

Paul J. Crockford, MEd, RRT, Director/Advisor; Office MC 416; Phone: 406-243-7918; Paul.Crockford@umontana.edu

OVERVIEW:

Respiratory therapists, as members of a team of health care professionals, work to evaluate, treat, and manage patients of all ages with respiratory illnesses and other cardiopulmonary disorders in a wide variety of clinical settings. Respiratory therapists must behave in a manner consistent with the standards and ethics of all health care professionals. In addition to performing respiratory care procedures, respiratory therapists are involved in clinical decision-making (such as patient evaluation, treatment selection, and assessment of treatment efficacy) and patient education. The scope of practice for respiratory therapist includes, but is not limited to:

- acquiring and evaluating clinical data;
- assessing the cardiopulmonary status of patients;
- performing and assisting in the performance of prescribed diagnostic studies, such as drawing blood samples, performing blood gas analysis, pulmonary function testing, and applying adequate recording electrodes using polysomnographic techniques;
- utilizing data to assess the appropriateness of prescribed respiratory care;
- establishing therapeutic goals for patients with cardiopulmonary disease;
- participating in the development and modification of respiratory care plans;
- case management of patients with cardiopulmonary and related diseases;
- initiating ordered respiratory care, evaluating and monitoring patients' responses to such care, modifying the prescribed respiratory therapy and cardiopulmonary procedures, and life support endeavors to achieve desired therapeutic objectives;
- initiating and conducting prescribed pulmonary rehabilitation;
- providing patient, family, and community education;
- promoting cardiopulmonary wellness, disease prevention, and disease management;
- participating in life support activities as required; and
- promoting evidence-based medicine, research, and clinical practice guidelines.

Starting salaries are excellent with premiums paid for evening, night, and weekend shifts. Jobs are plentiful throughout the United States. Graduates are eligible to take the credentialing examinations administered by the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) which lead to the Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) credential. Licensure requirements in the state of Montana also are met by successful completion of the NBRC Entry Level (CRT) examination.

The goal of the program is, "To prepare graduates with demonstrated competence in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) domains of respiratory care practice as performed by registered respiratory therapists (RRTs)" CoARC standard 3.01.

The program is 4 ½ semesters in length which includes the AA prerequisite courses and a summer session. The Respiratory Care Program at The University of Montana Missoula College, is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (www.coarc.com), 1248 Harwood Road, Bedford, Texas 76021-4244. Graduates receive the degree of Associate of Applied Science in Respiratory Care.

Students accepted to the program are required to rotate to clinical sites outside the Missoula area on a periodic basis. These rotations take place during the spring semester, summer session and autumn semester of the second year. These sites may include, but are not limited to: Kalispell, Ronan, Plains, Butte, Billings, Hamilton, Helena, and Coeur d'Alene. Transportation and housing are the student's responsibility.

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CURRICULUM:

Note: It is preferred that students have the prerequisite courses completed by the end of the semester in which they intend to apply to the program (i.e. applying to the program in the spring and completing the prerequisite courses by the end of that spring semester.) However, those students who anticipate completing the prerequisites by the end of the summer semester are still encouraged to apply in the spring and may be granted provisional acceptance.

SUMMARY	
	Credit Hours
Pre-Respiratory Care Prerequisite Courses	23
Respiratory Care Courses	48
Total Credits	71

PRE- RESPIRATORY CARE PREREQUISITE COURSES -- Rule: All courses required / Minimum Required Grade: C-

Note: Must have completed or be in the process of completing when applying to the program.

A minimum GPA of 2.75 for prerequisite courses is required in order to apply to the program.

Course	Title	Credit Hours
BIOH 201N & 202	Human Anat Phys I and Lab (equiv 301)	4
BIOH 211N & 212	Human Anat Phys II and Lab (equiv 311)	4
COMX 115S	Intro to Interpersonal Communications	3
M 115 (or M121)	Probability and Linear Mathematics (or College Algebra)	3
PHSX 105N	Fundamentals of Physical Science	3
PSYX 100S	Intro to Psychology	3
WRIT 121 (or WRIT 101)	Intro to Technical Writing (or College Writing I)	3
Total Prerequisite Credits		23

RESPIRATORY CARE COURSES -- Rule: All courses required / Minimum Required Grade: B-

Year / Term	Course	Title	Credit Hours	Credits per Term
Year 1 Autumn	AHRC 101	Communication Management	1	14 credits
	AHRC 129	Patient Care & Assessment	4	
	AHRC 131	Respiratory Care Fundamentals I	5	
	AHRC 150	Respiratory Care Lab I	1	
	AHRC 235	Cardiopulmonary Anatomy & Physiology	3	
Year 1 Spring	AHRC 132	Respiratory Care Fundamentals II	3	16 credits
	AHRC 231	Respiratory Critical Care	4	
	AHRC 232	Respiratory Path & Disease	3	
	AHRC 250	Respiratory Care Lab II	2	
	AHRC 255	Clinical Experience I	4	
Year 1 Summer	AHRC 260	Respiratory Care Lab III	1	6 credits
	AHRC 265	Clinical Experience II	5	
Year 2 Fall	AHRC 243	Perinatal & Pediatric Respiratory Care	3	12 credits
	AHRC 252	Respiratory Care Review	2	
	AHRC 270	Respiratory Care Lab IV	1	
	AHRC 275	Clinical Experience III	6	
AHRC Credits			48	
Prerequisite Credits			23	
TOTAL CREDITS			71	