

**NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY  
RTH 120 – FUNDAMENTAL THEORY FOR RESPIRATORY CARE (2 CR.)**

**Course Description**

Presents theory of basic patient assessment and functional medical terminology. Lecture 2 hours.

**General Course Purpose**

The purpose of this course is to introduce basic patient assessment skills and to provide an overview of the profession of Respiratory Therapy. It is offered as a prerequisite for application to the Respiratory Therapy Program.

**Course Prerequisites/Corequisites**

None.

**Course Objectives**

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

- a) Recognize normal values for heart rate, respiratory rate, breath sounds, blood pressure and pulse oximetry.
- b) Perform patient assessment on a patient simulator
- c) State the factors affecting optimal performance of the tools used in patient assessment
- d) Define accreditation, credential certification, licensure, and registration and the need for continuing education
- e) Describe purposes, functions and activities of professional organizations
- f) State the requirements for obtaining and maintaining a license to practice in Virginia

**Major Topics to be Included**

- Basic patient assessment
- Patient communication and health interview
- Overview of profession
- Overview of licensing