



american  
career  
college<sup>®</sup>

one change changes everything™

RT

Train For A Career In

# Respiratory Therapy

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ASSOCIATE OF OCCUPATIONAL  
SCIENCE DEGREE PROGRAM



We all dream of **success**.  
Our goal is to help you achieve it.



## Meet American Career College

With over 40 years of experience in healthcare training and more than 50,000 alumni in California, ACC is here to help you make your goals a reality.

Our classes are modeled after real-life scenarios, using the same medical tools and equipment you'll use on the job. That way, you're prepared to jump in on your very first day. We provide education focused on real-world skills and knowledge, giving our students the opportunity to change their lives for the better.

### What is a Respiratory Therapist?

Respiratory therapists treat and care for patients with breathing or other cardiopulmonary disorders. Their job can include tasks such as treating patients using oxygen or aerosol medications, placing oxygen masks or nasal cannulas, and adjusting the equipment as needed.<sup>1</sup>

Respiratory therapists can work in a variety of settings, including hospitals, outpatient care centers, and nursing care facilities.<sup>1</sup>

### Program Overview

ACC's Respiratory Therapy program aims to prepare you with both the skills and knowledge to work with patients who have cardiopulmonary disorders.

#### Respiratory Therapist Skillset



##### Monitor Vital Signs

Observe patients' responses to therapy and communicate changes with physicians.



##### Manage Equipment

Understand how to operate and teach others to use medical devices.



##### Patient Care

Learn to provide emergency care including conducting examinations and diagnostic tests.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/OccGuides/detail.aspx?Soccode=291126&Geography=0601000000>



## Respiratory Therapy Program

The Respiratory Therapy program is divided into eight 10-week quarters consisting of general education, anatomy and physiology, core respiratory therapy, and clinical practicum courses. Starting in the sixth quarter, students begin their clinical rotations and complete a total of 720 hours.

### General Education Courses:

#### **ANAT105** Clock Hours 60 | Quarter Credits 6 **Introduction to Anatomy and Physiology**

The purpose of this course is to understand the organization and general plan of the body and the importance of how the human body functions. This includes an introduction to the human body, chemical aspects of the life, cells, tissues, membranes, and the integumentary, skeletal, muscular, nervous, endocrine, cardiovascular, lymphatic, respiratory, digestive, urinary, and reproductive systems.

#### **ENGL100** Clock Hours 40 | Quarter Credits 4 **Written Communications I\***

This course provides instruction in the process of effective written communication for a variety of formats. It initially focuses on four basic areas of effective writing: unity, specifics, coherence, and grammar. The course will utilize reading, discussion, and personal insight to increase students' capacity to write simple paragraphs, formal essays, reports, and research projects. Students will be equipped with techniques that facilitate creative, academic, and professional written communication. Additionally, students will be given library activities to enhance research skills.

#### **MATH110** Clock Hours 40 | Quarter Credits 4 **College Mathematics I**

This course will cover mathematical logic, Boolean algebra, set theory, number abstractions, operations and their properties, monomials, polynomials, equations, and inequalities.

#### **PSYC100** Clock Hours 40 | Quarter Credits 4 **Introduction to Psychology\***

This course provides basic psychological concepts such as the nervous system, memory, intelligence, and development along with Freudian, humanistic, social, cognitive, and trait theories.

\*Courses delivered in a blended format, a combination of online and ground

# Core Respiratory Therapy and Other Courses:

## **CAREER100** Clock Hours 20 | Quarter Credits 1 **Career Advantage\***

Career Advantage is a course designed to prepare students to develop career planning and job search skills. Thorough, relevant job search preparation is required to compete successfully for jobs in today's market. To prepare the student, the course will address six areas: resumes, job search process, networking techniques in a job search, interview planning and preparation, communication, and workplace skills.

## **RCP100** Clock Hours 30 | Quarter Credits 3 **Introduction to Respiratory Science**

This course introduces students to applications of basic physics concepts relative to the field of respiratory therapy including mechanics of motion, work and energy, states of matter, gas laws, gas behavior, and fluid dynamics. Additionally, this course will introduce students to concepts related to the properties and generation of humidity and aerosols, manufacture, storage, handling, transport of medical gases and the design of devices to regulate and deliver medical gases.

## **RCP100-L** Clock Hours 20 | Quarter Credits 1 **Introduction to Respiratory Science Lab**

This laboratory course introduces students to experimentation with and application of basic physics concepts relative to the field of respiratory therapy including mechanics of motion, work and energy, states of matter, gas laws, gas behavior, and fluid dynamics. Additionally, this course will introduce students to concepts related to the properties and generation of humidity and aerosols, safe and proper selection, assembly, troubleshooting, handling and transport of medical gases as well as devices to regulate and deliver medical gases.

## **RCP200** Clock Hours 40 | Quarter Credits 4 **Cardiopulmonary Anatomy and Physiology**

This course is a focused study of cardiopulmonary anatomy & physiology. Discussions will center on a systematic understanding of the position, function and interplay of structures within the respiratory, cardiovascular and renal systems as well as control of breathing, gas exchange, acid-base physiology, cardiac electrophysiology, and fluid balance. Included in this course will be interpretation of clinical laboratory findings, proper techniques for conducting patient assessment, and documentation of the resultant clinical findings.

## **RCP250** Clock Hours 30 | Quarter Credits 3 **Respiratory Procedures I**

This course introduces students to basic respiratory care treatments and support modalities; set-up, use and troubleshooting of equipment; concepts related to the therapeutic administration of oxygen and aerosol therapy in respiratory care; and concepts and techniques surrounding sampling and proper handling and transport of arterial blood gases. Focus is placed on adherence to techniques ensuring appropriate

infection control practices and patient safety. Students will learn to conduct physical and clinical exams and patient assessments to determine and develop appropriate and effective treatment plans.

## **RCP250-L** Clock Hours 20 | Quarter Credits 1 **Respiratory Procedures I Lab**

This laboratory course introduces students to the application of non-invasive respiratory care treatments and support modalities, set-up, use, and troubleshooting required equipment.

## **RCP300** Clock Hours 30 | Quarter Credits 3 **Respiratory Pharmacology**

This course introduces students to the study of pharmacological principles related to the treatment of patients with cardiopulmonary disease. The course includes a study of the anatomy and basic function of the central and peripheral nervous systems, principles of drug action, the basic methods of drug administration, standard drug calculations, and the effects of drugs on particular body systems. Inhaled bronco-active aerosols and other agents commonly employed in the care of the cardiopulmonary patient are discussed.

## **RCP370** Clock Hours 40 | Quarter Credits 4 **Adult Cardiopulmonary Pathophysiology I**

This course begins with a study of the fundamental techniques and protocols required to conduct a thorough patient assessment. Included in this course is a discussion on the various non-invasive and invasive tests that are involved in determining the presence of various cardiopulmonary diseases and disorders. Etiology, clinical signs and symptoms, diagnosis, management and prognosis of acute and chronic pulmonary diseases will be the major emphasis of this course.

## **RCP330** Clock Hours 40 | Quarter Credits 4 **Respiratory Procedures II**

This course is a continuation of Respiratory Procedures I and introduces students to advanced respiratory care treatments and support modalities, set-up, use, and troubleshooting required equipment, and the RT's role in performing and assisting with special procedures. Focus is placed on achieving understanding of the application of specific modalities to clinical scenarios, assessing effectiveness of treatment, modification of treatment based on clinical indication, and patient response and operating principles of equipment used.

## **RCP330-L** Clock Hours 20 | Quarter Credits 1 **Respiratory Procedures II Lab**

This laboratory course introduces students to set-up, use, and troubleshooting of required equipment, and the RT's role in performing and assisting with special procedures.

## **RCP450** Clock Hours 30 | Quarter Credits 3 **Cardiopulmonary Diagnostic Testing and Pulmonary Rehabilitation**

This course is a study of pulmonary diagnostic testing techniques and interpretation for procedures occurring in the PFT laboratory, at the bedside, special procedures imaging departments, pathology, and clinical laboratory departments. An emphasis will be placed on how information from various diagnostic tests and studies (such as pulmonary function testing and clinical lab findings) are used to determine the presence, extent, and progression of lung disease and abnormality and also how these findings are utilized to develop an ongoing plan of care for the patient.

## **RCP450-L** Clock Hours 20 | Quarter Credits 1 **Cardiopulmonary Diagnostic Testing and Pulmonary Rehabilitation Lab**

This laboratory course introduces students to pulmonary diagnostic testing techniques and interpretation for procedures occurring in the PFT laboratory and at the bedside.

## **RCP470** Clock Hours 40 | Quarter Credits 4 **Adult Cardiopulmonary Pathophysiology II**

This course begins with a study of the fundamental techniques and protocols required to conduct a thorough patient assessment. Included in this course is a discussion on the various non-invasive and invasive tests that are involved in determining the presence of various cardio-pulmonary diseases and disorders. Etiology, clinical signs and symptoms, diagnosis, management and prognosis of acute and chronic pulmonary diseases will be the major emphasis of this course.



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## **RCP500** Clock Hours 60 | Quarter Credits 6

### **Mechanical Ventilation I**

This course is a study of the basic principles of mechanical ventilation, the effects of positive pressure ventilation, and classification of mechanical ventilators. Conventional modes of ventilation are compared and contrasted with attention to waveform analysis within these modes. A case study approach is utilized to discuss concepts of initiation of mechanical ventilation, appropriate ventilator management, weaning criteria, determination of appropriateness to wean, and clinical application of pharmacotherapy for the mechanically ventilated patient. Non-invasive positive pressure ventilation is also addressed.

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## **RCP500-L** Clock Hours 20 | Quarter Credits 1

### **Mechanical Ventilation I Lab**

This laboratory course introduces students to the basic principles of mechanical ventilation (both invasive and non-invasive), selection, assembly and testing of the equipment. Additionally, students will practice determining initial ventilator settings, clinical application of pharmacotherapy, assessing appropriateness to wean, and discontinuation of mechanical ventilation.

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## **RCP550** Clock Hours 40 | Quarter Credits 4

### **Introduction to Clinical Practicum**

This course prepares students to begin training in the clinical environment. Topics in this course will include professional ethics and communication skills for students; orientation to charting techniques; HIPAA training; and the Joint Commission topics related to patient safety initiatives and professionalism in the healthcare environment. Focus is also placed on issues surrounding universal precautions, blood-borne pathogen safety, infection control, dealing with death and dying, and diverse populations. During this course all students will complete pre-clinical health exams, immunizations, TB and drug screenings. Additionally, each student will receive certification in American Heart Association healthcare provider CPR and Fire Safety Training.

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## **RCP600** Clock Hours 40 | Quarter Credits 4

### **Neonatal/Pediatric Cardiopulmonary Pathophysiology**

This course is a study of fetal development of the cardiopulmonary system, respiratory care of neonatal and pediatric patients, as well as causes and treatment of respiratory illnesses. Students will gain an understanding of patient evaluation, monitoring, and therapeutic modalities seen with common neonatal and pediatric disorders, including respiratory distress syndrome, intracranial hemorrhage, pulmonary hypertension of the newborn, common respiratory infections in the infant and pediatric population, and pediatric trauma.

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## **RCP600-L** Clock Hours 20 | Quarter Credits 1

### **Neonatal/Pediatric Cardiopulmonary Pathophysiology Lab**

This course is a study of fetal development of the cardiopulmonary system, respiratory care of neonatal and pediatric patients, as well as causes and treatment of respiratory illnesses. Students will gain an understanding of patient evaluation, monitoring and therapeutic modalities seen with common neonatal and pediatric disorders, including respiratory distress syndrome, intracranial hemorrhage, pulmonary hypertension of the newborn, common respiratory infections in the infant and pediatric population and pediatric trauma.

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## **RCP700** Clock Hours 60 | Quarter Credits 6

### **Advanced Concepts**

This course is a study of information gathering techniques, critical decision-making processes, clinical case applications and development of cardiopulmonary care plans. An emphasis will be placed on interpretation of clinical lab findings, imaging, pulmonary function testing, management of cardiopulmonary pathophysiology, and application of advanced cardiopulmonary therapies.

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## **RTCP210** Clock Hours 240 | Quarter Credits 8

### **Clinical Practicum I**

This course is an introduction to the clinical environment and begins with an orientation to the hospital/respiratory department in policies, procedures, equipment storage location, and handling. Students will gain hands-on experience in infection control policy and procedures, selection and assembly of basic respiratory care equipment for the purposes of administering oxygen therapy, humidity and aerosol therapy, and bronchoactive aerosol therapy. Emphasis will be placed on developing skills of patient assessment, observation, modification of therapy, development of patient care plans, and documentation to the patient care record. Students will gain competency in the areas of non-invasive pulmonary hygiene, lung expansion therapy, and airway clearance techniques. The student will also develop skills in patient/family education on a variety of therapies and topics in respiratory care. During this practicum, students will complete chart reviews in order to demonstrate familiarity with locating and collecting patient data from the medical record. Students will also present a case study in order to demonstrate the integration of didactic theory with clinical skills.

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## **RTCP212** Clock Hours 240 | Quarter Credits 8

### **Clinical Practicum II**

This course is a continuation of the clinical experience from RTCP210 and begins with an orientation to the hospital/respiratory department in policies, procedures, equipment storage location, and handling. Students will gain competency in the areas of diagnostic testing carried out in the Pulmonary Function Laboratory, CT, MRI and Radiology departments. The student will also develop skills necessary to safely transport patients between departments within the hospital environment. Students will practice skills necessary to safely obtain arterial blood gases, transport and analyze samples, and interpret and report results. Students will practice skills necessary to safely secure the patient airway and obtain arterial blood gases from indwelling arterial catheters. Students will present a case study by the end of this practicum in order to demonstrate the integration of didactic theory with clinical skills.

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## **RTCP214** Clock Hours 240 | Quarter Credits 8

### **Clinical Practicum III**

This course is a continuation of the clinical experience from RTCP 212 and begins with an orientation to the hospital/respiratory department in terms of policies, procedures, equipment storage location, and handling. Students will gain competency in the management of critically ill patients including adult, neonatal, and pediatric patients. Students will practice skills necessary to safely place and secure the patient airway, to obtain arterial blood gases via arterial puncture and from indwelling arterial catheters, to provide patient/family education on a variety of therapies and topics in respiratory care, and to communicate effectively within to the members of the patient care team. Students will gain competency in the initiation, management, and weaning of the critically ill patient from a wide range of ventilator support. Students will present a clinical research paper by the end of this practicum in order to demonstrate the integration of didactic theory, clinical experience, and research skills in a written format.

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## **RCP800** Clock Hours 60 | Quarter Credits 6

### **Board Review**

This course is intended as a final preparation for graduation and attempting the NBRC exams (both TMC and CSE). Students will review subject matter in all major core areas of the respiratory care program. Summary assessment exams will be administered as required, prior to a final exit examination.

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**PROGRAM TOTAL:** 1580 Clock Hours  
103 Quarter Credits

\*Courses delivered in a blended format, a combination of online and ground

“ RT is just so rewarding. I get to be right there at patients’ bedside, helping them get through one of the hardest times in their lives. ”

- MARCEL H. 2019

Start Your **Change** Today



## Accreditation

The Respiratory Therapy (Associate of Occupational Science) programs in Orange County and Ontario are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC). CoARC 264 Precision Blvd., Telford, TN 37690; Phone (817) 283-2835 / Fax (817) 510-1063 / [www.coarc.com](http://www.coarc.com). The Los Angeles campus is currently in the process of seeking CoARC accreditation for a respiratory care program. However, American Career College, Los Angeles can provide no assurance that accreditation will be granted by the CoARC.

### Student Outcome Information

#### Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES)

Los Angeles: New program

Orange County, Ontario: <https://americancareercollege.edu/legal/abhес>

#### California Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (BPPE)

Los Angeles: New program

Orange County: <https://americancareercollege.edu/uploads/School-Performance-Fact-Sheets-Orange-County-Campus.pdf>

Ontario: <https://americancareercollege.edu/uploads/School-Performance-Fact-Sheets-Ontario-Campus.pdf>

### Program Costs

<https://americancareercollege.edu/catalog/current/financial-information/program-tuition-and-fees/degree-programs-tuition>

O*Net Occupation Titles	SOC Code	Links to Occupational Profiles on O*Net
Respiratory Therapists: Respiratory Therapist (RT), Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT), Respiratory Care Practitioner (RCP), Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT), Clinical Coordinator of Respiratory Therapy, Director of Cardiopulmonary Services, Respiratory Therapy Director, Staff Respiratory Therapist	29-1126.00	<a href="http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/29-1126.00">http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/29-1126.00</a>
Respiratory Therapy Technicians: Respiratory Therapy Technician, Certified Respiratory Therapy Technician (CRTT), Respiratory Technician, Registered Pulmonary Function Technologist	29-2099.00	<a href="https://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/29-2099.00">https://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/29-2099.00</a>

To obtain a list of the objective sources of information used to substantiate the salary disclosures, please refer to the California Employment Development Department website at: <https://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/Occupational-Guides.html>

ACC provides career guidance and assistance but cannot guarantee employment. Programs lengths vary by schedule and session. The opinion is the individual's sole opinion and not necessarily representative of that of the school, any instructor or any other student.

## Location

Los Angeles, Orange County, and Ontario campuses

## Duration

Approximately 20 months

## Schedule

Combination of campus and online instruction. Schedule will vary by quarter.

## Enrollment Requirements

Some of the admissions requirements include:

- » Must be at least 18 or have a parent's or guardian's signature
- » Must have a high school diploma or the equivalent
- » Must take and pass entrance exams

Be sure to speak with an admissions advisor to get all the necessary information to apply for the Respiratory Therapy program.

## Instructional Equipment

Here are some of the exciting tools you will get hands-on experience with: adult, pediatric, and infant high fidelity simulation manikins, ABG machine, airway heart and lung models, ABG arms, mechanical ventilators, V60 and vision BiPAP's, intubation heads, infant omnibed, PFT and ECG machines, tracheotomy trays, humidity, lung expansion, airway management, and secretion clearance equipment for skill practice

**[americancareercollege.edu](http://americancareercollege.edu)**  
**1-888-thinkACC (844-6522)**

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