

Essential Functions

Students admitted to the Respiratory Care program must demonstrate sufficient physical and emotional health to participate in academic and laboratory activities and to practice clinically with the public in a safe and effective manner. Students with disabilities are expected to perform all the essential functions of the program with or without reasonable accommodation. The College will work with the student and the EAC to provide, if possible, reasonable accommodations. While the College will make every effort to work with our students with disabilities to accommodate their disability related needs, it is important to note we are not required to provide requested accommodations that would fundamentally alter the essential functions, technical standards, or academic requirements of the Respiratory Care Program, or result in an undue financial or administrative burden.

Physical Demands:

Program applicants/current respiratory care students must be able to

1. Lift and carry fifty pounds. Must be able to walk, run, stoop, and crouch for 8- 12 hour shifts.
2. Protect a patient when the patient is standing and ambulating on all surfaces with or without the use of assistive devices, including canes, crutches and walkers.
3. To safely move a patient weighing more than 100 pounds from one surface to another using the appropriate level of help.

Motor Skills:

Program applicants/current respiratory care students must possess sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other evaluation procedures.

Program applicants/current respiratory care students must:

1. Be able to execute motor movements including the physical/dexterity strength to stand and ambulate and possess the physical/dexterity strength to lift and transfer patients.
2. Have the physical strength to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
3. Possess coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and functional use of the senses of touch, hearing and vision.
4. Possess the ability to engage in procedures involving grasping, pushing, pulling, holding, manipulating, extending and rotating.
5. Possess gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective respiratory therapy treatment.

Example:

Use sophisticated equipment and patient manipulation; mechanical ventilators,

oximeters, analyzers, metering devices, artificial airways, obtain blood and sputum samples.

Sensory/Observational Skills:

Program applicants/current respiratory care students must be able to observe patients and be able to obtain an appropriate medical history directly from the patient or guardian. Such observation requires the functional use of vision, hearing, and other sensory modalities. They must have visual perception, which includes depth and acuity.

Communication Skills:

Program applicants/current respiratory care students must:

1. Be able to communicate in English effectively and sensitively with patients. In addition, they must be able to communicate in English in oral and hand written form with faculty, allied personnel, and peers in the classroom, laboratory, and clinical settings.
2. Be sensitive to multicultural and multilingual needs.
3. Have the ability to complete reading assignments and search and evaluate the literature.
4. Be able to complete written assignments and maintain written records.
5. Have proficient verbal skills to communicate with patients, physicians, & staff, and patient's family members.

Intellectual/Conceptual, Integrative, and Qualitative Skills:

Program applicants/current respiratory care students must have the ability to measure, calculate reason, analyze, and synthesize data. Problem solving and diagnosis, including obtaining, interpreting, and documenting data, are critical skills demanded of respiratory therapists which require all of these intellectual abilities.

They must have the ability to learn to use computers for searching, recording, storing, and retrieving information.

Behavioral/Social Skills and Professionalism:

Program applicants/current respiratory care students must:

1. Demonstrate attributes of empathy, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest, and motivation.
2. Possess the emotional well-being required for use of their intellectual abilities, the exercise of sound judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities regarding the evaluation and care of patients, and the development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients.
3. Be able to adapt to ever changing environments, display flexibility, and learn to function in the face of uncertainties and stresses, which are inherent in the educational process, as well as the clinical problems of many patients.
4. Be able to maintain professional conduct and appearance, maintain client confidentiality and operate within the scope of practice.
5. Have the ability to be assertive, delegate responsibilities appropriately, and function as part of a medical team. Such abilities require organizational skills necessary to meet deadlines and manage time.

Environmental Exposure:

Respiratory care students will face exposure to:

1. Blood and/or body fluid.
2. Infectious media and agents, toxins, and medications.

These essential functions are not to be construed as an exhaustive list, but rather examples of skills or duties that are required

