



**TJC**<sup>TM</sup>

**Tyler Junior College**

**RESPIRATORY CARE PROGRAM  
ADMISSION GUIDELINES  
2025**

A QUALITY EDUCATION - A VIBRANT STUDENT LIFE - COMMUNITY SERVICE

# Contents

INTRODUCTION	3
Mission and Goals	3
What is a Respiratory Therapist?	3
Application Requirements	4
Essential Functions for a Respiratory Therapist	5
PHYSICAL	6
SENSORY	6
MENTAL, INTELLECTUAL AND COGNITIVE	6
EMOTIONAL	7
COMMUNICATION AND INTERPERSONAL	7
ETHICS AND PROFESSIONALISM	7
Statement of Nondiscrimination	8
Admission and Transfer Policies	8
Immunizations	8
Point System for Selection	9
Program Acceptance	10
Readmission Policy	10
Graduation Requirements	11
TJC Graduation Requirements:	11
RCP Graduation Requirements	11
TJC Respiratory Care	13
Program Checklist	13
Required	13
Documents for Admission into The Respiratory Care Program	13
Additional Responsibilities	13

# INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your interest in the Respiratory Care Program. This information packet will assist you in your application process.

Tyler Junior College is accredited by the **Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)**, and the Respiratory Care Program is accredited through the **Commission on Accreditation of Respiratory Care (CoARC) CoARC ID#: 200171 valid until 11/30/2026**. Program outcomes are located at:

Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care  
264 Precision Blvd  
Telford, TN 37690  
(817)283-2835  
Email: [WEBMASTER@COARC.COM](mailto:WEBMASTER@COARC.COM)  
Web: [www.coarc.org](http://www.coarc.org)

The Respiratory Care Program is a two-year curriculum that includes one semester of prerequisite courses and four semesters of didactic, laboratory, and clinical learning experiences to prepare you for a career as a Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT). The program begins once a year; in the fall semester only. Upon completion of the program, students will graduate with an Associate of Applied Science and be eligible to sit for the registry examination administered by the National Board of Respiratory Care (NBRC) and obtain a state license from the Texas Medical Board to become a Respiratory Care Practitioner (RCP).

## Mission and Goals

The Respiratory Care Program at Tyler Junior College program goals are to prepare graduates with demonstrated competence in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains of respiratory care practice as performed by a Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT). The program goals are established in accordance with the needs expressed by the communities of interest and the Respiratory Care Program Advisory Committee and the policies, procedures, and standards established by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC).

## What is a Respiratory Therapist?

Respiratory Therapists play an important role in helping patients of various ages, abilities, and ethnicities with breathing difficulties and cardiopulmonary disorders get the best care possible in a variety of settings. Tasks a Respiratory Therapist may perform but are not limited to include:

- interviewing patients
- doing chest physical exams
- consulting with physicians and other caregivers

- performing diagnostic testing and analysis to determine, recommend, and perform treatment to care for patients
- respond to emergency situations
- educate patients and families about lung disease and management strategies

Respiratory therapists care for patients of all ages, abilities, and ethnicities, and this is a career in high demand. In 2019 the Bureau of Labor Statistics projected a 19% growth by 2029- almost five times faster than all occupations in the U.S. As we continue to face the COVID-19 pandemic, we expect the need for Respiratory Therapists to grow even higher over the coming years. The starting salaries in East Texas for a Respiratory Therapist range from \$52,000 - \$56,000/year.

## Application Requirements

1. Must be 18 or older.
2. You cannot knowingly furnish false information or alter applications to the college.
3. Must be currently enrolled in TJC.
4. You must pass a drug screen and criminal background check.
5. You must be able to perform the Essential Functions of a Respiratory Therapist.
6. New TJC students must meet with the Nursing and Health Sciences Advisors to have transcripts evaluated before applying to the program. For more information call 903-510-3287.
7. Complete ATI TEAS Exam-Version 7 testing OR the HESI A2 Exam. This is offered through TJC testing services [Testing Services | Tyler Junior College \(tjc.edu\)](#). You must have a 50% or better to be considered for a spot in the program. These are standardized exams designed to specifically assess a student’s preparedness for entering the health science field. [www.atitesting.com/TEAS](http://www.atitesting.com/TEAS)
8. The admission process is fully online.
9. Submit official transcripts from **all** the colleges you have attended. These must be submitted to the Registrar’s Office. Your GPA must be above 2.5 to be eligible for the program.
10. If you have been in any other nursing and health professions program and have left for any reason, you must submit a letter of good standing from that program. If you are ineligible for readmission or have been dismissed from any Nursing Health Sciences program you are not eligible to apply to the Respiratory Care Program.
11. The Respiratory Care Program is a two-year curriculum that includes one semester (14 credit hours) of prerequisite courses. Prerequisite courses must be completed before you can apply to the program. All prerequisite courses should be completed with a “C” or better and a grade point average of at least 2.5 and, must have been completed within the last 5 years.

### Prerequisites

PREFIX	NUMBER	COURSE NAME	CREDIT HOURS
BIOL	2401	Anatomy & Physiology I	4
CHEM	1406	Introductory Chemistry I-AH	4
MATH	X3XX	Math Core	3
ENGL	1301	Composition I	3

## Essential Functions of a Respiratory Therapist

To ensure you understand and are prepared for the basic duties required for prospective applicants, students, and subsequent employees with a degree in Respiratory Therapy you must be able to perform with or without reasonable accommodations the following essential functions. If necessary, a medical release, signed by a physician may be required to document that these criteria are met. Applicants and students requesting reasonable accommodations to meet these criteria must inform the Program Director in writing. The applicant or student is required to contact disability services and file the appropriate forms. [Disability Services | TJC](#)

<p><b>PHYSICAL</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Push/pull/lift/maneuver <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Patients during positioning or transport</li> <li>○ Equipment and supplies</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Walk/stand/sit for long periods</li> <li>• Bend/reach/kneel</li> <li>• Use hands/wrists/shoulders to maintain prolonged arm positions (ex. During CPR, ventilation, bronchial assistance, blood draws, aerosol administrations, etc.)</li> <li>• Grasp objects with both hands, pinch thumb and forefinger to turn dials or knobs on specialized equipment</li> <li>• Perform patient physical assessment (ex. Auscultation, percussion, palpitation, etc.)</li> <li>• Use standard office equipment</li> </ul>
<p><b>SENSORY</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perform patient physical assessment (ex. auscultation, percussion, palpitation etc.)</li> <li>• Functional use of the senses such as hearing, touch and vision to tell <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ location, pitch, and intensity of sounds</li> <li>○ shades and discriminate colors</li> <li>○ subtle variations in texture and temperature etc.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>MENTAL, INTELLECTUAL AND COGNITIVE</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be able to read, understand, and apply printed material, which may include instructions printed on medical devices, equipment, and supplies</li> <li>• Rapidly assess a variety of life-threatening situations</li> <li>• Use computers and electronics for searching, recording, storing, and retrieving information</li> <li>• Maintain patient safety through awareness of alarms and emergency signals</li> <li>• Promote evidence-based medicine, research, and clinical practice guidelines</li> <li>• Collect, interpret, calculate, problem-solve, diagnose, and document data</li> <li>• Appropriately prioritize to optimize patient care and produce the best therapeutic and diagnostic outcomes</li> <li>• Accurately perform respiratory care procedures in the proper sequence according to established standards</li> </ul>

EMOTIONAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate compassion, empathy, integrity, interpersonal skills and motivation</li> <li>• Perform procedures with a high level of competency with little to no margin of error</li> <li>• Provide physical and emotional support to the patient during respiratory care procedures</li> <li>• Be capable of dealing with the demands of emergency situations, as well as the daily routing of duties with speed and accuracy</li> <li>• Accept and cope with exposure to trauma and grief</li> <li>• Recognize constructive criticism and performance feedback as avenues for improvement</li> <li>• Appropriately regulate emotions to maintain composure in stressful or demanding situations</li> </ul>
COMMUNICATION AND INTERPERSONAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be able to effectively communicate in English, in both written and verbal format</li> <li>• Recognize and respond effectively to verbal and nonverbal communication sensitively</li> <li>• Display sensitivity to and interact positively with multicultural and multilingual needs for all ages</li> <li>• Maintain written records and complete assignments in didactic, lab and clinical environments</li> </ul>
ETHICS AND PROFESSIONALISM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect patients' privacy and confidential information (HIPPA)</li> <li>• Operate within the scope of practice</li> <li>• Pass drug/alcohol testing and criminal background check</li> <li>• Maintain professional conduct and appearance</li> <li>• Develop mature relationships with patients and other members of the health care team</li> <li>• Demonstrate willingness to take on responsibilities and challenges</li> <li>• Delegate responsibilities appropriately and function as part of a medical team</li> </ul>

## Statement of Nondiscrimination

TJC gives equal consideration to all applicants for admission, employment and participation in its programs and activities without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, marital status, disability, veteran status or limited English proficiency (LEP). TJC respects the legal rights of each person to work and learn in an environment that is free from unlawful sexual discrimination including sexual harassment and sexual violence

## Admission and Transfer Policies

Tyler Junior College institutional policies regarding admission will be followed. Applicants to the Respiratory Care Program must first apply to and be admitted by TJC. Please refer to the TJC online catalog [2024-2025 Catalog Tyler Junior College \(tjc.edu\)](#) and student handbook [Student Handbook | Tyler Junior College \(tjc.edu\)](#).

Admission to TJC does not imply or guarantee admission into the Respiratory Care Program. Acceptance into the Respiratory Care Program is limited. The number of students admitted to the program is limited by our accrediting agency (CoARC) requirements, classroom, clinical and laboratory space, and teacher to student ratios. Application process is online only. Not all applicants who apply will be interviewed. Only applicants being considered for admission will be interviewed based on a point system.

A notice of acceptance, denial, or alternate status will be sent via TJC email to the applicants after the interview committee has made final selections. The applicant will be “conditionally accepted” into the Respiratory Care Program and must submit a written acceptance or declination statement within two weeks of notification of acceptance into the program. Failure to submit written acceptance into the program will result in forfeiture of placement and that vacancy will be offered to the alternate.

## Immunizations

Special immunization requirements exist for students enrolled in health-related courses in order to participate in coursework activities involving direct patient contact with potential exposure to blood or bodily fluids. Requirements regarding acceptable evidence of vaccination are found in [Texas Administrative Code §97.68](#). TJC institutional policies will apply.

Minimum vaccine requirements for students enrolled in the Respiratory Care Program include

- Tetanus-Diphtheria
- Measles
- Mumps
- Rubella
- Hepatitis B (series must be completed prior to the first day of the second semester)
- Varicella
- Bacterial Meningitis
- Negative TB test within the last 12 months
- Proof of seasonal influenza vaccination



As of January 1, 2012, Texas law requires all entering students to show evidence of an initial bacterial meningitis vaccine or a booster dose during the five-year period preceding, and at least 10 days prior, to the first day of the first semester in which the student initially enrolls at a Texas higher education institution. For more information on the Texas Minimum State Vaccine Requirements for College Entry visit <http://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunize/school/college-requirements.aspx>

Students must submit documentation of their vaccination status that shows the month, day, and year the vaccination or booster dose was administered before the first day of the semester.

## Point System for Selection

Consideration for applicant interviews is based on a point system. Only the top 40 applicants will be interviewed.

CATEGORY	EXPLANATION	POSSIBLE POINTS
BIOL 2401	Anatomy & Physiology I *	A = 10 pts, B = 8 pts, C = 6 pts
CHEM 1406	Introductory Chemistry I-Allied Health*	A = 10 pts, B = 8 pts, C = 6 pts
MATH X3XX	Math Core (Contemporary Mathematics) *	A = 8 pts, B = 6 pts, C = 4 pts
ENGL 1301	English Composition I*	A = 3 pts, B = 2 pts, C = 1 pts
BIOL 2402	Anatomy & Physiology II	A = 10 pts, B = 8 pts, C = 6 pts
BIOL 2420	Microbiology	A = 10 pts, B = 8 pts, C = 6 pts
SOCI 1301	Introduction to Sociology or Gen. Psychology	A = 3 pts, B = 2 pts, C = 1 pts
SPCH 1315	Public Speaking or Business/Professional Comm.	A = 4 pts, B = 3 pts, C = 2 pts
ARTS X3XX	Art, Drama, Music, Humanities	A = 3 pts, B = 2 pts, C = 1 pts
	Prior Degree/Certificate	BS = 3 pts, AAS = 2 pts, Certificate = 1 pts
	Medical Terminology or Courses in Medical Profession	A = 3 pts, B = 2 pts, C = 1 pts
	Interview with Admissions Committee	Excellent = 4 pts, Good = 3 pts, Average = 2 pts, Poor = 1 pts
	Work experience in medical discipline letter from employer with job duties/job description, hire date	1 pts
	Previous Year Alternate	3 pts

## Program Acceptance

All students accepted into the Respiratory Care Program will be granted a conditional acceptance. Applicants will be notified through their TJC email by the first Friday in July. The following requirements must be met before last Friday in July to be granted full acceptance into the program:

- A written acceptance or declination statement must be emailed to [respiratory@tjc.edu](mailto:respiratory@tjc.edu).
- Pass an annual criminal background check and drug screen.
- Attend the mandatory onboarding day (last Friday of June) with no exceptions. If students do not attend, an alternate will be selected. During this orientation, we will do a meet and greet, review the student handbook, sign agreements, complete paperwork/forms, attendance, dress code, general orientation, etc.
- Provide a negative TB Test within the last 12 months
- Provide documentation of seasonal Flu vaccination within the last 12 months

## Readmission Policy

A cumulative maximum of two (2) admissions may be permitted to the Tyler Junior College Respiratory Care Program. Candidates for readmission to the Respiratory Care Program must follow and complete the readmission policy guidelines in order to be considered. Readmission application review will be limited to one year. Readmission to the Respiratory Care Program will be considered on an individual basis and space availability.

Students on disciplinary probation at the time of withdrawal or dismissal may be ineligible to reapply to the program. Students who have had a clinical failure due to unsafe clinical practice are not eligible for readmission.

If a School of Nursing and Health Sciences student is deployed for active military duty after enrollment or acceptance into the Respiratory Program, a place will be reserved for the student in the next available class at Tyler Junior College upon returning within one calendar year. It is based on the space available in the designated courses.

A student who leaves the Respiratory Care Program for any reason other than a Clinical Failure will be permitted one other opportunity to re-enroll. Readmission to the Respiratory Care Program will be considered as a 2<sup>nd</sup> admission. Former students will be ranked according to the reason for withdrawal, and GPA in required courses. It is highly recommended for readmission to audit any co-requisite courses for that semester. Re-enrollment must occur within 12 months after leaving the program. The student who re-enters the Respiratory Care Program must complete courses and competencies as prescribed by the Respiratory Care Program. If the request for readmission is greater than 12 months, the candidate will be required to go through the complete admission process, and all RSPT coursework will be required to be repeated.

The student accepted for readmission will function under the current policy and procedures of the School of Nursing and Health Sciences, Respiratory Care Program, and Tyler Junior College Student Handbook at the time of readmission.

## Graduation Requirements

RCP and TJC general graduation requirements must be met; please refer to the online [TJC Course and Degree Program Catalog | Tyler Junior College](#)

### TJC Graduation Requirements:

1. The student must confirm their graduation for a degree, certificate, or award at [www.tjc.edu/graduation/confirmation](http://www.tjc.edu/graduation/confirmation).
2. The student must complete the required credit hours with an average grade of at least “C” (2.0 GPA) for completion.
3. The student must complete at least 60 credit hours to earn an associate degree. Minimum credit hour requirements for certificates or awards vary.
4. The student must complete at least 120 credit hours to earn a baccalaureate degree.
5. For degree, certificate, or award completion, at least 25 percent of the semester credit hours applicable to the degree, certificate, or award must be earned through direct instruction completed at TJC. Credits awarded through transfer, credit by exam, or credit for prior learning do not count toward this requirement.
6. Students must satisfy the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) requirements specified for the degree, certificate, or award sought.

### RCP Graduation Requirements

1. Every Associate of Applied Science degree plan must contain at least 15 semester hours of general education courses. \*At least one course must be taken from each of the following areas:
  - a. Humanities/fine arts (language, philosophy & culture/creative arts)
  - b. Social/behavioral science (social and behavioral sciences/American history/government/political science)
  - c. Natural science/mathematics (life and physical sciences/mathematics)
2. Complete all Major Courses (35 credits)

Course Number	Course Name	Credit Hours
<b>Semester I</b>	<b>Fall</b>	
RSPT 1227	Applied Physics for Respiratory Care	2
RSPT 1340	Advanced Cardiopulmonary Anatomy and Physiology	3
RSPT 1310	Respiratory Care Procedures I	3
RSPT 2258	Respiratory Care Patient Assessment	2

RSPT 1166	Practicum (or Field Experience)-Respiratory Care Therapy/Therapist	1
BIOL 2402	Anatomy & Physiology II	4
<b>Semester II</b>	<b>Spring</b>	
RSPT 1311	Respiratory Care Procedures II	3
RSPT 2217	Respiratory Care Pharmacology	2
RSPT 2414	Mechanical Ventilation	4
RSPT 1267	Practicum II (or Field Experience)-Respiratory Care Therapy/Therapist	2
BIOL 2420	Microbiology	4
<b>Semester III</b>	<b>Summer</b>	
RSPT 2425	Cardiopulmonary Diagnostics	4
RPST 2266	Practicum III (or Field Experience)-Respiratory Care Therapy/Therapist	2
<b>Semester IV</b>	<b>Fall</b>	
RSPT 2353	Neonatal/Pediatric Cardiopulmonary Care	3
RSPT 2210	Cardiopulmonary Disease	2
RSPT 2267	Practicum IV (or Field Experience)-Respiratory Care Therapy/Therapist	2
*SOCI 1301	Introduction to Sociology -or-	3
*PSYC 2301	General Psychology	3
*X3XX	Creative Arts Core -or-	3
*HUMA 1301	Into to Humanities I	3
*SPCH 1315	Public Speaking -or-	3
*SPCH 1321	Business and Professional Communication	3

# TJC Respiratory Care Program Checklist



## Required

- Must be over age 18 before the first day of the Fall Semester.
- Must be currently enrolled in TJC.
- Must be able to meet and perform all technical standards.
- Submit Online application only.
- Completion of all course prerequisites, minimum GPA 2.5, course completion by the Spring semester before the Program start date (August).
- Must have met with the Nursing and Health Sciences Advisor to have your transcripts evaluated. Call 903-510-3287.
- Complete ATI TEAS Exam-Version 7 or HESI A2 Exam - testing offered through TJC Testing Services [Testing Services | Tyler Junior College \(tjc.edu\)](#) or [www.atitesting.com/TEAS](http://www.atitesting.com/TEAS).  
A minimum score of 50% or better is required.

## Documents for Admission into The Respiratory Care Program

- Official transcripts for all the colleges you have attended. These must be sent to the registrar's office.
- A letter of good standing, if applicable.
- Vaccine/Immunization records.
- ATI TEAS Exam-Version 7 or HESI A2 test scores.

## Additional Responsibilities

- Monitor your TJC email for additional document requests.
- Interview requests and denials will be sent through TJC email.

## Post Acceptance Responsibilities

- Submit a written acceptance or declination statement via email.
- Sign up for Complio, a third-party compliance company.
- Pass a criminal background check and drug screen (the use of CDB oil can cause a positive test and will be grounds for denial of admission.).
- Attend mandatory onboarding.
- Provide a negative TB test within the last 12 months.
- Provide documentation of a seasonal flu vaccination within the last 12 months.