



RESPIRATORY THERAPY PROGRAM

Information session

NOVA | Northern Virginia
Community College



WELCOME TO YOUR FUTURE IN RESPIRATORY THERAPY

NOVA's Respiratory Therapy (RTH) program offers an innovative curriculum, hands-on training and career-focused education to prepare you for a rewarding career in healthcare.

INFORMATION SESSION OVERVIEW

Prospective students will learn:

- ▶ An overview of the profession
- ▶ Summary of the Respiratory Therapy program curriculum
- ▶ Admission process for prospective students



WHY CHOOSE RESPIRATORY THERAPY AT NOVA?

- ▶ Clinical excellence
- ▶ Certifications and licensure
- ▶ Career opportunities

HIGH DEMAND FOR RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS





UNDERSTANDING RESPIRATORY THERAPY

Respiratory therapy is a health sciences specialty instrumental in the diagnosis, treatment, management and preventive care of patients with cardiopulmonary problems throughout their lifespan. The respiratory care practitioner (RCP) is a health sciences worker who at all times must display high levels of professional care, understanding, honesty, loyalty and respect for the rights and dignity of others.



CORE RESPONSIBILITIES

Essential therapies provided to patients

Respiratory care includes assessment, treatment, management, control, diagnostic evaluation, education and care of patients with pulmonary deficiencies and complications.

Respiratory therapists (RTs) work in hospitals, clinics, physician's offices, skilled nursing facilities, cardiopulmonary diagnostic labs and as educators in schools.

Basic tasks and functions include cardiopulmonary assessment, oxygen therapy, aerosol medications, mechanical ventilation, airway management, cardiopulmonary diagnostics, pulmonary function testing, etc.

BE AN RT

Make a lasting and meaningful difference!



Video clips

- ▶ [It's a Calling](#)
- ▶ [For the Challenge](#)
- ▶ [Lifelong Learning](#)
- ▶ [Solid Career](#)



PROGRAM ACCREDITATION

The Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) Respiratory Therapy (RTH) program, CoARC number 200206, offers an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree, located at the Medical Education Campus, 6699 Springfield Center Dr., Springfield, VA 22150, and is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care ([CoARC website](#)).

The Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) accredits respiratory therapy education programs in the United States. To achieve this end, it utilizes an “outcomes-based” process. Programmatic outcomes are performance indicators that reflect the extent to which the educational goals of the program are achieved and by which program effectiveness is documented.

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

- ▶ **Application period:** May 15-May 31
- ▶ **Admission policy:** Competitive
- ▶ **Program location:** Medical Education Campus, Springfield, Virginia
- ▶ **Program size:** 25 students
- ▶ **Program length:** Five semesters (approximately two years)
- ▶ **Program starts:** Every August



ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION PROCESS

To join the Respiratory Therapy program, prospective students must meet the eligibility criteria, submit the required documents and adhere to the application timelines.

HOW TO BECOME A RESPIRATORY THERAPIST

- ▶ Apply to NOVA
- ▶ Complete the pre-application requirements
- ▶ Apply to the program during the application period

If accepted:

- ▶ Attend mandatory RTH program orientation
- ▶ Complete the clinical requirements
- ▶ Successfully complete the program and graduate
- ▶ Successfully pass the NBRC board exam



COMPLETE PRE-APPLICATION REQs

- ▶ Complete the pre-application requirements by enrolling in available classes on the Student Information System (SIS).
- ▶ Prerequisites may be taken at any campus where they are offered, including NOVA Online.
- ▶ Students may request a transfer credit evaluation from the NOVA College Records Office to see if outside classes may be transferred toward the program.
- ▶ How to enroll in classes on SIS: [Register for classes](#)
- ▶ Schedule of classes: [Schedule of classes link](#)

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- ▶ Comply with all general admission requirements for health sciences programs.
- ▶ View a respiratory therapy information session online.
- ▶ Have a minimum 2.5 curricular GPA at the last school/college attended, where at least 15 credits were completed.
- ▶ For health science programs, GPA evaluation will prioritize a student's record at NOVA. If no NOVA GPA is available, the GPA from the student's most recent institution will be considered.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS CONT.

- ▶ Have completed the following courses with a grade of “C” or higher:
 - ▶ *ENG 111 College Composition I*
 - ▶ *HLT 141 Introduction to Medical Terminology*
 - ▶ *SDV 100 College Success Skills or SDV 101 Orientation to (specify the discipline), or an SDV elective*
- ▶ Have completed RTH 120 Fundamental Theory for Respiratory Care with a grade of “B” or higher.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS (MATH)

- ▶ Complete or self-place into MTH 154 Quantitative Reasoning or higher.
- ▶ MTH 155 Statistical Reasoning may be substituted for MTH 154 Quantitative Reasoning. Please contact an academic advisor if you are unsure whether you qualify for this math course.
- ▶ Students planning to apply in May 2027 will be required to complete MTH 154 Quantitative Reasoning or a higher-level math course with a grade of “C” or better.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS (BIO-A&P)

- ▶ Complete BIO 141 Human Anatomy and Physiology I and BIO 142 Human Anatomy and Physiology II with a “C” or higher within 10 years of application.
- ▶ Please note: BIO 141 Human Anatomy and Physiology I requires the completion of BIO 101 General Biology I or NAS 2 Foundations of Life Sciences or a placement test as noted in the Nursing and Health Sciences Division.
- ▶ Students planning to apply in May 2027 will be required to take BIO 145 Basic Anatomy and Physiology as the prerequisite science course instead of BIO 141 and BIO 142. However, BIO 141 and BIO 142 will still be accepted. All science courses must have been completed within the last 10 years prior to application, with a grade of “C” or higher.

TRANSFER CREDIT EVALUATION

- ▶ Request evaluation through the NOVA College Records Office.
 - ▶ [College Records Office website](#)
- ▶ All applicable credits must be posted before applying to the program.
- ▶ Contact a faculty or academic advisor to request a course substitution for courses that transferred as EEE.
- ▶ Military transcripts are evaluated by the [Office of Military and Veteran Services](#).

TRANSFER CREDIT EVALUATION CONT.

- ▶ International transcripts must first be evaluated by an international evaluation agency.
- ▶ Accredited credential evaluators can be found on the transfer credit website.
- ▶ Evaluations may take 8-12 weeks — request it early.
- ▶ Applicants must verify that all transfer credits or exam scores equal the required minimum grade.
- ▶ Please review the [Evaluation Procedures](#).

DOMICILE ADMISSION POLICY

The RTH program can only accept a limited number of applicants each year dependent on the number of clinical sites that are available for students. All students who have met the required prerequisites may apply to the program. However, international and out-of-state students should note the NOVA admission policy for limited enrollment programs:

“Due to limited laboratory, classroom and/or clinical space, certain health sciences and nursing programs have restricted enrollment. As stated in the NOVA catalog, health sciences and nursing students are accepted on either a competitive or a first-come/first-served basis with priority given to:

- ▶ Legal residents domiciled in the cities and counties supporting the college
- ▶ Other Virginia legal residents
- ▶ Out-of-state applicants
- ▶ International students requiring Form I-20

Category 1 may include areas in which clinical affiliates have contractual agreements with NOVA or students from other VCCS service areas whose community college does not offer the specific program.”

This policy is established by the Virginia Community College System and is stated in section 6.0.5 Admission Priorities of the VCCS Policy Manual.

[More information on In-state Tuition Eligibility](#)



RTH PROGRAM ORIENTATION DETAILS

Accepted students will receive crucial instructions regarding background checks, mandatory orientation, completing a physical and essential clinical requirements to ensure a smooth transition into the Respiratory Therapy program at NOVA.

- ▶ [NOVA Health Sciences Physical Form 125-007](#)

PROGRAM CURRICULUM AND COURSE STRUCTURE

Your pathway to becoming a therapist

SEMESTER 1 (FALL) OVERVIEW

Course subject	Course number	Course name	Credit hours
		Humanities/Fine Arts Elective	3
RTH	102	Integrated Science for Respiratory Care II	3
RTH	111	Anatomy and Physiology of the Cardiopulmonary System	3
RTH	145	Pharmacology for Respiratory Care I	1
RTH	151	Fundamental Clinical Procedures I	3
Total			13

SEMESTER 2 (SPRING) OVERVIEW

Course subject	Course number	Course name	Credit hours
CST	229/110/226	Communication Courses Options	3
RTH	121	Cardiopulmonary Science I	3
RTH	131	Respiratory Care Theory and Proc I	4
RTH	196	On-Site Training in: Respiratory Care I	3
RTH	245	Pharmacology for Respiratory Care II	2
Total			15

SEMESTER 3 (SUMMER) OVERVIEW

Course subject	Course number	Course name	Credit hours
RTH	135	Diagnostic and Therapeutic Procedure	2
RTH	296	On-Site Training in: Respiratory Care II	2
Total			4

SEMESTER 4 (FALL 2nd Year) OVERVIEW

Course subject	Course number	Course name	Credit hours
RTH	215	Pulmonary Rehabilitation	1
RTH	222	Cardiopulmonary Science II	3
RTH	223	Cardiopulmonary Science III	2
RTH	236	Critical Care Monitoring	3
RTH	290	Coordinated Internship: ICU Rotation	3
Total			12

SEMESTER 5 (SPRING 2nd Year) OVERVIEW

Course subject	Course number	Course name	Credit hours
PED	116	Pulmonary Rehabilitation	1
RTH	225	Cardiopulmonary Science II	3
RTH	227	Cardiopulmonary Science III	2
RTH	290	Coordinated Internship: ICU Rotation	3
		Social/Behavioral Sciences Elective	3
Total			12



TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR ADMISSION

The abilities and skills that students must possess to complete the training associated with NOVA's health sciences and nursing programs are referred to as essential functions or technical standards. These essential functions and technical standards are a group of minimal physical and cognitive abilities, as well as sufficient mental and emotional stability to confirm that students can complete the entire course of study, participate fully in all aspects of training and be deployable as competent health sciences and nursing students, with or without reasonable accommodation. Review the [RTH Technical Standards](#).



CUTTING-EDGE SIMULATION LABS

Our simulation labs are equipped with state-of-the-art technology and modern equipment, providing students with hands-on experience that enhances their learning and prepares them for real-world patient care scenarios.



CLINICAL ROTATIONS AND LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Students will engage in diverse clinical settings such as hospitals and outpatient centers. This hands-on experience is crucial for developing skills and confidence in respiratory therapy practice.



CLINICAL SITES

The NOVA Respiratory Therapy (RTH) program maintains clinical partnerships with the following healthcare facilities:

- ▶ Children's National Medical Center
- ▶ George Washington University Hospital
- ▶ Inova Alexandria Hospital
- ▶ Inova Fair Oaks Hospital
- ▶ Inova Fairfax Hospital
- ▶ Mary Washington Hospital
- ▶ Reston Hospital Center
- ▶ Sentara Northern Virginia Medical Center
- ▶ Virginia Hospital Center

INFORMATION SESSION CODE

- ▶ Record this code in the Information Session Code field on the health sciences and nursing application.
- ▶ Type the code EXACTLY as written.
- ▶ Code: 0104

THANK YOU!



We appreciate your engagement today.