

Respiratory Program

The mission of the Respiratory Care Technology program at Southern WV Community and Technical College is to provide competent qualified Respiratory Therapists for the surrounding health care agencies. The program emphasizes student-oriented, transferable learning, enabling students to achieve work, career, and personal success. This program provides a high quality, affordable and accessible education. The program is flexible in responding to state and community demands for highly skilled providers of health care

Graduates of the Respiratory Care Technology Program at Southern WV Community and Technical College should be able to demonstrate entry level competencies for the following upon initial employment:

1. Acquire and evaluate clinical data.
2. Assess the cardiopulmonary status of patients.
3. Perform and assist in the performance of prescribed diagnostic studies such as, obtaining blood samples, blood gas analysis, pulmonary function testing, and polysomnography.
4. Evaluate data to assess the appropriateness of prescribed respiratory care.
5. Establish therapeutic goals for patients with cardiopulmonary disease.
6. Participate in the development and modification of Respiratory care plans.
7. Case management of patients with cardiopulmonary and related disease.
8. Initiate prescribed respiratory care treatment, while evaluating and monitoring patient's response to such therapy and modifying the prescribed therapy to achieve the desired therapeutic objectives.
9. Initiate and conduct prescribed pulmonary rehabilitation.
10. Provide patient, family, and community education.
11. Promote cardiopulmonary wellness, disease prevention, and disease management.
12. Participate in life support activities as required, and promote evidence-based medicine, research, and clinical practice guidelines. Reference:

The above was taken in part from the CoARCS' "Standards and Guidelines" for Respiratory Therapy education programs.

The Southern WV Community & Technical College Respiratory Care Technology program has developed the following goals: The program must have the following goal defining minimum expectations: "To prepare graduates with demonstrated competence in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains of respiratory care practice as performed by registered respiratory therapists (RRTs)."

Outcomes

- Graduates must be competent to perform all diagnostic and therapeutic procedures required of a Respiratory Therapist entering the profession.
- Graduates must be able to function proficiently within inter-professional teams and communicate effectively with diverse populations. The curriculum must prepare students to work with, and care for, a variety of populations including, but not limited to, individual of various ages, abilities, and ethnicities.
- Program graduates must exhibit adequate critical thinking skills and be competent in the application of problem-solving strategies in the patient care setting.