

**Program****RESPIRATORY THERAPY**

- *Associate in Applied Science (AAS) - (Advanced Level)*
- *AAS Day Program:* 5 semesters (there will be some evening classes, labs and/or clinical rotations)
- *Admission Cycle:* Fall
- *Maximum Number Admitted Annually:* 20-30

**Career Description**

Through academic studies, laboratory practice and a wide variety of clinical experiences, the student learns to perform diagnostic testing, advanced patient assessment and management of patients across their life span that have heart and lung diseases or related disorders.

**Careers Available**

Career positions are available for respiratory therapists in all aspects of today's healthcare system including comprehensive medical centers, hospitals, acute care areas, outpatient clinics, home care agencies, long-term care facilities, cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation centers, sleep disorder centers, critical care transport teams, physicians' offices and industrial product sales companies.

**Entry-Level Salary**

\$43,000 - \$59,000/yr.

**Course of Study**

Course work involves studies in basic human anatomy and physiology, advanced cardiopulmonary anatomy and physiology, diseases and disorders of the heart and lungs, diagnostic testing, applied physics, mathematics, algebra, chemistry, microbiology, pharmacology, respiratory therapeutics, advanced life support, mechanical ventilation, medical gas administration, electrocardiography, care of the home bound patient, pulmonary function testing, cardiopulmonary rehabilitation, community education, management of premature infants, children, and adult patients, assisting physicians with special procedures and a wide variety of clinical experiences.

**Recommended Courses and Skills**

High school human anatomy, physiology and health occupation classes. Chemistry, physics, microbiology, advanced mathematics and algebra also recommended.

**Helpful Personal Attributes**

Enjoy working with people of all ages and cultural backgrounds, ability to work in a team environment as well as independently, good leadership skills, good analytical and critical thinking skills, good technological computer skills, ability to cope with emergencies, death and dying situations.

**Program Contact**

If you would like additional information about the Respiratory Therapy Program, contact Perry Sheppard, Program Coordinator, at 336.734.7427 or [psheppard@forsythtech.edu](mailto:psheppard@forsythtech.edu).

**How To Get Started**

You may pick up an application at the Admissions Office, 123 Allman Center on the Forsyth Tech Main Campus, 2100 Silas Creek Parkway in Winston-Salem. You may also request an application by calling 336.734.7253, or you may apply online at [www.forsythtech.edu](http://www.forsythtech.edu).