

Respiratory Therapy Program Frequently Asked Questions (2020-2021)

Are related courses required to be completed before applying to the program?

- No. Related courses (as listed in your Respiratory Therapy information packet) are not required for admission into the program. However, due to the competitive admission process, those students who have completed some or all of the related courses will have higher point totals than those who have not, putting those students in a better position during selective admissions.

Are you able to work and go through the program all at the same time?

- Yes. Many of our students do work at least on a part-time basis while they attend the program. However, it is important to note that while it may be possible to work full-time while also attending the program, the time commitments - both in and out of the classroom - make it extremely difficult for those students to ultimately succeed in the program and graduate. From our experience, the best situation, if you must work, would be to do so on a part-time, as needed basis, which would allow for some degree of flexibility during times increased course and clinical requirements.

Do I have to obtain a criminal background check and drug screen prior to entering the program?

- Yes. All **ACCEPTED** students in programs with a clinical component (including Respiratory Therapy) are required to submit, at the cost to the student, to a criminal background check and drug screening prior to entering the program. Forsyth Tech and the Respiratory Therapy Program will NOT have access to the results of those screenings. However, clinical facilities will have access to that information and will decide, on a case-by-case basis, whether or not results from the criminal background or drug screening constitute dismissal of a student from that particular clinical site. Because you must be able to attend **ALL** clinical sites that are a part of our program, any student denied admission to a clinical site due to results of the criminal background or drug screening will not be allowed to continue in the Respiratory Therapy Program.

What if I have been previously dismissed from employment at a Program clinical site?

- If you have been dismissed from employment from an area hospital or clinical facility that utilizes respiratory therapists, please be advised that you may not be able to attend clinical rotations at that particular site. Because students must be able to attend all clinical sites that are a part of our program, this would constitute immediate dismissal from the program.

Can I attend the program on a part-time basis?

- No. Courses in the Respiratory Therapy Program are offered in sequence in order for students to complete their studies in five semesters (two Fall Terms, two Spring terms, one summer term). Students admitted to the program must attend on a full-time basis.

Can I take classes at night and complete the program?

- No. While some of the clinical rotations may occur in the late-evening hours, all curriculum courses are taught during the day, typically anywhere between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4 p.m.

What time do clinical courses typically begin?

- Because of the typical setup of Respiratory Therapy departments in the area, students can expect clinical courses to begin anywhere between 6:30 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. for hospital-based courses. Other specialty rotations such as pulmonary rehabilitation or homecare may have start times later in the morning, typically no later than 9:00 a.m. Clinical course assignments are chosen by the program's Clinical Coordinator and may constitute extra travel outside the immediate Winston-Salem area.

Do you offer a weekend option for attending the program?

- No. All courses, including clinical courses, meet during the week, Monday through Friday.

If I have another degree or college credits to transfer can I finish the degree in less time?

- While you may be able to transfer credit from other institutions to fulfill the requirements of the related courses in our program, the respiratory therapy curriculum courses are designed to be taken in sequence, over five semesters. If you have attended another respiratory therapy program and wish to transfer to our program, transfer of credits and time required for completion of your degree will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Program Coordinator.

What happens if I fail a course while in the program?

- The courses within the Respiratory Therapy Program at Forsyth Tech are designed to be taken in sequence, and are only offered once per year. Any student who fails a course within the curriculum will be forced to drop from the Program. That student will have the option, at the discretion of the Program Coordinator (and if space is available) to return to the program the following year in the corresponding term in which they failed.

Do you have more than one yearly entry point to start the program?

- The Respiratory Therapy Program at Forsyth Tech accepts new students each Fall term only. Currently, the program accepts 20-25 students each fall. Two seats are reserved for recent high school graduates.

What are your pass rates like on the national credentialing board exams?

- Forsyth Tech's Respiratory Therapy Program has been recognized as one of the Top 10 respiratory therapy programs in the country (out of over 450!). This ranking was largely based on the success of our students passing the national credentialing board exams. We consistently have near 100% pass rates for first-time challengers of the Therapist Multiple Choice and Clinical Simulation Exams.

What are the approximate costs to complete the program?

The following is a semester-by-semester estimated program costs analysis. The prospective student should keep in mind that these costs may vary and some represent typical averages. The analysis is also based on a full-time in-state student status and does not include costs associated with the general education and related courses. Course texts/materials costs are subject to change without notice. Tuition rates based on 2020-2021 costs.

Tuition based only on RCP courses – program related courses are not included.

First Semester (Fall)

Tuition:	\$608.00
Textbooks (RCP only):	\$514.00
Stethoscope:	\$75.00
Liability Insurance:	\$18.00
Student Activity Fee:	\$35.00
Technology Fee:	\$30.00
Parking Decal:	\$25.00
Scrubs, Shoes, supplies	\$300.00
DataARc Fee:	\$80.00
TOTAL:	\$1685.00

Second Semester (Spring)

Tuition:	\$912.00
Textbooks (RCP only):	\$275.00
Student Activity Fee:	\$35.00
Technology Fee:	\$30.00
TOTAL:	\$1252.00

Third Semester (Summer)

Tuition:	\$532.00
Textbooks (RCP only):	\$175.00
RCP 222 Lab Fee:	\$35.00
TOTAL:	\$742.00

Fourth Semester (Fall)

Tuition:	\$912.00
Textbooks (RCP only):	\$172.00
Liability Insurance:	\$18.00
Student Activity Fee:	\$35.00
Technology Fee:	\$30.00
Parking Decal:	\$25.00
Neonatal Resuscitation Program Certification	\$10.00
TOTAL:	\$1202.00

Fifth Semester (Spring)

Tuition:	\$912.00
Textbooks (RCP only):	\$90.00
RCP 215 Lab Fee:	\$90.00
Student Activity Fee:	\$35.00
Technology Fee:	\$30.00
Pediatric Advanced Life Support Certification	\$10.00
Advanced Cardiac Life Support Certification	\$10.00
TOTAL:	\$1197.00

GRAND TOTAL (approximate) \$6078.00

What is the typical course schedule for program courses?

- Below you will find a listing of the typical days and times for RCP courses. Of note, program related courses are not included. Also, clinical times listed are approximate; specific times may differ based on the clinical facility.

RESPIRATORY THERAPY PROGRAM (RCP) COURSE SEQUENCE

Typical meeting days / times for RCP courses only (subject to change)

Semester One		
RCP 110	Intro to Respiratory Care**	MW 9a-12p
RCP 113	RCP Pharmacology**	Tu 10a-12p
RCP 132	RCP Clinical Practice I	Th 8a-330p*
Semester Two		
RCP 111	Therapeutics / Diagnostics**	MW 9a-1230p
RCP 114	Cardiopulmonary Anat. & Physiology**	T 9a-12p
RCP 115	Cardiopulmonary Pathophysiology**	T 1p-3p
RCP 142	RCP Clinical Practice II	Th 7a-1p*
Semester Three		
RCP 112	Patient Management**	MTW 9a-1p
RCP 152	RCP Clinical Practice III	Th 7a-4:30p*
RCP 222	Special Practice Lab	F 9a-1p
Semester Four		
RCP 210	Critical Care Concepts**	T/Th 9a-12p
RCP 214	Neonatal and Pediatric Respiratory Care**	F 9a-1p
RCP 236	RCP Clinical Practice IV	MW 630a-3p*
Semester Five		
RCP 211	Advanced Monitoring / Procedures**	T/Th 9a-12p
RCP 215	Career Prep / Advanced Level**	Th 1p-4p
RCP 247	RCP Clinical Practice V	MW 630a-4p*

*Clinical times will vary based on facility

**** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some courses may be offered in a completely online or blended/hybrid format****

Any other advice?

- The respiratory therapy program is challenging, but the career is also very rewarding. I would encourage all interested students to actively search online for additional information about the respiratory therapy profession.

Check out the following websites:

American Association for Respiratory Care – www.aarc.org

Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care – www.coarc.com

National Board for Respiratory Care – www.nbrc.org

North Carolina Society for Respiratory Care – www.ncsrc.org

North Carolina Respiratory Care Board – www.ncrcb.org

Contact actual therapists and seek their opinion about the career. As certain as possible, make sure you are comfortable with the choice to dedicate not only the next two years, but a career in the practice of respiratory therapy.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any additional questions.

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