A Course of Study for  
RESPIRATORY THERAPY

The program is a partnership between Santa Monica College (SMC) and East Los Angeles College (ELAC). Graduates earn an Associate degree in Respiratory Therapy. The program allows the graduate to take the Therapist Multiple-Choice Examination (TMC) and, by achieving a high cut score on the TMC, become eligible for the Clinical Simulation Exam (CSE); passing both exams awards the graduate the Registered Respiration Therapy (RRT) credential. **The RRT credential is required for licensure in the state of California.**

All of the first-year courses are offered on the SMC campus (except Respiratory Therapy 2 and 21, offered at the ELAC campus).

It is recommended that students who select Respiratory Therapy as their major make an appointment with the RT Faculty Advisor in the Santa Monica College Health Science Department. Applications for the Respiratory Therapy Program can be obtained online (go to [smc.edu/respiratorytherapy](http://smc.edu/respiratorytherapy)) and from the Health Science Department at SMC’s Bundy Campus. Additional program information and/or an appointment may be made with the Respiratory Therapy faculty by calling (310) 434-3463.

Clinical training occurs in some of the most respected medical facilities in the United States (e.g., UCLA Medical Center and USC University Medical Center). **Applicants must have a negative criminal background check and pass a drug screening procedure to participate in any clinical courses. A typical sequence of courses is demonstrated below.**

**PROGRAMS OFFERED**
- Respiratory Therapy Associate Degree (77-79 units)

**ASSOCIATE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**
An Associate degree is granted upon successful completion of a program of study with a minimum overall grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 (C) and a minimum of 60 degree applicable semester units, including:
- Completion of the area of emphasis with a grade of C or higher in each course, or with a P if the course was taken on a Pass/No Pass basis, and the P is equal to a C or higher;
- Completion of at least 50% of area of emphasis units at Santa Monica College;
- Completion of one of the following general education patterns: SMC GE, CSU GE, or IGETC;
- Completion of the SMC Global Citizenship graduation requirement.

**CATALOG RIGHTS**
A student may satisfy the requirements of a degree that were in effect at any time of the student’s continuous enrollment. Continuous enrollment is defined as enrolment in consecutive Fall and Spring semesters until completion.
# Respiratory Therapy, Associate Degree

**Program Learning Outcomes:** Students who complete the Respiratory Therapy program will accurately initiate, conduct, and modify prescribed therapeutic procedures using clinical data. Graduates will participate in developing and evaluating respiratory care plans, and monitor and record patient response to the care, both in clinical settings and emergency situations.

Prerequisites for application to the program are (29 units minimum): ANATMY 1, PHYS 3, CHEM 10 or 19, MCRBIO 1, COM ST 11 or 35 or 37, ENGL 1, MATH 18 or 20, RT 1, PHYS 3 and MCRBIO 1 must be completed within 7 years at the time of admission into the RT program.

**Area of Emphasis: (77-79 Units)**

## First Year: (18 units)
### First Semester: (11 units)
- RESP TH 2, Fundamentals of Respiratory Therapy (4)
- RES TH 60, Respiratory Physiology (4)
  - or [ELAC] RESP TH 6, Respiratory Physiology (4)
    - Physics 12, Introductory Physics (3)
    - or [ELAC] RES TH 21, Physics or Respiratory Care (3)

### Second Semester: (7 units)
- RES TH 30, Adult Critical Care Monitor and Diagnostics (3)
  - or [ELAC] RESP TH 30, Adult Critical Care Monitor and Diagnostics (3)
- RES TH 70, Pathophysiology (4)
  - or [ELAC] RESP TH 7, Applied Medicine and Pathology (3) and [ELAC] RESP TH 23, Advanced Respiratory Pathophysiology (1)

## Second Year: (30 units)
- All second year courses are East Los Angeles College courses and are offered only on the ELAC campus EXCEPT RESP TH 29, which is offered at SMC.

### Summer Session: (4 units)
- RESP TH 15, Introduction to Clinical Experience (4)

### Third Semester: (11 units)
- RESP TH 3, Application of Respiratory Therapy and Clinical Experience I (5)
- RESP TH 4, Application of Respiratory Therapy and Clinical Experience II (5)
- RESP TH 27, Physician Clinical Rounds, Critical Thinking Lab 1 (1)

### Winter Session: (4 unit)
- RES TH 29, Neonatal/Pediatric RT (4)
  - or [ELAC] RESP TH 29, Neonatal and Pediatric Respiratory Therapy (4)

### Fourth Semester: (11 units)
- RESP TH 5, Application of Respiratory Therapy and Clinical Experience III (5)
- RESP TH 11, Application of Respiratory Therapy and Clinical Experience IV (5)
- RESP TH 28, Physician Clinical Rounds, Critical Thinking Lab 2 (1)

*Students general education requirements may vary according to math and English placement results. General education courses may be completed before or during the Respiratory Therapy Program. It is highly recommended that the student consult the appropriate college’s catalog or college counselor for specific general education program planning.*