

Respiratory Therapy, B.S.

Degree Offered

- Bachelor of Science

Nature of the Program

Respiratory professionals are members of the interprofessional care team who work with physicians and other care providers to support optimal patient outcomes. They assist in the diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment of patients and perform specialized work to target the improvement of breathing difficulties. They provide care to patients of all ages in a variety of work environments, which leads to excellent career opportunities.

Respiratory therapists perform a wide range of services, including delivery of therapeutics to neonatal, pediatric, and adult populations; patient transportation; hemodynamic and critical care monitoring of patients; delivery of specialized pulmonary diagnostic testing within acute and outpatient areas; ventilator management; and sleep studies.

Students may be directly admitted into the BS in Respiratory Therapy program as incoming first-year students. Students currently in another major at WVU or attending another accredited college or university are welcome to apply to the program via the indirect pathway. Students pursuing program admission consideration via the indirect pathway should complete the required prerequisite courses which will prepare them for application to the Respiratory Therapy major, typically occurring during the sophomore year.

During the junior year (the first year of the professional curriculum), coursework includes core courses that introduce the student to the field of respiratory therapy and to clinical practice. During the senior year (the second year of the professional curriculum), students continue to receive didactic instruction, as well as intensive clinical experience with one or more affiliates. Students must provide their own transportation and housing during clinical rotations.

ADMINISTRATION

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

- Michael B. Mehall - MEd, BSRT, RRT, RRTR-ACCS, RRT-NPS, CPFT (American Intercontinental University)
Assistant Professor

MEDICAL DIRECTOR

- Sunil Sharma - MD (Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education & Research)
Division Chief and Professor, Division of Pulmonary/Critical Care & Sleep Medicine

DIRECTOR OF CLINICAL EDUCATION

- Keleigh Pershina - MHA, BSRT, RRT, RRT-ACCS, RRT-NPS, RRT-SDS, CPFT, CTTS (Oklahoma State University)
Assistant Professor

FACULTY

PROFESSOR

- Sunil Sharma - MD (Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education & Research)
Professor, Division of Pulmonary/Critical Care & Sleep Medicine and Medical Director, Respiratory Therapy Program

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS

- Michael B. Mehall - MEd, BSRT, RRT, RRT-ACCS, RRT-NPS, CPFT (American Intercontinental University)
Program Director
- Keleigh Pershina - MHA, BSRT, RRT, RRT-ACCS, RRT-NPS, RRT-SDS, CPFT, CTTS (Oklahoma State University)
Director of Clinical Education

Admissions for 2026-2027

DIRECT ADMIT

Entering WVU freshman who have a minimum overall high school GPA of 2.75 and meet all other general admission requirements to the University may be provisionally admitted into the respiratory therapy major, space permitting. Applicants who do not meet the provisional admission requirements will be placed in the Healthcare Pathway in the Center for Learning, Advising and Student Success (CLASS), where they may pursue prerequisite coursework.

Students will be provisionally admitted on a rolling basis, with a priority deadline of December 1. Due to current accreditation requirements, sixteen students per cohort, per year can enroll in the respiratory therapy program, thus academic deposits will also be accepted on a rolling basis until the class is filled. The program anticipates a competitive process for the limited number of seats in this new program, therefore interested candidates are strongly encouraged to apply and if admitted, deposit as early as possible.

For the first sixteen provisionally admitted students who submit their academic deposit, their admission status will be updated to reflect that they are fully admitted. Students who were provisionally admitted but are not one of the first sixteen to deposit will be placed within the (CLASS) pathway and future admission is not guaranteed. However, CLASS students may apply for admission consideration (if seats would become available) using the RT indirect pathway process reflected below.

Should the program cohort not receive maximum enrollment of direct admission pathway (high school) applicants by December 1, the program will continue to assess new high school candidates in an ongoing manner and also open the admission process to consider qualified indirect admission pathway students. This process will occur until the program has filled the vacant cohort seats.

INDIRECT ADMIT

The indirect admission pathway will be available to change of major applicants currently enrolled in another major at WVU and transfer students.

Students/applicants from the indirect pathways that wish to apply for admission consideration into the respiratory therapy program must meet all the following:

1. Possess a minimum overall GPA of 2.50 or higher.
2. Fulfill all other general admission requirements for WVU.
3. Complete all components of the online application and Health Science Application Supplemental Information (HSASI) (available via the Respiratory Therapy program website). The HSASI contains multiple components which will be utilized to assess candidates to determine which applicants are selected for admission to fill any vacant seats in the program. The program will utilize the HSASI to assess all candidates on a 5-criteria scoring system. The highest overall score achieved by applicants from the 5 criteria components reflected below will be offered admission into the RT Program until the cohort is full. If two or more applicants achieve the highest scores but the same score, then the candidate(s) with the highest overall GPA will be offered the seat.

ENTRY INTO PROFESSIONAL PHASE

Regardless of entry method (direct or indirect), students admitted into the BSRT program must complete the following criteria prior to transitioning (entering) into the professional phase of the program (typically Fall term, junior year).

1. Possess a minimum overall GPA of 2.50 or higher.
2. Complete PALM 205 (3 credits) and PALM 206 (lab 1 credit) or PSIO 107 (4 credits) with a minimum final course grade of C or higher.
3. Successfully pass all the following prerequisite courses:
 - General Biology I and Lab (4 hrs): BIOL 101 and 101L or BIOL 115 and 115L or equivalent
 - General Biology II and Lab (4 hrs): BIOL 102 and 102L or BIOL 117 and 117L or equivalent
 - Introductory Chemistry and Lab (4 hrs): CHEM 111 and 111L or CHEM 115 and 115L or equivalent
 - Composition and Rhetoric I (3 hrs): ENGL 101 or equivalent
 - Public Communication (3 hrs): COMM 104 or MDS 270 or equivalent
 - Introductory Psychology (3 hrs): PSYC 101 or equivalent
4. Review and meet all the Technical Standards requirements of the program.
5. Complete all components of the Student Professional Phase Core Requirements Policy (at least 30 days prior to the start of the professional phase) including health insurance verification, health examination/health form, immunization and titer requirements, drug screen, and clearances required within the program.

Major Code: 8321

General Education Foundations

Please use this link to view a list of courses that meet each GEF requirement. (<http://registrar.wvu.edu/gef/>)

NOTE: Some major requirements will fulfill specific GEF requirements. Please see the curriculum requirements listed below for details on which GEFs you will need to select.

Code	Title	Hours
General Education Foundations		
F1 - Composition & Rhetoric		
ENGL 101 & ENGL 102	Introduction to Composition and Rhetoric and Composition, Rhetoric, and Research	3-6

or ENGL 103	Accelerated Academic Writing	
F2A/F2B - Science & Technology		4-6
F3 - Math & Quantitative Reasoning		3-4
F4 - Society & Connections		3
F5 - Human Inquiry & the Past		3
F6 - The Arts & Creativity		3
F7 - Global Studies & Diversity		3
F8 - Focus (may be satisfied by completion of a minor, double major, or dual degree)		9
Total Hours		31-37

Please note that not all of the GEF courses are offered at all campuses. Students should consult with their advisor or academic department regarding the GEF course offerings available at their campus.

Curriculum Requirements

The first two years of study consist of a pre-professional curriculum where students complete prerequisite, recommended support, and general education courses while the last two years consist of the respiratory therapy professional curriculum. The pre-professional curriculum can be completed at the main campus, one of the WVU regional campuses, or any regionally accredited college or university.

The third and fourth years target detailed respiratory therapy content with the inclusion of hands-on laboratory and clinical education activities. The program includes didactic education which is strongly complemented by a series of robust clinical courses which are coordinated with the program's clinical partners, including WVU Medicine.

Code	Title	Hours
	University Requirements	13
	Respiratory Therapy Pre-Professional Requirements	48
	Respiratory Therapy Major Requirements	67
Total Hours		128

University Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
	General Education Foundations (GEF) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 (31-37 Credits)	
	Outstanding GEF Requirements 1, 6, and 7	12
RT 191	First-Year Seminar	1
Total Hours		13

Respiratory Therapy Pre-Professional Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
BIOL 101 & 101L or BIOL 115 & 115L	General Biology 1 and General Biology 1 Laboratory (GEF 2) Principles of Biology and Principles of Biology Laboratory	4
BIOL 102 & 102L or BIOL 117 & 117L	General Biology 2 and General Biology 2 Laboratory (GEF 8) Introductory Physiology and Introductory Physiology Laboratory	4
CHEM 111 & 111L or CHEM 115 & 115L	Survey of General, Organic, and Biological Chemistry 1 and Survey of Chemistry 1 Laboratory (GEF 8) Fundamentals of Chemistry 1 and Fundamentals of Chemistry 1 Laboratory	4
COMM 104 or COMM 270 & 270S	Fundamentals of Public Communication Presentational Speaking and Effective Public Speaking Studio	3
HIIM 110	Introduction to U.S. Healthcare Delivery System	3
HIIM 351	Healthcare Data Privacy, Confidentiality, and Security	3
MATH 124	Algebra with Applications (GEF 3)	3

PALM 200	Medical Terminology	3
PALM 205 & PALM 206 or PSIO 107	Introduction to Human Anatomy and Human Anatomy Laboratory Introduction to Human Anatomy and Physiology	4
PHIL 130	Current Moral Problems (GEF 5)	3
PHYS 105 & 105L or PHYS 101 & 101L	Conceptual Physics and Conceptual Physics Laboratory (GEF 8) Introductory Physics 1 and Introductory Physics 1 Laboratory	4
PSYC 101	Introduction to Psychology (GEF 4)	3
RT 301	An Introduction to Respiratory Therapy	4
Elective (select one of the following):		3
BMM 235	Introduction to Molecular Medicine	
HIIM 233	Health Informatics and Information Management Disease Fundamentals and Management	
HIIM 246	Fundamentals of Clinical Documentation Improvement	
PCOL 260	Pharmacology	
PSIO 241	Elementary Physiology	
Total Hours		48

Respiratory Therapy Major Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
A minimum grade of C is required in all Respiratory Therapy Major Requirements.		
RT 310	Respiratory Therapy Equipment, Procedures, and Processes	3
RT 311	Respiratory Therapy Equipment, Procedures, and Processes Lab	1
RT 320	Respiratory Therapy Cardiopulmonary Anatomy and Physiology	3
RT 340	Pharmacology Fundamentals in Respiratory Therapy	3
RT 350	PFTs, Sleep, and RT Alternative Settings	3
RT 360	Patient Assessment and Therapeutic Procedures in Respiratory Therapy	3
RT 370	Neonatal and Pediatric Diseases and Therapeutics in Respiratory Therapy	3
RT 371	Neonatal and Pediatric Laboratory Exercises and Interventions in Respiratory Therapy	1
RT 378	Respiratory Therapy Clinical Practicum 1 (An Introduction to Clinical Practice)	1
RT 380	Mechanical Ventilation Foundations	3
RT 381	Mechanical Ventilation Laboratory Exercises and Applications in Respiratory Therapy	1
RT 388	Respiratory Therapy Clinical Practicum 2	4
RT 389	Cardiopulmonary Disease Pathophysiology	3
RT 400	Hemodynamic and Intensive Care Principles and Practices	3
RT 401	Senior Respiratory Therapy Capstone	2
RT 420	Advanced Application and Theories in Mechanical Ventilation	3
RT 430	Interdisciplinary Science, Leadership, Management, and Education in Respiratory Therapy	3
RT 436	Comprehensive Board Preparation and Review 1	3
RT 460	Interpretation and Assessment of Labs, Tests, and Diagnostic imagery	3
RT 466	Comprehensive Board Preparation and Review 2	3
RT 478	Respiratory Therapy Advanced Clinical Practicum 3	6
RT 488	Respiratory Therapy Advanced Clinical Practicum 4	6
RT 497	Research	3
Total Hours		67

Suggested Plan of Study

First Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
BIOL 101 & 101L (GEF 2)		4 ENGL 101 (GEF 1)	3

HIIM 110		3 BIOL 102 & 102L (GEF 8)	4
PALM 205 & PALM 206		4 COMM 104	3
MATH 124 (GEF 3)		3 PSYC 101 (GEF 4)	3
RT 191		1 General Education Elective (GEF 6)	3
		15	16
Second Year			
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
ENGL 102 (GEF 1)		3 HIIM 351	3
PALM 200		3 PHIL 130 (GEF 5)	3
PHYS 105 & 105L (GEF 8)		4 CHEM 111 & 111L (GEF 8)	4
RT 301 Elective		4 General Education Elective (GEF 7)	3
		3	
		17	13
Third Year			
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
RT 310		3 RT 360	3
RT 311		1 RT 370	3
RT 320		3 RT 371	1
RT 340		3 RT 380	3
RT 350		3 RT 381	1
RT 378		1 RT 388 RT 389	4 3
		14	18
Fourth Year			
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
RT 400		3 RT 401	2
RT 420		3 RT 430	3
RT 436		3 RT 460	3
RT 478		6 RT 466	3
RT 497		3 RT 488	6
		18	17

Total credit hours: 128

Major Learning Outcomes

RESPIRATORY THERAPY

The proposed program in respiratory therapy will prepare graduates who:

- Deliver high quality respiratory therapy services to individuals and across a continuum of care and in a variety of settings.
- Demonstrate the ability to make evidence based clinical decisions utilizing information literacy, critical thinking skills, and scientific evidence.
- Collaborate as members of inter-professional teams.
- Provide care that is characterized by cultural respect
- Demonstrate competence in the recall, application, and analysis of respiratory therapy in all aspects of care and practice.
- Practice respiratory therapy in accordance with recognized professional and ethical standards.

Accreditation

"The West Virginia University respiratory therapy program, CoARC program number 200661, BSRT degree awarded, at the Morgantown, WV campus, holds Provisional Accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care <https://www.coarc.com>. This status signifies that a program with an Approval of Intent has demonstrated sufficient compliance with the Standards (through submission of an acceptable Provisional Accreditation Self Study Report (PSSR) and any other documentation required by the CoARC, as well as satisfactory completion of an initial on-site visit), to be allowed to admit students. It is recognized as an accredited program by the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC), which provides enrolled

students who complete the program with eligibility for the Respiratory Care Credentialing Examination(s). The program will remain on Provisional Accreditation until it achieves Continuing Accreditation.

CoARC accredits respiratory therapy education programs in the United States. To achieve this end, it utilizes an 'outcomes based' process. Programmatic outcomes are performance indicators that reflect the extent to which the educational goals of the program are achieved and by which program effectiveness is documented."

The West Virginia University Respiratory Therapy program outcomes can be found on the CoARC website Program Outcomes Data URL: (<https://coarc.com/students/programmatic-outcomes-data/>)