

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, attitude and behavior.

Students must be able to effectively communicate with all stakeholders in the classroom and clinical setting. They must possess the skills necessary to effectively communicate and follow directions in English, both verbally and written, using appropriate grammar, spelling and vocabulary in an unassisted manner. They must display empathy, maturity and emotional stability. They must demonstrate ethical and professional behavior as expressed by the AARC's Statement of Ethics and Professional Conduct which can be found in this manual.

Cognitive: The cognitive domain includes the knowledge base required to perform proper patient assessment, collect and interpret data, as well as the ability to use critical thinking and problem solving skills when formulating care plans, delivering therapy and managing life support.

Students must possess the visual skills (with or without correction) and auditory skills (with or without correction) needed to perform proper patient assessment. They must be able to read medical documentation and small print on labels to accurately administer medications. Students must be able to hear conversations and monitoring equipment, perform auscultation, palpation, and percussion. They must be able to use a telephone, distinguish background noises and use a computer. They must demonstrate skills necessary to collect, interpret, and analyze patient data and make appropriate recommendations.

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 must possess the physical and manual dexterity required to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) for long periods of time on adults, pediatrics and neonates, compress a resuscitation bag for extended periods, perform chest percussion, stand for long hours, assess and assist with transferring immobile patients in and out of chairs or beds, lift and/or move a minimum of 50 pounds and be able to walk quickly or run to emergencies in the hospital, often requiring the use of stairs. Students must be able to physically withstand 12-hour clinical rotations.