Respiratory Care Technology Program
Admission Requirements

Dear Respiratory Care Technology – Health Sciences A.S. Applicant
This packet contains information, which you may find useful while preparing for entrance into the program. Please read all information carefully. Students interested in any of Vol State’s Health Sciences programs must declare Health Sciences as their major and follow the A.S. in Health Sciences curriculum. You must contact an advisor in your preferred area of emphasis to identify appropriate general education and elective courses for admission into your selected program.

For more information about specific Respiratory Care program deadlines and requirements, please refer to this information packet. To be considered for the Respiratory Care program, applicants must participate in a formal interview with members of the Health Sciences Division. “Program Acceptance Priority Given to In-state Residents” may apply. Prior to being interviewed, the following pre-requirements (steps #1 – #6) must be completed:

1. College Admission –
   Complete the College Admission Application requirements with Volunteer State Community College’s Office of Admissions. The website is https://www.volstate.edu/admissions/apply. Students must satisfactorily meet all of the admission requirements of the college.

2. Transcripts –
   Applicants must forward all official high school transcripts, GED scores and previous college transcripts to the Office of Records and Registration. To be fully admitted to a degree-seeking program, transfer students must provide official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended where an academic record exists. Once received, all official transcripts are reviewed by the Transcript Analyst in the Office of Records and Registration. The student will be notified via email by the Transcript Analyst regarding transfer coursework that was accepted. All general education courses must be transferred or course substitution forms must be completed.

If the prior post-secondary institution is not regionally accredited, the courses will not be automatically accepted at Vol State. The student must contact the Completion Advisor the Health Sciences Division, Meredith Young at Meredith.Young@volstate.edu or by phone number 615-230-4866 to be guided through the process of obtaining the required documentation which may include a course-by-course “Substitution Form” signed by each dean or program chair responsible for courses in which the student seeks credit. Completed forms will be forwarded to the Office of Records and Registration and entered in the system. Please allow 2-3 weeks for this process.

3. Testing –
   If you are a new student without ACT scores and are:
   a. Under 21 years old, submit ACT scores that are less than 3 years old;
   b. Over 21 years old, take the COMPASS Placement Test.
   An advisor will determine testing needs and refer the student accordingly.

The A.A.S. Respiratory Care Technology program is fully accredited by:
Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC)
(817) 283-2835, www.coarc.com
P.O. Box 54876, Hurst, TX 76054-4876

(revised 9/2018)
4. Registration –
If *Learning Support* courses are not required, the student should register for courses that satisfy the General Education core as indicated (see college catalog, this Information Packet or RPC website). Only upon being formally admitted into the program, will students register for Respiratory Care courses other than the Introduction to Respiratory Care course, which is available to all interested students.

5. Program Application –
Complete the application for the Respiratory Care Technology program and submit it to Respiratory Care faculty by **October 1st** of each year. The application form is the last page of this packet. The application indicates your interest in our program and will allow you to be contacted for the formal interview process occurring in November.

6. Proof of Pre-Acceptance Immunizations and Vaccinations
Students interested in the RPC program must provide documentation of the following by the day of their interview:
- One diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (Tdap) vaccination that has been obtained within the last ten years.
- Influenza vaccination obtained no earlier than August of the interview year.
- Documentation of blood test (serology, titers) showing immunity to MMR, varicella, or the Hepatitis B virus *OR*
  - Two doses of the Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) vaccine with each given at least 28 days apart.
  - Two doses of the varicella vaccine with each given at least 28 days apart.
  - Three doses of the Hepatitis B vaccine.

### Recommended Schedule for General Education Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 2010</td>
<td>Human Anatomy and Physiology I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 1010 or higher</td>
<td>Math for Liberal Arts or higher</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 1010</td>
<td>English Composition I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine Arts or Humanities Course</td>
<td>PHIL 121 or PHIL 1030 recommended</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Science</td>
<td>PSYC 1030 or SOCI 1010 or SOCI 1020 recommended</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>16</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**About the Respiratory Care Technology Program**

Program Mission Statement: The Respiratory Care Technology program provides a transferable degree created within a diverse educational environment which promotes the practice of critical thinking and problem solving, the development of clinical competence, and the advancement of the respiratory care profession through life-long learning.

Once officially admitted into the Respiratory Care Technology program at Volunteer State Community College, the college major will be changed from A.S. in Health Sciences to A.A.S in Respiratory Care Technology. The full-time program of study begins in January and ends in May of the following year for a total of four semesters of education. Didactic and laboratory courses are held at the Gallatin campus during the daytime. There are no night courses offered for the Respiratory Care degree core classes. Clinical education is obtained at medical facilities throughout Middle Tennessee up to 100 miles of the Gallatin campus. Each student is responsible for transportation to class and clinical sites.

**Typical Schedule**
- Semester I: Didactic classes are on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8 am to 10:50 am, Labs are on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 12 pm to 4 pm.
- Semester II: Didactic classes are on Monday and Wednesday from 8 am to 10:50 am, Labs are on Mondays and Wednesdays from 12 pm to 4 pm. Twenty to Twenty-four hours of clinical rotations are on Tuesday, Thursday, or Fridays with 8-hour and/or 12-hour assignments.
• Semester III: Didactic classes are on Monday and Wednesday from 8 am to 10:50 am, Labs are on Mondays and Wednesdays from 12 pm to 4 pm. Twenty to Twenty-four hours of clinical rotations are on Tuesday, Thursday, or Fridays with either 8-hour or 12-hour assignments. One online course is required.

• Semester IV: Didactic classes are on Thursday from 8 am to 4:30 pm. Twenty to Twenty-four hours of clinical rotations are on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Fridays with either 8-hour or 12-hour assignments.

Graduates earn an Associate’s of Applied Science degree in Respiratory Care Technology at the Advanced Practitioner level, also known as Registry level. This gives graduates the opportunity to earn the Registered Respiratory Therapist credential (RRT) which is an advanced-level credential for employment purposes. The credential of “RRT” is earned after successfully completing both Therapist Multiple Choice examination to obtain the Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT) credential and the Clinical Simulation Examination to obtain the RRT credential. The CRT and RRT are credentials offered by the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) through passage of the national credentialing examinations. The RRT is the highest credential.

Graduates are eligible to begin working in the field after obtaining a state license to practice from the Health Related Boards of Tennessee. The Respiratory Care Technology program typically experiences 100% employment after graduation, and the first time pass rate on the credentialing exam is higher than national average. The salary for a first year graduate may vary. Typically, first year RRT graduates average a base pay of approximately $22+ per hour. With the addition of shift differential, graduates may average more. The median annual salary for a Respiratory Therapist is approximately $59,710 according to the U.S. Department of Labor at https://www.onetonline.org. The percent of projected growth in the job market is much faster than average at 15% or higher for years 2016 – 2026.

Program Selection Criteria

Each year twenty students are admitted into the Respiratory Care Technology program. The class size is limited to 20 students per year. The program uses competitive, selection criteria to select each cohort of students. Applicants are officially accepted for admission based on GPA in General Education courses, knowledge of the profession, and interview skills, and completion of all pre-acceptance requirements. Interviews are held in November. A General Education core GPA of 2.5 or higher is required for application to the program. Students are strongly encouraged to earn grades of “B” or higher. Applicants are notified of acceptance or non-acceptance in the program during the latter part of December.

• 40% of the interview score is based on your General Education grades;
By end of fall semester, applicants should complete the general education core consisting of:

Natural Science  BIOL 2010 or CHEM 1030 or PHYS 1030 or PSCI 1030
English        ENGL 1010
Fine Arts/Humanities PHIL 121 or PHIL 1030 recommended
Mathematics    MATH 1010 or higher
Social Science PSYC 1030 or SOCI 1010 or SOCI 1020 recommended
Computer Technology Take the Computer Competency Exam at the Testing Center (phone 615-230-3484)
http://www.volstate.edu/computerliteracy/ or earn a passing grade in INFS 1010

• 40% of the interview score is based on your knowledge of the Respiratory Care profession
The knowledge the interviewee expresses verbally and written is assessed. To increase knowledge of the Respiratory Care profession, please visit the following websites:

www.aarc.org  (Our national professional society website)
www.tntsrc.org  (Our state professional society website)
www.nbrc.org    (Our credentialing center website)
www.volstate.edu/respiratorycare/  (Our program’s website)
www.youtube.com (Search for “respiratory care” or “cardiopulmonary”)
www.onetonline  (Website sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor)
20% of the interview score is based on your Demeanor and Communication:
Professional attire and demeanor is expected with attention to wearing clean and neat clothes. Applicants are expected to behave appropriately and clearly answer questions in a knowledgeable, polite and attentive manner. The unprofessional interviewee may earn a lower score.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RPC 220*</td>
<td>Arterial Blood Gas Anatomy and Physiology I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RPC 201*</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Respiratory Care I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RPC 229*</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Mechanical Ventilation I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Spring Hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>12</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Course</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>RPC 202*</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Respiratory Care II</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RPC 230*</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Mechanical Ventilation II</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RPC 281 C*</td>
<td>Clinical Practice I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Summer Hours</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Course</td>
<td>Title</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RPC 203*</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Respiratory Care III</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RPC 260*</td>
<td>Pulmonary Pathology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RPC 282 C*</td>
<td>Clinical Practice II</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RPC 289*</td>
<td>Current Topics in Respiratory Care</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>RPC 290*</td>
<td>National Certification Review</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Fall Hours</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Course</td>
<td>Title</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RPC 204*</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Respiratory Care IV</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>RPC 225*</td>
<td>Arterial Blood Gas Anatomy and Physiology II</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RPC 283C*</td>
<td>Clinical Practice III</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RPC 291*</td>
<td>National Registry Review</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Spring Hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>16</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Major Core Hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>56</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Certified to Registered Respiratory Therapist Bridge Option

Prerequisites for the CRT to RRT bridge program for students who already possess the “CRT” credential and wish to earn the AAS-Respiratory Care Technology degree in order to sit for the “RRT” exams:

A minimum of 48 hours successfully completed in Respiratory Care from an accredited college or credentialed by the NBRC as a Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT) is preferred. Additional consideration for acceptance will be provided to those who are currently working in the field of Respiratory Care. CRT to RRT bridge applicants are responsible for contacting the NBRC at www.nbrc.org to ensure eligibility requirements are met. Once eligibility requirements have been determined, the CRT therapist should then submit the Respiratory Care Technology Application (the last page) and contact the Program Director, Kim Christmon, for academic advising: kim.christmon@volstate.edu or 615-230-3329, Toll Free-1-888-335-8722 extension 3329. Mandatory class attendance is on Thursdays of the spring semester from 8 am to 4:30 pm in addition to clinical requirements.
### Average Program Costs (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

- **Tuition per Semester for In-State Residency:**
  - **Full-time status (costs shown for 12 hours)**
  - Maintenance Fee $156.00 per hour up to 12 credit hours; $30/credit hour for each hour greater than 12
  - Tuition
    - 0.00
  - Technology Fee: $12.50
  - **Part-time status**
  - Technology Fee: $9.00 per credit hour

  *Total Cost per Semester* (relative to number of registered class hours (see above))

  **Other fees:**
  - Student Access Fee: $11.00
  - Student Activity Fee: $7.00
  - Student Government: $5.00
  - International Fee: $10.00
  - Technology Fee: $9.00
  - Sustainable Campus Fee: $1.00
  - Books and Supplies (estimated)
    - Spring semester (I): $200.00
    - Fall semester: $100.00
    - Summer semester: $200.00
    - Spring semester (II): $100.00
  - **Clinical costs** (estimated)
    - PALS instruction: $170.00
    - ACLS instruction: $170.00
    - Basic Life Support Class: $60.00
    - *Medical Health Insurance*
      - *Check with Your Provider*
    - Disease screening (titers): $80.00
    - Hepatitis B Injections: $90.00
    - Varicella Vaccination: $50.00
    - Measles Vaccination (MMR): $50.00
    - Two-Step TB Skin Test: $40.00
    - Tetanus Shot: $20.00
    - Malpractice Insurance: $35.00
    - Lab Coat: $30.00
    - Scrub Suits (per pair): $40.00
    - Stethoscope: $12.00
    - All White Tennis Shoes: $50-100.00
    - VSCC Patch: $15.00
    - Hospital Parking: $30.00
  - **Seminar Expense**
    - AARC membership (program admission required): $25.00
    - TSRC State Seminar: $90.00
    - Vanderbilt Seminar: $25.00
    - Summer Seminar: $25.00
  - **Background Check (quantity approx. 2)**
    - $46.50 ea. *Pre-admission requirement*
  - **Drug Screening** (may be requested as needed)
    - Site specific
  - **VA Fingerprinting**
    - Site Specific
  - **Post-Graduation Fees**
    - Criminal Background Check: $38.00
    - State Licensure: $160.00
    - NBRC Entry Level Exam: $190.00
    - Advanced Practitioner Exam: $200.00
Technical Standards for Respiratory Care

In order to be considered a candidate for the Respiratory Care program and profession, students must be able to reasonably perform the following skills as indicated in the following Technical Standards. These skills are related to the affective, cognitive and psychomotor domains as indicated by the Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care:

Affective: The affective domain includes communication and behavior.
Students in the program must be able to effectively communicate as well as receive and follow direction in the clinical and classroom setting. This requires students to possess the skills needed to communicate and follow direction in English, both verbal and written, in an unassisted manner. Students must also conduct themselves in both an ethical and professional manner while in the clinical and classroom settings. All students will be required to follow the AARC’s Statement of Ethics and Professional Conduct as indicated in Volunteer State’s Respiratory Care Policy and Procedure manual.

Cognitive: The cognitive domain includes the knowledge base and skills required to perform proper patient assessment, collection and interpretation of data, as well as the use of sound judgement.
Students in the program must possess visual skills (with or without correction) and auditory skills (with or without correction) needed to perform proper patient assessment, reading of physician’s orders and progress notes, and reading of small print on labels needed to accurately administer medications. Students will also require the skills necessary to interpret patient data and be expected to use sound judgment in the recommendation and delivery of therapy as needed.

Psychomotor: The psychomotor domain includes performance of patient care, to include, but not limited to: patient assessment, performance of respiratory modalities and diagnostic procedures.
Students in the program must possess the physical and manual dexterity required to perform patient assessment on patients who are out of chairs or bed, stand for long hours, lift and/or move a minimum of 50 pounds and lying in bed, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) on adults, pediatrics and neonates, compress a resuscitation bag for long periods of time, perform chest percussion, move patients in and walk quickly or run to emergencies in the hospital, often requiring the use of stairs.

Background Check Policy
Students seeking admission into any Health Sciences program requiring participation in clinical training in area hospitals and related clinics/ agencies, including Respiratory Care degree or CRT to RRT bridge programs, must provide evidence of a passing score on a background check prior to official admission into the respective program. Either the failure to provide the required background check results by the due date established or the receipt of anything other than a passing score on the background check will make a student ineligible for admission into the respective program. The cost for background check verification will be approximately $46.50. Please contact program faculty for further information.

Hepatitis B Vaccination Series
Students seeking admission into any Health Sciences program requiring participation in clinical training in area hospitals and related clinics/agencies, including the Respiratory Care degree or CRT to RRT bridge programs, must provide evidence of completing the Hepatitis B series of injections or proof of Hepatitis B immunity. This documentation is required for acceptance into the program. Failure to provide the required Hepatitis B documentation or failure to receive the full series of vaccination injections will cause the student to forfeit her/his seat in the program.

Drug Screen Policy
In order to comply with the clinical education policies, all students participating in clinical rotations must undergo a drug screen. The cost of this drug screen shall be absorbed by the student. Any student wishing to participate in clinical rotations will be required to undergo a urine drug screen as required by the clinical affiliate within the thirty (30) days preceding commencement of the clinical rotation. The drug screen due date will be provided to the students by the Director of Clinical Education during the latter part of the Fall Semester.

No student will be permitted to participate in specific clinical rotations until the Background Check, Hepatitis B series, and Drug Screen results have been reviewed and accepted by the program.
Respiratory Care Technology Program Application

*Please print clearly and include all requested information prior to submitting form:

NAME___________________________ VSCC Student ID# ________________________

VSCC Student Email_________________________ BIRTH DATE ___/___/______

PREFERRED EMAIL._____________________________________________________

MAILING ADDRESS_________________________________________________________________

CITY ____________________________ STATE ________ ZIPCODE __________

HOME PHONE __________ WORK _______________ CELL __________

Have you attended another college previously? (Circle one) YES or NO
If YES, list college or university and degree or major area

1. ___________________________ / ___________________________

2. ___________________________ / ___________________________

SIGNATURE ___________________________ DATE ______________________

*Signature MUST be included upon submission

A.A.S. RESPIRATORY CARE TECHNOLOGY
ANTICIPATED AREA OF STUDY (check one):

__________ New program applicant

__________ I am already a CRT and wish to advance to RRT

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED PROGRAM APPLICATION TO:

Volunteer State Community College
Health Sciences Division, Wallace North 102
Attn: Program Director - Kim Christmon
1480 Nashville, Pike, Gallatin, Tennessee 37066-3188
Or fax to 615-230-3224
Or scan and email to kim.christmon@volstate.edu

Volunteer State Community College, a Tennessee Board of Regents Institution, is an equal opportunity institution and ensures equal opportunity for all persons without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability status, age, sexual orientation or status as a qualified veteran with a disability or a veteran of the Vietnam era.