



Respiratory Care, BS

Department: Nursing and Allied Health Professions
College: Health and Human Services
Website: <https://www.iup.edu/rn-alliedhealth/undergrad/allied-health-majors/respiratory-care-nursing-bs/index.html>

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Accreditation: [Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care \(CoARC\) and its Standards.](#)

Program Description: The B.S. degree program in respiratory care prepares the graduate for a career as a registered respiratory care practitioner. It consists of two academic years of pre-clinical studies (Indiana Campus) and two academic years of clinical studies (Pittsburgh East Campus). Clinical experience is provided at a variety of locations in Southwestern Pennsylvania. Phase one includes 61 credits in the preclinical courses of chemistry, biology, physics, and math, plus the Liberal Studies requirements completed at the IUP main campus. Students are expected to earn a minimum grade point average of at least 2.25 in math and science courses and a minimum overall 2.0 grade point average to secure a seat in the clinical phase. C or higher grades in BIOL 150 Human Anatomy, BIOL 151 Human Physiology, and the math course will help students succeed in respiratory care courses. IUP does not guarantee admission to the clinical phase of the program. Phase two includes 59 credits completed at IUP at Pittsburgh East Campus. Students gain clinical experiences at hospitals, long-term care facilities, and home health care agencies. The program is accredited by the [Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care \(CoARC\)](#).

Career Opportunities: Respiratory care practitioners evaluate, treat, and care for people with breathing problems. They assist physicians in the evaluation and treatment of heart and lung disorders. Respiratory therapists are experts in the therapeutic use of medical gases, including oxygen, cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, and management of artificial airways. They are employed in hospitals, extended care facilities, clinics, rehabilitation centers, physicians' offices, educational programs, and home care services, as well as national and international medical device companies. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics states: "Employment of respiratory therapists is projected to grow 23 percent from 2016 to 2026, much faster than the average for all occupations. Growth in middle-aged and elderly populations will lead to an increased incidence of respiratory issues like chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and pneumonia."

Student Organizations: All Respiratory Care majors are encouraged to become members of the IUP Respiratory Care Club. Student members may participate in fundraising and volunteer activities that provide them experiences that will improve their resume, socialization, and ability to learn more about the clinical phase at IUP Pittsburgh East, housing and navigating clinical requirements. Past experiences have included events like a meet and greet and sponsorship of an on-campus Blood drive. In addition, students are encouraged to join the American Association for Respiratory Care which offers student memberships, with many helpful benefits and valuable discounts.

Experiential Learning: Experiential learning is an important aspect of education. Students enter the clinical phase of the program at IUP Pittsburgh East for their junior and senior years. Clinical courses provide the opportunity for supervised clinical experience in a variety of world class health care settings across all patient age groups, and venue types throughout southwestern Pennsylvania. In addition, several students have qualified for RESP 493 RC internship, a 1 credit elective course (repeatable, unpaid).





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Degree: Bachelor of Science
Calendar Year: 2023-2024

Four-year Course Sequencing

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Four-year Sequencing: The below four-year plan outlines the courses required in each semester of your baccalaureate degree. The goal is for you to visualize the years to come and understand what courses or other requirements are needed in order to graduate in four years. This also allows you to plan with your advisor for important engagement activities that support your higher education goals, such as planning for an internship, research, and/or study abroad. The summer and winter terms are also an opportunity to take courses or accomplish other goals.

Freshman Year: Fall			Freshman Year: Spring		
Course	Course Description	Credits	Course	Course Description	Credits
MATH 105 or higher	College Algebra	3	CHEM 102	College Chemistry II	4
CHEM 101	College Chemistry I	4	HIST	History 196/197/198	3
ENGL 101	Composition I	3	BIOL 150	Human Anatomy	4
NURS 143 or other	Dimensions of Wellness selection	3	Fine Arts 101	INTRO TO ART, MUSIC, THTR, DANCE	3
GMA	Global & Multi Cult Awareness	3	RESP 101	Profession of Resp. Care	1
	Total Fall	16		Total Spring	15

Sophomore Year: Fall			Sophomore Year: Spring		
Course	Course Description	Credits	Course	Course Description	Credits
BIOL 240	Human Physiology	4	BIOL 241	Intro. Medical Microbiology	4
ENGL 202	Composition II	3	ENGL 121	Humanities Literature	3
PSYC 101	General Psychology	3	PHIL/RLST	Philosophy or Relig. Studies	3
SOC 151	Principles of Sociology	3	PHYS 151	Medical Physics (Lecture)	3
***	Free Elective	2	***	Liberal Studies Elective	3
	Total Fall	15		Total Spring	16

Junior Year: Fall			Junior Year: Spring		
Course	Course Description	Credits	Course	Course Description	Credits
RESP 326	Respiratory Care Clinical Pract I	3	RESP 327	Pharmacology	3
RESP 328	Applied Concepts in Resp. Care	3	RESP 333	Respiratory Care Clinical Pract II	3
RESP 329	Equipment 1	3	RESP 334	Equipment II	3
RESP 331	Equipment 1 Lab	1	RESP336	CP Eval & clinical correlation	4
RESP 332	Respiratory Care Equip. II Lab	1			
RESP 335	Pt. Care and Emergency Skills	4			
	Total Fall	15		Total Spring	13

Senior Year: Fall			Senior Year: Spring*		
Course	Course Description	Credits	Course	Course Description	Credits
RESP 425	Clinical Case Studies	3	RESP 429	RC Leadership	3
RESP 426	Resp. Care Clinical Pract. III	4	RESP 433	Respiratory Care Clinical Pract IV	4
RESP 430	Cardiopulmonary Diagnostics	3	RESP 435	Resp. Care Across the Continuum	3
RESP 493***	Internship (elective, unpaid)	1			
RESP 432	Neonatal & Pediatric Resp. Care	3	RESP 451	Respiratory Care Professional II	2
RESP 441	Respiratory Care Professional I	2		Free Elective	3
	Total Fall	15+		Total Spring	15

***RESP 493 Internship in Respiratory Care (1 cr) provides students with an opportunity to gain additional clinical experiences in a supervised health care setting (this is an unpaid experience). This course may be repeated for a maximum of five credits.



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Summary of Requirements

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Summary of Requirements: Students are expected to earn a GPA of at least 2.25 in the required Natural Sciences and Mathematics courses (includes “C” or higher grades in BIOL 150 and BIOL 240), and an overall GPA of at least 2.0 to be considered for Fall semester admission into the clinical years in respiratory care. However, since admission to the clinical phase is competitive, IUP cannot guarantee progression. Prior to graduation, Respiratory Care majors must earn a minimum grade of “C” in all required RESP (RESP 300 level and 400 level) courses to progress. A grade of “D” in a RESP course may hinder progression to the next level of required courses when mastery of the content is essential for success. Graduates are prepared for graduate degrees that may lead to careers in administration, education, and medicine.

Liberal Studies (44 credits)

Course (44 Credits)	Credits	Grade
Learning Skills: English Composition (6 credits)		
ENGL 101 Composition	3	
ENGL 202 Composition II	3	

Learning Skills: Mathematics (3 credits)		
MATH 105 College Algebra	3	

Humanities (9 credits)		
HIST 196 or 197 or 198	3	
ENGL 121 Humanities Literature	3	
PHIL/RLST Select one from the course list	3	

Fine Arts (3 credits)		
Select one from the list	3	

Natural Sciences (8 credits)		
CHEM 101 College Chemistry I	4	
CHEM 102 College Chemistry II	4	

Social Sciences (9 credits)		
PSYC 101 General Psychology	3	
SOC 151 Prin. of Soc. OR SOC 161 Foundations of Soc.(GMA)	3	
Select from the course list (GMA)	3	

Dimensions of Wellness (3 credits)		
Select from the list of 143 courses	3	

Liberal Studies Elective (3 credits)		
Select one from the course list	3	

Respiratory Care Core Requirements (56 credits)

Course	Credits	Grade
RESP 101 The Profession of Respiratory Care	1	
RESP 326 Respiratory Care Clinical Practice I	3	
RESP 327 Pharmacology	3	
RESP 328 Applied Concepts in Resp. Care	3	
RESP 329 Respiratory Care Equipment I	3	
RESP 333 Respiratory Care Clinical practice II	3	
RESP 334 Respiratory Equipment II	3	
RESP 335 Patient Care and Emergency Skills	4	
RESP 336 CP eval and clinical correlation	4	
RESP 425 Clinical Case Studies	3	
RESP 426 Respiratory Care Clinical Practice III	4	
RESP 429 Respiratory Care Leadership	3	
RESP 430 Cardiopulmonary Diagnostics	3	
RESP 432 Neonatal and Pediatric Resp. Care	3	
RESP 433 Respiratory Care Clinical Practice IV	4	
RESP 435 Resp. Care across the Continuum	3	
RESP 441 Respiratory Care Professional I	2	
RESP 451 Respiratory care Professional II	2	

Other requirements 15 credits		
BIOL 150 Human Anatomy	4	
BIOL 240 Human Physiology	4	
BIOL 241 Introductory Medical Microbiology	4	
PHYS 151 Medical Physics Lecture	3	

Free electives ***	5	
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- [Global/Multicultural](#), 3 credits required but most courses overlap with other required courses, so talk with your advisor.
- [Writing Intensive](#), 6 credits required, but programs have these courses built into the coursework, so talk with your advisor.
- Review [Degree Works](#) for your progress toward degree.

Additional Information: RESP 300- and 400- level courses will be completed at our **Pittsburgh East Campus in Monroeville.**