LSU Health NEW ORLEANS

School of Allied Health Professions
Department of Cardiopulmonary Science



Frequently Asked Questions: Respiratory Therapy Program

1. **Is the program accredited?**

   Yes, the program holds continuing accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC, www.coarc.com, program #200251). The program holds 10-yr accreditation (July 31, 2021 - July 31, 2031).

2. **How long has the program been in existence?**

   48 years, first class enrolled was in 1978.

3. **What has been the job placement rate over the past three years?**

   95% Employment! Sign-on bonuses! 100% Employer satisfaction!

   "There is presently a very high demand for respiratory therapists, and the current rate of enrollment in local education programs will not meet future regional needs."

4. **What percentage of graduates pass the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) entry-level exam (CRT credential)?**

   100% (Previous 3-year average, 2025-2023)

5. **What percentage of graduates pass the NBRC entry-level exam at the high cut score and eligible for registry exam?**

   100% (Previous 3-year average, 2025-2023)

6. **What percentage of graduates pass the NBRC registry exam, earning their RRT credential?**

   100% (Previous 3-year average, 2025-2023)

   - *The American Association for Respiratory Care, CoARC, and the NBRC recognize the Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) credential as the standard of excellence for respiratory care professionals.*

7. **What is the program's retention rate?**

   86% retention (Previous 3-year average, 2025-2023)

https://alliedhealth.lsuhsc.edu/cp/defaultRT.aspx
504-568-4227
Email: CPS@lsuhsc.edu

Reviewed July 2026

8. **How many students (respiratory track) can enroll each year?**

   Max enrollment is 17 students.

9. **What is the process to have my academic transcript(s) reviewed to determine what courses will transfer?**

   Send a copy of an unofficial or official transcript from each university that you have attended or are currently attending to jzamja@lsuhsc.edu. You will receive your calculated prerequisite GPAs (overall and science) and list of any missing prerequisites.

   Course listings from Louisiana universities and colleges, which meet program prerequisites, are available on the website.

10. **What is the…**

Instructor to student ratio	1:4
Instructor-to-student ratio in the classroom:	1:16 to 1:28
Instructor-to-student ratio in the training lab:	1:2 to 1:6
Instructor-to-student ratio in clinical practicums:	1:1 to 1:2

11. **What are the program's estimated annual costs?**

Annual Tuition and fees:

Resident		$11,292	Non-resident	$23,287
Books:		$750		
Other fees:		$125		
Uniforms & equipment:		$150		
TOTAL:	**Resident**	**$12,317**	Non-resident	$24,312

Tuition and fees: https://www.lsuhsc.edu/tuition/alliedhealth.aspx

12. **When and where do students attend clinicals?**

    Clinics begin midway through the first fall semester and continue each semester thereafter. Seventeen clinical sites (11 sites located throughout the surrounding metropolitan area) offer students a diverse clinical experience, whereby students gain clinical skills in managing challenging patient populations in numerous clinical settings.

A list of clinical sites is found here;
http://alliedhealth.lsuhsc.edu/cp/clinicalaffiliates.aspx



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13. **How many clinical hours of training do students receive?**

    Approximately 1000 hours, one-half of total curricular contact hours.

14. **Of the total clinical practice hours, what percentage is available for students in the following areas:**

    30-43% Adult critical care
    12-25% Neonatal critical care
    7-20% Diagnostics: pulmonary function testing, metabolic studies, cardiopulmonary exercise testing, and bronchoscopy
    5-18% Pediatric critical care
    4-17% Pulmonary rehabilitation: includes COPD management and smoking cessation rotations
    3-16% Sleep disorders evaluation (optional)
    15% Adult general care
    2.5% Pediatric general care
    2.5% Outpatient chronic pulmonary disease management
    2.5% Management: respiratory care department administration
    2% Education: interprofessional and teaching assistant
    1% Neuromuscular disease**:** Muscular Dystrophy/Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis

15. **Where do graduates work after graduation?**

    Graduates work throughout the U.S. and abroad in areas of clinical practice, healthcare leadership, management, education, research, medical equipment development, sales, and sleep diagnostics. Some have become physicians, perfusionists, or physician assistants.

16. **What makes this program distinct and exceptional?**

    - ✓ Students earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Cardiopulmonary Science.
    - ✓ **Award winning program for RRT credentialing success**
    - ✓ Outstanding students and dedicated faculty to student success and the delivery of high-quality patient care.
    - ✓ Experienced faculty who hold advanced degrees (physiology, pathology, pharmacology, and management) and specialty credentials in respiratory care.
    - ✓ **Cadaver dissection in human gross anatomy course**.



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What makes this program distinct and exceptional?

- ✓ **Off-campus laboratory sites in Baton Rouge**
- ✓ Advanced airway management - operating room rotations
- ✓ High-fidelity mannequin simulations that engage students in hands-on, competency-based learning.
- ✓ **Interprofessional education: team-based learning about, from and with students from all six schools (over 19 academic programs) within the LSU Health Sciences Center**
- ✓ **Advanced cardiac life support (ACLS) certification** (optional)
- ✓ Sleep disorders (Polysomnography) curriculum
- ✓ Numerous clinical sites allowing for extensive clinical training
- ✓ Valuable interactions with respiratory care department directors and managers of local area hospitals that foster graduate employment
- ✓ Annual attendance at the Louisiana Society for Respiratory Care Educational Meeting and Exhibits held in Baton Rouge

17. **Is there a recent graduate or current student with whom I could chat?**

The program director can provide you with contact information of a recent graduate or current student.

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18. **What are the course prerequisites for the program?**

All prerequisite courses (as part of the 51 semester credits specified) require a grade of "C" or better, and applicants must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5 (4.0 scale) for all prerequisites.

Prerequisite Courses "C" or better, GPA ≥ 2.5	Credit Hours 51
English Composition	6
Humanities	9
Sociology (General)	3
Psychology (General)	3
Art Elective (Theater, Dance, Music, Art)	3
Mathematics (Algebra and Trigonometry or higher)	6
Chemistry (General and Laboratory)	4
Biology (General and Laboratory)	8
Physics (General)	3
Microbiology (General)	3
Human Physiology	3

Apply here:
https://ahcas.liaisoncas.com



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