

Respiratory Therapy Technical Standard

The Respiratory Care Program complies with all Americans with Disabilities Act requirements. Dixie State University does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission and access to academic programs, services or employment.

Students with disabilities who want to request accommodations should contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) in the North Plaza Building. It is the responsibility of the student to provide current, documented evidence of their disability to the DRC. Contact Baako Wahabu, the director of the DRC, at (435) 652-7516 or visit the website <http://drcenter.dixie.edu/>

In keeping with the accreditation standards outlined by CoARC, all students must possess the physical and emotional abilities required of a respiratory therapist. These abilities include, **but are not limited to**, the following:

I. Physical Demands

- a. The strength necessary to push or move common equipment, perform CPR, etc.
 - I. 20-50 pounds of force occasionally (up to 1/3 of the time)
 - II. 10-25 pounds of force frequently (1/3-2/3 of the time)
 - III. < 10 pounds of force constantly (\geq 2/3 of the time)
- b. The student must be able to meet the physical demands of a twelve-hour clinical shift that includes standing/walking for prolonged periods of time, bending, twisting, kneeling, and crouching.
- c. Be able to use both hands to perform skills (intubation, arterial puncture, etc.), assemble equipment, and assure cleanliness of respiratory care equipment.
- d. Requires manual dexterity, coordination of fine and gross muscular movements, and equilibrium.

2. Visual, Auditory, and Tactile Skills

- a. Auditory: the ability to listen to breath sounds, hear alarms, etc.
- b. Visual acuity: the ability to read information on different monitors, differentiate colored alarms, etc.
- c. Tactile sensory skills: to conduct patient assessment.
- d. Visual and reading skills: the ability to read and understand the information in patient charts

3. Communication Skills/Verbal Ability

- a. Possess communication skills required to conduct patient interviews, coach patients, and explain therapy to the patient.
- b. Possess verbal and written skills to communicate information to appropriate members of the healthcare team.

- c. Possess a command of the English language necessary to effectively communicate verbally and in writing with patients, families and other health care workers.
 - d. Display sensitivity to multicultural and multilingual needs.

- 4. Intellectual/Conceptual Skills
 - a. Problem-solving abilities aiding in diagnosis
 - I. Obtain, interpret, and document data
 - II. Calculate, measure, reason, analyze, and synthesize data
 - b. Use computers to store and retrieve information
- 5. Social/Behavioral Skills
 - a. Demonstrate, integrity, motivation, empathy, interpersonal skills, and concern for others.
 - b. Able to adapt to an ever-changing environment, function under the stress of medical emergencies as well as death and dying, and display flexibility.
 - c. The student must possess organizational and critical thinking skills to be able to initiate, conduct, or modify respiratory care techniques in an emergency setting.
 - d. The student must be able to maintain composure, appearance, and professional conduct and maintain patient confidentiality while working within their scope of practice.
 - e. The student must be able to make accurate observations, perceive events realistically, and think clearly, objectively and rationally.
 - f. The student must have the ability to delegate responsibilities appropriately when necessary, be assertive, and function as part of an interprofessional team.