

RESPIRATORY CARE & CARDIOVASCULAR TECHNOLOGY APPLICATION PROCESS

1

- **Apply to Florida SouthWestern**
- Designate "AA General Studies," select limited access program, and enter your program of interest (*your advisor can assist further upon acceptance to the college*)

2

- **Apply on-line to RC/CVT Program(s) between January 1 and May 31:**
- You can apply to one or both programs for \$26
- Ensure that all official Copies of College Transcript(s) have been sent to the Office of the Registrar

3

- Once notified via email, schedule to take the Watson-Glaser Critical Thinking Assessment Exam.
- Exams are offered at the Lee Campus the mornings of April 10, May 7, May 21, and June 3.

4

- Once notified via email, schedule an interview with the RC/CVT Admissions Panel.
- Applicants with the highest admission points will be invited for an interview
- Interviews will take place at the Lee Campus on June 1 - 8

5

- Following a successful interview, complete the following:
 - 10 Panel Drug Screen
 - Criminal Background Check

6

- Check your FSW email regularly for program status.

FLORIDA SOUTHWESTERN STATE COLLEGE

RESPIRATORY CARE & CARDIOVASCULAR TECHNOLOGY SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Information and Curriculum Packet

Thank you for your interest in the Cardiopulmonary Programs at Florida SouthWestern State College. On-Line applications for admission into these Associate in Science Degree programs are accepted January 1st to May 31st each year. Both Respiratory Care and Cardiovascular Technology are limited access programs and will select only students who meet the academic, testing, and prescribed clinical admission requirements outlined in this information packet.

This packet includes answers to commonly asked questions, an overview for admission, and a term-by-term sequence of each program. The on-line application for the Cardiovascular Technology program is available at <https://www.fsw.edu/academics/programs/ascardiotech>. The on-line application for the Respiratory Care program is available at <https://www.fsw.edu/academics/programs/asrespiratorycare>. Students who are interested in both programs are encouraged to apply to both the CVT and RC programs in a single application with no additional cost for the second choice. Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to review the Florida SouthWestern State College Catalog available online at <http://www.fsw.edu/academics/catalog> and the specific web pages for the Respiratory Care and Cardiovascular Technology Programs.*

**This information is subject to revision at the discretion of the College.*

Both programs are nationally accredited. The Cardiovascular Technology Program is accredited in invasive cardiovascular technology by the *Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs* (www.caahep.org) based on the recommendation of the Joint Review Committee on Education in Cardiovascular Technology. The Respiratory Care Program is accredited by the *Commission on Accreditation in Respiratory Care* (www.coarc.com).

Florida SouthWestern State College, an equal access institution, prohibits discrimination in its employment, programs and activities based on race, sex, gender, age, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, disability, pregnancy, sexual orientation, marital status, genetic information or veteran's status. The College is an equal access/equal opportunity institution. Questions pertaining to educational equity, equal access, or equal opportunity should be addressed to Title IX Coordinator/Equity Officer, 8099 College Parkway, Fort Myers, Florida 33919, equity@fsw.edu, 239.489.9051 or to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, United States Department of Education.

CARDIOPULMONARY PROGRAMS
RESPIRATORY CARE & CARDIOVASCULAR TECHNOLOGY
TWO YEAR ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE DEGREE
INFORMATION SHEET

1) **What will the programs prepare me to do?**

The graduate is employable as either a registry eligible Respiratory Therapist or a registry eligible Invasive Cardiovascular Technologist.

2) **What are the duties of a Respiratory Therapist?**

Under medical direction, a Respiratory Therapist administers oxygen and other medical gases, aerosolized medications, and breathing treatments with various types of pressurized breathing equipment; performs basic life support or cardiopulmonary resuscitation; manages life support equipment including mechanical ventilators; performs special diagnostic procedures such as pulmonary function testing, cardiac output determination, arterial blood gas puncture and analysis; and assists with special therapeutic procedures such as bronchoscopy, intra-aortic balloon pump monitoring, pulmonary artery catheterization, and hyperbaric oxygen administration and other life support techniques. The Respiratory Therapist is typically employed within the traditional acute care hospital setting, in skilled nursing centers, in neonatal and pediatric intensive care, in physician office settings, in rehabilitation centers, outpatient care clinics, and by respiratory home care agencies.

3) **What are the duties of a Cardiovascular Technologist?**

This program is designed to lead to a career in invasive cardiology. An Invasive Cardiovascular Technologist will typically work in the cardiovascular catheterization laboratories (cath labs) in hospitals, clinics or cardiology practices. Our specialty of invasive cardiology will prepare the graduate to function in multiple facets in the cardiac catheterization laboratory. Working with a cardiologist they perform sophisticated tests in order to diagnose and quantify cardiovascular disorders including coronary artery disease, cardiac valve disease, overall cardiac function, disorders of the heart's electrical conduction system and or vascular disease. Cardiovascular Technologists assist the cardiologist during diagnostic cardiovascular catheterization studies on patients including coronary and vascular arteriography, hemodynamic monitoring and analysis, and electrophysiology studies. They also assist the cardiologist in interventional repair procedures including coronary interventions/angioplasty, rotational and orbital atherectomy procedures, intra-coronary and intra-vascular stenting, aortic and mitral valve repair/replacement, septal defect repair, pacemaker/defibrillator insertion and radiofrequency ablation.

4) **What are the criteria for admission to the program?**

An applicant may be admitted to either the Respiratory Care OR Cardiovascular Technology Program based on the following criteria:

- a) Possess a high school or equivalency diploma/GED.
- b) Be at least eighteen (18) years old by the first day of class.
- c) Complete all admission requirements to Florida SouthWestern State College. (Refer to the College Catalog.) You will also need a FSW student "Bucs" email account. All official CVT and RC program application communication will occur using your "Bucs" email account.
- d) Complete any combination of math and science courses required for the degree (Anatomy & Physiology I and II, Microbiology, Chemistry, Liberal Arts Math or College Algebra) to meet or exceed 7 credits and an overall of 11 college credits to meet the application requirements.
- e) This form should be submitted between January 1 and May 31 of each admission year. If you are transferring in coursework from other institutions, make sure you have those courses evaluated

for transferable credit and that those courses appear on your FSW transcript. This is necessary in order for those courses to be used in the calculation of your admission points. At time of application, you will also need to pay the \$26 application fee (payable on-line). This fee covers application and exam for both the Respiratory Care and/or Cardiovascular Technology Programs.

- f) Attend an Orientation Session (optional, but highly recommended).
Orientation sessions begin in mid-March. Please call 239-985-3499 for additional information.
- g) Schedule the Watson Glaser Critical Thinking Assessment.
This exam provides an assessment of each applicant's critical thinking skills and is scheduled (April - June) following processing of the program application form.
- h) Successfully complete a Panel Interview.
Applicants with sufficient points will receive an e-mail in late May or early June indicating the time and date of the interview appointment with the RC-CVT Admission Panel.
- i) Complete a Criminal History Background Check, including OIG and Sex Offender, and drug screen upon notification of the panel interview.

Note: Applicants must successfully complete both the panel interview and background check/drug screen as a pre-requisite for acceptance into either program.

5) **Is there limited admission to the programs?**

Typically, the number of applicants exceeds available clinical training space (30 for Respiratory Care and 20 for Cardiovascular Technology). Individuals are selected for admission based upon their point ranking. Applicants with the highest Phase I and Phase II points are ranked first. To review the items included for the calculation of Phase I and Phase II admission points, please refer to Page 10.

6) **Is an interview required?**

Yes, an interview with the RC-CVT Admission Panel is required. Applicants qualify for this last phase of the admission process by scoring above a certain level for the academic criteria and critical thinking assessment. A passing score must be earned during the interview phase in order for your application to remain valid.

7) **When are students admitted to the programs?**

Students are generally notified by mid-July, with classes beginning in August of each academic year.

8) **What part does the Criminal Background Check play in my admission to either program?**

Prior to or at the panel interview, each applicant will receive written instructions for completing a criminal background check and drug screen. The approximate cost is \$140. This background check ensures consistency with the requirements of Chapter 435 Florida Statutes and the health care agencies with which Florida SouthWestern has clinical affiliation agreements. Certain agencies may require additional screening. **Background and drug screening must be cleared before final acceptance to the Respiratory Care or Cardiovascular Technology Program can be granted.** Additionally, a new background check and drug screen must be completed every 12 months to remain in good standing in either program.

Upon request, the applicant may be requested to provide the Dean of the School of Health Professions, or their designee, a written explanation of any criminal charges on his/her record in any state or national jurisdiction.

Applicants with criminal records are forewarned that the Florida Department of Health, Division of Medical Quality Assurance, requires any licensure applicant who has ever been convicted or found guilty of a felony, regardless of adjudication, to explain the circumstances. The same is true for other states with

licensure statutes as well as national certification boards. These individuals will need to gain clearance from these agencies before they are allowed to take state licensure and national certification examinations that are usually required for employment.

Criminal History Findings

Any applicant or enrolled student who has been found guilty of, regardless of adjudication, or entered a plea of nolo contendere, or guilty to, any offense under the provisions of Florida Statutes or under similar statutes of another jurisdiction may be disqualified from admission or continued enrollment in the Respiratory Care or Cardiovascular Technology Program. Those offenses are:

- Murder
- Manslaughter
- Vehicular homicide
- Killing of an unborn child by injury to the mother
- Assault, if the victim of the offense was a minor
- Aggravated assault
- Battery, if the victim of the offense was a minor
- Aggravated battery
- Kidnapping
- False imprisonment
- Sexual battery
- Prohibited acts of persons in familial or custody authority
- Lewd and lascivious behavior
- Arson
- Theft, robbery, and related crimes, if the offense is a felony
- Fraudulent sale of controlled substances, only if the offense was a felony
- Incest
- Abuse or neglect of a disabled adult or elderly person
- Exploitation of disabled adult or elderly person
- Aggravated child abuse
- Child abuse
- Negligent treatment of children
- Sexual performance by a child
- Alcohol or Drug offenses which were a felony, or if the offense involved a minor
- Offenses indicating unfitness to serve as a health care professional

9) **What is the length of each program?**

The Respiratory Care and Cardiovascular Technology Programs are each 22 months (six semesters) and begin every Fall semester.

10) **How many credit hours are required in each program?**

There are 76 credit hours in Respiratory Care and 77 credit hours in Cardiovascular Technology which are required for the program.

11) **When can I sit for the Registry examinations?**

The Cardiovascular graduate is eligible for the Registered Cardiovascular Invasive Specialist (RCIS) exam offered by CCI (Cardiovascular Credentialing International) just prior to, or upon graduation. Upon successful completion of the invasive registry exam, graduates earn the RCIS (Registered Cardiovascular

Invasive Specialist) credential. Additional information is available at the CCI website at <http://www.cci-online.org>

Upon graduation, Respiratory Care graduates are eligible to take the NBRC (National Board for Respiratory Care) Therapist Multiple-Choice (TMC) Examination. This examination has two cut scores. Graduates that attain the lower cut score will earn the Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT) credential. Graduates that attain the higher cut score will earn the Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT) credential and be eligible to take the Clinical Simulation Examination (CSE). Upon successful completion of the CSE the graduate will earn the Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) credential. Additional information is available at the NBRC website at <http://www.nbrc.org>

12) **What is the cost of these programs?**

Tuition is charged per credit hour. Florida residents pay \$113.36 per credit hour; non-residents pay \$432.63 per credit hour. Laboratory courses utilizing the simulation laboratories have a \$65 lab fee attached. A clinic support fee ranging from \$75 to \$850 is assessed for each of the combined lecture/laboratory and clinical courses. There is also a \$10 annual fee for liability and accidental injury insurance. Tuition rates and fees are subject to change each academic year.

Additional costs include, but are not limited to, books, uniforms, program approved electronic tablet, on-line clinical tracking program, on-line immunization tracking system, background checks, drug screens, health report, immunizations, health insurance, BLS and ACLS certifications, and various testing fees. The college does not provide housing and the student is responsible for transportation to and from assigned hospitals or health agencies for clinical course work.

13) **Do the Respiratory Care and Cardiovascular Technology Programs keep a waiting list?**

The programs do not keep a “waiting list.” Individuals who are not accepted may re-apply for the next academic year but are not given preference on that basis. During each admission year the programs may accept alternate candidates who may begin the program course but who may not be guaranteed a clinic seat. You will receive additional information of your options if you are offered alternate admission into either program.

14) **When are core course (CVT or RET prefix) classes normally scheduled?**

Most classes and labs are scheduled during the day. Classroom days are commonly from 8 am to 4 pm and take place on the Lee Campus in Fort Myers. Clinical days may range from 4 to 12 ½ hours and occur between 5:30 am and 7:30 pm depending on the program, semester and clinic site. Some clinical assignments may be scheduled in the evening.

15) **Will I be participating in a hospital or other health agencies as part of my course work?**

Pre-clinical rotations begin in the RC or CVT labs beginning with spring semester. Rotations to local hospitals begin in Summer A of the first year for the RC Program and in the Fall of the second year for the CVT Program. Clinical sites are located in the Naples, Fort Myers, Cape Coral, Port Charlotte and Punta Gorda areas. Cardiovascular technology students may also have the option of attending clinical rotations in the Sarasota, Bradenton, and Tampa areas. You will need an approved uniform, name badge, electronic tablet, and a watch with a second hand. You may also need to purchase a stethoscope. Because students rotate through hospitals in a large geographic area, reliable transportation is a necessity.

16) **Is there specific health, physical activity or technical requirements for advancement into the clinical phases of the RC and CVT Programs?**

A completed medical health record and self-assessment of Program Technical Standards must be submitted and approved by the Clinical Coordinator/Clinical Faculty prior to admission to clinical rotations. This health record will contain results from a physical examination and laboratory tests including immunization records. An updated health record verified by a licensed physician or designee must be submitted on a yearly basis before attending clinical courses. Students who are out of their respective program for six months or more must submit new records.

Respiratory Care or Cardiovascular Technology students who do not meet the standards of good physical and mental health, as required by clinical facilities for safe patient care, may reapply to the program after resolution of the health problem.

17) **What courses can I take while waiting to be admitted to the program?**

Applicants are encouraged to focus on the ten co-requisite general education courses listed in the college catalog for the Respiratory Care and Cardiovascular Technology Programs. Most of these courses are offered at any of the Florida SouthWestern campuses and many are also available on-line.

18) **Must I take the courses in the sequence in which they are listed in the curriculum?**

There are variations of order possible for the general education courses. Some of these courses do require testing or pre-requisites. The RET and CVT prefixed courses must be taken in the order presented and are offered only once a year in the semester they are listed in the curriculum. All courses required for the programs must be passed with a grade of “C” or better before advancing in the program and before graduating from the program.

19) **Are any of my previous college courses transferable to this program?**

If you attended another college, formal transcripts **must** be sent to the Office of Registrar, for evaluation, at the time you apply for admission to the college. If you are transferring in coursework from other institutions, make sure you have those courses evaluated for transferable credit and that those courses appear on your FSW transcript. This is necessary in order for those courses to be used in the calculation of your admission points.

If you attended another Respiratory Therapy or Cardiovascular Technology Program, these courses will be evaluated for transfer by the Program Director. In this case, you must also provide the program with a copy of your transcripts. You will also be required to provide other documentation such as a letter of good standing from the Program Director indicating eligibility to continue and course syllabi or schedules to verify content, particularly for out-of-state students. Only courses in which you earned a grade of “C” or better are transferable.

20) **Can I receive credit for any previous experience in the practice of Respiratory Therapy and/or Cardiovascular Technology?**

In select cases with documented evidence of related experience, after registering for a course, a student may demonstrate they meet or exceed the course learning outcomes and objectives through successful completion of examination(s) and/or demonstration of clinical/laboratory competencies. This option may be available for select RET & CVT courses with documented evidence of related experience, in conjunction with Florida SouthWestern State College policy and permission of the program director.

21) **Can this program be used to further advance my education towards a Baccalaureate Degree?**

Yes, we encourage graduates of the CVT and RC program to continue their education. Florida SouthWestern State College offers a Bachelor of Science Degree in Cardiopulmonary Sciences. If you are

interested in another institution, it is suggested that you contact the specific institution to which you wish to transfer for additional information.

22) **Does the program offer a job placement service?**

Neither program can guarantee employment. The college does offer advisement on job placement and a list of potential opportunities is maintained by the Program Director.

23) **What salary range can I expect as a graduate therapist or technologist?**

A starting full-time Registered Respiratory Therapist/Registered Cardiovascular Technologist in the Southwest Florida area can expect to start between \$45,000 and \$50,000. Signing bonuses, on-call pay or shift differential may also contribute to the annual salary at some institutions.

24) **Will I need Health Insurance?**

Yes, Students will need to provide documentation that they have a current health insurance policy during the time they are enrolled in the program.

**Florida SouthWestern State
College 2020-2021
Respiratory Care - AS Degree
76 Credits**

FIRST YEAR

Fall Semester	Credit Hours
ENC 1101 Composition I	3
*MGF 1106 Math for Liberal Arts I	3
CHM 2032 Gen Chem Health Science	3
CHM 2032L Gen Chem Health Sci Lab	1
**BSC 1093C or BSC 1085C Anatomy & Physiology I	4
RET 1024 Intro Cardiopulmonary Tech	3
Total	17

SECOND YEAR

Fall Semester	Credit Hours
RET 2874L Clinical Practicum II	1
RET 2234C Respiratory Therapeutics	6
RET 2254C Resp Care Assessment	6
RET 2714 Neonatal-Pediatric Resp Care	3
Total	16

FIRST YEAR

Spring Semester	Credit Hours
PHY 1007 Physics for Health Sciences	3
BSC 1094C or BSC 1086C Anatomy & Physiology II	4
PSY 2012 Intro to Psychology	3
RET 1007 Resp Care Pharmacology	2
RET 1275C Clinical Care Techniques	4
RET 1613C Cardiopulmonary A & P	2
Total	18

SECOND YEAR

Spring Semester	Credit Hours
RET 2875L Clinical Practicum III	1
RET 2244 Critical Care Applications	2
RET 2264 Adv Mechanical Ventilation	4
RET 2264L Adv Mech Ventilation Lab	2
RET 2295 Pulmonary Studies	3
Total	12

FIRST YEAR

Summer Semester	Credit Hours
RET 1832L Clinical Practicum I Summer A only	1
**MCB 2010C Microbiology	4
HUM General Education Humanities (Core Recommended)	3
Total	8

SECOND YEAR

Summer A Semester	Credit Hours
RET 2930 RC Practitioner as Professional	2
RET 2876L Clinical Practicum IV	3
Total	5

*MAT 1033 or Testing may be a requirement for admission into MGF 1106.

**BSC 1010 or Testing is a prerequisite for BSC 1093C and MCB 2010C and should be taken prior to Fall semester.

Note: The math, chemistry and physics co-requisites listed above are the recommended courses; however, it may be possible to substitute another approved general education math, chemistry or physics course. Please see Program personnel for details.

**Florida SouthWestern State
College 2020-2021
Cardiovascular Technology - AS Degree
77 Credits**

FIRST YEAR

Fall Semester	Credit Hours
*MGF 1106 Math for Liberal Arts	3
CHM 2032 Chemistry for Health Sci	3
CHM 2032L Chemistry Health Sci Lab	1
**BSC 1093C or BSC 1085C Anatomy & Physiology I	4
ENC 1101 Composition I	3
RET 1024 Intro Cardiopulmonary Tech	3
Total	17

SECOND YEAR

Fall Semester	Credit Hours
CVT 2420C Invasive Cardiology I	6
CVT 2620C Non-Invasive Cardio Tech I	2
CVT 2805C Cardiovasc Interven Pre-Prac	3
CVT 2840L Cardiovascular Practicum II	3
Total	14

FIRST YEAR

Spring Semester	Credit Hours
PHY 1007 Physics for Health Sciences	3
BSC 1094C or BSC 1086C Anatomy & Physiology II	4
PSY 2012 Intro to Psychology	3
CVT 1200 Cardiovasc Pharmacology	3
RET 1613C Cardiopulmonary A & P	2
CVT 1800L Cardiovasc Pre-Practicum I	3
Total	18

SECOND YEAR

Spring Semester	Credit Hours
CVT 2421C Invasive Cardiology II	6
RET 2244 Critical Care Applications	2
CVT 2841L Cardiovascular Practicum III	4
Total	12

FIRST YEAR

Summer Semester A	Credit Hours
**MCB 2010C Microbiology	4
CVT 1801L Cardiovasc Pre-Practicum II	3
Total	7

SECOND YEAR

Summer Semester A	Credit Hours
CVT 2920 Cardiovasc Tech as Professional	2
CVT 2842L Cardiovascular Practicum IV	4
Total	6

FIRST YEAR

Summer Semester	Credit Hours
HUM General Education Humanities (Core Recommended)	3
Total	3

*MAT 1033 or Testing may be a requirement for admission into MGF 1106.

**BSC 1010 or Testing is a prerequisite for BSC 1093C and MCB 2010C and should be taken prior to Fall semester.

Note: The math, chemistry and physics co-requisites listed above are the recommended courses; however, it may be possible to substitute another approved general education math, chemistry or physics course. Please see Program personnel for details.

**FLORIDA SOUTHWESTERN STATE COLLEGE CARDIOPULMONARY
TECHNOLOGIES CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION**

Admission into the Respiratory Care or Cardiovascular Technology Program is a simple process. **Phase I** evaluates applicants according to the number of points earned through: cumulative grade point average, math/science grade point average, and number of credit hours earned by or before the application deadline of **May 31st**. Courses not completed by the deadline are not considered. Following application submittal, the candidate will be informed of the dates available and complete the online scheduling process for the Watson-Glaser Critical Thinking Exam.

Phase I: Academic + Critical Thinking Exam

GPA points are based on college credits, with a minimum of eleven credits of college course work for the overall GPA and a minimum of seven credits in the co-requisite math/science courses, for the Math/Science GPA

Criteria		Points	Maximum Points Obtainable
Overall GPA x 10			40
Math/Science GPA x 10			40
Watson Glaser Score			40
Educational Experience			13
Credits	Points		
100+	13		
92 -99	12		
84 – 91	11		
76 – 83	10		
68 – 75	9		
60 – 67	8		
52 – 59	7		
44 – 51	6		
36 – 43	5		
28 – 35	4		
20 – 27	3		
12 – 19	2		
4 – 11	1		
< 4	0		
Phase I Total Score			133

Phase II: Interview (pass/fail)

Phase II evaluates the affective and communication skills of applicants using an Admissions Panel interview. Only applicants who have met a minimum number of Phase I points will be scheduled for an interview. Successfully passing the interview is required for continuing in the admissions process. Those candidates with the highest total points from **Phases I and II** are offered admission in rank order. Applicants will be notified of admission status starting the first week of July.

*****Interviews to be scheduled beginning early June for the applicants with the most Phase I points.***