

# Respiratory Care

## Associate of Applied Science Degree

**Program Director: Leonard Bates**

**Program Faculty: Brian Cayko**

Program Website (<http://www.gfcmsu.edu/webs/RespiratoryCare>)

Program Application ([http://www.gfcmsu.edu/webs/respiratorycare/documents/Respiratory\\_Care\\_Application.pdf](http://www.gfcmsu.edu/webs/respiratorycare/documents/Respiratory_Care_Application.pdf)) (Fall 2017 application available February 15)

Most people take breathing for granted. It's second nature, an involuntary reflex. But for the thousands who suffer from breathing problems, each breath is a major accomplishment. Those people include patients with chronic lung problems such as asthma, bronchitis, and emphysema; heart attack and accident victims; premature infants; and people with cystic fibrosis, lung cancer, and AIDS.

In each case the patient will likely receive treatment from a Respiratory Therapist (RT) under the direction of a physician. RTs work to evaluate, treat, and care for patients with breathing disorders. They are a vital part of a hospital's lifesaving response team that answers patient emergencies.

While most RTs work in hospitals, an increasing number have branched out into alternative care sites, such as nursing homes, physicians' offices, home health agencies, specialized care hospitals, medical equipment supply companies, and patients' homes.

RTs perform both diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, such as:

- Obtaining and analyzing sputum and breath specimens;
- Taking blood specimens and analyzing them to determine levels of oxygen, carbon dioxide, and other gases;
- Interpreting data obtained from specimens;
- Measuring the capacity of patients' lungs to determine if there is impaired function;
- Performing studies on the cardiopulmonary system;
- Studying disorders of people with disruptive sleep patterns;
- Operating mechanical ventilators for patients who cannot breathe adequately;
- Delivering inhaled medications and medical gases;
- Teaching patients with lung disorders to maintain meaningful and active life systems.

RTs work collaboratively with other healthcare practitioners. Critical thinking and problem solving skills are mandatory for success in this environment. Strong verbal and written communication skills are necessary when interacting with other members of the multidisciplinary health care team as well as the patients and families. Such a role also requires a broad educational background in English composition, communication, and interpersonal relations. Computer literacy is especially important in today's health care environment.

The RT Program is a two-year program designed to help students develop the knowledge, skills, and professional attitude necessary for a successful career in RT. Upon completion of the AAS degree in RT, graduates will be prepared to begin a career as an Advanced Practitioner RT. Graduates are eligible to take the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) Entry Level and the Advanced Practitioner examinations.

The RT program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Respiratory Care Program.

Information about Great Falls College MSU's Respiratory Therapist Program is posted on the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) web site (<http://www.coarc.com/47.html>). You can see information about our program by selecting the interactive map of CoARC program data and then Great Falls from the map. Graduate job placement and credentialing success as well as program attrition data for all CoARC accredited program is also posted at this site. Click on Outcomes data from the Annual Report of Current Status. Programs are listed by state.

Outcomes

### Graduates are prepared to:

- Practice as a registered RT in the healthcare delivery system.
- Comply with the standards-of-practice and ethical code of the American Association for Respiratory Care.
- Apply critical thinking and problem solving skills to patient care.
- Demonstrate effective verbal and written communication as well as good interpersonal skills.
- Safely and correctly utilize current technology and equipment in the practice of Respiratory Care.

Estimated Cost

### Estimated Resident Program Cost \*

Tuition and Fees	\$10,495
Application Fees	\$30
Insurance	\$30
Course Fees	\$366
Program Fee	\$280
Books/Supplies	\$2,549
Total	\$13,750

\* **Fall 2016 MUS Student Health Insurance Premiums will be changing. Please check the Health Insurance website** (<http://students.gfcmsu.edu/insurance.html>) **and/or Student Central for confirmed premium rates. Students will be charged an additional fee of \$21 per credit for online/hybrid courses.**

Program Requirements

Many students need preliminary math, science, and writing courses before enrolling in the program requirements. These courses may increase the total number of program credits. Students should review their math and writing placement before planning out their full program schedules.

### GFC MSU Additional Graduation Requirement

Course	Title	Credits	Grade/Sem
COLS 103	Becoming a Successful Student (A grade of "C-" or above is required for graduation)	1	_____

### Prerequisite Courses and Skills

Background in basic science and math is essential to prepare applicants to succeed in the RT Program.

**Recommended (not required) courses:**

Course	Title	Credits	Grade/Sem
BIOM 250	Microbiology for Hlth Sci wLab	4	_____
HTH 140	Pharmacology for HC Providers	2	_____
AHMS 144	Medical Terminology	3	_____

Prior to admission to the RT program, students must have completed high school chemistry with a grade of B or above within the past five (5) years and demonstrate computer literacy. (Students without high school courses should consult the RT Program Director about the appropriate college coursework to meet this requirement.)

The Great Falls College MSU RT Program is a limited enrollment program, accepting a restricted number of students each year. Interested students are urged to contact the RT Program Directory or Advising and Career Center Advisors for student advising specific to admission requirements and criteria for program acceptance.

Prior to formal program acceptance, the applicant must successfully complete all of the program prerequisites with a minimum grade of C-.

**Required Prerequisite Courses**

Course	Title	Credits	Grade/Sem
BIOH 201	Human Anat Phys I/Lab (= 301) **+	4	_____
M 121	College Algebra **+	3	_____
WRIT 101	College Writing I **+	3	_____
Select one of the following:			
COMX 115	Intro to Interpersonal Communc +	3	_____
PSYX 100	Introduction to Psychology +	3	_____
PSYX 230	Developmental Psychology +	3	_____
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>13</b>	_____

\*\* Placement in course(s) is determined by placement assessment.

+ A grade of C- or above is required for graduation.

**Program Course Requirements After Formal Acceptance**

The courses below are to be taken in the order that they are listed. Admission into the RT Program and completion of the previous semester are required.

A grade of C- or above must be earned in all required courses to continue in and graduate from the program. CPR certification is a prerequisite for entrance into clinical courses. Each student is required to sign a clinical contract defining their professional responsibilities and behavior and must

complete two to four weeks of clinic outside of Great Falls during the summer semester.

Course	Title	Credits	Grade/Sem
<b>First Year</b>			
<b>Fall</b>			
AHRC 152	Respiratory Care **+	3	_____
AHRC 155	Respiratory Physiology **+	3	_____
AHRC 170	Respir Care Tech & Proced I **+	5	_____
BIOH 211	Human Anat Phys II & Lab(=311) **+	4	_____
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15</b>	
<b>Spring</b>			
AHRC 140	Respiratory Care Clinic I **+	3	_____
AHRC 171	Resp Care Tech & Proced II **+	5	_____
AHRC 180	Ventilator Management **+	2	_____
AHRC 254	Pulmonary Assessment **+	3	_____
<b>Credits</b>		<b>13</b>	
<b>Summer</b>			
AHRC 141	Respiratory Care Clinic II **+	4	_____
AHRC 262	Neonatal Respiratory Care **+	3	_____
<b>Credits</b>		<b>7</b>	
<b>Second Year</b>			
<b>Fall</b>			
AHRC 240	Respiratory Care Clinic III **+	4	_____
AHRC 245	Resp Care Clinical Seminar I **+	1	_____
AHRC 251	Hemodynamic Monitoring **+	4	_____
AHRC 274	Pulmonary Diseases **+	2	_____
ECP 212	Advanced Cardiac Life Support **+	1	_____
<b>Credits</b>		<b>12</b>	
<b>Spring</b>			
AHRC 241	Respiratory Care Clinic IV **+	4	_____
AHRC 246	Resp Care Clinical Seminar II **+	1	_____
AHRC 264	Respiratory Care In Alt Sites **+	1	_____
AHRC 273	Pulmonary Function Testing **+	2	_____
AHRC 280	Supervisory Management **+	2	_____
ECP 241	Pediatric Advanced Life Supprt **+	1	_____
HTH 120	IV Therapy for HC Providers +	1	_____
<b>Credits</b>		<b>12</b>	
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>59</b>	

**TOTAL PROGRAM CREDITS: 72**

\* Indicates prerequisites needed.

\*\* Placement in course(s) is determined by placement assessment.

+ A grade of C- or above is required for graduation.