



Required Abilities Qualifications

Respiratory Therapy Program

The mission of the Skyline College Respiratory Therapy Program is to train competent entry level Respiratory Care Practitioners (RCP) capable of providing care for the general patient population in the current health care settings. To be effective, an RCP should be flexible to respond to changing demands in their work environment and be able to perform during stressful situations while providing patient care.

The purpose of this document is to state attributes required of the student to ensure successful completion of the Respiratory Therapy Program. If the student is not capable of demonstrating the following skills and abilities, it is the responsibility of the student to request appropriate accommodation. In consultation with the disabled students coordinator, reasonable modifications and/or accommodations will be made for the student with a documented disability.

The following statements identify the attributes and abilities appropriate to the profession of Respiratory Therapy.

- A. The prospective Respiratory Therapy Student must possess appropriate strength, motor coordination and manual dexterity to be able to:
 - Stand and walk for up to 90% of work time
 - Bend and kneel to competently perform CPR
 - Climb stairs when necessary
 - Lift up to 45 pounds and carry up to 25 pounds
 - Push and pull heavy objects on wheels such as compressed gas cylinders and ventilators
 - Use of hands and fingers 100% of the time for such duties as percussion and auscultation of patients, assembling and disassembling equipment, and manipulating controls on machines
 - Document communication in charts, reports and other forms of correspondence through the use of legible handwriting
- B. The student must be able to communicate verbally in an effective manner to explain procedures and direct patients during these procedures
- C. The student must be able to comprehend and react quickly to verbal instructions, patient's needs, and requests of others. The student must be able to assess visual and audible alarms on equipment and monitors to differentiate critical levels and respond appropriately. The student must be able to listen to breath sounds during auscultation to assess appropriately.
- D. The student must have near vision acuity to read charts, observe patients, dispense medications, read machine controls, and patient monitors. The ability to read LED's is needed, as is the ability to see in dim light.
- E. At the end of the training program, the Respiratory Therapy Graduate must be capable of:
 - Maintaining effective performance in stressful situations related to equipment and patient problems. The graduate must be able to respond appropriately to situations requiring emergency care of the patient
 - Providing physical and emotional support to the patient during procedures
 - Working closely with members of the health care team