites. The purpose of the examination is to ensure the absence of communicable disease and to ensure that the student is not adversely affected by physical and/or mental illness that may endanger the health and safety of a patient. Students will be required to submit evidence of the following immunizations: measles, mumps, rubella, chickenpox, Tdap (as an adult), annual seasonal flu vaccine, and hepatitis B. These immunizations are required by facilities where students will be having clinical experiences. Antelope Valley College does not provide these immunizations. A drug screening will be required.

3. Students are required to have background screening for felonies, misdemeanors, fraud and abuse, sexual crimes, and social security number verification. Information on how to obtain background screening will be sent to students with the acceptance letter. In addition, the Respiratory Care Board of California requires applicants for licensure to submit fingerprints for criminal background check and driver history. The Board may deny a license for reasons specified in the Business and Professions Code, Sections 480 and 3733 through 3763.

4. Students are required to purchase personal liability insurance. Information about personal liability insurance will be sent to students with the acceptance letter. Completion of an educational program in respiratory care does not guarantee that a license will be granted by the Board.

*The following **program prerequisites must be completed** prior to applying to the program with a **2.0 overall GPA** and grades posted on official transcript at the time of application

Program Prerequisites (C or better) TOTAL 13 UNITS	
BIOL201 - General Human Anatomy *pre-req: BIOL 100 or 101 or 102 or 110+ or 120+	4
BIOL202 - General Human Physiology *pre-req: BIOL 201+ & CHEM 101+	4
CHEM 101- Introductory Chemistry	5
ENGLC1000 - Academic Reading and Writing	3

Math Requirements (choose one from list - total 3-5 units)	
MATH110 - Mathematics for Liberal Arts Students	3
STATC1000 - Introduction to Statistics	3
STATC1000H - Introduction to Statistics - Honors	4
MATH116 - Introduction to Statistics Using R	4
MATH124 - Finite Math	4
MATH128 - College Algebra for Liberal Arts	3
MATH150 - Calculus and Analytic Geometry	5
MATH150H - Calculus & Analytic Geometry Honors	5
MATH160 - Calculus and Analytic Geometry	4
MATH220 - Linear Algebra	4
MATH230 - Intro to Ordinary Differential Equations	4
MATH250 - Calculus and Analytic Geometry	4

Application Procedure:

The Antelope Valley College respiratory care program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC). All students wanting to enroll in Respiratory Care Program should follow these instructions.

1. Prerequisites for RCP 101 in the Associate Degree Respiratory Care Program are: Completion of BIOL 201 (General Human Anatomy - 4 units), BIOL 202 (General Human Physiology - 4 units) CHEM 101 (Introductory Chemistry - 5 units), Any Area 2 Math, and ENGL 101 (Academic Composition - 3 units) at Antelope Valley College or the equivalent at another accredited college. All science courses require a lab. Students are also required to meet the following prerequisites: minimum GPA of 2.0 for all college courses taken; minimum GPA of 2.0 for BIOL 201, BIOL 202, CHEM 101, English 101, and Any Area 2 Math.

NOTE: You are responsible for notifying the Health and Safety Sciences Division office when you change your address or telephone number. Please call 661-722-6300, extension 6402, to do this.

2. Attach proof of high school graduation or high school equivalency. If you have a degree awarded by an accredited United States college, skip to step 3. We accept the following proof of high school graduation or equivalency: -

Official transcript from an accredited high school in the United States, showing date of graduation. - - - Official GED results. Official evaluation of foreign transcripts by an agency accredited by the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES). The evaluation must state that the student has the equivalent of senior (12th grade) graduation in the United States.

3. Attach official transcripts from colleges attended (including Antelope Valley College) showing prerequisite completion. One set of official transcripts from other colleges/universities must also be on file in the Admissions and Records Office. If you have Advanced Placement (AP) credits, an official transcript must be included, if credit was awarded for English 101 or any math course that falls under Area 2. "Official" college transcripts must be submitted in sealed envelopes that have not been opened by the student and must reflect all grades completed at the time the packet is submitted to the Health Sciences department.

4. Attach a copy of the Educational Plan completed by one of the listed AVC Counselors assigned to the Health & Safety Sciences Division. Appointments can be made by email at counseling@avc.edu or by calling 661-722-6300, extension 6338, to schedule an appointment. The form should be completed no more than one semester prior to submitting the enrollment packet. **If you are requesting an equivalency or substitution, allow at least six weeks for the process to be completed.** All students must see an AVC counselor before they submit an enrollment packet. Counselors complete Educational Planning and Evaluation Forms by appointment only. Please note, counseling WILL NOT schedule students for an educational planning and evaluation of transcripts two weeks from the application deadline. Please do not wait until the last minute to schedule this appointment if you are trying to apply by the deadline.

All substitutions/equivalency petitions MUST be completed and approved prior too applying. If any courses are in progress OR if any substitutions/equivalencies have not been approved, your application will not be considered.

5. Applications are **due May 1st of each year**. Should the due date fall on a weekend, applications will be due the next business day immediately following.

6. Submit the items listed in numbers 1-4 to the Health and Safety Sciences Division office (UH 198, first floor, Uhazy Hall). Office hours are Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Enrollment packets may also be mailed.

7. Only official documents will be accepted. Faxed documents are not official and are not accepted. **INCOMPLETE PACKETS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.** Student applications will be ranked according to the multi screening criteria and enrollment will be based on the points system. Applications must be turned in by May 1st to be considered for the fall semester. NOTE: The Respiratory Care Board of California requires applicants for licensure to submit fingerprints for criminal background check and driver history. The Board may deny a license for reasons specified in the Business and Professions Code, sections 480 and sections 3733 through 3763. Completion of an educational program in respiratory therapy does not guarantee that a license will be granted by the Board.