



Dear Prospective Respiratory Student:

This packet was designed to provide you with information about the Health Science programs, the profession of Respiratory Care, and the Respiratory Care Program at Brookdale Community College. It includes information about the nature of the work respiratory therapists do, job outlook, earnings, the Respiratory Care admission process, and the curriculum requirements for the Respiratory Care Program.

Before considering admission to the program, we suggest you take time to investigate the profession. Observing respiratory therapists working, speaking with respiratory care professionals, visiting the College Library, or searching the Internet may help you to better understand the job requirements and the program.

Any questions regarding admission to the Brookdale Community College Respiratory Care Program should be addressed to [healthscienceadmissions@brookdalecc.edu](mailto:healthscienceadmissions@brookdalecc.edu). Questions about prerequisites and courses should be directed to a counselor (Student Development Specialist) at 732.224.2555. If you have specific questions about the field of Respiratory Care or wish to observe a professional at a local hospital, you may contact Carol Schedel or Joanne Napolitano.

Good luck with your decision.

Sincerely,

Carol Schedel, MA, RRT  
Program Director  
732.224.2692

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## HEALTH SCIENCE PROGRAMS

The Health Science programs at Brookdale Community College include the Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Health Information Technology, Medical Laboratory Technology, Nursing, Radiologic Technology, and Respiratory Care programs. There is also access to Dental Assisting and Dental Hygiene programs through a cooperative agreement with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

Each of the Brookdale Health Science programs as well as the Dental Hygiene Program leads to an Associate in Applied Science degree and is designed for immediate employment upon graduation. However, many students choose to continue in a bachelor's degree program. Some of the schools where Brookdale graduates have enrolled include Rutgers University, Monmouth University, Georgian Court College, Johns Hopkins University, and Seton Hall University. The Dental Assisting Program leads to a certificate.

So that students are prepared at an entry level in their field of choice, college laboratory and clinical laboratory experiences are integrated into each of the health science programs. Students have the opportunity to practice skills in the college laboratory and then apply these skills to patient care in a hospital setting.

Students enrolling in these programs must meet specific admission requirements in addition to applying to the College. Health clearance from a physician or an advanced practice nurse is required before the student can participate in clinical laboratory experiences.

# RESPIRATORY CARE

## Nature of the Work

You can live without water for a few days and without food for a few weeks. But without oxygen, you will suffer brain damage within a few minutes and die after about 9 minutes. Respiratory therapists, also known as respiratory care practitioners, evaluate, treat, and care for patients with breathing disorders.

Respiratory therapists treat all types of patients, ranging from premature infants whose lungs are not fully developed to elderly people whose lungs are diseased. They provide temporary relief to patients with chronic asthma or emphysema and emergency care for patients who suffered heart failure or a stroke, or are victims of drowning or shock. Respiratory therapists most commonly use oxygen or oxygen mixtures, chest physiotherapy, and aerosol medications.

Therapists may place an oxygen mask or nasal cannula on a patient and set the oxygen flow at the level prescribed by a physician to increase a patient's concentration of oxygen. Therapists also connect patients who cannot breathe on their own to ventilators, which deliver pressurized oxygen into the lungs. They insert a tube into a patient's trachea, or windpipe; connect the tube to the ventilator; and set the rate, volume, and oxygen concentration of the of the oxygen mixture entering the patient's lungs.

Respiratory therapists perform techniques of bronchial hygiene to remove mucus from their lungs to make it easier for them to breathe. For example, during surgery, anesthesia depresses respiration, so chest physiotherapy may be prescribed to help get the patient's lungs back to normal and prevent congestion. Chest physiotherapy also is used on patients suffering from lung diseases that cause mucus to collect in the lungs, such as cystic fibrosis.

Therapists also test the capacity of the lungs and analyze the oxygen and carbon dioxide concentration as well as the potential of hydrogen (pH), a measure of the acidity or alkalinity level of the blood. To measure lung capacity, therapists have patients breathe into an instrument that measures the volume and flow of oxygen during inhalation and exhalation. To analyze oxygen, carbon dioxide, and pH levels, therapists draw an arterial blood sample, place it in a blood analyzer, and relay the results to a physician.

## Job Outlook

Employment of respiratory therapists is expected to grow by 21 percent from 2008 to 2018, much faster than the average for all occupation. Growth in demand also will result from the expanding role of respiratory therapists in case management, disease prevention, emergency care, and the early detection of pulmonary disorders.

## Earnings

In Monmouth County, a full-time salaried respiratory therapist can expect to start around \$20 per hour.

## **LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR HEALTH SCIENCE GRADUATES**

Graduates of the Health Science programs who wish to apply for a license to practice must answer questions on the licensing application related to criminal history. These questions can be accessed on the respective discipline Web site under the NJ Division of Consumer Affairs.

### **CRIMINAL HISTORY BACKGROUND CHECKS**

Clinical agencies mandate criminal history background checks for all students engaged in patient care, and each student must undergo a criminal history background check, which requires a valid Social Security number. These checks are conducted by an external vendor, and the information is sent to the College and to clinical agencies. Agency personnel will evaluate the information they receive and, in their sole discretion, make the final determination as to each student's ability to continue to engage in patient care in their agency. If a student is denied clinical placement by any clinical agency due to criminal history information, that student will be dropped from the program.

# **ALLIED HEALTH RESPIRATORY CARE ADMISSION PROCESS**

## **Introduction**

The objective of the admission process is to admit qualified applicants to the Allied Health Programs. A rolling admission process is used for this program; that is, completed applications are reviewed on an ongoing basis, and qualified applicants who have completed the entire admission process will be admitted until each class reaches capacity. When there are more applicants than seats for each class, a waiting list is kept in the Science & Health Science Division office.\* It is the responsibility of each applicant to verify his/her status on the waiting list with the Health Science Associate and to notify registration and the Science & Health Science Division office if there is any change in address.

Requirements for admission to the Respiratory Care program include:

1. Graduation from high school or a GED.
2. Completion of the Brookdale application.
3. Completion of the Respiratory Care application.
4. Completion of all Basic Skills courses as determined by the College Basic Skills Placement Test.
5. Completion of high school biology and chemistry or the equivalent college courses.
6. Achievement of passing scores on the Health Science entrance examination.
7. Attendance at an Information Session.
8. Completion of HESC 105, Medical Terminology prior to admission.

Two (2) copies of high school/college transcripts are required. An official copy is to be sent directly to the Admissions Office. The other copy should be brought with the student for the meeting with the counselor (Student Development Specialist). All communication with the Admissions Office should be addressed to:

Beth Stryker or Lynn Hodgetts  
Office of Admissions  
Brookdale Community College  
765 Newman Springs Road  
Lincroft, New Jersey 07738

[healthscienceadmissions@brookdalecc.edu](mailto:healthscienceadmissions@brookdalecc.edu)

## Application Process

1. **Complete a College application.**
2. **Complete a Respiratory Care application.** The Respiratory Care application should be returned to the Admissions Office as quickly as possible. The date that this application is received in the Admissions Office will determine in part (see #9 below) your placement on the waiting list. Tech Prep high school students may submit this application during their junior year if they are enrolled
3. **Take the Basic Skills Placement Test.** When you file a College application, you will automatically be scheduled for the Basic Skills Placement Test. This test is used to determine readiness for college-level courses. It includes English, mathematics, reading, and algebra. Students who do not pass a section(s) of the test must take the appropriate developmental course(s).

If a student has completed at least 24 college level credits including English composition and a mathematics course higher than elementary Algebra with a grade of “C” or better from an accredited college, this test may be waived. In order to obtain a waiver, contact the Admissions Office. For high school students, the Basic Skills Placement Test may be taken in the senior year.

4. **Meet with Advising and Counseling.** Students will be given information about meeting with a counselor (Student Development Specialist) after taking the Basic Skills Placement Test. Within one week, it is the student’s responsibility to make an appointment with a counselor (Student Development Specialist) to have the Basic Skills Placement Test results interpreted and to select appropriate courses. Tech Prep high school students should schedule a meeting with their Brookdale counselor (Student Development Specialist) before November of their senior year.
5. **Complete high school biology and chemistry** or equivalent college courses.
6. **Take the Health Science entrance examination for Allied Health students.** When all Basic Skills courses and high school biology and chemistry, or equivalent college courses, are complete and grades posted to your transcript, contact Beth Stryker or Lynn Hodgetts at [healthscienceadmissions@brookdalecc.edu](mailto:healthscienceadmissions@brookdalecc.edu) to get a pass for the Health Science entrance examination. All of the above steps must be completed before the Health Science entrance examination can be taken.

Students not achieving the cut-off score (50 percent composite score) on the Health Science entrance examination for Allied Health students should contact their counselor (Student Development Specialist) as soon as possible. Students may retest after a month; however, it is recommended that any courses which could improve test results be completed prior to re-testing. High school students may take the Basic Skills Placement Test after the Health Science entrance examination has been scheduled.

7. **Attend an Information Session.** Once you have successfully completed the above steps you will be scheduled for an Information Session. Attendance at the Information Session is a **mandatory step** in the admission process. The purposes of the session are to provide the students with more specific information about the program and to provide an opportunity for students to raise questions and share concerns. During the Information Session, students will complete a questionnaire which will be used by the Science & Health Science Division office. High school students may attend the Information Session during their senior year.
8. **Read the Criminal History Background Check Information on Page 4.** Criminal history clearance is required.
9. **Be placed on the waiting list.** After you have attended the Information Session your name will be placed on the waiting list. Placement on the waiting list will be prioritized by

information session and then by the date the Respiratory Care Program application is received in the Admissions Office.

10. **Complete HESC 105.** Respiratory Care students must complete HESC 105, Medical Terminology, before admission.

### **Admission into the Respiratory Care Program**

1. **Receive an acceptance letter and an Intent to Enroll form.** Students will be notified by mail of acceptance to the Respiratory Care program. At that time the student will receive an Intent to Enroll form.
2. **Return the Intent to Enroll form.** If a student does not return the Intent to Enroll form, he/she will be dropped from the list and must reapply for admission. The Intent to Enroll form **must** be returned to the Science & Health Science Division office within the time specified on the form. **No student's admission is processed until the Intent to Enroll Form with the starting date identified has been received in the Science & Health Science Division office.**
3. **Register.** No student may register for Respiratory Care courses without a registration pass and approval from a counselor (Student Development Specialist).

### **Deferrals**

1. Students may defer admission to the Respiratory Care program twice without losing their place on the waiting list. If a student requests a third deferment, the student's name will be placed at the end of the waiting list.
2. Students who drop their course less than 30 days prior to the first day of class will be placed at the end of the waiting list.
3. Students who defer admission more than 30 days prior to the first day of class will maintain their place on the waiting list if it is their first or second deferment.

### **Transfer of General Education Courses**

There is no time limit on the transferability of general education courses. Transfer courses must come from an accredited institution.

### **STARS Admission**

Two seats per year are held for NJ STARS students who have met the admission requirements. Students who refuse an offer of admission will have one additional opportunity for admission before they are placed at the end of the waiting list.

### **Tech Prep Admission**

Three seats per year are held for Tech Prep students who have met the admission requirements and who have graduated from high school within the past three years. High school students who are in the Monmouth County Tech Prep Program may submit an application during their junior or senior year if biology has been successfully completed, the student is currently enrolled in chemistry, and the Health Science entrance examination has been scheduled. The Basic Skills Placement Test is taken during the second term of the senior year. Students who refuse an offer of admission will be placed at the end of the waiting list. High school graduates may, however, advance through the standard rolling admissions process at any time.

# PHILOSOPHY

The faculty believes that Respiratory Therapy is the application of scientific knowledge and principles to clinical problems of respiratory care. It involves a problem-solving approach to the treatment, management, diagnostic evaluation, and care of patients across the lifespan.

The respiratory therapist assumes primary responsibility for all respiratory care modalities. A respiratory therapist may be required to exercise considerable independent clinical judgment in the respiratory care of patients. Accountable for providing care that meets legal and ethical standards, the respiratory therapist functions as a member of the health care team and collaborates with other disciplines.

Respiratory illness occurs when there is a change or compromise in the cardiopulmonary status. Respiratory care returns individuals to cardiopulmonary health or enables them to function optimally. Respiratory care occurs in many settings, including hospitals, long-term-care facilities, laboratories, and the home.

Congruent with the philosophy and goals of Brookdale Community College, the faculty also believes the educational process accounts for differences in student aptitude and cognitive style, clearly specifies expected competencies, and provides objective measures of achievement by which student progress can be assessed and outcomes ensured.

Based on these fundamental premises, the respiratory therapy program at Brookdale Community College strives to provide learning experiences that are student centered and competency based. A student-centered curriculum recognizes that differences in cognitive styles among students necessitate access to alternate learning resources beyond those traditionally provided and understands that faculty members are skilled facilitators and managers of the learning process. The faculty believe that learning is a lifelong process during which the learner continues personal and professional growth.

Finally, respiratory therapy education for technical practice is best accomplished in the community college. This provides the opportunity for traditional and non-traditional students to pursue an associate-degree education in respiratory therapy. The environment for this education should be rich in resources and services that promote personal as well as professional growth.

## **Program Learning Outcomes**

1. Assess, analyze, implement, and evaluate respiratory care.
2. Perform respiratory quality control activities.
3. Apply basic principles of management in the care of groups of patients.
4. Exhibit therapeutic communication skills.
5. Incorporate ethical and legal considerations into the respiratory care plan.
6. Practice as a member of a diverse interdisciplinary healthcare team.
7. Continue personal and professional growth.
8. Incorporate principles from the social sciences, biologic sciences, and humanities into their practice.
9. Practice within the limits and scope of a licensed respiratory therapist.

## **Program Outcomes**

1. Graduate students who perceive that their practice reflects the program competencies (cut scores of 3 or more on the graduate survey).
2. Graduate students who indicate satisfaction (cut scores of 3 or more on the graduate survey) with their preparation.
3. Graduate students whose employers indicate satisfaction (cut scores of 3 or more on the employer survey) with their preparation.
4. Graduate classes that achieve a program completion rate of 70%.
5. Graduate classes that achieve a 70% job placement rate.
6. Graduate classes that pass the entry-level examination on first testing with an aggregate pass rate of 80% or above.
7. Maintain full accreditation by the Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (COARC).

## **Program Purposes**

1. To prepare graduates possessing knowledge and skills required for the role of a registered respiratory therapist.
2. To provide students with a program of learning that fulfills the requirements of an associate degree in respiratory therapy.
3. To help provide for the health care needs of the community by graduating individuals eligible to practice respiratory therapy.
4. To provide a broad-based humanistic experience for the purpose of effecting self actualization and ongoing personal development as a health care participant and a member of the community.

# Respiratory Care Program A.A.S. Degree

This program prepares students for entry-level positions in respiratory care. Students work with patients in the treatment, management and control of problems and abnormalities associated with the cardiopulmonary system. Graduates work closely with patients, doctors, and nurses to provide diagnostic testing, therapeutics, education, rehabilitation, monitoring, life support and other specialized methods of treatment. Clinical learning experiences are required of all students. Upon completion of the program students are eligible to sit for the National Board of Respiratory Care (NBRC) Examination. After successful completion of this examination and application to the Respiratory Care Board, the graduate is also eligible for state licensure as a Certified Respiratory Therapist. Once licensed, graduates are eligible to take the Advanced Practitioner Examinations to become a Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT). This program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (www.coarc.com), 1248 Harwood Road, Bedford, Texas 76021-4244 (817)283-2835. Specific admission criteria for the program are outlined on page 16 of this catalog. Separate policies exist for the Respiratory program including grading. These policies can be found in the Respiratory Therapy Student Handbook.

### Graduates of this program will be able to:

- ▶ Assess, analyze, implement and evaluate respiratory care
- ▶ Perform respiratory quality control activities
- ▶ Apply basic principles of management in the care of groups of patients
- ▶ Exhibit therapeutic communication skills
- ▶ Incorporate ethical/legal considerations into the respiratory action plan
- ▶ Practice as a member of a diverse interdisciplinary healthcare team
- ▶ Continue personal and professional growth
- ▶ Incorporate principles from the social sciences, biologic sciences and humanities into their practice
- ▶ Practice within the limits and scope of a licensed respiratory therapist

### Requirements

#### General Education – 24 credits as follows:

Code	Course	Credits
BIOL 111	Anatomy and Physiology I	4
BIOL 112	Anatomy and Physiology II	4
BIOL 213	Microbiology	4
ENGL 121	English Composition: Writing Process	3
PSYC 106	Introduction to Psychology II	3
	Humanities	3
ENGL 122	English Composition: Writing and Research or	3
SPCH 115	Public Speaking	3

#### Career Studies – 45 credits as follows:

HESC 105	Medical Terminology	3
RESP 161	Cardiopulmonary Anatomy and Physiology	3
RESP 162	Fundamental Skills in Respiratory Care	7
RESP 163	Cardiopulmonary Pathophysiology	4
RESP 164	Patient Assessment and Diagnostics	6
RESP 165	Advanced Life Support and Emergency Medicine	2
RESP 261	Neonatal and Pediatric Respiratory Care	2
RESP 262	Adult Critical Care	7

RESP 263	Subacute Respiratory Care	2
RESP 264	Respiratory Care Practice	7
RESP 265(E)	Issues in Respiratory Care	2

### Advanced Placement in Respiratory Therapy

Certified Respiratory Therapists and persons with previous experience in Respiratory Therapy may be eligible for Advanced Placement. Applicants for Advanced Placement must have met all criteria for Allied Health admission and have completed all program requirements in order to be eligible for graduation. The process and criteria for Advanced Placement are available by request from the Allied Health Office.

### Degree Audit

Your progress toward your degree is available through WebAdvisor. Refer to page 23 for details.

### Credits required for degree: 69

#### Suggested Sequence – Respiratory Care Program A.A.S. Degree

The following sequence is an example of how this degree can be completed in two years. This sequence is based on satisfaction of all Basic Skills requirements and prerequisites and presumes a Fall Term start date. An individual's program may vary depending on transfer institution, career objectives, or individual needs. See your counselor for other options and to monitor your progress. Students must satisfy specific requirements in order to be admitted to this program. See Admission to Health Science Programs, page 16 in this catalog.

#### The following degree requirement must be taken prior to admission to program:

Course Code	Credits
HESC 105 – Medical Terminology	3

Course Code	Credits	Course Code	Credits
<b>SEMESTER 1 – Fall Term</b>		<b>SEMESTER 2 – Spring Term</b>	
RESP 161	3	RESP 163	4
RESP 162	7	RESP 164	6
BIOL 111	4	BIOL 112	4
ENGL 121	3	RESP 165	2
	17		16
<b>SEMESTER 3 – Fall Term</b>		<b>SEMESTER 4 – Spring Term</b>	
RESP 261	2	RESP 263	2
RESP 262	7	RESP 264	7
BIOL 213	4	RESP 265	2
PSYC 106	3	ENGL 122 or SPCH 115	3
	16	Humanities <sup>(1)</sup>	3
			17

This degree may take longer than two years to complete. The above sequence is an example of how this degree can be completed in two years. Although not required to be taken prior to beginning the program, general education courses may be taken before starting clinical courses or during the summer terms.

<sup>(1)</sup> One course is recommended from the Cultural & Global Awareness knowledge area.

## RESPIRATORY CARE PROGRAM ADMISSION CHECKLIST

- 1. Complete a Brookdale application.
- 2. Carefully review the Respiratory Care Admission Packet at <http://brookdalecc.edu/pages/244.asp>
- 2. Complete a Respiratory Care Program application. Return the application to the Admissions office. All communication with the Admissions office should be addressed to:

Beth Stryker or Lynn Hodgetts  
Office of Admissions  
Brookdale Community College  
765 Newman Springs Road  
Lincroft, New Jersey 07738

- 3. Take the Basic Skills Placement Test (may be waived if student has completed 24 college credits including college-level math and English composition with a grade of "C" or better from another college).
- 4. Have a college transcript sent to Admissions if you are transferring courses. Transcripts must be official and students wishing to have previous credits evaluated toward Brookdale degrees are responsible for having transcripts sent to the Admissions office and informing their counselor (Student Development Specialist) that they would like their transcripts evaluated. Transcripts will not be evaluated until the student has successfully completed one semester at Brookdale.
- 5. Make an appointment with Advising and Counseling located on the second floor of the CAR building. Questions about prerequisites and general education courses should be directed to your counselor (Student Development Specialist). Call 732-224-2555 to make an appointment.
- 6. Complete all Basic Skills courses as determined by the College Basic Skills Placement Test.
- 7. Complete high school biology and chemistry or the equivalent college courses.
- 8. Take the Health Science entrance examination. When all Basic Skills courses and high school biology and chemistry, or equivalent college courses, are complete and grades posted to your transcript, contact Beth Stryker or Lynn Hodgetts at [healthscienceadmissions@brookdalecc.edu](mailto:healthscienceadmissions@brookdalecc.edu) to get a pass for the Health Science entrance examination. **It is the student's responsibility to contact the Admissions office when all Basic Skills courses and high school biology and chemistry, or equivalent college courses are successfully completed. The passing composite score for the Health Science entrance examination for Allied Health students is 50 percent or higher.**
- 9. Attend an Information Session. **Once you have successfully completed the above steps you will be scheduled for an Information Session by the Admissions office.** Attendance at the Information Session is a **mandatory step** in the admission process. A student's name will not be placed on the waiting list until he or she attends an Information Session.
- Complete Medical Terminology (HESC 105) prior to admission.

**Disclaimer – The content and requirements of this checklist may be altered at any time at the discretion of the College. This checklist was checked for accuracy at the time of printing but should not be considered a contract between the College and the student.**

**BROOKDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
RESPIRATORY CARE PROGRAM  
APPLICATION**

**If you have not applied for admission to the College,  
complete a College application before filling out this form.**

Complete all questions below. *All applicants must be matriculated students.*

LAST NAME	MAIDEN NAME OR OTHER	FIRST NAME	STUDENT ID NUMBER
STREET ADDRESS			PHONE NUMBER (HOME OR CELL)
CITY	STATE	ZIP	EMAIL ADDRESS

Please answer the following:

1. Are you a new student at Brookdale?  yes  no
2. Have you completed high school?
3. Are you a NJ Stars student?  yes  no
4. Do you have an equivalency certificate (GED)?  yes  no
5. Have you taken the Basic Skills Test?  yes  no
6. If not, when are you scheduled to take it? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Please list any other colleges attended \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. If you have 24 credits with a grade of "C" or above, were you given a Basic Skills Test Waiver?  yes  no

The admission requirements for the Respiratory Care Program include:

- Completion of a Brookdale application
- Completion of a Respiratory Care Program application.
- Return application to:

Beth Stryker or Lynn Hodgetts  
Office of Admissions  
Brookdale Community College  
765 Newman Springs Road  
Lincroft, New Jersey 07738

- Completion of all Basic Skills courses as determined by the College Basic Skills Placement Test.
- Completion of high school biology and chemistry or the equivalent college courses.
- Achievement of passing scores on a Health Science entrance examination.
- Attendance at an Information Session.
- Completion of HESC 105, Medical Terminology prior to admission.

**Completion of this form does not guarantee admission into the Respiratory Care Program.**

**I hereby certify that I have read each page of the Respiratory Care Admission Packet, that I am fully familiar with the contents of this document, and that I fully understand and have agreed to its terms and provisions.**

**I hereby understand that the submission of this application does not result in my name being placed on the waiting list. I must successfully pass the Health Science entrance examination and attend an Information Session to be placed on the waiting list.**

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_