



Indian River
State College

Respiratory Care Program

APPLICATION

FALL PROGRAM

2026

Powered by

The School of Health Human Sciences

IRSC OVERVIEW

INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE (IRSC) is a public, comprehensive college with a statewide and national reputation for excellence. Located in Florida's Treasure Coast region, each of the College's five campuses provide unparalleled educational environments.

IRSC serves approximately 30,000 students annually and offers more than 100 programs leading to Bachelor's degrees, Associate degrees, technical certificates and applied technology diplomas. Continuing a 60-year tradition of responsiveness to community needs, IRSC is committed to advancing educational, cultural, career training, workforce and economic development in its service area.

IRSC was distinguished as the 2019 winner of the prestigious Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, an honor that recognizes outstanding quality in the areas of completion & transfer, labor market outcomes, learning, equity and more. IRSC is one of the few colleges in the nation to earn the Achieving the Dream™ Leader College designation. The College is identified by the United States Department of Education as the most affordable college in Florida and the third-most affordable college in the country.

EA/EO Statement

Indian River State College provides equal employment and educational opportunities to all without regard to race, color, national origin, ethnicity, sex, pregnancy, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, veteran status, genetic information, and any other factor protected under applicable federal, state, and local civil rights laws, rules and regulations. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies:

Aдриене B. Jefferson
Dean of Northwest Center, Equity Officer and Title IX Coordinator
IRSC Massey Campus ■ 3209 Virginia Ave. ■ Fort Pierce, FL 34981
772-462-7156

Program Accreditation

The Indian River State College Respiratory Care Program – Associate in Science Degree – Fort Pierce, Florida is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (www.coarc.com)

Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care
264 Precision Blvd.
Telford, TN 37690
817-283-2835

Program# 200380

In addition, the IRSC College Catalog and program websites are readily available and accurately depict:

- a. purpose and goals of the program(s);
- b. admission requirements and procedures;
- c. degree and program completion requirements;
- d. faculty, with degrees held and the conferring institution;
- e. tuition, fees, and other program costs including policies and procedures for refund and withdrawal;
- f. financial aid programs;
- g. national and/or state requirements for eligibility for licensure or entry into the occupation or profession for which education and training are offered;
- h. skill and competencies that students will need at the time of admission to the program.

www.irsc.edu
www.aarc.org
www.fsrc.org
www.coarc.org

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THE RESPIRATORY THERAPIST

Under medical direction, the respiratory therapist is responsible for the administration of medical gases, humidity and aerosol therapy, breathing treatments including airway management, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), continuous mechanical ventilation and diagnostic procedures. The respiratory therapist is directly involved in all aspects of cardiopulmonary care from routine therapy to life-threatening emergencies with a patient population that ranges from newborns to senior citizens.

INTRODUCTION

The A.S. Degree program in Respiratory Care provides students with the knowledge and clinical experiences related to the profession of Respiratory Care and includes training students in the use of medical gases, medication, aerosols, chest physiotherapy, airway management, mechanical ventilation and cardiopulmonary resuscitation. The curriculum, which is consistent with the National Board for Respiratory Care exam matrix, includes classroom lecture, lab experiences and clinical experience at local hospitals. Upon successful completion of the National Board Respiratory Care exams, the graduate will be awarded the Registered Respiratory Therapist (R.R.T.) credential.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Note: *This is a selective admission program. All requirements must be complete for application consideration. Necessary forms can be found in the back of this application booklet.*

- _____ 1. Must be 18 years of age or older at start of program.
- _____ 2. Must have earned a Standard High School diploma or GED.
- _____ 3. Priority selection is based on a point system. Refer to page 3 for **recommended courses** students should complete with a “C” or better **prior to the application deadline date.**
- _____ 4. Complete the Indian River State College Application for the Respiratory Care program online at www.irsc.edu and pay the non-refundable \$30 fee.
- _____ 5. Request official transcript(s) from high school, former school and/or college(s) and forward to the Office of Student Records. (Must be received by application deadline.)
- _____ 6. IRSC **Admission Status** must be complete.
- _____ 7. To earn additional points, submit a copy of your healthcare practitioner certification/license to the Health Science Division by the application deadline. (See page 3 for certificate).
- _____ 8. Copy of current CPR card from the American Heart Association Basic Life Support (BLS).
- _____ 9. Personal Health Insurance card. IRSC and partners’ clinical sites require all Health Science students who register for clinical courses to have personal health insurance and must maintain it throughout the program.
- _____ 10. **Must have IRSC and college cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher.**

Do not proceed with drug/background screening or physical until notified.

- _____ I. Mandatory drug screening and an FBI Criminal Background check (fingerprinting).
- _____ II. Complete a **Health Science Physical Exam and submit Immunization Form** with immunization documentation including current year's seasonal flu vaccine. The current year's flu vaccine is usually available in August for the peak flu season running from October through March. Vaccines obtained prior to August are likely the prior year's vaccine and may not be accepted. (Visit www.irsc.edu. Click on **Programs** and then **Health Science Meta Major**. Choose **Health Science Physical Examination and Immunization Form**). Above documents are to be uploaded to Complio.
- _____ III. Copy of active CPR Basic Life Support (BLS) from the American Heart Association. CPR must **remain active** through the duration of the program.
- _____ IV. Proof of personal Health Insurance.

APPLYING TO THE RESPIRATORY CARE PROGRAM

Prior to beginning the application process:

1. Read the Respiratory Care Application Booklet.
2. Complete and submit the IRSC Application for the Respiratory Care program (\$30 fee; keep a copy of your receipt).

Note: If at any time during the application process, you have a change in personal information (name change, address, phone number, or emails), submit the changes through MyPioneerPortal and to the Health Science Division at 772-462-7550

All applicants will be notified of their status approximately six to eight weeks after the deadline date via the email address provided in the Health Science Application. No information is available by telephone. To finalize acceptance once notified of provisional acceptance, students will be required to have a completed IRSC physical examination form, a negative drug screen report and a FDLE background check.

APPLICANT REVIEW

Final consideration for admission into the Respiratory Care program will be based upon the Health Science Admissions Committee review and scoring of the following criteria:

1. Must be 18 years of age.
2. IRSC Admission Status must be complete.
3. IRSC Application for the Respiratory Care program must be filed and paid.
4. 2.5 IRSC and College Cumulative GPA
5. Recommended coursework completion and Certification/Licensure prior to the application deadline date for points consideration (see page 3).

Note: Meeting admission criteria does not guarantee acceptance into the program. Students are selected on a competitive basis.

RESPIRATORY CARE INFORMATION PRESENTATION VIDEO

Students interested in applying should plan to view the Respiratory Care Information Presentation Video located on the Respiratory Care website.

Respiratory Care Information video located via the website:

<https://irsc.edu/program/respiratory-care/>

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

Academic performance in the general education courses for the A.S. Degree in Respiratory Care and cumulative college grade point average are indicative of the probability of an applicant's completing the academic portion of the program successfully. It is recommended that students complete as many of the following courses as possible, especially math and science, before applying to the program. In addition to previously stated admission requirements, selection is based on grades achieved in the courses listed below.

Students are selected based on a point system (see below). Applications are selected based on these scores until all seats are filled.

Certified/Licensed Healthcare Practitioners = 10 points
(RN, LPN, or Paramedic)

Certified/Licensed Healthcare Practitioners = 5 points
(CNA, MA, or EMT)

A = 4 points

B = 3 points

C = 2 points

COURSE POINTS	GRADE	X CREDITS	TOTAL
HSC 2531		3	
BSC 2085		3	
BSC 2085L		1	
BSC 2086		3	
BSC 2086L		1	
Certified/Licensed Healthcare Practitioner		5 or 10 Points	
TOTAL			

Subject to change

All of the applicant review criteria must be met by the application deadline or the applicant file will not be reviewed and scored. The most qualified (highest scores) are selected.

ACCEPTANCE INTO PROGRAM

The Health Science Division will notify those applicants who have met minimum acceptable scores of their **provisional** acceptance into the program via the email address provided in the health science application. Final acceptance into the program is contingent upon satisfactory results from a physical examination, drug screen and background check. Information on obtaining these tests/reports will be provided in the provisional acceptance notification package. These reports should not be submitted with initial application materials.

LATEX ADVISORY

For those individuals with sensitivities, applicants must be aware that latex-based products are used in all health care facilities.

Drug Screening and Criminal Background Check

Refer to the IRSC website www.irsc.edu. Click **Programs**, select **Respiratory Care** and select the **Background Check and Drug Screening Requirements link**.

Health/Medical Record

A completed medical health form must also be submitted and approved by the Program Director. This health record will contain results from a physical examination and laboratory tests including immunization records. The form is located on the IRSC website at www.irsc.edu. Click **Academics**, All **Programs** and select **Respiratory Care**, & select the **Health Science Physical Examination and Immunization Form link**.

Applicants who do not meet the standards of good physical and mental health, as required by clinical facilities for safe patient care, may reapply and be considered for application to a Health Science program after resolution of the health problem. An updated health record, verified by a licensed physician, physician's assistant or an ARNP must be submitted.

Personal Health Insurance

Indian River State College and partnering clinical sites require all health science students who register for clinical courses to have personal health insurance. Students will be asked to show proof of personal health insurance by presenting their insurance policy number, the name of the insurance provider and the telephone number of the provider to clinical preceptors or administrators. **If students do not have health insurance or do not provide proof of health insurance, they will not be eligible for clinic rotation which will result in termination from program. For more information on personal health insurance plans, contact the Health and Wellness Department at 772-462-7825.**

Student Drug Screen, Background Check, and Medical Records

When submitted, these records will become the property of the College, and will not be available for copying or for use to meet the requirements of outside employers. Students who are out of the program for six months or more must submit new records.

Grievance/Complaint Procedure

Refer to the Academic Review/Admission Policy in the online Indian River State College Student Handbook.

NON-ACCEPTANCE INTO PROGRAM

Applicants who did not qualify for the program will be notified via email and may call the Office of Health Science at 772-462-7550 for information regarding their application.

PROGRAM EXPENSES

Refer to the Indian River State College website at www.irsc.edu. Click Academics, All Programs and select **Respiratory Care**. Scroll down the page and click on the **Program Expenses** link.

FINANCIAL AID/SCHOLARSHIPS

Financial Aid is available to those who qualify. Complete the FAFSA application to determine eligibility. For more information, contact the Indian River State College Financial Aid Office at 772-462-7450.

Scholarships designated for students in the Health and Human Sciences programs may also be available. Complete the Indian River State College Online Scholarship Application by logging into MyPioneerPortal. Health and Human Sciences scholarship deadlines will be posted on the website.

For more information, contact the Scholarship Development Coordinator; Sherri Monds at smonds@irsc.edu. You may also email scholarships@irsc.edu or call 772-462-4786.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What will the program prepare me to do?

Upon completion of the two-year program, the graduate will have earned the Associate in Science Degree in Respiratory Care and be immediately eligible to sit for the NBRC exam.

What are the duties of a Respiratory Therapist?

Under medical direction, the respiratory therapist is responsible for the administration of medical gases, humidity and aerosol therapy, breathing treatments including airway management, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), continuous mechanical ventilation and diagnostic procedures. The respiratory therapist is directly involved in all aspects of cardiopulmonary care from routine therapy to life-threatening emergencies with a patient population that ranges from newborns to senior citizens.

What are the Core Performance Standards for Admission and Progression in the Respiratory Care Program?

See page 8.

How do I become a Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT)?

Graduates of the two-year program must first take and pass the Therapist Multiple Choice (TMC) Exam. Then the individual must sit for the Clinical Simulation Examination. It is necessary to obtain the “high-cut score” on the TMC exam to be eligible to sit for the clinical simulation exam. Successful completion of the TMC and CSE is necessary to obtain the Registered Respiratory Therapist (R.R.T.) credential.

What is the job outlook?

There is a GREAT demand for respiratory therapy professionals, both locally and nationally, with beginning salaries and benefits that reflect this demand.

When will I begin clinical training?

Students will begin training for clinics in the first semester. Students will be assigned to area hospitals for clinical rotations involving direct patient care beginning in the second semester of the program. Clinical training will continue for the duration of the program, with students spending 16-24 hours per week at an affiliated clinical site.

Is there an advanced placement option or can I transfer in respiratory courses from another institution?

The IRSC Respiratory Care Program does not accept prior respiratory care education or offer advanced placement.

Is financial aid available?

Financial assistance is available to those who qualify. If you have any questions concerning loans or scholarships, contact the IRSC Financial Aid Office at 462-7450 for St. Lucie Counties; or toll-free at 1-866-930-3243 from Martin, Indian River or Okeechobee counties.

Who should I contact for clarification or further information?

Contact Robert Walsh, Department Chair, Respiratory Care program at 772-462-7543 or use the toll-free 866-792-4772 number and ask for extension 7543.

RESPIRATORY CARE PROGRAM CURRICULUM

(76 CREDITS)

SELECTIVE ADMISSION

Refer to the IRSC website at www.irsc.edu. Click **Academics**, select **Course Catalog**. From the content list, select **Associate in Science**, scroll down and select **Respiratory Care**.

All core curriculum and natural science courses require a grade of “C” or higher.

Note: Student must demonstrate competency in the basic use of computers. See Catalog.

CORE PERFORMANCE/TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR ADMISSION AND PROGRESSION

Respiratory care involves the provision of direct care for individuals and is characterized by the application of knowledge in the skillful performance of cardiopulmonary functions. Therefore, in order to be considered for admissions or be retained in the program after admission, all students must be able to demonstrate the following abilities:

Technical Standards

The following technical standards explain attributes necessary to complete the educational programs in Respiratory Care. The College will consider any applicant who demonstrates the ability to perform, or to learn to perform, the skills listed here. An applicant with concerns about these technical standards is strongly encouraged to discuss the issue with the director of the Respiratory Care program. An applicant is not required to disclose the nature of any disability. If appropriate, and upon request from the applicant, reasonable accommodations for a disability may be provided.

Standards

A. Observation

1. The student must be able to observe and participate in lectures, demonstrations, research, and practice situations in nursing.
2. The student must be able to observe health assessments and interventions, diagnostic procedures and waveform readings to determine a client’s condition and the effect of therapy.
3. Observation necessitates the functional use of vision, hearing, tactile and somatic senses.

B. Communication

1. The student must be able to communicate clearly and effectively in English with patients, teachers and all members of the health care team. Written and oral communication must use standard, professional medical terminology.
2. The student must communicate with patients clearly and effectively in English to elicit information regarding history, emotional status and activity, and to perceive nonverbal communications.
3. Communication includes speech, hearing, reading, writing and computer literacy.

4. The student must be able to clearly and effectively report in English to members of the health care team. Additionally, students must be able to relay appropriate information to patients, as well as teach, explain, and direct wide variety of individuals.
5. In some instances, the student will be required to provide clear, direct communication in English during highly stressful, crisis situations. These skills necessitate a strong command of the English language and prompt, timely interpretation of pertinent patient data.
6. The student must be able to communicate online in a timely, professional manner, e.g., enter an electronic medical record immediately after the patient visit.

C. Motor Abilities

1. The student must have sufficient gross and fine motor skills, physical endurance, physical strength, mobility, vision, tactile abilities and sense of smell to carry out nursing procedures and to operate equipment safely.
2. The student must have sufficient fine motor skills and overall motor function to perform skills that require steady and purposeful movement, e.g. arterial puncture.
3. The student must be able to execute motor movements reasonably required in a prompt, timely fashion in order to provide routine and emergency care to patients.
 - a. Examples of emergency treatments required of students to be done in a prompt, timely fashion include but are not limited to:
 - cardiopulmonary resuscitation
 - obtainment & interpretation of vital signs
 - opening of airways
 - notification of a change in patient status to appropriate provider
 - institution of life support
 - b. Examples of routine treatments required of students to be done in a reasonable, timely fashion include but are not limited to:
 - administration of scheduled and as needed medications
 - obtainment of vital signs
 - oxygen Therapy
 - nebulizer Therapy
 - chest physio Therapy
 - Bipap/Cpap

D. Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Abilities

1. The student must be able to read and understand written documents in English and to solve problems involving measurement, calculation, reasoning, memory, analysis and synthesis.
2. The student must be able to synthesize knowledge, integrate and prioritize all aspects of patient care in a prompt, timely fashion. This includes synthesis of objective and subjective findings and diagnostic studies.

3. The student must be able to integrate concepts of pathophysiology, pharmacology and fundamentals of respiratory care in order to formulate a cohesive plan of care for desired patient outcomes appropriate to each clinical setting.
4. The student must be able to use this information to identify and develop a diagnosis, establish priorities and monitor treatment plans and care modalities.
5. The student must be able comprehend three dimensional and spatial relationships.
6. The student must be able to incorporate data from multiple patient sources (e.g. physical assessment, vital signs, lab values, interdisciplinary documentation) in a prompt manner in order to provide appropriate, safe patient care.
7. The student must be able to recognize and respond rapidly and safely to changes in a patient's status based on a variety of sources such as physical assessment and pertinent laboratory findings. The student must be able to revise care to promote appropriate patient outcomes.

E. Physical / Sensory Capabilities

1. The student must be able to sufficiently move from room to room and maneuver in small places, patient rooms, treatment areas and administer cardiopulmonary procedures.
2. The student must be able to distinguish between sounds such as hearing blood pressure accurately, hear alarms, emergency signals and auscultator sounds.
3. The student must be able to see clearly both near and far and sufficiently for observation and assessment necessary in health care such as observe patient responses and prepare and administer medications accurately.
4. The student must have sufficient stamina to provide patient care and related responsibilities for extended periods of time (12 hours) to adapt to shift work and lift without restrictions from a standing position.

F. Behavioral and Social Abilities

1. The student must have the capacity to demonstrate full utilization of his/her intellectual abilities, emotional stability, exercise good judgment under stressful, crisis and non-crisis situations and promptly complete all responsibilities pertinent to the diagnosis and care of clients in a variety of settings.
2. The student must have the capacity to develop mature, sensitive and effective therapeutic relationships with patients in a variety of settings and from different cultures. Individual patient care must be performed regardless of the patient's race, ethnic group, age, gender, religious or political preference, ability to pay, gender or sexual orientation.
3. The student must be able to tolerate physically and mentally taxing workloads and function effectively under stress.
4. The student must be able to exhibit a level of consciousness and attentiveness that guarantees patient safety. Examples of unacceptable compromise include excessive somnolence, memory impairment, or an inability to retain pertinent details of a patient's situation.

5. As a component of health science education, the student must demonstrate ethical behavior, including adherence to the professional code of academic and clinical conduct.
6. Although student safety is of utmost importance, the student will be exposed to a variety of communicable pathogens and is expected to care for patients with communicable diseases using appropriate standard precautions and/or guidelines.