

RESPIRATORY CARE 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 Program between January 1 and May 31:

- Click the "Apply Now" button on the top of the webpage.
- Upload your resume' at the appropriate time in app process
- Ensure that all official Copies of College Transcript(s) have been sent to the Office of the Registrar.
- Make sure that the transcripts are evaluated and loaded into your student portal two weeks after they are sent to the registrar.

3

Schedule to take the Watson-Glaser Critical Thinking Exam.

- Schedule the exam online using the instructions provided after applying
- Exams are offered online on March 7, March 22, April 17, May 17, and June 4.

4

Once notified via email, schedule an interview with the RC Admissions Panel.

- Applicants with the highest admission points will be invited for an interview
- Interviews will take place in May and June

5

After scheduling an 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 SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Information and Curriculum Packet

Thank you for your interest in the Respiratory Care Program at Florida SouthWestern State College. On-Line applications for admission into this Associate in Science Degree program are accepted January 1st to May 31st each year. Respiratory Care is a limited access program 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 Respiratory Care. The on-line application for the Respiratory Care program is available at <https://www.fsw.edu/academics/programs/asrespiratorycare>. Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to review the Florida SouthWestern State College Catalog available online at <http://www.fsw.edu/academics/catalog> and the web page for the Respiratory Care Program.*

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

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.

RESPIRATORY CARE
TWO YEAR ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE DEGREE
INFORMATION SHEET

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

The graduate is employable as a registry eligible Respiratory Therapist.

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 criteria for admission to the program?**

An applicant may be admitted to the Respiratory Care 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 clinical.
- 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 RC program application communications 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 6 credits and an overall of 11 college credits to meet the application requirements.
- e) The application 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 \$27 application fee (payable on-line). This fee covers application and exam for the Respiratory Care Program.
- f) Attend an Orientation Session (optional, but highly recommended). Orientation sessions begin in mid-March. The dates are available on the orientation page under Downloads and Links – “2024 Open House/Information Schedule.”
- g) Schedule the Watson Glaser Critical Thinking Assessment. This exam provides an assessment of each applicant’s critical thinking skills and is scheduled (March - 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 RCAdmission 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 the program.

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

Typically, the number of applicants exceeds available clinical training space (30 for Respiratory Care). 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 8.

5) **Is an interview required?**

Yes, an interview with the RC 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.

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

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

7) **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 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 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

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

The Respiratory Care Program is 22 months (six semesters) and begins every Fall semester.

9) **How many credit hours are required for the program?**

There are 76 credit hours in Respiratory Care which are required for the program.

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

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>

11) **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.

12) **Does the Respiratory Care Program keep a waiting list?**

The program does 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.

13) **When are core course (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.

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

Pre-clinical rotations begin in the RC labs beginning with spring semester. Rotations to local hospitals begin in Summer A of the first year for the RC Program. Clinical sites are located in the Naples, Fort Myers, Cape Coral, Port Charlotte and Punta Gorda 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.

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

A completed medical health record and self-assessment of Program Technical Standards must be submitted and approved by the Director of Clinical Education/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 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.

16) **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 Program. Most of these courses are offered at any of the Florida SouthWestern campuses and many are also available on-line.

17) **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 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.

18) **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 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.

19) **Can I receive credit for any previous experience in the practice of Respiratory Therapy?**

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 courses with documented evidence of related experience, in conjunction with Florida SouthWestern State College policy and permission of the program director.

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

Yes, we encourage graduates of the 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.

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

The program cannot guarantee employment. The college does offer advisement on job placement and a list of potential opportunities is maintained by the Program Director.

22) **What salary range can I expect as a graduate therapist?**

A starting full-time Registered Respiratory Therapist/ 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.

23) **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.

Program Course Plan

Florida SouthWestern State College

Respiratory Care, AS

Fall Semester		Credits
RET 1024: Intro Cardiopulmonary Tech		3
Spring Semester		
RET 1007: Respiratory Care Pharmacology		3
RET 1275C: Clinical Care Techniques		3
RET 1485: Cardiopulmonary Anatomy & Physiology		2
Summer Semester		
RET 1832L: Clinical Practicum I (Summer A)		1
Year Two: Fall Semester		
RET 2874L: Clinical Practicum II		6
RET 2234C: Respiratory Therapeutics		4
RET 2254C: Respiratory Care Assessment		4
RET 2714: Neonatal Pediatric Resp Care		2
Spring Semester		
RET 2875L: Clinical Practicum III		6
RET 2244: Critical Care Applications		2
RET 2264: Advanced Mechanical Ventilation		3
RET 2264L: Adv Mechanical Ventilation Lab		1
RET 2295: Pulmonary Studies		3
Summer A Semester		
RET 2930: Resp Care Practitioner as Professional		1
RET 2876L: Clinical Practicum IV		4

76 Credits

General Education Requirements

Must be completed before final semester, if not previously satisfied.

- ENC 1101: Composition I
- Core Humanities (LIT, HUM, etc)
- AMH 2020 – History of the US or POS 2041 – American National Government
- Core Math (MGF 1106 or STA 2020 recommended)
- BSC 1085C: Anatomy & Physiology
- BSC 1086C: Anatomy & Physiology II
- Chemistry with corresponding lab (CHM 2032/L recommended)
- MCB 2010C: Microbiology

*If you have transfer credits please speak to an Academic Advisor to ensure your previous course work meets program requirements.

**FLORIDA SOUTHWESTERN STATE COLLEGE RESPIRATORY CARE
CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION**

Admission into the Respiratory Care 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 six credits in the co-requisite math/science courses, for the Math/Science GPA.

***A resume is required to show the military and healthcare experience.**

Criteria		Points Earned	Maximum # of points
Overall GPA x 10			40
Math/Science GPA x 10			40
Watson Glaser Score			40
Military/Hospital/Healthcare Experience*			7
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 1 Total Score			140

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 for the applicants with the most Phase I points.**