

RESPIRATORY CARE, ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE



Objectives

Upon completion of the Respiratory Care program, the student should be able to:

1. Utilize patient care processes and scientific principles to provide respiratory care to patients in health care facilities.
2. Participate as a contributing member of the health care team.
3. Assume personal responsibility for continued learning in order to maintain professional competency and promote the advancement of the field of respiratory therapy.
4. Successfully complete the credentialing examinations administered by the National Board for Respiratory Care.

Information

The department of Respiratory Care offers an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree. Graduates are qualified to apply to take the Therapist Multiple-Choice Examination administered by the National Board for Respiratory Care for credentialing.

Students enrolling into San Jacinto College programs with external learning experiences (i.e., clinical, practicum, externship, cooperative, etc.) will be required to comply with the immunization requirements and policies of the clinical/external learning sites to engage in all clinical/external learning experiences. Vaccination requirements at clinical/external learning sites are implemented pursuant to the independent authority of such facilities and are not mandated by San Jacinto College. Failure to meet the immunization requirements mandated by clinical/external learning sites may limit a student's ability to complete the program and/or may delay the student's graduation date. San Jacinto College does not process exemptions, and students should address potential vaccination exemptions directly with the clinical/external learning site.

Philosophy

The philosophy of the department of Respiratory Care adheres to the philosophy of San Jacinto College. Respiratory Care is the allied health discipline that provides care through the use of diagnostic testing to patients with abnormalities of the cardiopulmonary systems. Respiratory therapists practice their specialty under the direction of licensed physicians and perform their duties in a variety of settings, including intensive care units, neonatal/pediatric special care units, general hospital wards, emergency/trauma units, extended care facilities, and the home.

Due to the nature of the services provided, respiratory therapists must be able to apply knowledge gained through academic education to clinical problems and rationally care for the patient. Graduates of the San Jacinto College Respiratory Care program are prepared as contributing members of the health care team.