

Respiratory Therapy, AAS Degree - 78 credits

Program Area: Health (Fall 2025)

**THE ELECTRONIC PROGRAM APPLICATION MAY BE FOUND ON THE LSC WEBSITE.
APPLICATION DATES TO APPLY START FEBRUARY 1ST ANNUALLY.**

Program Description

Respiratory Therapists are health care specialists who work with a variety of patients suffering from cardiopulmonary disorders. Working as part of the healthcare team, respiratory therapists assist in the evaluation, treatment, management, and rehabilitation of these disorders. Patients treated by respiratory therapists range from premature infants to the elderly. Respiratory therapists enjoy tremendous opportunity for diversity in their practices. Working in hospitals, diagnostic labs, clinics, and home care, respiratory therapists fill a vital role in our nation's health care system.

The clinical experience is diverse, with opportunities for training in a variety of areas and hospitals in the region. Upon graduation, the student will receive an Associate in Applied Science degree in Respiratory Therapy. The graduate is then eligible to sit for the National Board of Respiratory Care (NBRC) credentialing exams, which are required for licensure. Upon successful completion of the exams, the graduate will be awarded the credentials of Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT).

Program Student Outcomes

- Communicate effectively in verbal, nonverbal, written, and visual forms in the professional setting
- Demonstrate professional behaviors and ethical principles of the respiratory therapist profession
- Display knowledge and clinical competence required to provide best practices in respiratory therapy
- Demonstrate the ability to critically think and problem solve in the profession
- Communicate effectively in diverse groups while respecting beliefs and values of all persons, regardless of cultural background, religion, age, or lifestyle

Pre-Program Courses

Course	Course Title	Credits	Term
ALTH 1410	Medical Terminology	1	
BIOL 1140	Human Anatomy and Physiology I	4	
BIOL 1141	Human Anatomy and Physiology II	4	

Required Courses

Course	Course Title	Credits	Term
RESP 1405	Introduction to Respiratory Therapy Clinical	1	
RESP 1410	Cardiopulmonary Anatomy & Physiology	4	
RESP 1420	Principles and Practice of Respiratory Therapy I	4	
RESP 1430	Assessment of the Pulmonary Patient	3	
ENGL 1106	College Composition I	3	
RESP 1520	Principles and Practice of Respiratory Therapy II	4	
RESP 1530	Pathophysiology for Respiratory Therapy	4	
RESP 1560	Respiratory Therapy Clinical I	4	
RESP 1620	Pharmacology for Respiratory Therapy	3	
PSYC 1135 PSYC 1120 SOC 1111	Lifespan Developmental Psych or General Psychology or Introduction to Sociology	3	
RESP 1660	Respiratory Therapy Clinical II	2	
ALTH 1440	Medical Ethics and Law	1	
CHEM 1110	Aspects of Chemistry I	3	
RESP 2410	Mechanical Ventilation	5	
RESP 2420	Adult Critical Care	3	
RESP 2460	Respiratory Therapy Clinical III	7	
RESP 2430	Special Topics in Respiratory Therapy	1	
RESP 2440	Neonatal/Pediatric Respiratory Therapy	2	
RESP 2510	Directed Studies in Respiratory Therapy	3	
RESP 2560	Respiratory Therapy Clinical IV	6	
BIOL 1170	Microbiology	3	

Total credits

78

Courses may require a prerequisite. Refer to the course outline or check with an advisor.

Qualified applicants should be aware that program class sizes are limited, which may delay acceptance into the program.

You may be required to complete additional (or less) coursework, dependent upon the results of your Computerized Placement Test (CPT) and/or previous coursework completed or certifications awarded.

General Education courses that are required may be taken prior to entering the program, as long as the specific prerequisites for that course have been met. Please check with your advisor. All courses in the program need to be completed with a grade of “C” or better to progress into the next semester.

Pre-program Requirements

Successful entry into this program requires a specific level of skill in the areas of English, mathematics, and reading. Program entry will depend, in part, on meeting the prerequisites listed below.

English/Reading:

- Eligible for ENGL 1106 – College Composition I, or
- Completion of ENGL/READ 0950/0955 (or equivalent or higher). ENGL/READ 0950/0955 may not be taken concurrently with Semester I coursework.

Mathematics:

- Eligible for MATH 0970 - Intermediate Algebra, or
- Completion of MATH 0950/0955 (or equivalent or higher). MATH 0950/0955 may not be taken concurrently with Semester I coursework.

There are other ways to qualify. Visit [Course Placement](https://lsc.edu/course-placement) (lsc.edu/course-placement) to find out more.

NOTE: You will need a recent physical examination including current immunizations and a current negative Tuberculosis (TB) screening. Current certification in American Heart Association: BLS Healthcare Provider or American Red Cross: BLS/CPR for Healthcare Providers is required for all clinical courses. ALTH1430 will satisfy this requirement. Background Study approval is required from the State of Minnesota/or Wisconsin. A national criminal background study is required by some clinical sites. Students assigned to a clinical site requiring a criminal background study will be informed of this requirement prior to the start of the clinical experience.

Program Accreditation

The Respiratory Therapy Program at Lake Superior College is accredited by the [Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care](https://coarc.com/) (https://coarc.com/), 264 Precision Blvd, Telford, TN 37690, 817-283-2835. Program outcome data can be found by accessing the [CoARC website](https://coarc.com/students/programmatic-outcomes-data/) (https://coarc.com/students/programmatic-outcomes-data/).

Program Articulation - See current [articulation agreements](#).

For more information about the Respiratory Therapy AAS degree including course descriptions, course prerequisites, and potential career opportunities see the [program website](https://www.lsc.edu/degrees/respiratory-therapy-aas/) (https://www.lsc.edu/degrees/respiratory-therapy-aas/) **OR** contact the [professional advising team](mailto:advising@lsc.edu) (advising@lsc.edu) at 218-733-7601, or the Director of Respiratory Therapy [Bryan Stark](mailto:bryan.stark@lsc.edu) (bryan.stark@lsc.edu) at 218-733-7738.



CIP Code: 51.0908
Minnesota State Program ID: 3113
LSC Major ID: 5215

Created: 05/05/05
AASC Approval: 10/4/23
Updated: 04/01/2025

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