**Respiratory Care, AS**

Graduates of the Respiratory Care Program are prepared to become credentialed as Registered Respiratory Therapists (RRT) after successful completion of the National Board for Respiratory Care Examinations. Respiratory Therapists are members of a team of health care professionals working in a wide variety of clinical settings to evaluate, treat, and manage patients of all ages with respiratory illnesses and other cardiopulmonary disorders. As members of this team, Respiratory Therapists should exemplify the ethical and professional standards expected of all health care professionals. Respiratory therapists provide patient care which includes clinical decision‐making and patient education. The respiratory care scope of practice includes, but is not limited to the following basic competencies:

* acquiring and evaluating clinical data
* assessing the cardiopulmonary status of patients
* performing and assisting in the performance of prescribed diagnostic studies such as: obtaining blood samples, blood gas analysis, pulmonary function testing, and polysomnography
* evaluating data to assess the appropriateness of prescribed respiratory care
* establishing therapeutic goals for patients with cardiopulmonary disease
* participating in the development and modification of respiratory care plans
* case management of patients with cardiopulmonary and related diseases
* initiating prescribed respiratory care treatments, managing life support activities, evaluating and monitoring patient responses to such therapy and modifying the prescribed therapy to achieve the desired therapeutic objectives
* initiating and conducting prescribed pulmonary rehabilitation
* providing patient, family, and community education
* promoting cardiopulmonary wellness, disease prevention, and disease management
* promoting evidence‐based practice by using established clinical practice guidelines
* evaluating published research for its relevance to patient care

Current occupational employment and wages data for Respiratory Therapists are published by the United States Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics at <http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes291126.htm>

The Respiratory Care Program admits students once per year and starts each Fall semester. The curriculum includes a combination of classroom, laboratory, and clinical education experiences. General Education and Program Specific coursework may be taken on various campuses but the Respiratory Care core courses are only offered on the Lee Campus. Clinical education occurs at affiliated hospitals throughout Southwest Florida.

**ACCREDITATION:**

The Edison State College Respiratory Care program is nationally accredited by the:

The Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC)

1248 Harwood Road  
Bedford, TX 76021-4244

Telephone: 817-283-2835

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** May 31

**ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:**

Respiratory Care has limited enrollment due to the rigorous clinical education requirements for the program. Acceptance to Edison State College does not imply acceptance into the Respiratory Care program. Each applicant must meet specific criteria which are listed in the admission policies. The Criteria for Admission Policies are available through the program office or through the School of Health Professions office at (239)489-9255. Admission applications are located at <http://www.edison.edu/academics/asrespiratorycare/respiratorycare.php>

Admission to the program is determined by admissions points, academic transcript evaluation, and affective skills demonstration. Admissions points are awarded for the completion of General Education coursework and prospective students are encouraged to complete as many courses as possible, prior to starting the Respiratory Care Core coursework. Pre-admission requirements include satisfactory completion of the following:

* Watson-Glaser Critical Thinking Examination
* Panel Interview
* College-approved criminal records check and drug testing at the applicant’s expense

After acceptance, students must complete the following:

* Immunization and health report
* TB Skin Test
* Certification in American Heart Association Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers (CPR and AED) obtained during the months of June-August, prior to Fall Year 2 semester start

**BACCALAUREATE DEGREE OPPORTUNITY:**

Edison State College also offers a Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) in Cardiopulmonary Sciences. Graduates of the AS Degree Program in Respiratory Care with the RRT credential may enroll in this degree program and complete remaining courses to earn the bachelor’s degree. For more information, please contact the School of Health Professions (239) 489-9255.

**RESPIRATORY CARE, AS DEGREE PROGRAM OF STUDY:**

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| **GENERAL EDUCATION COURSEWORK:** Courses must be selected from those listed in the **General Education Program Guide** | | **24 CREDIT HOURS** |
| ENC 1101 | Composition I | 3 |
| BSC 1093C\* | Anatomy and Physiology I | 4 |
| BSC 1094C | Anatomy and Physiology II | 4 |
| HUMANITIES | Any Listed Course in Humanities Section | 3 |
| CHEMISTRY | Any Listed Chemistry in Natural Sciences Section | 3 |
| CHEMISTRY LABORATORY | Any Listed co-requisite Chemistry Lab in Natural Sciences Section that accompanies Chemistry course | 1 |
| PSYCHOLOGY OR SOCIOLOGY | Any Listed Psychology or Sociology Course in Social Sciences Section | 3 |
| MATHEMATICS | Any Listed Course in Mathematics Section | 3 |

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| **PROGRAM SPECIFIC COURSEWORK** | | **7 CREDIT HOURS** |
| MCB 2010C\* | Microbiology | 4 |
| PHYSICS | PHY 1007C Physics for the Health Sciences **OR**  PHY 2053/2053L\* is strongly recommended | 4 |

\*BSC 1010/BSC 1010L are required prerequisites for BSC 1093C and MCB 2010C at most institutions.

\*MAC 1114 and MAC 1140 are required prerequisites for PHY 2053/2053L at most institutions.

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| **RESPIRATORY CARE CORE COURSEWORK** | | **45 CREDIT HOURS** |
| RET 1007 | Respiratory Care Pharmacology | 1 |
| RET 1024 | Introduction to Cardiopulmonary Technology | 3 |
| RET 1275C | Clinical Care Techniques | 2 |
| RET 1613C | Cardiopulmonary Anatomy and Physiology | 2 |
| RET 1832L | Clinical Practicum I | 2 |
| RET 2234C | Respiratory Therapeutics | 4 |
| RET 2244 | Critical Care Applications | 2 |
| RET 2254C | Respiratory Care Assessment | 4 |
| RET 2264C | Advanced Mechanical Ventilation | 4 |
| RET 2295 | Pulmonary Studies | 3 |
| RET 2714 | Neonatal-Pediatric Respiratory Care | 3 |
| RET 2874L | Clinical Practicum II | 4 |
| RET 2875L | Clinical Practicum III | 4 |
| RET 2876L | Clinical Practicum IV | 5 |
| RET 2930 | Respiratory Care Practitioner as a Professional | 2 |
| **TOTAL DEGREE PROGRAM, RESPIRATORY CARE, AS** | | **76 CREDIT HOURS** |

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