

# Respiratory Therapy Program

*Two-Year Program; Fall Semester Entry*

Applications accepted January 15 to May 1



*'At 9:32 a.m., Becky Solis brought a newborn baby struggling to breathe back to life. At 12:09 p.m., she responded to a Code Blue and worked with the team to save a 48 year old man's life. At 2:48 p.m., Becky gave Mrs. Scott a treatment that helped her breathe much easier so she could sleep.'*

A respiratory therapist is a licensed health care professional who cares for patients with heart and lung problems, and provides oxygen therapy, pulmonary medications, diagnostic testing, life support and mechanical ventilation. Respiratory therapists care for a variety of patients, including newborn infants in respiratory distress, children with asthma or pneumonia, victims of trauma, and older patients with emphysema or heart failure.

There is a great demand for Respiratory Therapists. The Bureau of Labor and Statistics projects employment of respiratory therapists to increase faster than the average compared to all occupations through the year 2012 and salaries are competitive with other health care professions. Starting salaries in the Bay Area for Registered Respiratory Therapists in 2011 average \$72,800.

The Respiratory Therapy Program at Skyline College is an accredited 2 year program that provides instruction and clinical practice needed to be a successful Respiratory Care Practitioner. In those 2 years, a student receives instruction from dedicated instructors who have practical experience in the field. Over 800 hours of clinical exposure and practice are coordinated with sites in San Francisco and San Mateo Counties.

**Requirements:** all applicants must have completed the following prior to acceptance into the program:

Algebra - equivalent to MATH 110 or 112	Medical Terminology – equivalent to HSCI 484 or BUS 485
Chemistry (with lab) – equivalent to Chem 192 or 410 <i>(suggested course is CHEM 410 if not already completed)</i>	Human Anatomy (with lab) - equivalent to BIO 250
	Eligibility for Skyline College English 836 or equivalent

*(High school coursework can no longer be accepted to meet stated requirements)*

**Registration:** Skyline College **and** Respiratory Therapy Program application

**Cost:** Approximately \$1000 a semester which includes the cost of college tuition, textbooks, required lab and clinical materials, licensing and professional fees. Students with financial constraints should see the Skyline College Financial Aid Department regarding many types of assistance: scholarships - grants - forgivable loans.

## For Further Information Contact:

**Dr. Ijaz Ahmed, Director of Respiratory Therapy/Allied Health**

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# Respiratory Therapy Program

The Respiratory Therapy Program at Skyline College is situated just a few miles south of San Francisco on 110 acre campus overlooking the Pacific Ocean. This accredited program serves the San Francisco and San Mateo County Communities.

Our program offers an advanced level education with an A.S. Degree in Respiratory Therapy which allows a graduate to become a licensed Certified Respiratory Therapist and attain a higher level of credentialing (Registered Respiratory Therapist) as well. Areas of study include human anatomy and physiology, chemistry, physics, microbiology, mathematics as well as technical courses dealing with procedures, equipment, and clinical tests.

One of the programs greatest strengths is its affiliation and support from those hospitals and organizations it serves. Students in the program receive the latest information, hands on training and individualized support from experienced faculty in the classroom and knowledgeable dedicated licensed practitioners. Over 800 hours of clinical practice will be completed by the student at these various hospitals and healthcare facilities:

## San Francisco County

California Pacific Medical Center      St. Luke's Hospital      Kaiser Permanente – San Francisco  
San Francisco General Hospital      Saint Francis Hospital      University of California – San Francisco  
Veteran Affairs Hospital – San Francisco

## San Mateo County

Apria Home Health      Mills-Peninsula Hospital  
San Mateo General Hospital      Seton Medical Center

**The Respiratory Care Board of California asked newly licensed RCP's what they like about their career and what drew them to the Respiratory Care field. This is what they had to say:**

*"I enjoy respiratory therapy because it makes my life meaningful knowing that I am helping, and in some cases, saving lives."*

*"I really like working with the doctors; they rely on our expertise and assessment skills."*

*"One on one contact with patients is what I particularly enjoy. I spend time explaining treatments and monitoring their responses to therapy."*

*"I chose the Respiratory Care Program because I did not have to be placed on a waiting list which allowed me to get working sooner."*

*"I enjoy Respiratory Care because I'm relied upon as an expert in cases where breathing disorders are an issue."*

**For more information regarding the Respiratory Care Profession, please visit the following websites:**

American Association for Respiratory Care

[www.aarc.org](http://www.aarc.org)

California Society for Respiratory Care

[www.csrc.org](http://www.csrc.org)

Respiratory Care Board of California

[www.rcb.ca.gov](http://www.rcb.ca.gov)

National Board for Respiratory Care

[www.nbrc.org](http://www.nbrc.org)