

# RESPIRATORY CARE ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE DEGREE

The mission of the Associate in Science in Respiratory Care (AS-RC) program at Lake Sumter State College is to provide access to affordable, high-quality, didactic, and clinical instruction to prepare students to work as competent respiratory therapists in hospital respiratory care or cardiopulmonary departments, physicians' offices, home care, education, and sales. Successful completion of this program qualifies students to apply to the National Board of Respiratory Care (NBRC) to take the exam for respiratory therapist. Upon successful completion of the NBRC exam, the graduate is eligible to apply for a respiratory therapist state license. The program is committed to producing well-qualified, committed, ethical therapists to serve Central Florida and beyond.

A respiratory therapist (RT) specializes in the evaluation, treatment, and care of patients with heart and lung problems. The RT works within the scope of physicians' orders and established protocols to administer respiratory therapy to patients with chronic illness (e.g., asthma, emphysema), as well as acute illness (e.g., drowning, heart failure, shock). The RT works with some of the most sophisticated machinery and medically fragile patients present in healthcare today. Most respiratory therapists work in hospitals in respiratory or cardiopulmonary departments. Other career opportunities are available in physicians' offices, home care, education, and sales. Critical thinking, patient- and environment-assessment skills, and evidence-based clinical practices enable a respiratory therapist to develop and implement effective care plans, patient-driven protocols, and disease-prevention and disease-management programs.

The purpose of the Respiratory Care Program is to prepare outstanding entry-level respiratory therapists (RTs) to meet the dynamic healthcare needs of the community. The two-year Lake-Sumter State Respiratory Care Program consists of classroom, laboratory, and clinical experiences that lead to an Associate in Science in Respiratory Care degree. Clinical experiences are integral to the Respiratory Care Program. The student will be assigned to clinical rotations in area healthcare facilities during the second through fifth semesters of the Respiratory Care Program.

Upon successful completion of the national board exam (NBRC), the graduate is eligible to apply for a respiratory therapist state license. The state license allows the graduate to participate in a rewarding career working with individuals who have a variety of lung and heart disorders.

## Accreditation

The Lake-Sumter State College Respiratory Care Program is accredited through the:

Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care  
264 Precision Blvd  
Telford, TN 37690  
Telephone: 817.283.2835.

### Academic Advising

- [advising@lssc.edu](mailto:advising@lssc.edu) 352-787-3747

### Career Development Services

- [Careers@lssc.edu](mailto:Careers@lssc.edu) 352-323-3603

### Program Contact Information

- Catrina Lovelady, RT Program  
Director [healthprofessions@lssc.edu](mailto:healthprofessions@lssc.edu) 352-536-2248

## Program Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
<b>General Education Courses Respiratory Care</b>		
ENC 1101	College Composition I	3
BSC 2085C	Human Anatomy & Physiology I with Lab	4
BSC 2086C	Human Anatomy & Physiology II with Lab	4
PSY 2012	Introduction to Psychology	3
MAC 1105	College Algebra	3
CHM 1025C	Introductory Chemistry w/Lab	4
MCB 2010C	Microbiology w/Lab	4
Select from Area II: Humanities <sup>1</sup>		3
POS 2041	American National Government	3
or AMH 2020	U.S. History Since 1877	
<b>Technical Education Phase</b>		
RET 1025C	Principles of Respiratory Care	4
RET 1274C	Clinical Care Techniques	4
RET 1450C	Basic Physiological Monitoring	4
RET 1265C	Principles of Mechanical Ventilation	4
RET 1485	Cardiopulmonary Physiology	3
RET 1295	Chest Medicine	3
RET 2714C	Pediatric/Neonatal Respiratory Care	4
RET 2930	Respiratory Care Seminar	3
<b>Clinical Education Phase</b>		
RET 1874L	Respiratory Care Clinical I	4
RET 1875L	Respiratory Care Clinical II	4
RET 2876L	Respiratory Care Clinical III	4
RET 2877L	Respiratory Care Clinical IV	4
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>76</b>

<sup>1</sup> See course options (<https://lssc-public.courseleaf.com/academic-programs/general-education-requirements/>).

Students interested in more information about the degree should make an appointment to speak with the RT program director.

Only required courses for an LSSC degree or qualifying certificate are eligible for federal financial aid. Verify course choices and avoid charges by making an appointment with an academic advisor.

Students must earn a grade of "C" or higher in all program courses to qualify for graduation.

### Civic Literacy Requirement

As per the amended Florida Rule 6A-10.02413, prior to the award of a specialized associate in arts transfer degree, associate in arts, associate in science, or baccalaureate degree, LSSC students under the 2022-2023 Catalog and thereafter must demonstrate competency in civic literacy through one of the following options prior to graduation:

- successfully passing POS 2041 American National Government or AMH 2020 U.S. History Since 1877, or AMH 2010

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U.S. History to 1877 (beginning Fall 2024 forward), or AMS 2010 Civil Discourse and the American Political Order and achieving a 60% or higher on the Florida Civic Literacy Exam , or

- successfully passing a prescribed assessment:
  - AP Government & Politics Test: United States (passing score of 3), or
  - AP U.S. History Test (passing score of 4), or
  - CLEP American Government (passing score of 50)
  - CLEP History of the United States I (passing score of 50)

**To verify your Civic Literacy Requirement, please visit Degree Works (<https://degreeworks.lssc.edu/>)**

For information about career options, visit [www.lssc.edu/careers](http://www.lssc.edu/careers) (<http://www.lssc.edu/careers>).

Students must complete 25% of each program's total credit hours at LSSC.