

ADVANCED RESPIRATORY CARE

Provide critical care and therapy for patients with various respiratory conditions. Students are prepared to take the NBRC Registered Respiratory Therapist Exams (RRT). The curriculum includes off-site clinicals and on-site simulation labs. This program works in conjunction with Community College of Aurora so students can earn an Associates Degree in Respiratory Therapy.

implement advanced life support | treat medical emergencies | examine, monitor, and provide care for patients | collaborate with health care teams

Suggested Abilities

- English literacy in reading, writing, speaking, and listening
- Understand basic algebra
- Lift 25 pounds
- Sustained activity for prolonged periods (up to 12 hours at a time)

Prerequisites

- High school diploma or GED
- 26 credit hours of coursework earned at, or evaluated by, CCA (of which BIO2101 Human Anatomy & Physiology I is minimum requirement) prior to start
- Interview with program director

Class Hours

- Year 1: 8:00am - 3:00pm, Mon., Wed., & Fri.
- Year 2: 8:00am - 3:00pm, Mon., Wed.
- Clinical hours will be assigned by facility supervisor, students must have flexible availability.

SEMESTER 1

RCA 1005 Introduction to Respiratory Care

1 credit

Respiratory care history, current and future roles, professional organizations' functions and relationships, and relevant medical terminology.

RCA 1021 Fundamentals of Clinical Skills

3 credits

Essential clinical knowledge: universal precautions, infection control, asepsis, body mechanics, patient charting, communication, organization, and basic patient assessment.

RCA 1051 Cardiopulmonary Anatomy and Physiology

3 credits

Focuses on the structure of the pulmonary and cardiovascular systems. Addresses independent functional relationships.

RCA 2080 Internship I

5 credits

Focuses on the care and analysis of the noncritical patient.

SEMESTER 2

RCA 1032 Basic Techniques in Respiratory Care II

5 credits

Oxygen systems, humidity and aerosol therapy; spirometry, hyperinflation, and bronchial hygiene techniques; and introduces airway management skills.

RCA 1065 Pharmacology of Cardiopulmonary Care

3 credits

Study of the principles of pharmacology and the pharmacologic properties and application of drugs commonly employed in the treatment of cardiopulmonary disease.

RCA 1052 Cardiopulmonary Pathology

4 credits

Focuses on a study of the diseases affecting the lungs and pulmonary circulation. Emphasizes clinical manifestations and the relationship of pathology and treatment.

SEMESTER 3

RCA 2030 Critical Care I

2 credits

Advanced pulmonary physiology/pathophysiology, assessment and monitoring of respiratory failure, mechanical ventilation, emergency respiratory care, plus labs for clinical skills.

RCA 2051 Critical Care II

3 credits

Focuses on selected topic areas in critical care. Includes both technical and management concerns in the intensive care setting.

RCA 2052 Cardiopulmonary Diagnostics II

1 credit

Explores the procedures used in the diagnosis of pulmonary disease through pulmonary function testing.

RCA 2053 Perinatal & Pediatric Respiratory Care

3 credits

Focuses on the pathophysiology and technology that relates to the neonatal-pediatric patient.

RCA 2080 Internship II

4 credits

Focuses on the care and analysis of the critically ill patient. Rotations into specialty areas are carried out as the schedule permits.

SEMESTER 4

RCA 2032 Advanced Monitoring

2 credits

ICU patient monitoring and assessment using invasive and noninvasive data. Covers hemodynamic interpretation, bronchoscopy, sleep disorders, and research fundamentals.

RCA 2059 Advanced Medical Ventilation

3 credits

Explore mechanical ventilators, understand how they work, and adjust their thinking to begin mastering ventilator operation.

RCA 2083 Internship III

9 credits

Care and analysis of critically ill patients and specialty rotations, evaluating students' critical judgment in clinical problem-solving and understanding professional and departmental roles.

RCA 2089 Capstone

1 credit

A demonstrated culmination of learning within a given program of study.

Advanced Respiratory Care Certificate

A.A.S. In Respiratory Therapy from CCA

2 Years

52 Credit Hours

Accreditation: AAS Respiratory Therapy

The Respiratory Therapy Technology (AAS) Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care: CoARC www.coarc.com



GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS (COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF AURORA)

BIO 2101 Human Anatomy & Physiology I

BIO 2102 Human Anatomy & Physiology II

BIO 2104 Microbiology

CHE 1011 Introduction to Chemistry I with Lab

All 26 general education requirements from Community College of Aurora must be completed before the completion of the final semester in the Pickens program. It is strongly recommended to take general education courses prior to enrolling.

ENG 1021 English Composition

MAT 1140 Career Mathematics

PSY 1001 General Psychology



Information Revised DEC '25. Information subject to change. Course listings have been paraphrased on this flyer, for full course info please see Pickens Catalog. This certificate is eligible for Financial Aid. If you have further questions, please call (303)344-4910.