

Technical Performance Standards Respiratory Therapy Program

The technical performance standards of the Health Science programs outline the expectations and abilities considered essential for student success relative to achieving the level of competency required for graduation and for a career in the field of respiratory care. Potential students should carefully review all of the standards as detailed below.

Data Collection Standards

- Tactile ability sufficient for collection and assessment of data such as pulse, temperature, texture, size, shape, muscle tone. Ability to adjust settings on equipment as needed.
- Auditory ability sufficient to monitor and assess health care needs including but not limited to hearing monitor alarms, emergency signals, evaluate breath sounds and heart sounds, and verbal communication as when a patient/client calls for assistance
- Olfactory ability sufficient for patient/client assessment as in determining typical odors related to infectious agents.
- Visual ability sufficient for assessing and observing the patient/client and environment including near and far acuity, depth perception, visual fields, and other characteristics of objects.

Communication Standards

- Possess sufficient communication skills to interact effectively with others verbally, non-verbally and in written form demonstrating sensitivity to individual and cultural differences
- Ability to express self verbally in a language that will be understood by a majority of patients/clients
- Ability to explain interventions, provide patient/client education, and assess/relate patient/client response to interventions
- Possess the ability to recognize, interpret and respond to non-verbal cues from patients/clients, self and others

Working Conditions

- There is frequent exposure to blood and body fluids from patients as well as the potential for exposure to air borne pathogens.
- Must be able to perform in frequent stressful situations.
- Must be able to deal with conflict resolution and must have effective confrontational skills.

Sensorimotor Standards

- The respiratory care practitioner is required to pull and push heavy objects as well as assist in moving patients to and from stretchers, wheelchairs, or beds. They are required to position patients and assist in lifting, moving and restraining patients.
- The practitioner is required to stand and walk for extended periods of time and must be able to bend, stoop, kneel and run.
- Fine motor abilities: Must be able to write documentation of patient care/assessment
- Reaching: Must be able to extend the arms and hands in all directions.
- Handling: Must be able to seize, hold, rotate, and control objects with the hands.
- Fingering: Must be able to pick up with fingers.
- Feeling: must be able to perceive such attributes of objects and materials as size, shape, temperature or texture by means of receptors in the skin; particularly those of the fingertips.

Intellectual and Conceptual Standards

- Ability to assimilate, within a reasonable amount of time, large amounts of complex, technical and detailed information from a variety of sources
- Ability to identify cause-effect relationship in order to make judgments and set priorities in clinical situations
- Recognize physiological changes in patient/client status and act appropriately
- Ability to prioritize multiple tasks, integrate information and make decisions promptly

Behavioral and Social Standards

- Possess sufficient interpersonal skills to establish meaningful and effective rapport with patients/clients, families, and colleagues from a variety of different social, emotional, economic, cultural, ethnic, religious and intellectual backgrounds as well as within all age groups
- Ability to cope with heavy workload schedule and patient demands
- Function effectively during periods of high stress
- Display adaptability
- Accept responsibility for own behavior
- Engage in self-assessment activities which includes identification of learning needs

Ethical Standards

- Exhibit a respect for truth and a commitment to honesty in all didactic and clinical pursuits
- Adhere to ethical and legal guidelines established by applicable national organizations and governmental agencies
- Abide by all institutional regulations.
- Appreciate and respect patient/family confidentiality.