

The Respiratory Therapy Program

Respiratory Therapists, also known as Respiratory Care Practitioners (RCP's) are allied health professionals trained and educated to care for patients in need of cardio-pulmonary support. Respiratory Therapists assess, use diagnostic tests to evaluate, treat, educate, and provide care to patients from birth until the end-of-life. Respiratory therapists care for people with asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and pneumonia, people who have delivered a baby prematurely or by cesarean section, suffered a trauma, experienced respiratory or cardiac arrest, or who need life support.

All care provided by respiratory therapists is under the direction of a physician. Ninety percent of respiratory therapists work in hospitals, but they are also employed in skilled nursing facilities, pulmonary function labs, sleep labs, research, disease management, and education.

Grossmont College was the first to offer and the only public Respiratory Therapy Program in San Diego and Imperial counties. The first class of 20 respiratory therapists graduated in 1971. The continued success of our graduates is evident in yearly statistics collected from CoARC (<http://www.coarc.com>).

Before becoming licensed in the state of California, Students must receive an Associate in Science Degree in Respiratory Therapy.

The Respiratory Therapy Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care.

Employment Opportunities

The Department of Labor and Statistics have projected a shortage for respiratory therapists well into the next decade. Because of this shortage, the graduate will encounter many openings in clinics, industry, home health agencies, laboratories and hospitals. Part of an ever-changing profession, some respiratory care practitioners specialize in particular areas of pulmonary care. There is an increasing demand for respiratory therapists to work in the areas of newborn care and pediatrics, cardiopulmonary technology, health education, management, and home care.

IMPORTANT: Students accepted to the RT Program are required to undergo a total of 2 background checks and urine drug screening tests. Once prior to starting the program and being placed at any clinical site and again prior to starting the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the program. Students are responsible for a minimum cost for these procedures. Failure to pass either or both of these procedures, or any prior convictions of a misdemeanor or felony may interfere with acceptance to the program, clinical placement, eligibility for state licensure or securing employment. The RT Program cannot advise students on individual background checks or drug screens. Applicants are urged to visit the Respiratory Care Board of California at <https://www.rcb.ca.gov/>.

Prerequisites

The Respiratory Therapy Program admits a limited number of students every year. To be eligible to apply for the program, the following must be completed:

- 1. High School graduation, equivalency, or a higher degree. Official transcripts sent to the Grossmont College Admissions and Records office.
- 2. Completion of Anatomy, Physiology, and Microbiology. All courses to be completed with a grade of "C" or higher and must include an **in-person** lab. Courses taken for the RT major must be taken at a regionally accredited institution.
  - a. Anatomy and Physiology (Bio 140, 141 and 141L).
  - b. Microbiology (Bio 152)

Note: Although no longer offered, the BIO 144 & 145 prerequisite option will continue to be accepted.

Science recency requirement- Anatomy, Physiology, and Microbiology must be completed within 10 years of the application date. Starting January 1st, 2027, applicants may not repeat more than one prerequisite science course within the 10-year requirement period. Withdrawals ("W") count as attempts.

If taking the science prerequisites as a series (offered as part I and part II), applicants are strongly encouraged to complete the entire series at the college in which they started part I. This enables the student to maintain continuity with course content.

Prospective students may submit a completed application throughout the year once prerequisites are complete. Official transcripts of all science prerequisites must be submitted after applying. If courses were taken at Grossmont or Cuyamaca College, transcripts do not have to be submitted.

Required immunizations include: Completion of the Hep B series **and** a positive Hep B immunity test, or a positive Hep B immunity test. Tdap, MMR series, Varicella series, two Covid vaccines and a booster (total of 3 Covid vaccines) or 1 Covid vaccine after September 11th, 2023, and a yearly flu shot. All have specific requirements, refer to the program website for detailed information.

For more information about prerequisites, structure of the Program, employment opportunities and career paths, or to attend a program preview, visit the RT website: [www.grossmont.edu/rt](http://www.grossmont.edu/rt) **For information about General Education requirements or to develop an educational plan, contact the Grossmont College Counseling Department at: 619-644-7208 for an appointment with a Counselor or to find out more about walk-in services.**

Questions?

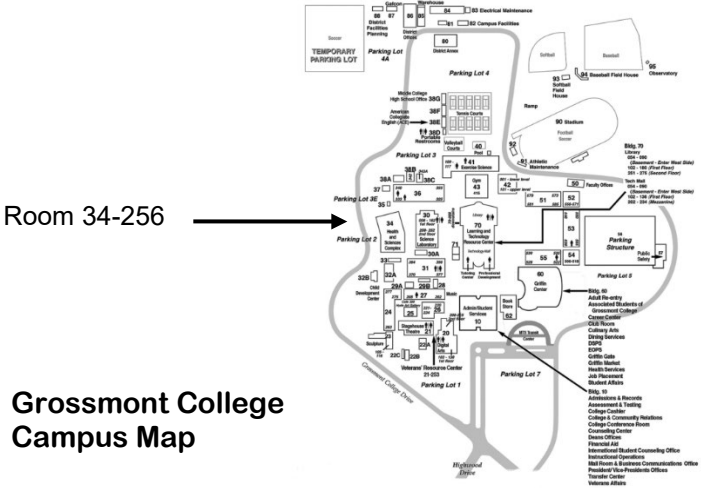
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Respiratory Therapy Program  
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[www.grossmont.edu/academics/programs/health-professions/respiratory-therapy/](http://www.grossmont.edu/academics/programs/health-professions/respiratory-therapy/)  
Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Summer Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Grossmont College



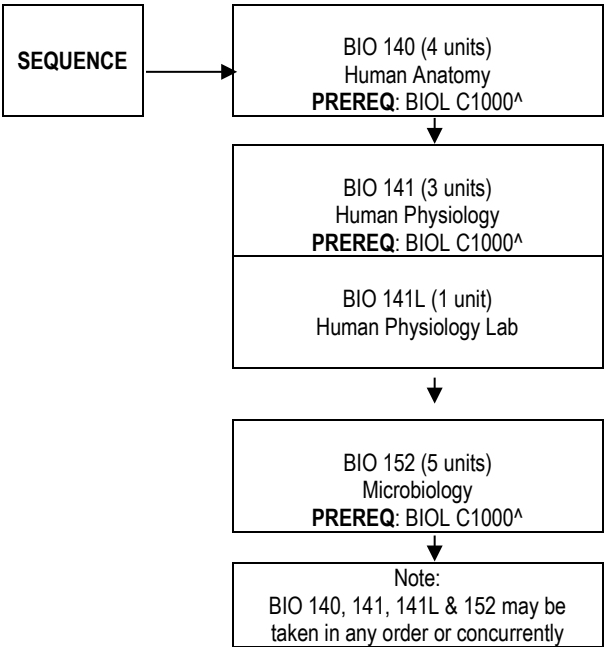
Respiratory Therapy  
Associate in Science Degree  
2026-2027

- Prerequisites/Information
- Major Requirements
- General Education Requirements
- All Allied Health and Nursing students adhere to the graduation requirements outlined in the college catalog for the academic year in which they enter the program
- [www.grossmont.edu/academics/programs/health-professions/respiratory-therapy/](http://www.grossmont.edu/academics/programs/health-professions/respiratory-therapy/)



Sequence of Prerequisite Courses

1. Respiratory Therapy students have **ONE** option for completing the biology prerequisite courses. See below. Must be completed with a “C” grade or higher.
2. Biology 152 with a “C” grade or higher.
3. **NOTE: ALTHOUGH NO LONGER OFFERED, THE BIO 144 & 145 PREREQUISITE OPTION WILL CONTINUE TO BE ACCEPTED.**



Sequence of Major Courses

Semester 1: Summer RESP 101 – 0.5 units

| Semester 2 Fall |       |
|-----------------|-------|
| Subject & No.   | Units |
| RESP 105        | 4     |
| RESP 108        | 5     |
| RESP 112        | 1.5   |
| RESP 114        | 2     |
| Total           | 12.5  |

| Semester 4 Fall |       |
|-----------------|-------|
| Subject & No.   | Units |
| RESP 201        | 4     |
| RESP 208        | 4     |
| RESP 222        | 4     |
| Total           | 12    |

| Semester 3 Spring |       |       |
|-------------------|-------|-------|
| Subject & No.     | Units | Units |
| RESP 116          |       | 2.5   |
| RESP 118          |       | 4.5   |
| RESP 122          |       | 3     |
| RESP 150          |       | 3     |
| Total             |       | 13    |

| Semester 5 Spring |       |       |
|-------------------|-------|-------|
| Subject & No.     | Units | Units |
| RESP 205          |       | 3.5   |
| RESP 232          |       | 4     |
| RESP 268          |       | 2.5   |
| Total             |       | 10    |

Date:\_\_\_\_\_

RESPIRATORY THERAPY  
ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE DEGREE

General Education Requirements for Respiratory Therapy Students Only

This general education applies to students entering the Grossmont College Respiratory Therapy program for the **2026-2027 academic year.**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNSELOR: \_\_\_\_\_

AREA 1 – English Composition, Oral Communication, and Critical Thinking

Select two courses, one from each area — 6 semester or 8 quarter units.

1A English Composition

English (ENGL) C1000, C1001; English as a Second Language (ESL) 122

1B Oral Communication & Critical Thinking

Communication (COMM) 130, 137, 145, C1000, C1004^; Geography (GEOG) 104; Philosophy (PHIL) 125

\*Areas 1A and 1B must be completed with a grade of “C” or better, or “P”.

AREA 2 – MATHEMATICAL CONCEPTS AND QUANTITATIVE REASONING

Select one course — 3 semester or 4 quarter units.

2

Biology (BIO) 215; CSIS (CSIS) 240, 290, 293, 250; Economics (ECON) 215; Mathematics (MATH) 120, 125, 126, 170, 175, 176, 178, 245, 281, 284, 285, C2210^, C2220^; Philosophy (PHIL) 130; Physical Science (PSC) 120; Psychology (PSY) 215; Statistics (STAT) C1000

Area 2 must be completed with a grade of “C” or better, or “P”. (\*) Indicates a cross-listed course.

AREA 3 – ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Select one course — 3 semester or 4 quarter units.

3

American Sign Language (ASL) 120, 121, 140, 220, 221; Arabic (ARBC) 120, 121, 122, 123, 148, 220, 221, 250, 251; Art (ART) 100, 120, 124, 126, 129, 142, 143, 145, 146, 147, 171; Art History (ARTH) C1100^, C1200^; Communication (COMM) 135, 144; Dance 110, 120; English (ENGL) 126, 134, 135, 136, 137, 201, 203, 215, 217, 218, 219, 221, 222, 231, 232, 236, 237, 238, 239, 271, 277, C1002^; English as a Second Language (ESL) 115; Ethnic Studies (ETHN) 126, 127, 134, 143, 144, 236, 237, 238, 239; French (FREN) 120, 121, 152, 220, 221, 250, 251; German (GERM) 120, 121, 220, 221, 250, 251; History (HIST) 100, 101, 103,105, 106, 113, 126, 135, 136, 137, 148, 157; Humanities (HUM) 110, 120, 125, 130, 135, 140, 160, 170; Japanese (JAPN) 120, 121, 149, 220, 221, 250, 251; Media Communications (MCOM) 111; Music (MUS) 110, 111, 115, 116, 117, 123, 189; Philosophy (PHIL) 110, 111, 115, 117, 140, 141, 145, 150, 155, 160, 170, 200; Photography (PHOT) 150, 154; Religious Studies (RELG) 110, 120, 130, 135, 140, 145, 150, 170; Spanish (SPAN) 120, 121, 122, 123, 141, 145, 220, 221, 250, 251; Theater Arts (THTR) 101, 110, 130, 143, 144, 205

AREA 4 – SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Select one course — 3 semester or 4 quarter units.

4

Administration of Justice (AOJ) 110; Anthropology(ANTH) 120, 122, 127, 140; Child Development (CD) 115, 131, 134, 145, 153; Child Development (CDEV) C1000^; Communication (COMM) 124, 126; Economics (ECON) 110, C2001^, C2002^; Ethnic Studies (ETHN) 107,114, 115, 118, 119, 125, 128, 130, 131, 135, 137, 138, 145, 160, 161, 180, 181; Family Studies (FS) 115, 120; Gender Studies (GEND) 116, 117, 154, 155; Geography (GEOG) 100, 101, 106, 130, 170; Health Education (HED) 120, 201; History (HIST) 107, 114, 115, 118, 119, 122, 123, 124, 130, 131, 154, 155, 160, 161, 170, 172, 173, 180, 181, C1001^, C1002^; Media Communications (MCOM) 110, 210, 250; Nutrition (NUTR) 155, 158, 159; Philosophy (PHIL) 170, 200; Political Science Political Science (POLS) C1000; (POSC) 120, 124, 130, 140, 150, 160; Psychology (PSY) 125, 132, 134, 138, 140, 150, 170, 211, 220; PSYC C1000; Religious Studies (RELG) 165, 175; Sociology (SOC) 125, 130, 135, 140, 150, 170, 180, 190; Sociology (SOCL) C1000^

AREA 5 – NATURAL SCIENCES AND LABORATORY

Complete one Anatomy & Physiology sequence and Microbiology.

5

Biology (BIO): (140, 141, 141L) *and* 152

\*To meet admission requirements complete with a letter grade of “C” or better.

AREA 6 – ETHNIC STUDIES

Select one course — 3 semester or 4 quarter units.

6

English (ENGL) 236; Ethnic Studies (ETHN) 107, 114, 236; History (HIST) 107

*\*Disclaimer: Every effort has been made to ensure that this information is accurate and timely. However, the official college document is the Grossmont College Catalog 2026-2027.*

Important Information: *All Allied Health and Nursing students adhere to the graduation requirements outlined in the college catalog for the academic year in which they enter the program. The Area 7 requirements of Plan A: AA/AS General Education are not required for Allied Health students, see college catalog for more information. ^ Indicates that the course is part of AB 1111- Common Course Numbering and has been updated to a common prefix and/or number.*