

RESPIRATORY CARE

About This Program

Respiratory care practitioners use their knowledge and expertise under the direction of a physician to bring relief to patients with breathing impairments. The program covers knowledge of anatomy and physiology of cardiac and respiratory systems and biochemical and cellular functions of the human body, as well as knowledge of the general principles of pharmacology and cardiopulmonary drugs including knowledge of indications, doses, calculations, mechanisms of action and adverse effects. Students who successfully complete the RC program are eligible to sit for the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) credentialing exams¹.

Careers in Respiratory Care²

Practicing under the direction of a physician, respiratory therapists perform therapeutic respiratory treatments and diagnostic procedures. They are required to exercise considerable independent clinical judgment in the care of patients with breathing or other cardiopulmonary disorders. Respiratory therapists (respiratory therapy technicians) consult with physicians and other health care professionals to help develop and modify patient care plans.

There are a number of possible paths that you could follow as a qualified respiratory therapist. You can seek employment in health care settings, such as:

- Hospitals
- Physicians' offices
- Home care
- Nursing care facilities
- Assisted living facilities

Knowledge and Skills

Upon completion of the Respiratory Care program, graduates will be able to:

- Differentiate the skills and knowledge to perform entry-level respiratory care therapy in a variety of patient care settings.
- Utilize appropriate communication strategies to support data collection, intervention, and patient/client response.
- Demonstrate ethical behavior consistent with state laws and regulations related to privacy and safe practices.

¹ Carrington College prepares students to take appropriate certification and licensure exams related to their individual majors. The College does not guarantee students will successfully pass these exams or be certified or licensed as a result of completing the program. Credential preparation varies by location.


² Individuals seeking to enter this career field may be subject to screenings such as, but not limited to, criminal background checks and drug/alcohol testing prior to externship, to attain occupational licensure/certification or employment, and throughout their careers.

Technical Coursework

The Respiratory Care program covers medical terminology, patient assessment, a variety of respiratory therapies, ventilation concepts and applications and case analysis and management. Students gain hands-on experience at approved health care facilities during clinical rotations.

Students may also need to meet admission and/or progression requirements, including drug screening and background checks.

Carrington's academic catalog, available at carrington.edu/catalog, provides the most current and detailed program information, including admission and graduation requirements.



The program culminates in an Associate of Science Degree.

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Campus Based: Las Vegas, Phoenix and Pleasant Hill

Respiratory Care Campus-Based Program Requirements

TECHNICAL AND GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES		LECTURE HOURS	LAB HOURS	CLINICAL HOURS	SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS
GOV141 ¹	Nevada and US Constitutions (Las Vegas only)	45	0	0	3
BIO108 ¹	Anatomy and Physiology	45	0	0	3
MAT101 ¹	Principles of Mathematics	45	0	0	3
RC111	Introduction to Respiratory Care	75	30	0	6
RC110	Pharmacology	45	0	0	3
ENG101 ¹	English Writing and Composition	45	0	0	3
PSY101 ¹	Introduction to Psychology	45	0	0	3
RC120	Clinical Laboratory Practice	0	60	0	2
RC121	Fundamentals of Respiratory Care	45	30	0	4
RC122	Respiratory Care Pathophysiology	45	0	0	3
SOC101 ¹	Introduction to Sociology (Phoenix and Pleasant Hill only)	45	0	0	3
RC130	Ventilatory Principles of Respiratory Care	30	90	0	5
RC300	Clinical Practice I	0	0	135	3
RC310	Clinical Practice II	0	0	135	3
RC140	Critical Care Principles of Respiratory Care	30	30	0	3
RC141	Neonatal and Pediatric Respiratory Care	60	90	0	7
RC142	Specialized Respiratory Care	60	30	0	5
RC151	NBRC Review	30	0	0	2
RC150	Advanced Respiratory Care	60	90	0	7
RC500	Clinical Practice III	0	0	270	6
TOTAL FOR DEGREE		705	450	540	74

¹Online general education course

Approximate time to complete degree program: 80 weeks (not including breaks)

Accreditation and Disclosures

Carrington College is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACCJC/WASC), 428 J Street, Suite 400, Sacramento, CA 95814, (415) 506-0234, an institutional accrediting body recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation and the U.S. Department of Education.

Additional information about accreditation, including the filing of complaints against member institutions, can be found at accjc.org.

For comprehensive information on Carrington's accreditation and approvals, visit carrington.edu/accreditation. Visit carrington.edu/sci for important information on program outcomes.

Program availability varies by location. Carrington College reserves the right to update information as it becomes available. For the most updated information, visit carrington.edu.