

The Associates of Science in Respiratory Care program at Antelope Valley College is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care ([www.coarc.com](http://www.coarc.com))

Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care  
1248 Hardwood Road  
Bedford, TX 76021-4244  
(817) 283-2835

CoARC outcomes data is available at the following link:  
[www.coarc.com/47.html](http://www.coarc.com/47.html)

### Staff

To access faculty and staff, dial (661) 722-6300, then the 4-digit extension.

Program Advisement:

*position vacant* ext. 6402

Administrative Assistant:

Rosie Heasley ext. 6327

Department Chair:

Jeffrey Stephens ext. 6139

Faculty:

Jeffrey Stephens ext. 6139

Wendy Stout ext. 6150

Adjunct Faculty:

To access adjunct faculty voice mail, dial (661) 722-6300, then the 4-digit number.

Daena Carroll	V.M. 2037
Vanessa Lopez	2497
Komson Potipitak	2113
Ardella Tatro	2444
Andy Wojciechowski	2213

### Program Description

The respiratory care program serves the community by preparing students for entry-level 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.

Students who complete the associate degree have advance entry level and enhanced employability in the field of respiratory care. Respiratory therapists work in a wide variety of settings to evaluate, treat, and manage patients of all ages with respiratory illnesses and other cardiopulmonary disorders. The advanced respiratory therapist 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 advanced level respiratory therapist may be required to exercise

considerable independent judgment, under the supervision of a physician, in the respiratory care of patients.

Students must receive a minimum grade of “C” or better in all required core courses and the specific courses listed as program electives in order to qualify for the degree or certificate.

### Distinctive Features

The respiratory care program is the only program in the Antelope Valley that prepares students for entry-level practice in the field. For detailed information about respiratory care as a career, see the Web site for the Respiratory Care Board of California at [www.rcb.ca.gov](http://www.rcb.ca.gov).

### Career Options

Respiratory Therapist

### Program Learning Outcomes

1. Promote service excellence in clinical practice by pursuing lifelong professional development.
2. Synthesize learning from the sciences, mathematics, humanities, arts, and social sciences into professional practice.
3. Apply critical thinking and information technology as the foundations for clinical decision making and patient care.
4. Collaborate with the patient, significant others, and members of the health care team.
5. Practice as an advanced respiratory care practitioner within legal, ethical, professional, and regulatory standards of respiratory care practice.

### Certificate Program

Certificate not applicable.

### Associate Degree

Students who want to enter the respiratory care program must meet the following prerequisites:

1. Freedom from communicable disease as verified by a licensed physician or certified nurse practitioner. Other health conditions that could impair the student’s ability to perform the essential functions of a respiratory care student safely and competently will be examined on a case-by-case basis. The student should not have the physical examination until given the program forms by the Career Technical Education Division office. Final acceptance into the respiratory care program will be dependent on the results of the physical examination.
2. Completion of the program prerequisites:
 

BIOL 101, Gen. Biology	units 4
CHEM 101, Intro. Chemistry	5
BIOL 201, Gen. Human Anatomy	4
BIOL 202, Gen. Human Physiology	4

**NOTE:** The four prerequisite courses must be completed with a grade of “C” or better and grades must be posted on the official college transcript at time of submitting the “Verification of Prerequisites” form.

### ENROLLMENT PROCEDURE

All items in the process must be submitted together.

- Obtain the “Verification of Prerequisites” form from the Career Technical Education Division office.
- Submit one set of official college transcripts to the Career Technical Education Division office with the “Verification of Prerequisites” form. (Transcripts must be received in sealed, unopened envelopes.) If the student is transferring college courses from other colleges, the student should send a set of transcripts to the transcript office. It is the student’s responsibility to contact college(s) attended for official transcripts. The student should contact educational institutions early in the process.

**NOTE:** Foreign transcripts of college work must be evaluated for equivalency to United States education by a credentials evaluation service. Subject and grade listing are required for college course work. Course descriptions must be provided. A list of credentials evaluation services is available from the Office of Admissions and Records or the Career Technical Education Division office.

- Submit an Educational Planning and Evaluation Form provided by an AVC counselor. The counselor will evaluate progress toward graduation requirements and courses from other colleges for equivalency to AVC courses. Contact the Counseling Department for an appointment.

Submission of a “Verification of Prerequisites” packet does not guarantee a space in the program. Incomplete packets will not be considered.

### 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 Career Technical Education 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.

## Respiratory Care

### *Recommended Plan of Study*

<b>First Semester</b>	<b>units</b>
RCP 101, Fundamentals of Respiratory Care	6
RCP 102, Clinical Preparation for Respiratory Care	.5
ENGL 101/ENGL 101SL, Academic Composition	3
Course from GE requirement Area C	<u>3</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>12.5</b>

<b>Second Semester</b>	<b>units</b>
RCP 103, Concepts in Respiratory Care	6
RCP 104, Respiratory Care Pharmacology	3
MATH 102, Intermediate Algebra	4
COMM 103, Process of Communication	<u>3</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>

<b>Summer Session</b>	<b>units</b>
RCP 105, Fundamentals of Clinical Respiratory Care	<u>5</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>

<b>Third Semester</b>	<b>units</b>
RCP 201, Neonatal and Pediatric Respiratory Care	3
RCP 202, Fundamentals of Intensive Respiratory Care	4
RCP 203, Seminar and Practicum in Respiratory Care I	<u>6</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>

<b>Fourth Semester</b>	<b>units</b>
RCP 204, Seminar and Practicum in Respiratory Care II	9
PSY 101, General Psychology	3
Course from GE requirement Area F	<u>3</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

**TRANSFER STUDENTS:**  
 Students wanting to transfer from a respiratory care program in another college should contact the program director or dean for information.

## General Information

The student who completes the program is eligible for an Associate in Science degree.

Respiratory care courses include classroom instruction and supervised clinical experiences in hospitals and health care facilities in each of the four semesters and in the summer session between the second and third semesters of the program.

For successful completion of the program, a minimum grade of "C" is required in all courses of the program.

Students are responsible for purchasing textbooks, personal liability insurance, uniforms, course syllabi and health services. Students must provide their own transportation to and from the campus and the clinical sites.

Current expense sheets for the program are mailed to students with letters notifying them of eligibility to enroll in RCP 101.

Students will be required to have an examination by a licensed physician or certified nurse practitioner, once they are notified of eligibility to enroll in the first respiratory care course. The examination must show that the student is free from communicable disease and does not have a physical and/or mental illness that may endanger the health or safety of the patient. A drug screening will be required.

Impairment by controlled substances or alcohol during class or clinical experience violates college policy and compromises physical and emotional patient safety. Therefore, impairment by substance abuse or alcohol abuse that affects class or clinical performance is a reason for dismissal from the program.

Students with disabilities who anticipate that they may need reasonable accommodation to participate in the respiratory care program should contact the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) early in their academic career. The faculty and dean will work closely with OSD to determine if reasonable accommodations are required to perform essential job functions and identify effective accommodation that would not pose an undue hardship.

A student handbook is located at the following link: <http://www.avc.edu/academics/hs/respiratory>

If a student is unable to participate in the respiratory care program due to illness, the student must obtain a written statement from a primary health care provider stating that the student is in good health and able to participate in the respiratory care program without compromising the physical or emotional safety of any patient.

## Transfer

Not a transfer major.

## Prerequisite Completion

If a course is listed as a prerequisite for another course, that prerequisite course must be completed with a satisfactory grade in order to enroll in the next course. According to Title 5, Section 55200(d), a satisfactory grade is a grade of "A," "B," "C" or "P". Classes in which the Pass/No Pass option is available are indicated with an asterisk (\*) before the course title. See "Pass/No Pass Option" in the catalog for full explanation.

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## Respiratory Care Courses

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### RCP 101 FUNDAMENTALS OF RESPIRATORY CARE

6 units

8 hours weekly

(5 hours lecture, 3 hours clinic)

**Limitation on Enrollment:** Formal admission to Respiratory Care program.

**Prerequisite:** Completion of BIOL 101, BIOL 201, BIOL 202, and CHEM 101 with a grade of "C" or better, and Eligibility for ENGL 101/ENGL 101SL and MATH 102.

**Corequisite:** Concurrent enrollment in RCP102.

**Advisory:** Eligibility for College Level Reading.

This course introduces students to atmospheric physics, cardiopulmonary anatomy and physiology, blood gas chemistry, and ventilatory dynamics. Basic concepts of health and disease with emphasis on cardiopulmonary disorders, fundamentals of problem solving techniques, and safe handling of medical gases and equipment are studied. Students are introduced to selected respiratory care and diagnostic equipment, respiratory care techniques, and common problems encountered with respiratory care equipment. (AVC)

### RCP 102 CLINICAL PREPARATION FOR RESPIRATORY CARE

1 unit

36 hours total

**Limitation on Enrollment:** Formal admission to Respiratory Care program.

**Corequisite:** Concurrent enrollment in RCP 101.

This course provides an introduction to the basic concepts of clinical respiratory care as practiced in the acute care hospital. (AVC)

### RCP 103 CONCEPTS IN RESPIRATORY CARE

6 units

10 hours weekly

(4 hours lecture, 6 hours clinic)

**Limitation on Enrollment:** Formal admission to Respiratory Care program.

**Prerequisite:** Completion of RCP 101, RCP 102, BIOL 202, and ENGL 101/ENGL 101SL with a grade of "C" or better.

**Corequisite:** Concurrent enrollment in RCP 104.

This course provides the student with a survey of

cardiopulmonary diseases commonly encountered by the respiratory care practitioner. Students practice in the role of the respiratory care practitioner in clinical assessment, diagnosis and treatment of patients with cardio-pulmonary diseases in an acute care setting. (AVC)

### **RCP 104 RESPIRATORY CARE PHARMACOLOGY**

3 units

3 hours weekly

**Limitation on Enrollment:** Formal admission to Respiratory Care program.

**Prerequisite:** Completion of RCP 101, RCP 102, BIOL 202 and ENGL 101/ENGL 101SL with a grade of "C" or better.

**Corequisite:** Concurrent enrollment in RCP 103.

This course introduces the student to fundamental pharmacological concepts and applied pharmacology. Emphasis is placed on drug action and interaction as well as the practical aspects of routes of administration. National patient safety standards applying to pharmacology are discussed. (AVC)

### **RCP 105 FUNDAMENTALS OF CLINICAL RESPIRATORY CARE**

5 units

11 hours weekly

(2 hours lecture, 9 hours clinic)

**Limitation on Enrollment:** Formal admission to Respiratory Care program.

**Prerequisite:** Completion of RCP 103 and RCP 104 with a grade of "C" or better.

This course provides an introduction to mechanical ventilation concepts and selected therapeutic modalities. (AVC)

### **RCP 201 NEONATAL AND PEDIATRIC RESPIRATORY CARE**

3 units

3 hours weekly

**Limitation on Enrollment:** Formal admission to Respiratory Care program.

**Prerequisite:** Completion of RCP 105 with a grade of "C" or better.

**Corequisite:** Concurrent enrollment in RCP 202 and RCP 203.

This course provides an introduction to respiratory care of the neonatal and pediatric patient. Emphasis is placed upon growth and development, pathophysiology, clinical assessment, treatment, resuscitation, and mechanical ventilatory support. (AVC)

### **RCP 202 FUNDAMENTALS OF INTENSIVE RESPIRATORY CARE**

4 units

8 hours weekly

(2 hours lecture, 6 hours clinic)

**Limitation on Enrollment:** Formal admission to Respiratory Care program.

**Prerequisite:** Completion of RCP 105 with a grade of "C" or better.

**Corequisite:** Concurrent enrollment in RCP 201 and RCP 203.

This course provides theory and practice in respiratory care of the intensive care patient. Emphasis is placed upon the critical care environment, clinical assessment and monitoring, advanced airway management and continuous ventilatory support. (AVC)

### **RCP 203 SEMINAR AND PRACTICUM IN RESPIRATORY CARE I**

6 units

14 hours weekly

(2 hours lecture, 12 hours clinic)

**Limitation on Enrollment:** Formal admission to Respiratory Care program.

**Prerequisite:** Completion of RCP 105 with a grade of "C" or better.

**Corequisite:** Concurrent enrollment in RCP 201 and RCP 202.

This course provides theory and practice in respiratory care of the respiratory care patient. Emphasis is placed upon the perinatal and pediatric respiratory care patient, information competency and communication skills. Out-of-area travel may be required. (AVC)

### **RCP 204 SEMINAR AND PRACTICUM IN RESPIRATORY CARE II**

9 units

23 hours weekly

(2 hours lecture, 21 hours clinic)

**Limitation on Enrollment:** Formal admission to Respiratory Care program.

**Prerequisite:** Completion of RCP 201, RCP 202 and RCP 203 with a grade of "C" or better.

**Instructional materials fee** required for this course and must be paid at registration.

Historical, contemporary and technical issues germane to respiratory care as an allied health profession will be explored. Emphasis will be placed on issues relevant to current credentialing requirements. Preparation for postgraduate credentialing examination will be included in the course. (AVC)