Department of Respiratory Care

PROGRAM OFFERED

- **Associate of Applied Science** | Respiratory Care

Information about the program

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Faculty

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Alvin Tucker, RRT, CPFT | **Director of Clinical Education**

Medical Directors

Norton Elson, MD | **Co-Medical Director**
Alfred Munzer, MD | **Co-Medical Director**

Clinical Instructors

Georgia Fyffe-Brown, RRT
Antoine Jose, RRT
Ahmed Mahamed, RRT
Kathy Regan, RRT
Aaron Smith, RRT
Abigail Wankyo, RRT
Simone Harris, RRT
Maria Madden, RRT
Emmanuel Milord, RRT
Dalonne Small, RRT
Kimberly Thomas RRT
Leona Woodrupp, RRT-NPS

Mission Statement

Committed to excellence — Washington Adventist University's Respiratory Care Program shall provide an academic teaching environment that creates a supportive learning experience for the student. As defined by our Program Goal, we are dedicated to transform students into competent professionals who are moral leaders in the Respiratory Care profession, as well as in their communities.

Introduction

Washington Adventist University's "AAS in 5" is a five-semester curriculum in Respiratory Care, designed to be completed in two academic years. It prepares the student to function as an advanced Respiratory Care Practitioner, a life support specialist in the treatment, diagnostic evaluation, and care of patients with deficiencies and abnormalities of the cardiopulmonary system.

Accreditation

The Washington Adventist University Respiratory Care Program in Takoma Park, Md., is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) | www.coarc.com

Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care
1248 Harwood Road, Bedford, TX 76021-4244 | (817) 283-2835

Graduates of the program are eligible for the examinations that earn the following seven credentials offered through the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) | www.nbrc.org

- **CRT:** Certified Respiratory Therapist — The entry-level credential in Respiratory Care is the minimum competency required in most states to obtain a license to practice. This credential is typically required for admission to the other credentialing exams
- **RRT:** Registered Respiratory Therapist — The advanced practitioner credential in Respiratory Care which is the program goal and required by most employers for hiring
- **ACCS:** Adult Critical Care Specialist — Credential that documents competence in providing critical respiratory care to adults
- **NPS:** Neonatal Pediatric Specialist — credential that documents competence in providing Respiratory Care to infants, toddlers, and children
- **CPFT:** Certified Pulmonary Function Technologist — the entry-level credential in Pulmonary Functions
- **RPFT:** Registered Pulmonary Function Technologist — the advanced practitioner credential in Pulmonary Functions
- **SDS:** Sleep Disorders Specialist — The credential that documents competence in performing sleep disorders testing and therapeutic intervention

Graduates of the program are also eligible for the examination that earns the following credential offered through the National Asthma Educator Certification Board (NAECB) | www.naecb.org

- **AE-C:** Certified Asthma Educator — the credential that documents competence in providing therapeutic care and education to patients with asthma and their families.

Program Goal

To prepare graduates with demonstrated competence in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains of Respiratory Care practice as performed by Registered Respiratory Therapists (RRTs).

Clinical Affiliates

Hospital affiliates provide the student with clinical experience in the administration of respiratory care therapeutics. The Respiratory Care Program has contracted with the following leading hospitals in the metropolitan area:

- Children's Hospital, Children's National Medical Center, Washington, D.C. www.childrensnational.org
- The Hospital for Sick Children Pediatric Center, Washington, D.C. www.hscpediatriccenter.org
- Shady Grove Adventist Hospital, Rockville, Md. www.shadygroveadventisthospital.com
- University of Maryland Medical System, Baltimore, Md.| www.umm.edu
- Washington Adventist Hospital, Takoma Park, Md. www.washingtonadventisthospital.com
- Washington Hospital Center, Washington, D.C. | www.whcenter.org

Career Opportunities

Graduate therapists have a choice of clinical specialties and clinical settings in which to work as well as a competitive salary. The field of respiratory care includes such areas as these: | www.aarc.org/sections

Critical care — In this specialty area the therapists treat patients whose disease process requires intensive care either because of recent major surgery, severe trauma, acute illness, or an acute worsening of a chronic condition. Such care often includes the management of mechanical ventilators, the life support equipment that supports or replaces the patient's breathing.

ECMO (Extra-Corporeal Membrane Oxygenation) and Hemodynamics — As critical care itself becomes more specialized, advanced cardiovascular monitoring and treatment techniques are vital to the management of the critically ill.

Neonatal and Pediatrics —Therapists who specialize in the care of babies and children have the best job availability, pay and security in the profession.

Sleep Disorders — Therapists who specialize in the assessment of sleep disorders and therapeutic intervention now have formal recognition of their knowledge and skill level.

Pulmonary Rehabilitation — Expanding technology and medical knowledge have made formerly untreatable disease processes reversible. The respiratory therapist is intimately involved in the rehabilitation process for patients with crippling pulmonary disease. The goal – and the success rate is high – is to enable the patient with chronic bronchitis, emphysema, asthma, cystic fibrosis or other severe pulmonary disease to return to society as a useful and productive person. The AARC now offers a course for Respiratory Care Practitioners to become "COPD Educators." | www.aarc.org/education/copd_course

Diagnostics and Pulmonary Functions — Utilization of complex equipment used in the detection, classification, and quantification of pulmonary disease is the responsibility of the respiratory therapist.

Management — Managerial positions in hospital respiratory care departments require adequate knowledge of accounting, budget preparation, supervision, and education processes as well as the prerequisite technical background in respiratory care. Graduates of WAU's Respiratory Care Program may continue on with WAU's School of Graduate and Professional Studies (SGPS) to complete a Bachelor of Science degree and Master of Arts degree in Health Care Administration. The SGPS also offers a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree.

Transport — Many hospitals specialize in specific procedures or types of treatment. This requires the patient to be transported by land or air to a specific hospital. Respiratory therapists may specialize in transport therapy to attend and support critically ill patients in transport

Education — As more respiratory care programs open all over the world, the need for qualified instructors increases steadily. The combination of didactic and clinical instruction presents the well-trained therapist with a challenge that can be very rewarding.

Home Care — With the cost of hospital care increasing, more and more health care is provided in the home. In this growing specialization, respiratory care practitioners provide care from oxygen therapy to mechanical ventilation in patients' homes.

Case management — As insurance companies continue to search for means to decrease the cost of health care, respiratory therapists are using their specialized knowledge and skills to manage the care of patients with chronic respiratory diseases.

Physician Assistants — As class B physician assistants, respiratory therapists are increasingly contributing their support to diagnostics and therapeutics in the office of the pulmonologist and in respiratory clinics.

For more information on the profession of Respiratory Care please see:

American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) ..... www.aarc.org
National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) ..... www.nbrc.org
Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) ..... www.coarc.com
Maryland Board of Physician Quality Assurance (BPOA)
..... www.mbp.state.md.us/pages/res_care.html
State licensure information for 49 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico
..... www.aarc.org/advocacy/state/licensure_matrix.html
Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor
Occupational Outlook Handbook.....
.....www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/respiratory-therapists.htm

Admissions Requirements

To ensure student success in the Respiratory Care Program (RCP) and to meet the accreditation requirements of the CoARC, the program has embraced objective, success-related admissions standards and effective methods of assessing basic academic skills for all prospective students.

1. **Interview:** Prospective students shall contact the RC Program Director for an interview appointment to consider the potential for "fit" between the prospective student and the RC profession.
2. **Application and Essay:** Prospective students shall apply:

   a. **First to** Washington Adventist University (WAU) www.wau.edu >First Steps

   b. **After acceptance to WAU**, the prospective student completes the RCP application, which, includes a monitored writing sample (essay), and submits it directly to the RC program director by deadline

   Students requesting transfer from another CoARC-accredited RCP must:

   a. Provide documentation of good standing with their previous program

   b. Meet all current WAU RCP admission and/or progression requirements
3. **Placement Testing and GPAs of 2.75** or above:

   a. **English 101** –

      i. Must have earned a grade of "C" or higher in ENGL 101 – or –

      ii. Must have placed into, and be registered for, ENGL 101

   b. **MATH 1##** —

      i. Must have earned a grade of "C" or higher in a college-level MATH course – or –

      ii. Must have placed into college-level math.

   c. **GPA of 2.75**

      i. Freshman (<24 hours of college credit) – 2.75 GPA from high school/academy and all college courses

      ii. WAU and Transfer students with ≥ 24 hours

         (1) 2.75 Cumulative undergraduate GPA

         (2) 2.75 EMS GPA from all English, math and science (biology, chemistry and physics)
4. **CPR card:** Applicants must have a current CPR card from the American Heart Association course "Basic Life Support for Health Care Providers." The course renewal date should be after the anticipated graduation date.
5. **Shadow Observation:** Prospective students shall document eight to 12 hours of direct observation of an RRT on the job.
6. **Recommendation:** the prospective student must be recommended by a member of the RCP admissions committee following review of items 1-5 above and the following documentation:

   a. **Background check —** The candidate will obtain the background check designated by the program and release the results to WAU and to the RCP clinical affiliates. The background check will include at least criminal, Office of Inspector General (OIG) (Healthcare fraud), and sex offender

b. **Drug testing —** Urine sample for 10-panel drug test (LabCorp)

c. **Medical history, physical exam, and immunizations** (required and recommended)

d. **RC state licensure application** review and signature

- Maryland requirements can be reviewed at: www.mbp.state.md.us/pages/res_care.html.
- Other states requirements can be found at: www.aarc.org/advocacy/state/licensure_matrix.html

NOTES: Students applying for the RCP must understand the rigors, commitment, and the time requirements of this program. The RCP strongly recommends that students do NOT work while in the clinical component of the program. If students choose to work, they should carefully consider course and other program requirements, transportation, childcare, personal wellness, etc. before planning work commitments and should keep the work hours to a minimum. Students are not excused from class, lab, or clinical experience for work hours, work orientation, or other work appointments. Students must be able to provide their own transportation to clinical affiliates; public transportation is not practical in most cases. Tuesdays and Thursdays during the last four semesters are completely reserved for clinicals.

Progression Requirements

Each semester all students must meet all of the following progression requirements to be eligible to progress through the program:

1. **Professionalism:** Students must consistently present themselves as developing professionals. Students must demonstrate acceptable mental/emotional health, physical health, patient contact, and ability to communicate and work with people as part of the health care team. Students must show awareness of, respect for, and compliance with policies and procedures of the university, the RC program, the RC profession, and all clinical facilities.

- The standards for this conduct are stated in documents such as the *WAU Academic Bulletin, WAU Student Handbook, Respiratory Care Program Handbook, AARC Code of Ethics* and *Role Model Statement*, policy and procedure manuals in the clinical facilities, JCAHO/OSHA/HIPAA, and state licensure documents/ requirements.
- Demonstration of a commitment to professionalism is also seen in the maintenance of the following: CPR, AARC membership, compliance with clinical affiliate requirements, attendance at NBRC reviews (by program faculty and annual review by Kettering National Seminars), etc.

2. **Grades and GPA minimums:**

   a. All cognate and major courses must attain a grade of "C" or above ("C–" is not passing)

   b. Student's cumulative GPA must be 2.0 or above

   c. Student's major GPA must be 2.5 or above

3. The practical, math, and written final exams in RESP 105, each clinical

practicum course (RESP 290, 291, 296, 395), and RC Seminar RESP 491 are both (a) pass/fail for the course and (b) program cumulative, meaning that they must meet or exceed the minimum passing threshold to pass the course and continue in the program and that they include all content covered to date in the program (including both major and cognate courses).

Students not meeting the above requirements may be withdrawn from the Respiratory Care program.

ALSO:

- Students may not repeat an unsuccessful major or cognate course more than once and may not repeat more than one unsuccessful major course during the RC program.
- A student who is not enrolled in RC courses for two semesters for any reason may be required to repeat the last successfully completed clinical course prior to continuing in the curriculum.
- Students may not remain in the RC program if a major or cognate course that is being repeated receives a grade less than "C."
- Students may not remain in the RC program if a second major course, cumulative throughout the program, receives a grade less than a "C."
- Students may not remain in the RC program when a final RC major GPA of 2.5 or cumulative GPA of 2.0 is mathematically unattainable.
- Students may not remain in the program when it becomes impossible to graduate with their AAS in RC within four years from their initial enrollment in a major course.

Any student wishing to progress in the RC program but not meeting all of the above requirements shall consult with the program director.

At the discretion of the program director a student may be permitted to continue on probation for one semester if the program director considers it possible that all requirements will be satisfied at the conclusion of the semester.

Special Requirements for Program Completion and Graduation

Students meeting all the above requirements to progress into the final semester of the program will need to successfully complete the additional program completion / graduation requirements listed below:

1. Final "summative" evaluation in the clinical practicum (RESP 395)
2. Program selected self-evaluation exams (SAE's) for the NBRC entry-level exam (CRT), written registry exam (wRRT), and clinical simulation exam (CSE) in the RESP 491 course
3. Major GPA of 2.50 and cumulative GPA of 2.0
4. Accreditation selected, secure, comprehensive advanced practitioner exam (CoARC exam)

Associate of Applied Science in Respiratory Care

Respiratory Care Major		39 hours
RESP 105	Respiratory Care Foundations and Patient Assessment	5
RESP 165	Respiratory Care Pharmacology	2
RESP 200	Perinatal and Pediatric RC	2
RESP 215	Mechanical Ventilation	4
RESP 240	Cardiopulmonary Anatomy, Physiology, and Diagnostics	4
RESP 260	Pulmonary Rehabilitation and Case Management in Non-Acute Settings	3
RESP 290	CLINICAL: Therapeutic Modalities and Basic RC Practicum	4
RESP 291	CLINICAL: Intermediate RC Practicum	3
RESP 296	CLINICAL: Emergency and Critical Care Practicum	3
RESP 301	Cardiopulmonary Pathophysiology I	2
RESP 302	Cardiopulmonary Pathophysiology II	2
RESP 395	CLINICAL: Advanced RC Practicum	3
RESP 491	Seminar in Respiratory Care	2

Required Cognates		14 hours
BIOL 110	Vital Basics of Anatomy and Physiology of Life	4
CHEM 101	Science for Health Professionals in the New Millennium	4
HLSC 175	Medical Terminology	2
MATH 110	Probability and Stataistics (4)	
– or –		
MATH 120	College Algebra and Trigonometry (4)	4

General Education Courses		17 hours
See details of General Education Program, .		
ENGL 101	Composition	3
ENGL 102	Research and Literature	3
INTD 105	First-Year Experience	1
PSYC 105	Introduction to Psychology (3)	
– or –		
SOCI 105	General Sociology (3)	3
RELB/RELT	Religion Electives	*6
PEAC	Physical Education Activity Elective	1

** Only 3 hours Religion elective required if transferring 24 or more hours from a non-SDA Institution*

TOTAL	70 HOURS