ARC’s Respiratory Care Program is designed to prepare California licensed respiratory care practitioners at the registered respiratory therapist level. It focuses on diagnostic procedures, treatment, and management of patients with conditions affecting the cardiopulmonary system. The respiratory care practitioner works closely with the physician in assessing the patient and planning the proper respiratory care protocol.

The Respiratory Care curriculum is a two-year program designed to prepare the student for employment and to participate as a member of the healthcare team by providing direct patient care. Experience in respiratory care is provided in selected local hospitals where the student participates in clinical externships. Safe, ethical, and professional levels of practice are necessary for retention of students in the Respiratory Care Program.

The program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC), P.O. Box 54876, Hurst, TX 76054-4876; (817) 283-2835.

“The American River College Respiratory Care Program will 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).” CoARC Programmatic Outcome Data.

Respiratory Care Student Handbook

Respiratory Care | Los Rios

Associate Degree

A.S. in Respiratory Care

This degree is preparation for licensure as a Respiratory Care Practitioner in the state of California as a Respiratory Care Practitioner at the Advanced Registered Respiratory Therapist level. It focuses on diagnostic procedures, treatment, and management of patients with conditions affecting the cardiopulmonary system. Course work includes physical assessment, medical gas therapies, mechanical life support, airway care, pharmacology, neonatal/pediatric therapy, and specialized cardiopulmonary procedures.

All degree major courses require a grade of "C" or better to remain in the program.

Catalog Date: June 1, 2019

Degree Requirements
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE CODE</th>
<th>COURSE TITLE</th>
<th>UNITS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AH 110</td>
<td>Medical Language for Health-Care Providers</td>
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<td>BIOL 430</td>
<td>Anatomy and Physiology</td>
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<td>BIOL 431</td>
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<td>BIOL 440</td>
<td>General Microbiology (4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>or BIOL 442</td>
<td>General Microbiology and Public Health (5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHYS 310</td>
<td>Conceptual Physics (3)</td>
<td>3 - 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>or PHYS 350</td>
<td>General Physics (4)</td>
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<td>RC 110</td>
<td>Cardiopulmonary Pathologies for Respiratory Care</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RC 111</td>
<td>Principles of Respiratory Care</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>RC 121</td>
<td>Concepts of Airway Care &amp; Mechanical Ventilation</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>RC 122</td>
<td>Airway Care &amp; Mechanical Ventilation Laboratory</td>
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<td>RC 123</td>
<td>Clinical Externship I</td>
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<tr>
<td>RC 124</td>
<td>Respiratory Care Pharmacology</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RC 130</td>
<td>Respiratory Care in Neonatal and Pediatric Populations &amp; Diagnostic Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RC 131</td>
<td>Respiratory Care in Neonatal and Pediatric Populations &amp; Diagnostic Studies Laboratory</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RC 132</td>
<td>Clinical Externship II</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>RC 140</td>
<td>Professional Development in Respiratory Care</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>RC 142</td>
<td>Clinical Externship III</td>
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<td>A minimum of 3 units from the following:</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGWR 300</td>
<td>College Composition (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGWR 480</td>
<td>Honors College Composition (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESLW 340</td>
<td>Advanced Composition (4)</td>
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<td>A minimum of 3 units from the following:</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH 310</td>
<td>Cultural Anthropology (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH 481</td>
<td>Honors Cultural Anthropology (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 300</td>
<td>General Principles (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 320</td>
<td>Social Psychology (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 390</td>
<td>Psychology of Death and Dying (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 480</td>
<td>Honors General Principles (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Units:</td>
<td>66 - 68</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The Respiratory Care Associate in Science (A.S.) degree may be obtained by completion of the required program, plus general education requirements, plus sufficient electives to meet a 60-unit total. See ARC graduation requirements.

Enrollment Eligibility

To be eligible for enrollment in the program, the student must meet the following criteria:

- Graduation from an accredited high school (graduates from outside the United States must have transcripts evaluated by an independent agency), or successful completion of the General Educational Development (GED) Test or California High School Proficiency Examination (CHSPE) as
defined by the current requirements of the State of California and National Board for Respiratory Care.

- A GPA of 2.5 in all prerequisite courses.
- AH 110 with a grade of “C” or better.
- BIOL 430 and BIOL 431 with grades of “C” or better.
- BIOL 440 or BIOL 442 with a grade of “C” or better.
- PHYS 310 or PHYS 350 with a grade of “C” or better.
- Current college GPA of 2.0 or better.
- A Curriculum Planning Summary Sheet completed by an ARC counselor and dated within the year the enrollment application packet is submitted.
- A completed pre-enrollment application.

**Enrollment Process**

Eligible students are selected for the program according to the following steps:

- Applications to the program may be obtained online at http://www.arc.losrios.edu/Programs_of_Study/Health_and_Education/Respiratory_Care.htm and are due in the Health and Education office no later than 4:00 p.m. the second Friday in October.
- Only students who meet the pre-enrollment requirements and follow the pre-enrollment procedures will be considered for the program.
- Selection is based on a computerized random selection process from among the qualified applicants.
- The student accepted into the Respiratory Care program is required to have a physical examination, inoculations, drug screen, background check, and malpractice insurance. The student is responsible for any cost incurred related to meeting the requirements.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of this program, the student will be able to:

- discuss patient/client reports with members of the health care network.
- collect patient information relevant to the diagnosis and treatment of patients affected by pulmonary disease.
- recommend appropriate treatment plans based upon auditory, tactile, and visual feedback.
- record assessment findings, treatment plans, and recommendations for care in medical records.
- chart patient care in accordance with local, regional, and national standards.
- categorize patients affected by pulmonary disease as having acute or chronic conditions.
- define pulmonary disorders as restrictive or obstructive disease.
This course introduces the common pathologies affecting the cardiopulmonary system and related pharmacological treatment. Topics include obstructive and restrictive airway diseases, early childhood respiratory diseases, infectious pulmonary diseases, and pulmonary vascular diseases.

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- identify and relate common developmental pathologies.
- catalog pulmonary diseases as obstructive or restrictive.
- recommend diagnostic procedures for identification and staging of cardiopulmonary disease.
- analyze data collected from various diagnostic procedures including x-ray, arterial blood gases, and pulmonary function tests.
- compile data for development of therapist driven protocols.
- analyze disease states and pharmatherapeutic strategies.
- define categories of drugs and apply appropriate category to various cardiopulmonary disease states.
- recommend appropriate pharmacological intervention for cardiopulmonary pathologies.
This course introduces critical thinking skills necessary for entry into clinical practice in respiratory care. It includes a comprehensive overview of the cardiopulmonary system with emphasis on applied physiology. Additionally, it covers ventilation, gas transport, gas exchange, and acid-base balance, including interpretation of data and the relationship of therapeutics to physiological principles. Respiratory care equipment, patient assessment skills, safe practices, such as the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), human rights and privacy, personal health and hygiene, and hospital orientations are introduced. This course is preparation for general practice as a respiratory care practitioner. It covers laboratory skills and procedures with emphasis on the application of theories and techniques related to assessment, evaluation, and interpretation of patients with cardiopulmonary illness. Included are concepts of Basic Life Support. Field trips may be required.

### Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- evaluate the difference between the mechanical and metabolic work involved in ventilation and perfusion and their significance in patient care.
- explain compensatory mechanisms of human physiology in the presence of disease.
- demonstrate patient assessment skills and related therapeutics.
- analyze information received from patients' records and tests.
- measure the mechanisms by which oxygen and carbon dioxide are transported in the blood and the factors affecting that transport to and from the tissues and apply the data to patient care situations.
- evaluate electrolyte and acid base regulation in relationship to kidney function.
- correlate acid-base regulation and the control of ventilation.
- analyze how the cardiovascular system coordinates its functions under normal and abnormal conditions.
- compare and contrast various respiratory care procedures and equipment.
- draft an appropriate plan for correction of various forms of cardiovascular disease.
- explain the role of HIPAA in the respiratory care field.
- identify two methods to ensure proper patient identification.
- explain the importance of the patient's right to privacy.
- recognize examples of inappropriate conversation topics.
- formulate an appropriate plan for safe practice and preventing spread of infection.
- demonstrate verbal, nonverbal, and written communications skills in patient interactions.
RC 121 Concepts of Airway Care & Mechanical Ventilation

| Units:     | 4            |
| Hours:     | 72 hours LEC |
| Prerequisite: | RC 110 and 111 with grades of "C" or better |
| Corequisite: | RC 122, 123, and 124 |
| Catalog Date: | June 1, 2019 |

This course expands on the principles of respiratory failure, airway protective techniques, and advanced life support. Topics include mechanical ventilator theories and modes, invasive and noninvasive airway care, and Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) procedures.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- identify signs and symptoms of respiratory failure.
- demonstrate appropriate treatment of respiratory failure.
- clear an obstructed airway.
- compile a list of equipment utilized in the intubation process.
- list modes of mechanical ventilation.
- assess patients for weaning readiness from mechanical ventilation.
- analyze mechanical ventilator data and modify therapy.
- troubleshoot various mechanical ventilator problems.
- cite the basic parameters of ventilation.
- construct a ventilator record or flow sheet.
RC 122 Airway Care & Mechanical Ventilation Laboratory

This course introduces higher levels of clinical practice including critical care. It covers Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), airway protective procedures, and mechanical ventilation. Field trips may be required.

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- identify adjunctive airway and intubation equipment.
- establish effective airway techniques and perform intubations.
- select mechanical ventilators and assess for proper function.
- troubleshoot mechanical ventilators.
- interpret mechanical ventilator and hemodynamic wave forms.
- collect mechanical ventilator data and construct flow sheets.
- diagnose respiratory failure.
- differentiate types of artificial airways and mechanical ventilators.

RC 123 Clinical Externship I

This course presents the principles of medical gas delivery devices; humidity, aerosol and hyperinflation therapies, and chest physiotherapy. It also covers the application, patient assessment, patient monitoring, and evaluation of the efficacy of medical gas, humidity, aerosol and hyperinflation therapies, and chest physiotherapy. A portion of this course may be offered with a TBA component which may include working in clinical sites.

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:
• analyze information received from patients, records, and tests.
• select and recommend appropriate drugs and preparations utilized in the management of respiratory disease.
• adapt respiratory care equipment to meet a patient's oxygen therapy needs.
• apply evaluation skills to identification of various pathologies.
• explain the rationale for various respiratory care procedures.
• perform technical skills common to care of the critically ill.
• assess a patient's response to therapy.
• assemble appropriate equipment for therapeutic procedures.

RC 124 Respiratory Care Pharmacology

Units: 3
Hours: 54 hours LEC
Prerequisite: RC 110 and 111 with grades of "C" or better
Corequisite: RC 121, 122, and 123
Catalog Date: June 1, 2019

This course covers the concepts and principles of pharmacology required in the practice of respiratory care, including medications, actions, dosages, routes of administration, and adverse reactions. Topics include patient education of medication delivery devices, patient monitoring devices, utilization techniques, and the standards for therapeutic efficacy in relation to asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and smoking cessation.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

• describe principles of drug actions
• explain the pharmaceutical theory of drug therapy
• cite preferred methods of administration of drugs
• identify drugs utilized for prevention of pulmonary disease
• analyze disease states and pharmatherapeutic strategies
• recommend appropriate pharmacological intervention for various cardiopulmonary pathologies
• interpret the appropriateness of drug intervention
This course prepares students to work in laboratories and special care areas of a hospital. Topics include perinatal and pediatric diseases, labor and delivery, rehabilitation, and advanced diagnostic studies performed by respiratory therapists. Additional topics include bronchoscopy, advanced pulmonary function studies, bronchial provocation testing, polysonography, exercise stress tests, metabolic studies, hemodynamic measurements, advanced modalities of mechanical ventilation, and cardiovascular testing.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- differentiate the methods of assessing the newborn infant, including maternal and fetal factors.
- describe the hazards and indications for special equipment, application, and techniques applied to infants and children.
- describe the etiology, pathophysiology, clinical manifestations, and treatment of selected neonatal and pediatric diseases.
- analyze the process of cardiopulmonary rehabilitation including program form, content, and outcome evaluation, patient assessment for selection into a program, exercise evaluation, and preparation of a respiratory care plan.
- analyze the modalities and equipment available for cardiopulmonary rehabilitation, exercise, reconditioning, breathing retraining, as well as long term oxygen and ventilation care.
- select and evaluate the delivery of respiratory care in the home setting including assessment of the home environment, patient comprehension of treatment modalities, equipment, and infection control.
- recommend appropriate reconditioning exercises and rehabilitation programs for the outpatient client.
- analyze and recommend appropriate advanced mechanical ventilation strategies.

**RC 131 Respiratory Care in Neonatal and Pediatric Populations & Diagnostic Studies Laboratory**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Units:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hours:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prerequisite:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corequisite:</td>
<td>RC 130 and 132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catalog Date:</td>
<td>June 1, 2019</td>
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</table>
This course prepares students for general practice as respiratory care practitioners. It provides laboratory practice in medical gas, humidity/aerosol, hyperinflation and bronchial hygiene therapies, airway management, and non-invasive and invasive mechanical ventilatory support as applied to neonatal and pediatric patients in specialized critical care units. Additionally, it covers pulmonary rehabilitation techniques, cardiopulmonary stress testing, sleep studies, and respiratory care techniques in the home setting. Field trips may be required. Students must successfully complete the National Board for Respiratory Care Self Assessment Examinations to receive a passing grade in this course. Students are responsible for fees associated with this examination.

### Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- monitor hemodynamic values of patients undergoing special procedures.
- assess performance of patients before during and after special procedures.
- troubleshoot equipment malfunctions.
- analyze results of tests performed.
- discuss abnormal findings from examinations performed.
- chart patient progress.
- assemble equipment to perform various procedures.
- select and recommend drugs, gases, and preparations utilized in respiratory and diagnostic laboratories.
- assemble pediatric ventilators.
- apply pediatric ventilators.
- assess health status of newborn infants.
- develop appropriate care plans.
- coordinate rehabilitation activities.

**RC 132 Clinical Externship II**

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<tr>
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<td>Prerequisite:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corequisite:</td>
<td>RC 130 and 131</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enrollment Limitation:</td>
<td>Student must meet the health requirements of the Los Rios Community College District for Allied Health Programs and certification in Advanced Cardiac Life Support.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catalog Date:</td>
<td>June 1, 2019</td>
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This is a preparatory course for advanced practice as respiratory care practitioners. Topics include clinical practice in the application of airway management, including intubation, suctioning, and bronchoscopy, to adult patients in critical care units. Additionally it includes clinical practice in application of non-invasive and invasive mechanical ventilatory support, ventilator settings/adjustments, monitoring, adjusting ventilators to improve oxygenation and/or ventilation and discontinuance from mechanical ventilatory support. Clinical experience is provided in regional hospitals and clinics. A portion of this course may be offered with a TBA component which may include working in clinical sites.
**Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- monitor patient care in critical care units.
- evaluate patients in critical care units.
- assess ventilation disorders.
- troubleshoot mechanical ventilator problems.
- perform technical skills common to care of the critically ill.
- collect and analyze blood and tissue samples from critically ill patients.
- report on patient status to physicians and co-workers.
- record critical data in patient records.
- chart patient progress.
- collect and evaluate diagnostic data to include chest radiography, electrocardiography, pulmonary function testing, and laboratory studies.

**RC 140 Professional Development in Respiratory Care**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Units:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hours:</td>
<td>36 hours LEC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prerequisite:</td>
<td>RC 130, 131, and 132 with grades of &quot;C&quot; or better</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corequisite:</td>
<td>RC 142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catalog Date:</td>
<td>June 1, 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This course prepares students for transition into professional practice. Topics include ethical behaviors, resume writing, and professional attributes and dress for the respiratory care setting. Interviewing skills, professional test preparation for state and national licensing examinations, and practice examinations for the National Board of Respiratory Care’s Therapist Multiple-Choice Examination and Clinical Simulation Self Assessment Examinations are also covered.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- describe appropriate business attire for respiratory care professionals working outside the hospital environment.
- write an effective resume for employment in respiratory care.
- compose a letter of introduction for future employment.
- schedule an interview with a potential employer.
- discuss interviewing principles in relation to employment in respiratory care.
RC 142 Clinical Externship III

This course prepares for advanced practice of respiratory care. Topics include labor and delivery, neonatal intensive care, cardiac and medical intensive care, medical trauma management, application of pulmonary rehabilitation techniques, cardiopulmonary stress testing, sleep studies, and respiratory care techniques in the home setting. Additional topics include case studies in medical management. Field trips are required.

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- monitor hemodynamic values of patients in critical care units.
- evaluate hemodynamic values of patients in critical care units.
- assess performance of mechanical ventilators.
- troubleshoot mechanical ventilation problems.
- perform technical skills common to care of the critically ill.
- collect blood and tissue samples from critically ill patients.
- analyze blood and tissue samples from critically ill patients.
- report on patient status to physicians and co-workers.
- record critical data in patient records.
- chart patient progress.
- demonstrate correct application of therapeutic procedures to neonatal and pediatric patients.
- evaluate, assess, and modify neonatal and pediatric airways and therapy.
RC 295 Independent Studies in Respiratory Care

Units: 1 - 3  
Prerequisite: None.  
Catalog Date: June 1, 2019

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Adjunct Faculty  
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Program Director  
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Phone: (916) 484-8704  
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Adjunct Faculty  
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Web: Bill Miller's Profile Page (/about-us/contact-us/faculty-and-staff-directory/bill-miller)
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