

What is a Respiratory Therapist?

A Respiratory Therapist (RT) is a clinician who provides hands-on care for people with a wide range of medical conditions related to the cardiopulmonary system. Our two-year program prepares students to care for patients using the high-tech equipment found in the Intensive Care Units and to manage less complicated patients with chronic pulmonary related diseases. RT's work with neonates, pediatrics and adults.

About the AAS Respiratory Therapy Degree Program:

This AAS Degree in Respiratory Therapy is a 5-consecutive semester program that begins each Fall. The program has met the national standards for Respiratory Therapy education set by the [Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care](#) (CoARC). NOVA respiratory therapy graduates have achieved high passing percentages on national board examinations and enjoy many employment opportunities.

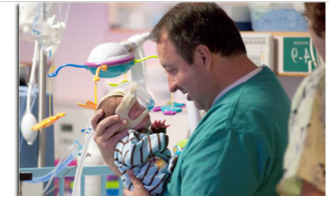
Special Accreditation Status: NOVA's Respiratory Therapy Program at the Medical Education Campus is accredited by the [Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care](#) (CoARC). **NOVA's CoARC number is 200206.**

The [Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care \(CoARC\)](#) accredits respiratory therapy education programs in the United States. To achieve this end, it utilizes an 'outcomes based' process. [Programmatic outcomes](#) are performance indicators that reflect the extent to which the educational goals of the program are achieved and by which program effectiveness is documented.

Professional Credentialing: CRT and RRT

There are two levels of credentialing in the respiratory therapy profession. They are the Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT) and the Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT). You must have a credential and a license to work.

Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT): Students completing the Associate in Applied Science Degree (AAS) at NOVA are qualified to take the National Board for the Respiratory Care Entry Level examination. Upon successful completion of this examination, the candidate can be awarded a CRT credential, depending on their pass score. A credential must be obtained



RT's WORK IN:

- Hospitals
- Intensive care units
- Emergency rooms
- Newborn and pediatric units
- Operating rooms
- Patient's homes
- Sleep laboratories
- Skilled nursing facilities
- Doctor's offices
- Asthma education programs
- Smoking cessation programs
- Air transport and ambulances
- Case management
- Telemedicine (Virtual)
- Hyperbaric Therapy

before applying for licensure in Virginia and most other states. We have a 99% first-time pass rate on this exam.

Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT): The highest level of practice is that of Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT). You become eligible for this examination after completion of the NOVA AAS Respiratory Therapy program degree. You must have a minimum of a CRT and most hospitals will require that you earn the RRT within a certain timeframe as a contingency of employment. The national Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) now requires all CRTs to take and pass the RRT exams within 3 years of obtaining the CRT credential. See www.nbrc.org. The Registry credential is required of persons seeking education and management positions. Registered therapists generally command higher salaries and have greater job mobility.

How do I apply?

Each year we accept 25 full-time students into the freshman class with competitive admission. Should there be more applications than openings, the Allied Health Division accepts students as follows:

- In-state students from our service area
- In-state students from outside our service area
- Out-of-state students
- International applicants requiring Form I-20

What's next?

Step 1: Listen and read a mandatory respiratory therapy information session [ONLINE](#). Write the Information Session Code on the application.

- Congratulations-you've completed the first step!

Step 2: NOVA application on file.

- If you have not applied to the college, you need to complete an "Application for Admission." Click on the LEARN MORE – [HOW TO APPLY](#) button on this page. If you have any questions contact student services at 703-822-6557 or meccounselor@nvcc.edu.

Step 3: To be considered, you must have a minimum of a 2.5 GPA from your the last school you attended. This will include grades from prerequisite courses.

- Have your previous college transcripts sent to this address for evaluation: Medical Education Campus Student Services Rm 202, 6699 Springfield Center Drive Springfield, VA 22150-1913
- After NOVA receives them, you will need to complete a "Request for transcript evaluation" form. There is a link to this form on the information session web page. Turn this form in to STUDENT SERVICES in room 202 at the MEC.
- (Everyone will have college transcripts due to the prerequisites. Sending your high school transcripts is not necessary).

Step 4: Completes ENG 111

- CLEP test is available (see Student Services Office at MEC (room 202))

Step 5: Qualifies for MATH 154

Visit the [Math Discipline](#) site for updated information.

Step 6: BIO141/BIO142 or NAS161/NAS162* -prerequisite course sequences. You choose either the BIO series or the NAS series. A grade of C or better needs to be achieved in these courses. The program prefers BIO141/142 as they also work in an Associate of Science degree and for transferring to a 4-year program in the future: BIO141/BIO142 will transfer. NAS161/162* will not easily transfer.

- Preferred sequence of Anatomy & Physiology courses is BIO141/BIO142

Step 7: Complete prerequisites

- ENG 111: College Composition I
- BIO141/BIO142 or NAS161/NAS162*
- HLT 141: Medical Terminology (or HIM 111) grade of C is or better is required
- SDV 101: Orientation to Health Care (or any other SDV course)
- RTH 120: Fundamental Theory for Respiratory Care: grade of B or better is required

Step 8: Complete the ALLIED HEALTH Application. Mail the application, certified mail, to: Medical Education Campus Student Services HE 202, 6699 Springfield Center Drive Springfield, VA 22150 3

• Upon application acceptance and approval, you will receive a letter confirming your admittance to the program or a letter that states that the program has been filled.

- Check the Allied Health Application for dates that We will be accepting ALLIED HEALTH APPLICATIONS for respiratory therapy.

How many new students do you accept each year?

We accept students on a competitive admission basis for each fall. Each program position is considered filled when the student enrolls in the fall courses with courses paid.

The first 25 students are given time to register. If they do not register, they forfeit their spot, and the next person in the alternate line is contacted via a competitive admission basis. This continues until we reach full capacity or the fall semester starts.

Any additional requirements?

All Allied Health Students are required to pass the "Preadmission Health Form", a criminal background check and drug screen and maintain a current healthcare provider CPR certification through the American Heart Association. The criminal background check/drug screen must be completed immediately after acceptance into the program. The criminal background check/drug screen parameters are based on our clinical affiliates (hospitals) requirements. Students must meet these requirements for clinical rotations prior to the program starting. Students unable to pass/complete these requirements will be administratively withdrawn from the program.

This is the list of items needed before your clinical rotation placement completed. This is done during the first semester:

- “Preadmission Health Form”- with current immunizations Background check/Drug screen Healthcare provider CPR certification from American Heart Association
- Annual TB test- first test is to be a 2-step test
- Annual Flu shot- dates for flu shot determined by the hospitals Liability Insurance

What you can do now?

- Take support courses when your prerequisites are complete:
 - CST Elective: We suggest CST 229. Other acceptable courses are CST 110, CST 115 or CST 126
 - PED 116 – 1 credit version Fitness and Wellness – no other substitutes
 - One (1) Humanities Elective: any 3-credit course as listed in catalog under HUMANITIES. We suggest PHI 227- Biomedical Ethics
 - One (1) Social Science Elective: any 3-credit course in (PSY, ECO, SOC, GEO, HIS, Political Science)
- Learn more about the profession see: [AARC](#)

What is the time and financial commitment?

Our most successful students suggest an average of 2-hours a night of studying. Some study the night after each class, others do it all on the weekend. Whatever works best for you, but you must study consistently. For the most current information on tuition

When do we go to class?

Most RTH lecture courses are on Tuesday and Thursdays between 0800-1600. Some lab sections and classes are held on Wednesdays or Fridays as well. You are in class and lab a total of 19 hours a week plus study time of at least 10 hours/week for a total of 29 hours/week. Beginning the second semester clinical instruction is done on Monday and Wednesday between 0700-1400. In addition, there are classes Tuesday and Thursday, and may be a lab on Friday. During the second semester, you will spend an average of 27 hours each week in class, lab or clinical. Plus, you need to study at least 10 hours a week. This time commitment continues for the remaining semesters.

What is the Employment Outlook and Salary?

For NOVA graduates staying in this area, the starting salary is around \$55,000. 00. Hospital benefit packages in general are very good, but vary by institution. Many hospitals offer 12-hour shifts which translates into 12-days a month. BS degrees in Respiratory Therapy can be found at several Universities online and some in the area where education is a continuation from the AAS degree level.

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***NAS 161 and 162 will be accepted through 2020 only.**

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