COLLEGE OF DUPAGE

Entry into

RESPIRATORY CARE

Professional Practice
Associate of Applied Science Degree

Fall Semester 2026

THE APPLICATION DEADLINE IS:
June 16, 2026 at 5 pm

One application cycle per year
Program start only in the Fall semester

Accreditation

The Respiratory Care program at College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (www.coarc.com).

Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care
1248 Harwood Road
Bedford, Texas 76021-4244
(817) 283-2835

Note: Please see specific program registration or application packets for detailed information on when to begin completing health requirements, drug tests, CPR, criminal background checks and proof of insurance submission. Timing varies depending upon either entrance to or participation in the clinical component of a given program. Funds paid to Edward Corporate Health or to a personal health care provider/ source, CastleBranch.com, insurance companies, and funds used towards CPR completion are not eligible for any sort of refund from College of DuPage if the required course(s) are not successfully completed.

Students are not accepted into this program until they receive an official acceptance e-mail from the College of DuPage Nursing & Health Sciences Division. Program acceptance does not guarantee program completion. Preference in admission is given to residents of District 502 who meet the stated minimum acceptance criteria for the program.

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the Respiratory Care Program at the College of DuPage. This packet contains general information that should promote your understanding of what a Respiratory Care Practitioner does, the process and requirements for application to the Program and what to expect after successfully completing the Program. The Respiratory Care Program is looking for students who are energetic, dedicated, enthusiastic and reliable, and who possess the desire to deliver quality patient care. Students should be adult learners who are able to adapt to a variety of teaching/learning styles. Competent communication skills are required. If you have any questions about the program after reviewing this packet, please do not hesitate to contact us.

The goal of the Respiratory Care Program is 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).

Sincerely,

Christa Brennan, MS, RRT-NPS
Associate Professor & Program Chair
HSC 2202W
(630) 942-2105
brennanc221@cod.edu

Policies and Procedures
All Nursing and Health Science Division policies and procedures are found on our [Division website](). It is the students' responsibility to ensure they have reviewed and understand the policies and procedures. The Nursing and Health Science Division reserves the right to change, at any time, without notice, these policies and procedures.

What is a Respiratory Care Practitioner?
A Respiratory Care Practitioner is a board certified and state licensed provider of healthcare services whose practice is centered on the cardiopulmonary system. Most Respiratory Care Practitioners work in the hospital setting where we provide services to patients in all age ranges. In the hospital, a Respiratory Care Practitioner will typically:

- Administer inhaled medical gases and medications
- Provide therapies to maintain clear airways
- Perform arterial artery punctures and analyze the blood for the adequacy of oxygenation and ventilation
- Assist in cardiopulmonary resuscitation efforts in the emergency room or elsewhere
- Manage patients on mechanical ventilators and assist in their transport by land or air
- Test patients for pulmonary function and assist in pulmonary rehabilitation exercises
- Educate patients with asthma and COPD in the best methods for managing their disease
- Screen patients for sleep disordered breathing

Respiratory Care Practitioners can also work in home care, physician offices, and in the private sector as clinical specialists or marketing representatives for providers of respiratory care equipment.
More information about the profession can be found at the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) web site: [www.aarc.org]().

How do I know if I am accepted into the Program?
After the application deadline, all of the applications will be evaluated and ranked by the Respiratory Care Admissions Committee. A cohort of students will be selected for admission and e-mails notifying the applicants will be sent 1-3 weeks after the application deadline via e-mail by the third week in July. All applicants will be notified of their status (accepted, alternate list or did not meet the prerequisites). The admission e-mail will also include instructions on what classes to register for in the Fall semester for accepted students. If a student who is accepted into the program declines their seat, the alternate list is used to fill the open seats. Students who are not accepted into the program must reapply the following year to be considered for admission.

How much will the program cost?
Please visit the [Program Costs webpage]() for estimated cost.

What are the courses required for the Respiratory Care Program?

Fall 2026			Credit Hours
Respiratory Care	1101	Basic Respiratory Care	3
Respiratory Care	1105	Respiratory Assessment and Procedures	4
Respiratory Care	1120	Cardiopulmonary Anatomy & Physiology	4
Respiratory Care	1121	Science for Respiratory Care	5
Spring 2027			
Respiratory Care	1111	Clinical Practice I	2
Respiratory Care	1102	Intermediate Respiratory Care	3
Summer 2027			
Respiratory Care	1103	Advanced Respiratory Care	3
Respiratory Care	1113	Intensive Respiratory Care Clinical Practice	1

Fall 2027

Respiratory Care	2205	Neonatal and Pediatric Intensive Respiratory Care	3
Respiratory Care	2206	Advanced Intensive Respiratory Care-Adult	2
Respiratory Care	2280	Advanced Clinical Assessment & Protocol	4

Spring 2028

Respiratory Care	2201	Advanced Life Support and Monitoring	4
Respiratory Care	2202	Pulmonary Function Testing	3
Respiratory Care	2207	Advanced Intensive Respiratory Care Neonatal Pediatric	1
Respiratory Care	2250	Respiratory Care Board Review	4

Total   **46 credit hours**

Do I need to take any courses in addition to the Respiratory Care Courses?

Yes. Graduates of the Respiratory Care Program earn an Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree. The AAS degree requirements include at least 18 hours of semester credit in seven subjects in addition to the Respiratory Care classes. To enter the program, you will have completed coursework in two of the seven categories (math and science). The other 5 categories are English, Speech, Humanities and Fine Arts, Social and Behavioral Sciences, and Global/Multicultural Studies or Contemporary Life Skills. **These 5 categories must be completed prior to the 4th semester of the program**. To evaluate your current status regarding completion of the general education requirements, perform a "Degree Audit", which can be found after you log into MyAccess. Select Respiratory Care as your degree goal.

Are there any other requirements I need to complete besides respiratory and general education classes?

Yes. To become eligible to attend clinical training at local hospitals, which begins in the second semester, students are required to provide a statement of health, pass a criminal background check and a drug test, secure health insurance and earn certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation. All of these activities are completed in the first semester of the program prior to mid-November. **Please do not begin these requirements until instructed to do so.**

Priority for admissions will be given in the following order:

1. In-District applicants which includes:
   - In-District applicants who reside within Community College District 502
   - Applicants who are part of the CAREER Consortium Agreement (meaning your residing community college does not offer the particular program in which you are applying)
   - Applicants working full-time in-district (proof of in-district employment will be required each semester)
2. Out-of-District applicants (who are NOT part of the CAREER Consortium Agreement)

1. **Rules, regulations and procedures**: Students are expected to comply with the rules, regulations, and procedures of the College of DuPage and its affiliated clinical training centers. Noncompliance with rules, regulations and procedures is a basis for student dismissal from the Respiratory Care training program. See the Divisions Policy for Professional Conduct here: https://cod.edu/admission/health-science/pdf/policy-professional-conduct.pdf

2. **Students interested in the program should consult with the Program Chair *as early as possible*.** Early application and information are highly recommended for any health program with selective enrollment. The program admits students based upon the available clinical seating.

3. **Transportation**: Students are required to have access to reliable transportation in order to attend clinical training at geographically diverse clinical sites. Current clinical sites include:

Bolingbrook Hospital Bolingbrook	Christ Medical Center Oak Lawn	Northwestern Memorial Hospital Chicago
Lurie Children's Hospital Chicago	Advocate Children's Oak Lawn	St. Joseph Hospital Joliet
Delnor Community Hospital Geneva	Alexian Brothers Hospital Elk Grove	Mercy Medical Center Aurora
Edward Hospital Naperville	Kishwaukee Medical Center DeKalb	South Suburban Hospital Hazel Crest
Good Samaritan Hospital Downers Grove	La Grange Memorial Hospital, LaGrange	Rush-Copley Memorial Hospital Aurora
Gottlieb Memorial Hospital Melrose Park	Loyola University Medical Center Maywood	
Hinsdale Hospital Hinsdale	Lutheran General Hospital Park Ridge	
University of Chicago Chicago	Central DuPage Hospital Winfield	
Elmhurst Hospital Elmhurst	St. Alexius Hoffman Estates	
Duly Medical Group Naperville	Condell Hospital Libertyville	
Northwest Community Hospital Arlington Heights	Northwestern McHenry McHenry	

What can I expect after graduating from the Respiratory Care Program?

Graduates of the Respiratory Care program are eligible to sit for two board exams administered by the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC.org).

The first test the graduate must take is the "Therapist Multiple Choice Exam". Achieving a minimum cut score on this exam earns the student the "Certified Respiratory Therapist" credential which allows the graduate to apply for a license to practice in the State of Illinois (and most other states in the lower 48 states). A license is required in order to work as a respiratory care practitioner. The most recent data on student success in the Certified Respiratory Therapist exam demonstrates a 94.3% pass rate for our graduates. Achieving the higher cut score on the exam allows the student to take the second board exam.

The second exam the graduate may pass is the "Clinical Simulation Exam". Successful completion of this exam earns the student the "Registered Respiratory Therapist" credential and makes the graduate eligible for a wider range of job responsibilities and higher compensation in most institutions. Many institutions are requiring this credential before considering a graduate for employment and we encourage all graduates to sit for this exam. The most recent data on student success in the Registered Respiratory Therapist exam demonstrates pass rate of 71.4% for our graduates.

After obtaining a license to practice, 94% of students have found employment in the field or continue their education. Graduates of the Respiratory Care Program are also eligible to apply for a seat in the 3+1 bachelor's degree program at Concordia University. More information on the degree can be found here: https://cod.edu/academics/transfer/colleges/concordia/concordia-healthcare.html

Essential Functions

Mobility Requirements:
1. Ability to move between multiple locations in a building and rapidly transition between rooms or floors
2. Effectively navigate tight spaces, swiftly adjust placement relative to others in the room, and quickly change body position relative to the required task
3. Lift, carry, push, and/or pull job related equipment, which can be in excess of 150lbs

4. Engage in repetitive and extended use of hands, strong manual dexterity, and proficient fine motor skills
5. Demonstrate capacity to engage in continuous patient interactions for extended periods without taking breaks
6. Safely and accurately perform CPR
7. Travel to and from program required locations

Sensory Capability:
1. Coordinate verbal and manual instruction
2. Auditory ability sufficient to hear verbal communication from clients and members of the health team; includes ability to respond to emergency signals

Communication Ability:
1. Communicate effectively in English with patients, families, and other health care providers, both verbally and in writing
2. Effectively adapt communication for an intended audience
3. Interact; establish rapport with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural and intellectual backgrounds
4. Sufficient command of the English language to read and retrieve information from patient charts

Important Phone Numbers

Financial Aid
Student Services Center (SSC), Room 2220
(630) 942-2251; Fax: (630) 942-2151
https://www.cod.edu/costs/financial-aid/index.aspx
financialaid@cod.edu

Health Career Program Advisors: Tara Hawkins or Lynn Weyrich
Counseling & Advising
(630) 942-2259
https://cod.edu/student-life/resources/counseling/
healthcareadvising@cod.edu

Nursing & Health Science Division
Health & Science Center (HSC), Room 1220
(630) 942-8331
hsadmissions@cod.edu

Office of Admissions & Outreach (For non-COD students)
Student Services Center (SSC), Room 2207
(630) 942-2380
Fax: (630) 790-2686
https://www.cod.edu/admission/admissions-contact/index.aspx

Records
Student Resource Center (SRC), Room 2150
https://cod.edu/records/index.aspx
(630) 942-3838

Registration
Student Services Center (SSC), Room 2221
(630) 942-2377
www.cod.edu/registration

Respiratory Care Program Requirements & Application Checklist

NOTE: Admission Committees for all Health Science programs has the right to deny admission to any applicant that they feel is unable to fulfill these essential functions as described.

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all material listed below have been completed and received by the designated office, by 5 pm on June 16, 2026.

_____ 1. Attend a **mandatory Respiratory Care** Information Session. It is required that an applicant attend an information session within a 12-month period prior to the application deadline.

_____ 2. **Health Insurance proof:**
Students are expected to provide proof of a **Comprehensive Health Insurance Plan** prior to the start of the program. The comprehensive health insurance plan must cover you **throughout the length of your clinical experience**, which in most cases, consists of the entire length of the program. If you are in need of Health Insurance, please see important dates below and visit https://cod.studentbenefitplans.com/bpg-insurance-individual/.

IMPORTANT DATES:
November 1st – January 15th- Open Enrollment
If you will need health insurance ANYTIME in 2026, you must apply during the current open enrollment period.

December 15th: Deadline to enroll in a plan that will start January 1st, 2026.
January 15th: Deadline to enroll in a plan that will start February 1st, 2026.
After January 15th – enrollment is closed.

If you miss open enrollment but have a qualifying life event, you can apply during a Special Enrollment Period.

While we **cannot** guarantee your official acceptance into the program, you need to be aware that there is short timeframe of when you are able to purchase a Health Insurance plan. The purpose of this step is to make you aware and that the time to research and purchase is **NOW**. Purchasing health insurance outside of this timeframe will take months and may prohibit your admittance into the Program. **NOTE**: Obtaining Health Insurance is NOT an application requirement but it is a requirement to be in the program.

_____ 3. If you have not been admitted to College of DuPage, please complete the **non-refundable** $20 College of DuPage General Admissions Application online. **This application is for general admissions to College of DuPage only; it is not an application to the Health Sciences Limited Enrollment Respiratory Care program.**
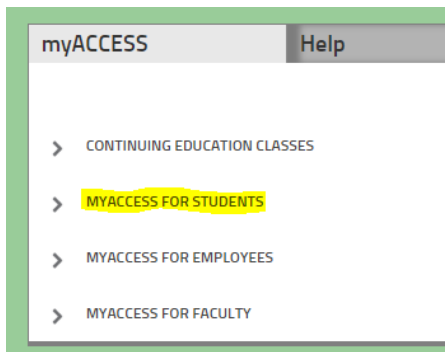
_____ 4. To ensure that all of your eligible credits are evaluated towards the admission requirements, turn in **ALL** official Transcripts from institutions that you have attended. Immediately:

   a. Submit your official transcript(s) to **College of DuPage, Office of Student Records**. *If College of DuPage is the only institution you have attended, you do not need to request official transcripts.*

   b. Verify receipt of your transcript(s). Log into myACCESS account, click on 'myACCESS for Students', select '**My Profile**'. The receipt status of your transcript will be listed under '**Transcript Institutions**'.

NOTE: If you have an international transcript from high school or college, it must first be evaluated. Please visit the following website https://cod.edu/records/international-transcript-evaluation.aspx for details.

_____ 5. Complete the **non-refundable** $50 Health Career Selective Enrollment Program Application online by logging into the student portal at https://inside.cod.edu
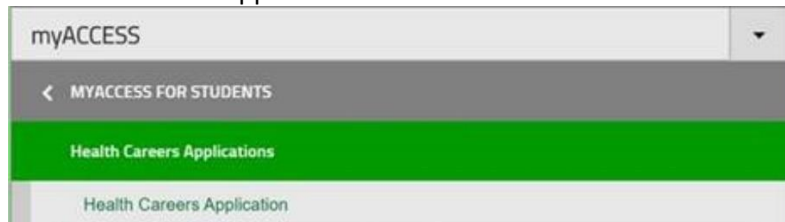
- Click on myACCESS for Students

- Click on the Health Careers Applications link

- Select Health Careers Application

- Select **Respiratory Care Degree** when asked "What selective enrollment program are you applying to?"

Once the application is submitted, you <u>may not</u> change the term or program. If you do not have a credit card, you can purchase a prepaid credit card from your local retailer

_____ 6. Complete the [College of DuPage Residency Verification form](#) and provide proof of residency to the **Office of Student Registration Services, Student Services Center (SSC) Room 2221** or e-mailing to [registration@cod.edu](#) by the program application deadline date. You **MUST** send from your **@dupage.edu** e-mail address.
   Note:
   - **If this residency requirement has not been submitted to Registration by the program application deadline date, you will not be considered for admission.**
   - **Separate Residency Verification Forms must be submitted for each program application.**

_____ 7. Completion of a 3-credit hour college level Math course (must be MATH 1102 or higher, but the following courses may **<u>NOT</u>** be used: 1104.) **<u>with a minimum grade of "B" by the end of Summer 2026.</u>** MATH 1120 will be accepted with a waiver. Please reach out to program chair for waiver. Those that complete Math 1102 or higher by the application deadline date will be given priority and ranked based on merit evaluation. Applicants enrolled in Math course during Summer 2026, will be considered for admission only if seats remain.

_____ 8. Completion of a college level course in Science with a lab component: Biology (excluding BIO 1110) Chemistry, or Anatomy and Physiology. **<u>You must have you earned at least 3 semester credit hours with a minimum grade of "B" by the end of Summer 2026.</u>** Those that complete a Science course by the application deadline date will be given priority and ranked based on merit evaluation. Applicants enrolled in a Science course during Summer 2026, will be considered for admission only if seats remain.

_____ 9. Complete the Reading & Writing requirement by one of the below options:
   ENGLI 1101 or higher **<u>AND</u>** SPEECH 1100 or higher requirements both with grade of "B" or higher or AP credit by the end of Summer 2026. Those that complete English 1101 or higher AND Speech 1100 or higher (with a 'B" or higher) by the application deadline date will be given priority and ranked based on merit evaluation. Applicants enrolled in a English 1101 or higher AND Speech 1100 or higher during Summer 2026, will be considered for admission only if seats remain.
   OR
   Bachelors degree will satisfy this requirement if courses are evaluated as satisfied on official transcript.
   OR
   ACT composite score of 23 or higher
   OR
   SAT EB Reading/Writing score of 550 or higher

_____ 10. Completion of general education courses in these 5 categories (English, Speech, Humanities and Fine Arts, Social and Behavioral Sciences, and Global/Multicultural Studies or Contemporary Life Skills) are highly recommended. If accepted into the program, **<u>these 5 categories must be completed prior to the 4th semester of the program</u>**.

_____ 11. **Reading & Writing Placement Test:**
   Testing is available on a walk-in basis at all five COD testing centers. For hours of operation at all locations, go to www.cod.edu/testing. You must show a photo ID and let Testing staff know that you are applying to the Respiratory Care Program. For questions, contact academictesting@cod.edu

   For Native Speaking Students:

Complete the ACCUPLACER Reading test with score $\geq$ 246
AND
Complete the ACCUPLACER Writing test with score $\geq$ 250

For Non-Native Speaking Students:
Complete three of the ESL ACCUPLACER series which include Reading Skills, Language Use, and Listening and score $\geq$ 102
OR
PREFERRED: Complete the KAPLAN Test of English Part 1 & 2 $\geq$ score 500

_____ 12. <u>OPTIONAL FOR ADDITIONAL MERIT POINTS</u>: Proof of military service, either veteran or active needed. Some forms of acceptable identification include: DD214, CAC-Common Access Card, ID Card for services received at the VA or Benefit level-showing level of disability. If one of these forms isn't available, please work with the veteran's office on campus or reach out to your local VSO (veteran service office) for proof of service.

"All application documents delivered to the College of DuPage pertaining to a health sciences admissions file become the property of the College of DuPage and will not be returned to applicants. This includes but is not limited to transcripts, letters of recommendation, clinical evaluation forms or outside test reports."

Requests for admission are **not** automatically carried over to the following cycle. Applicants who were not accepted for the cycle in which they originally applied are asked to pay the $50 non-refundable Health Career application fee and submit any/all supporting documents as listed on the Admissions Checklist of the Application Packet requirements (if applicable).

Respiratory Care Merit Evaluation

For your reference only; admissions committee completes this form. Do not fill out and submit (subject to change) *Applicants with prerequisite coursework completed by the deadline will be considered before any applicant with coursework in process during Summer 2026.*

Name: _____ Student ID#: _____ Date: _____

Residency Verification Form   Yes or No (circle)

Reading & Writing Requirement   Yes or No (circle)

Reading & Writing Placement Test Scores Met   Yes or No (circle)

Prerequisites Courses Needed Prior to Application   **Points**

Science Course – see step 7 on page 9 (Scale A)∗   _____

Math Course – see step 6 on page 9 (Scale B) ∗   _____

∗ *Grade of 'C' or lower will NOT be accepted*

General Education Courses Required to Graduate (Per student AAS degree planning worksheet) * (Scale C)

ENGLI 1101 or ENGLI 1105   _____

SPEEC 1100, 1120 or 1150   _____

Humanities (3 credit hrs)   _____

Social & Behavioral Sciences (3 credit hrs)   _____

Global/Multicultural Studies or Contemp. Life Skills (2 credit hrs)   _____
Must have a passing grade to graduate

Grade of 'B' or lower will NOT be awarded merit points
Courses satisfied by degree, proficiency and by national examination will not be used in the merit evaluation.

Degree (Scale D)   _____

Veteran Status (Scale D)   _____

TOTAL POINTS: (Max Points: 17) **Minimum merit score of 8 required**. Scores below 8 will be considered only if seats remain.

_____

SCALE A		SCALE B		SCALE C		Scale D	
Letter Grade A:	= 4	Letter Grade A:	= 3	Letter Grade A:	= 1	Bachelors Degree:	= 1
Letter Grade B:	= 3	Letter Grade B:	= 2	Grade below A	= 0	OR	
						Masters Degree	= 2
						Veteran	= 3