

Technical/Academic Standards

The Respiratory Care Program complies with the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Any student requiring special accommodations or classroom modifications should contact the Office of Adaptive Services (489-9427) at Florida SouthWestern State College.

Respiratory Care at the Associate level involves the provision of direct care for individuals and is characterized by the application of knowledge in the skillful performance of patient care functions. Therefore, in order to successfully complete the clinical and laboratory requirements, all students must possess certain characteristics. The purpose of this section is to provide the student/applicant an understanding of the physical demands and communication skills required for the program based on tasks performed by Respiratory Care Practitioners (RCPs) working within the profession.

Description of Work Environment and Activities:

The common work environment for an RCP and for a student studying for the same profession would include the following:

1. Constant contact and communication with patients, the public and other members of the healthcare team.
2. Making decisions on patient care based on assessment of the patient.
3. Moving and manipulating equipment.
4. Frequent and timely operation of computers and telephones.
5. Moving patients for such activities as ambulation of a patient, moving a patient in a wheel chair, and assisting in the lifting of patients, for example, move a patient in the bed, moving from a chair to a bed or moving from a stretcher to a bed.
6. Exposure to pathogens through bodily secretions, mucous, and blood.

An applicant/student must possess:

1. Sufficient visual acuity such as is needed in the accurate preparation and administration of medications, and for the observation required for patient assessment, response to therapy and care.
2. Sufficient auditory perception to receive verbal communication from patients and members of the health care team and to assess health needs of people through the use of monitoring devices such as cardiac monitors, stethoscopes, fire alarms, life support equipment, etc.
3. Sufficient gross and fine motor coordination to respond promptly and implement the skills, including the manipulation of equipment required in meeting health care needs.
4. Sufficient communication skills (speech, reading, writing) to interact with individuals and communicate their needs promptly and effectively as may be necessary in the individual's interest.
5. Sufficient intellectual and emotional function to plan and implement care for individuals.

The following table lists the technical and academic standards for the program.

STANDARD	ISSUES	EXAMPLES OF NECESSARY ACTIVITIES
Critical thinking ability sufficient for clinical judgment.	Critical thinking	Assess patients' physical and emotional abilities as therapeutic procedures are performed.
Problem solving to make adjustments in therapy based on normal and abnormal physical and emotional responses to therapy.	Problem solving	After assessment, adjust therapy appropriately to conditions.
Interpersonal ability sufficient to appropriately interact with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds.	Interpersonal	Establish and maintain support relationships with patients, visitors, and other healthcare providers.
Communication ability sufficient for appropriate interactions with others in verbal and written form.	Communication	Explain procedures, give directions, answer questions while performing procedures; communicate effectively with physicians, patients, visitors, and other healthcare professionals.
Physical ability sufficient to maneuver in small areas and to maneuver equipment.	Mobility	Move around patients' rooms and work areas with equipment. Administer CPR.
Gross and fine motor ability sufficient to perform patient care procedures safely and efficiently.	Motor Skills	Manipulate equipment, control and adjust machines & equipment, turn panels and knob controls; position patient and equipment; assist patients from wheelchairs and stretchers. Must have good hand/eye coordination for suctioning procedures and arterial blood sampling.
Auditory ability sufficient to monitor and assess health needs.	Hearing	Hear monitor alarms; equipment audible signals, voices under protective garb; calls for help.

STANDARD	ISSUES	EXAMPLES OF NECESSARY ACTIVITIES
Visual ability sufficient for observation, assessment and implementation of patient care and monitoring procedures.	Visual	Observe patient response; read orders; read computer screens; read control panel buttons/patient monitors. Distinguish between shades of gray on radiographs, for example, tube placement.
Tactile ability sufficient for assessment of physical health conditions.	Tactile	Perform palpation, percussion, and chest assessment; check patient pulses.
Olfactory senses sufficient for maintaining environmental and patient safety.	Smell	Distinguish smells which are contributory to assessing and/or maintaining patient's health status, e.g. smell fire.
Ability to present professional appearance and implement measures to maintain own health.	Self-care	Implement universal precautions; follow established procedures for body hygiene.
Deal effectively with stress produced by work and interpersonal interaction situations.	Temperament	Perform procedures on patients in pain from trauma, disease, or under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Maintain professional composure under stress.

Physical Requirements:

Constant walking, standing, seeing, hearing, talking, public contact, and decision-making. Frequent operation of computers, usage of telephone, pushing wheelchairs, turning patients, helping patients walk, lifting patients, helping patients sit-up, reading, handling, reaching, grasping, fingering, feeling exposure to stressful situations and concentration. Occasional operation of office machines, lifting more than 20 lbs., bending and finally exposure to patient trauma and grief.

DECLARATION OF MEETING TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR THE RESPIRATORY CARE PROGRAM

I have reviewed and understand the Technical Standards minimum qualifications necessary to perform the essential functions of a respiratory care practitioner. I will return this form to the Clinical Coordinator.

Critical Thinking:

_____ I am capable of meeting these requirements. _____ I am not capable of meeting these requirements.*

_____ I am capable of meeting these requirements with the following accommodations.*

Problem Solving:

_____ I am capable of meeting these requirements. _____ I am not capable of meeting these requirements.*

_____ I am capable of meeting these requirements with the following accommodations.*

Interpersonal:

_____ I am capable of meeting these requirements. _____ I am not capable of meeting these requirements.*

_____ I am capable of meeting these requirements with the following accommodations.*

Communication:

_____ I am capable of meeting these requirements. _____ I am not capable of meeting these requirements.*

_____ I am capable of meeting these requirements with the following accommodations.*

Mobility:

_____ I am capable of meeting these requirements. _____ I am not capable of meeting these requirements.*

_____ I am capable of meeting these requirements with the following accommodations.*

Motor Skills:

_____ I am capable of meeting these requirements. _____ I am not capable of meeting these requirements.*

_____ I am capable of meeting these requirements with the following accommodations.*

Hearing:

_____ I am capable of meeting these requirements. _____ I am not capable of meeting these requirements.*

_____ I am capable of meeting these requirements with the following accommodations.*

Visual:

_____ I am capable of meeting these requirements. _____ I am not capable of meeting these requirements.*

_____ I am capable of meeting these requirements with the following accommodations.*

Tactile:

_____ I am capable of meeting these requirements. _____ I am not capable of meeting these requirements.*

_____ I am capable of meeting these requirements with the following accommodations.*

Smell:

_____ I am capable of meeting these requirements. _____ I am not capable of meeting these requirements.*

_____ I am capable of meeting these requirements with the following accommodations.*

Self-Care:

_____ I am capable of meeting these requirements. _____ I am not capable of meeting these requirements.*

_____ I am capable of meeting these requirements with the following accommodations.*

Temperament:

_____ I am capable of meeting these requirements. _____ I am not capable of meeting these requirements.*

_____ I am capable of meeting these requirements with the following accommodations.*

Physical Requirements:

_____ I am capable of meeting these requirements. _____ I am not capable of meeting these requirements.*

_____ I am capable of meeting these requirements with the following accommodations.*

* Indicates awareness of applicant to make an appointment with the Office of Adaptive Services by calling 489-9427 between 8:30 am - 4:30 pm and delivering this form to the counselor for determination of reasonable accommodations.

I, the undersigned, do hereby testify that I have read and understand the Technical Standards for the Respiratory Care Program and the above statements, as indicated, are true.

Name _____ Name _____ Date _____
(printed) (signature)

Daytime telephone number _____