

RESPIRATORY CARE PROGRAM
FLORIDA COMMUNITY COLLEGE AT JACKSONVILLE
NORTH CAMPUS

General Professional Information:

Respiratory Care is one of the fastest growing allied health specialties. It is involved with the treatment, diagnosis and rehabilitation of patients with diseases of the heart and lungs. As members of the health care team, respiratory therapists use sophisticated equipment such as ventilators, computerized patient monitoring devices and resuscitation instruments. The therapist also provides for the delivery of medical gases and pharmacological agents, including oxygen and less commonly, helium or carbon dioxide. Patients in need of respiratory therapy range from newborn infants to heart surgery patients to children with cystic fibrosis. Trauma patients are often in need of respiratory care.

This program is accredited by the Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC). Graduates are qualified to sit for the Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT) and Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) exams, as well as a number of other specialty exams.

Successful students must have a genuine desire to work with people. An aptitude in the sciences is helpful, as is a willingness to devote ample time to independent study, homework, and group study. The program is challenging, but graduates look forward to a very rewarding career. Page 7 details some of the physical standards needed for the program.

If you want to find out more about our program, call (904) 766-6513. You may want to tour the facilities, meet current students, speak to faculty members or even speak to employers of our students. Any or all of these can be arranged by calling the office.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

About the profession -	American Association for Respiratory Care http://www.aarc.org/
About the school -	Florida Community College at Jacksonville http://www.fccj.edu/
About the program -	Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care http://www.coarc.com/

The limited access program is open to applicants regardless of race, religious affiliation, sex or age. Applications are accepted from June 15 for admission to the following Fall Term.

Applicants must have a high school diploma or its equivalent.

ACADEMIC PREREQUISITES (General Education)

Academic courses will include: Human Anatomy and Physiology-BSC 2085C and BSC 2086C, Math-MAC 1105, English-ENC 1101, a Humanities course, and a Social Science course (see page 7). Students must submit evidence of current cardiopulmonary resuscitation certification. The certification must be a two person, adult-infant/child course. The American Heart Associations Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers, the American Red Cross’s CPR for the Professional Rescuer and FCCJ’s HED 0300 Basic Life Support fulfill this requirement. Students must keep their certification current through the program.

PROGRAM COURSE SEQUENCE

All respiratory therapy courses must be taken in sequence or with the permission of the Program Chair. Students must achieve a "C" average in all the respiratory care courses and all related science courses, including anatomy and physiology, and math, prior to graduation from the program. No respiratory care course may be repeated more than twice. Any withdrawals or re-enrollments must be approved by the Program Chairperson. Under no circumstance may a student enter into the final term of the program without all prerequisite coursework completed.

DENIAL OR REQUIRED WITHDRAWAL

The Respiratory Care Program reserves the right to deny admission or require withdrawal of any student who, in the judgement of the department, gives evidence of being unable to perform the responsibilities and tasks required of the respiratory care profession. Student must be able to demonstrate ability to communicate, ambulate and perform fine motor coordination; have adequate vision and auditory perception. In accordance with Chapter 486.125 of the Florida Statutes, the Respiratory Care Program reserves the right to deny or delay admission, or require withdrawal of any student, who in the judgement of the department, gives evidence of “being unable to practice respiratory therapy with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of illness or use of alcohol, drugs, narcotics, chemicals or any other type of material, or as a result of any mental or physical condition.”

HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS

ACADEMIC ADVISING/COUNSELING.....	766-6761
ADMISSIONS/REGISTRATION.....	766-6700
BOOKSTORE.....	766-6631
FINANCIAL AID/VETERANS AFFAIRS.....	766-6700
RESPIRATORY CARE PROGRAM.....	766-6513
TESTING INFORMATION.....	766-6708

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

Complete applications must contain the following items, and all items must be submitted together. Incomplete applications will not be processed.

1. Completed Respiratory Care Program Application Form
2. Original or official college copy of scores from the Health Occupations Test (HOT)
3. Evidence of current cardiopulmonary resuscitation certification
4. Official transcripts (if transferring from another college)

NOTE: The Respiratory Care Program is unable to provide applicants with copies of any documentation in their files. Please make and retain copies for your future use or request copies from the originator prior to submitting anything to the program.

Complete applications should be sent to:

Respiratory Care Program
Florida Community College at Jacksonville, North Campus
4501 Capper Road, Room A224
Jacksonville, FL 32218

Candidates will be notified of their status after all completed applications have been reviewed by the Admissions Committee. Notification will be made in writing by mail 4 to 6 weeks following the application deadline. Information concerning a student's status or the status of the student's file will NOT be given over the telephone.

NOTE: It is the applicant's responsibility to keep the Respiratory Care Program informed of any changes in mailing address. Incorrect addresses may delay a candidate's notification or cause the candidate to lose his/her seat.

PROCESS FOR SELECTION OF QUALIFIED APPLICANTS

Admission to the professional phase of the Respiratory Care program is on a competitive basis. Students who have met the criteria outlined in the Application Process section of this packet, and submitted complete applications by the deadline for the year in which they seek admission, will be awarded points based on the system outlined on page 5. Students will then be ranked according to the sum of their accumulated point totals from each category. The 24 highest ranked students will be accepted into the professional phase of the Respiratory program, and notified of their acceptance by mail 4 to 6 weeks following the application deadline. A ranked alternate list will be established. In the event of forfeiture, the next highest ranked student will be notified of acceptance. Applicants who are not awarded one of the 24 available seats but wish to seek admission to the professional phase of a future class will have to submit a new application for the year in which they seek admission.

Students transferring from college or community college or accredited programs in Respiratory Therapy may apply for course exemptions and/or credit.

Entry via this mechanism is on a space available basis, and the applicant is urged to contact the Program Chair by January of the year admission is desired.

COUNSELING

It is not required, but it is suggested that the student receive counseling through the Counseling Office before applying to the Program.

ESTIMATED EXPENSES (approximate figures)

TUITION

Florida resident: \$74.20 per credit hour

Pre-professional phase – 20 credit hours.....	\$1,484.00
Professional phase – 56 credit hours.....	\$4,155.20

Non-Florida resident: \$282.05 per credit hour

Pre-professional phase – 20 credit hours.....	\$5,641.00
Professional phase – 56 credit hours.....	\$15,794.80

The cost of tuition is subject to change without notice.

OTHER EXPENSES

College application fee.....	\$ 15
CPR Course (est cost).....	\$ 70
Testing fee (HOT exam).....	\$ 30
Physical examination (est. cost).....	\$125
Textbooks (est. cost).....	\$750
Lab fees.....	\$ 41
Student membership fees for professional societies (optional).....	\$ 60
Uniforms and shoes (est. cost).....	\$ 75
FCCJ Name Tag.....	\$ 5

NOTE: Travel and living expenses incurred during clinical rotations are not included.

Fees and other expenses are subject to change without notice.

STUDENT RANKING PROCEDURE

All applicants for this program must be at least seventeen years of age and have earned a high school diploma or G.E.D. certificate.

1. Each applicant is ranked on the following criteria.

a. Grade Point Average (in prerequisite coursework)

<u>RANK</u>	<u>G.P.A.</u>
10	4.0
9.5	3.8
9	3.6
8.5	3.4
8	3.2
7.5	3.0
7	2.8
6.5	2.6
6	2.4
5.5	2.2
5	2.0
4.5	1.8
4	1.6
3.5	1.4
3	1.2
2.5	1.0
2	.8
1.5	.6
1	.4

b. Health Occupations Test (HOT) score. To schedule HOT, call 632-5009.

<u>Test Section</u>	<u>Percentile Rank</u>		<u>Common Divisor</u>		<u>Total Points</u>
Academic Aptitude Total	99	+	4	=	24.75
Spelling	99	+	4	=	24.75
Reading Comprehension	99	+	4	=	24.75
Natural Sciences	99	+	4	=	24.75
			Total Points		99

c. Satisfactory completion of Prerequisites (see page 8).

2. The average of the rank scores for the HOT and GPA is computed and considered along with completion of prerequisite coursework. Additional completed Math/Science courses are given .25 pt. each.

3. The appropriate value is added to the average rank for documented related work experience. This number is the FINAL RANK. Persons having experience as: Registered Nurse, Licensed Practical Nurse, Corpsman, Emergency Medical Technician, Medical Laboratory Technologist, Physician's Assistant = .25 points per full year up to four years credit (one full point.)
4. An applicant with FINAL RANK of 50 or higher is considered a qualified applicant.
5. The FINAL RANKS for all qualified applicants are placed in rank order within two groups: Program Service District students, and other students.
6. First priority will be given to qualified applicants (Florida Residents) living in the program service district, which includes Duval and Nassau counties. Applicants will be selected for admissions from the rank-ordered program service district qualified applicants from highest to lowest until all available positions have been filled. If all qualified service district applicants have been selected for admission and there are still some openings to be filled, other applicants will be rank-ordered and the remaining selections made in the same fashion.

STUDENTS WHO ARE ACCEPTED TO THE RESPIRATORY CARE PROGRAM

Students are notified of their acceptance into the professional phase of the Respiratory Care program by mail. Students who receive letters of acceptance are given a specified period of time to formally accept the seat. A time line and guidelines for accepting the seat are included with the acceptance letters. If the student does not accept the seat by the deadline, the seat will be offered to the next highest ranked candidate on the Alternate List.

Students who are awarded and formally accept a seat in the Respiratory Care program must complete the following:

1. **Respiratory Care Orientation Session**
Students are required to attend a Respiratory Care Program orientation session to be held on FCCJ's North Campus. The time, date and exact location of the session will be included with the acceptance letter.
2. **Student Health Certificate, Student Health Form and Hepatitis B Vaccine Statement**
Students must submit a current Student Health Certificate (completed by a physician), Student Health Form (completed by the student) and Hepatitis B Vaccine Statement. Official forms will be included with the acceptance letter.

Physical Standards for Respiratory Care

The following is not an all-inclusive list of standards but representative examples derived from the Dictionary of Occupational Titles.

EXAMPLE	FREQUENCY*
LIFT up to 50 pounds to assist moving patients	(F)
STOOP to adjust equipment	(F)
KNEEL to perform CPR	(O)
CROUCH to locate and plug in electrical equipment	(F)
REACH 5-6 feet above the floor to attach oxygen devices to wall	(C)
MOVE/MANEUVER large wheeled equipment, ventilators	(C)
GRIP small and large equipment for storing, retrieving, moving	(C)
CONTROL syringes, laryngoscopes, endotracheal tubes	(C)
OPERATE diagnostic/therapeutic devices	(C)
HEAR verbal directions, alarms, breath sounds	(C)
SEE patient conditions such as retractions, cyanosis	(C)
STAND/WALK for prolonged periods of time	(C)

***LEGEND**

O = occasionally (up to 1/3 of time)

F = frequently (up to 2/3 of time)

C = constantly (over 2/3 of time)

3. **Medical Insurance**
FCCJ's tuition costs for the Respiratory Care program include limited insurance to cover medical expenses resulting from accidental injuries incurred while participating in clinical activities only. Students are strongly advised to have health insurance.
4. **Background Check**
Background checks are required by all hospitals in order for students to participate in clinical rotations. A background check must be performed and considered acceptable by all clinical facilities. Failure to pass the background check may preclude participation in the program.
5. **Drug Screening**
A 10-panel drug screen must be performed and found to be negative before students may participate in clinical rotations. Information on the drug screening test will be given out at orientation.