

## **RESPIRATORY THERAPIST, Associate in Science Degree - 3920**

*Health & Public Service Department*

The Respiratory Therapist AS program prepares students to enter the workforce as registered respiratory therapists. The program is offered in cooperation with Life Care Hospital of Mechanicsburg, Penn State Health System - Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, Geisinger Holy Spirit Hospital, UPMC Pinnacle Health System, Summit Health, Wellspan York Hospital, FOX Subacute Hospital, and Pulmonary and Critical Care Associates. The Respiratory Therapist program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care ([www.coarc.com](http://www.coarc.com)). Continuation in this program requires that the student receive a grade of C or higher in each course pursued. Graduation requirements include current Certification in American Heart Association BLS (CPR), American Heart Association Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) certification, American Heart Association Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) certification, professional development credits, and satisfactory performance on comprehensive written, laboratory, simulation, and oral exit examinations. Membership in the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) is required by the start of the second semester of the Respiratory Therapist program (#3920). The following must be completed after a student has been selected for, but prior to their start in the clinical portion of the program and are also requirements for continuation: physical examination and required immunizations, background checks (Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance, FBI fingerprint check, and PA State Police Criminal Record Check), and drug and alcohol screens. The student should consider these factors before enrolling in this program. If the student has any questions regarding this, he or she should contact the program director. The complete program is available at the Harrisburg Campus. In addition to tuition and fees, students must purchase uniforms, supplies, liability insurance, testing, and clinical parking fees.

*Selective Program:* Entry into this program is not guaranteed with admission to the College; this is a selective and competitive admission program; specific admissions criteria must be met. Please go to the Health Careers website ([www.hacc.edu/healthcareers](http://www.hacc.edu/healthcareers)) or email at [start@hacc.edu](mailto:start@hacc.edu) for specific program entry requirements.

### *Career Opportunities*

Graduates find employment as respiratory therapists in hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, home healthcare companies, and as pharmaceutical sales representatives.

### *Competency Profile*

This curriculum is designed to prepare students to:

- Demonstrate proficiency as respiratory therapists as described by the National Board for Respiratory Care
- Assist physicians in the diagnosis, management, and treatment of patients afflicted with cardiopulmonary disorders
- Function effectively as members of the healthcare team
- Comprehend, apply, and evaluate clinical information relevant to their role as registered respiratory therapists (Cognitive Domain)
- Demonstrate technical proficiency in all registered respiratory therapist skills. (Psychomotor Domain)
- Demonstrate personal behaviors consistent with professional and employer expectations for the registered respiratory therapist (Affective Domain)

