

# Entry-Level Respiratory Therapy

The Bachelor of Science in Entry-Level Respiratory Therapy (BS-RT) is designed to train graduates for careers as respiratory therapists. The program of study meets CoARC requirements and students are prepared to take the Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT) and Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) licensure exams administered by the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) as required to practice in the state of Florida. Graduates are prepared to work with physicians and other health professionals to provide for diagnosis, treatment, management, preventive care, and rehabilitation of patients across the lifespan with cardiopulmonary abnormalities. This degree program is 120 credit hours.

The University of West Florida Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences- Respiratory Therapy (BSHS-RT) Program has received approval to seek provisional accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care ([www.coarc.com](http://www.coarc.com)). Once this provisional accreditation is obtained, students completing all program requirements are eligible to sit for the examinations given by the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) and to obtain state licensure after passing the examinations.

Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care  
1248 Harwood Road, Bedford, Texas 76021-4244  
(817) 283-2835

## Admission Requirements

Acceptance to the University does not constitute admission to the upper-division Respiratory Therapy program. Students entering UWF or declaring a major in Respiratory Therapy will automatically be placed in a pending status until they meet the following requirements for admission:

- Complete all prerequisite courses with a grade of "C" or better prior to taking major courses.
- Complete general education requirements, including foreign language and civic literacy.
- Minimum overall GPA 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
- Complete BS-RT program application, including a personal statement.
- Complete personal e-interview with BS-RT program faculty.
- Meet the requirements for the BS-RT program, including immunizations, criminal background check and drug screening.
- Additional consideration is given by the selection committee for completed respiratory therapy (RT) observation or prior relevant healthcare experience.

Please note that the UWF Bachelor of Science in Entry-Level Respiratory Therapy (BS-RT) does not accept prior respiratory care education or work experience in lieu of the required coursework. Additionally, advanced placement options are not available for this program. All students must complete the full curriculum of the program to ensure they meet the necessary competencies and qualifications for professional respiratory care certification and practice.

## Program Progression

- All BS-RT program courses are taught in a sequential manner. Each course in the program serves as a prerequisite for the

subsequent courses. Consequently, BS-RT program courses must be taken in sequence.

- Students must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.5 and earn a grade of C or higher in all graded program courses to remain in the BS-RT program.
- Students must demonstrate proficiency in all clinical skills presented to pass clinical practicum courses. For all clinical practicum courses, the final exam must be passed at the designated cut score AND a grade of C or better must be maintained to successfully continue in the program.
- A student success plan (SSP) is designed to provide precautionary support and guidance to students who may be experiencing academic, clinical, or professional challenges in the BS-RT program. The goal is to help students identify areas for improvement, develop effective strategies, and successfully progress in their studies.

## Program Remediation

- Students who receive less than a passing grade of C in a program course or do not meet the minimum GPA requirement of 2.5 will receive specialized academic advising to develop a structured growth and development plan (GDP).
- Students repeating an RET lab course must also repeat the RET lecture component. Conversely, if the student is repeating a RET lecture course, the associated RET laboratory course must also be repeated.
- Due to the critical nature of remediation regarding CoARC outcomes and NBRC exam scores, students are required to complete all assigned remediation.
- Failure to complete the remediation plan or demonstrate required competency may result in course failure, clinical practicum suspension, or dismissal from the program.

## Program Probation/Dismissal

- Failure to earn a grade of C or higher in a BS-RT program course, withdrawing from a course, or not maintaining a minimum GPA of 2.5 may lead to placement on a Professional Development Plan (PDP), academic probation, a leave of absence (LOA), and/or dismissal from the program following a formal review.
- Failure to maintain the academic and professional standards specified in the BS-RT student handbook may result in dismissal from the BS-RT program.

## Program Readmission

- A student who fails a BS-RT program course, drops a BS-RT program course during a semester, or does not proceed to the next BS-RT program course may be eligible for readmission at the first available opportunity and must petition the Program Director to reenter the BS-RT program. Students readmitted to the program will pick up the course sequence as prescribed by the Program Director.
- To be eligible for readmission to the BS-RT program, a student must have no more than one program course grade below a C and maintain a minimum GPA of 2.5.
- Students who withdraw from two or more program courses may not be eligible for readmission, with eligibility determined on a case-by-case basis.
- If readmitted to the BS-RT program, students may repeat a program course (including clinical practicum) one time only and

must successfully pass the course on the second attempt to remain in the program.

## Program Graduation Requirements

In order to graduate, all students must complete at least 120 semester hours with a minimum of 48 specified upper-division hours (3000/4000 level) at UWF.

In order to graduate, all students must:

- Complete at least 120 semester hours with a minimum of 48 specified upper-division hours (3000/4000 level) at UWF.
- Complete all BS-RT program courses with a grade of “C” or better.
- Complete all RET clinical practicums with a grade of “C” or better.
- Complete the comprehensive end-of-program competency assessments (a practice Therapist Multiple Choice [TMC] and a practice Clinical Simulation Examination) with a passing score of “C” or better.
- Maintain academic and professional standards as specified in the Entry-Level Respiratory Therapy program student handbook

Students are expected to adhere to the Student Code of Academic Conduct. The penalty for any instance of academic misconduct will be handled according to the Office of Students' Rights and Responsibilities' Academic Misconduct Process. Depending on the seriousness of the violation, that process may result in additional penalties such as a failing grade for the course, denial of admission to or dismissal from the Respiratory Therapy Program, or even suspension or expulsion from the University. Students are advised to take special care to preserve their academic integrity and not to jeopardize it by any form of academic misconduct.

## General Education

In addition to the General Education requirements, students must satisfy all additional University requirements, including the [College-Level Communication and Computation](#), [Multicultural](#), and [Foreign Language](#) requirements. With appropriate planning and coordination with an academic advisor, students may satisfy some of the general University requirements through the General Education curriculum. For a complete listing of general degree requirements, refer to the [State University Requirements](#) and [Degree Requirements](#) sections of this catalog.

### General Education Curriculum:

#### Communication

ENC 1101	English Composition I (Core)	3
ENC 1102	English Composition II (Breadth)	3

Communication Elective Options:

CRW 2001	Introduction to Creative Writing
MMC 2000	Principles of Mass Communication
SPC 2608	Public Speaking

#### Humanities

Choose one course from the Humanities Core and one additional course from either the Humanities Core or the Humanities Breadth. 6

Humanities Core Options:

ARH 1000	Art Appreciation
HUM 2020	Introduction to Humanities
HUM 2020H	Honors Introduction to Humanities

LIT 2000	Introduction to Literature
MUL 2010	Music Appreciation
PHI 2010	Introduction to Philosophy
THE 2000	Theatre Appreciation

Humanities Breadth Options:

AML 2010	American Literature I
AML 2020	American Literature II
AMS 2010	Civil Discourse and the American Political Order
ARH 2050	Western Survey I: Prehistory to the Medieval Period
ARH 2051	Western Survey II: Renaissance to Contemporary
ART 1015C	Exploring Artistic Vision
ENL 2010	History of English Literature I
ENL 2020	History of English Literature II
LIT 2030	Introduction to Poetry
MUH 2004	The Music Experience - Concerts
PHI 2103	Critical Thinking
PHI 2603	Ethics in Contemporary Society
REL 1300	World Religions
THE 2300	Survey of Dramatic Literature

## Mathematics

Choose one course from the Mathematics Core and one additional course from either the Mathematics Core or the Mathematics Breadth. 6

Mathematics Core Options:

MAC 1105	College Algebra
MAC 1105C	College Algebra with Lab
MAC 2311	Analytic Geometry and Calculus I
MGF 1130	Mathematical Thinking
STA 2023	Elements of Statistics

Mathematics Breadth Options:

MAC 1114	Trigonometry	3
MAC 1140	Precalculus Algebra	
MAC 1147	Precalculus with Trigonometry	
MAC 2233	Calculus with Business Applications	
MAC 2312	Analytic Geometry and Calculus II	
MGF 1131	Mathematics in Context	
STA 2360	Introduction to Data Science	

## Natural Sciences

Choose one course from the Natural Sciences Core and one additional course from either the Natural Sciences Core or the Natural Sciences Breadth. 6

Natural Sciences Core Options:

AST 1002	Descriptive Astronomy
BSC 1005	General Biology for Non-Majors *
BSC 1085	Anatomy and Physiology I *
BSC 2010	Biology I
CHM 1020	Concepts in Chemistry *
CHM 2045	General Chemistry I *
ESC 2000	Introduction to Earth Science *

EVR 2001	Introduction to Environmental Science
EVR 2001H	Honors Introduction to Environmental Science
GLY 2010	Physical Geology
PHY 1020	Conceptual Physics
PHY 2048	Calculus-Based Physics I <sup>*</sup> , <sup>**</sup>
PHY 2048C	Calculus-Based Physics I Studio <sup>***</sup>
PHY 2053	Algebra-Based Physics I <sup>*</sup> , <sup>**</sup>
Natural Sciences Breadth Options:	
ANT 2511	Biological Anthropology <sup>*</sup>
AST 2037	Life in the Universe
BOT 2010	General Botany
BSC 1050	Fundamentals of Ecology
BSC 1086	Anatomy and Physiology II <sup>*</sup>
BSC 2011	Biology II
BSC 2311	Introduction to Oceanography and Marine Biology <sup>*</sup>
CGS 2020	Introduction to Machine Learning
CHM 2046	General Chemistry II <sup>*</sup>
MCB 1000	Fundamentals of Microbiology <sup>*</sup>
PHC 2082	Informatics and Your Health
PHY 2049	Calculus-Based Physics II <sup>*</sup> , <sup>**</sup>
PHY 2054	Algebra-Based Physics II <sup>*</sup> , <sup>**</sup>

\* May be taken with or without lab.

\*\* Algebra-Based Physics is usually recommended for non-science majors, while Calculus-Based Physics is recommended for science majors.

\*\*\*Although students receive 5 semester hours credit for PHY 2048C, an additional 3 semester science course will be needed to meet General Education requirements.

## Social Sciences

Choose one course from the Social Sciences Core and one additional course from either the Social Sciences Core or the Social Sciences Breadth. 6

Social Sciences Core Options:

AMH 2010	United States to 1877
AMH 2020	United States Since 1877
ANT 2000	Introduction to Anthropology
ECO 2013	Principles of Economics Macro
POS 2041	American Politics
PSY 2012	General Psychology

Social Sciences Breadth Options:

ANT 2100	Introduction to Archaeology
CCJ 2002	Survey of Crime and Justice
CIS 2530	Introduction to Cybersecurity
COM 2023	Death and Communication
CPO 2002	Comparative Politics
DEP 2004	Human Development Across the Lifespan
EUH 1000	Western Perspectives I
EUH 1001	Western Perspectives II
FIN 2104	Personal Finance
GEA 2000	Nations and Regions of the World

GEB 1011	Introduction to Business
HIS 2050	Explore History
HSC 2100	Personal, Family and Community Health
INR 2002	International Politics
PLA 2013	Survey of American Law
PLA 2013H	Honors Survey of American Law
SPM 2010	Sport in Global Society
SYG 2000	Introduction to Sociology

## General Education Electives

Choose an additional course from two of the five areas of Communication Electives, Mathematics, Social Sciences, Humanities, and Natural Sciences.

## Multicultural Requirement

### Multicultural Courses

An important component of a liberal education is the study of cultures other than one's own. As such, multiculturalism encompasses the appreciation of the values, expressions, and modes of organization of diverse cultural communities. To further such study, the University of West Florida requires all students pursuing a bachelor's degree to complete at least one course that explores one or more of the dimensions of another culture (language, religion, socio-economic structures, etc.). Students are exempt from this requirement if they have completed an A.A. degree, the general education program at a Florida public institution, or a baccalaureate degree.

The requirement is satisfied by the successful completion of a multicultural course designated on the following list. Several of the selections are General Education courses, and students may enroll in these to meet both the General Education and the multicultural requirements.

*\*\*Passed by UWF Faculty Senate on 11/08/2002*

This list is continually updated and students are encouraged to check with their advisors for alternative options.

AML 2010	American Literature I	3
AML 2020	American Literature II	3
AML 3604	African American Literature	3
AML 3624	Black Women Writers	3
AML 4015	Topics in Nineteenth-Century American Literature	3
AML 4640	Topics in Native American Literature	3
ANT 1001	Anthropology as a Profession	1
ANT 2000	Introduction to Anthropology	3
ANT 2301	Human Sexuality and Culture	3
ANT 3212	Peoples and Cultures of the World	3
ANT 3312	North American Indians	3
ANT 3363	Japanese Culture	3
ANT 4006	Anthropology of Human Rights	3
ANT 4025	Ritual Use of Human Remains	3
ANT 4184	Mortuary Anthropology: Excavation, Analysis, and Theory	3
ANT 4302	Global Gender Issues	3
ANT 4403	Environmental Anthropology	3
ANT 4516	Modern Human Physical Variation	3
ARH 1000	Art Appreciation	3

ARH 2050	Western Survey I: Prehistory to the Medieval Period	3
ARH 3201	Art and Culture in The Global Middle Ages	3
ARH 2051	Western Survey II: Renaissance to Contemporary	3
ARH 3590	Non-Western Art	3
ARH 3607	Native American Art	3
ARH 4412	The Age of Revolution to Romanticism in Europe: 1750-1850	3
ARH 4450	Modern Art: 1850-1980	3
ARH 4470	Contemporary Art	3
ARH 4563	Art of Japan	3
ARH 4889	Inscribed Bodies: Concepts of Tattoo and Body Art in World History	3
COM 3014	Gender Communication	3
COM 3461	Intercultural Communication	3
COM 4242	Communication and Christianity	3
CPO 2002	Comparative Politics	3
CPO 3322	Cuba, Castro and the USA	3
CRW 2001	Introduction to Creative Writing	3
ENG 4013	Introduction to Literary Theory	3
ENL 2020	History of English Literature II	3
EUH 1000	Western Perspectives I	3
EUH 1001	Western Perspectives II	3
EUH 3334	Emperors, Sultans, Dictators, and Democrats: The Balkans	3
EUH 3411	Rome and the Mediterranean World	3
EUH 3576	Soviet Union since 1917	3
FOL 3501	Global Cinema	3
FRE 1120C	French I	4
FRE 1121C	French II	4
GEA 2000	Nations and Regions of the World	3
GEB 4361	International Business	3
GEO 3421	Cultural Geography	3
GEO 3471	Geography of World Affairs	3
HIS 2050	Explore History	3
HIS 4262	Rise and Fall of the Portuguese Empire	3
HSC 2622	Introduction to Global Health Sciences	3
HUM 2020	Introduction to Humanities	3
HUM 2020H	Honors Introduction to Humanities	3
IDH 1040	Honors Core: Humanities	3
IDH 1041	Honors Core: Social Sciences	3
INR 2002	International Politics	3
ITA 1120C	Italian 1	4
ITA 1121C	Italian 2	4
JPN 1120C	Japanese I	4
JPN 1121C	Japanese II	4
LAH 4135	Spanish Conquest of the Americas	3
LAH 4131	'Atlantic Indians': How Indigenous and African Peoples Shaped Europe & the Americas	3
LAH 4451	Greater Mexico: Central America from Conquest to the 20th Century	3

LAH 4728	Gender and Sexuality in Latin America from Colonization to Today	3
LIT 2000	Introduction to Literature	3
LIT 2030	Introduction to Poetry	3
LIT 4036	Topics in Poetry and Poetics	3
LIT 4385	Feminist Theory	3
MAR 4156	Seminar in International Marketing	3
MMC 3743	Communicating Fear: Horror Films and Popular Culture	3
MMC 3745	Communicating Fear Abroad: International Horror Films & Popular Culture	3
MMC 4601	Minorities and the Mass Media	3
MUH 2004	The Music Experience - Concerts	3
MUL 2010	Music Appreciation	3
NUR 4615	Person Centered Population Health	3
NUR 4636	Epidemiology and Population Health Strategies	3
PHI 3790	African Philosophy	3
PLA 2013H	Honors Survey of American Law	3
PUR 3404	International Public Relations	3
PSY 3860	Positive Psychology	3
SOP 3730	Psychology, Culture, and Society	3
SOW 4233	Human Diversity and Social Justice	3
SPN 1120C	Spanish I	4
SPN 1121C	Spanish II	4
SPN 3400	Advanced Stylistics	3
SPN 4520	Latin American Culture and Civilization	3
SYO 4250	Sociology of Education	3
SYO 4421	Sociology of Health, Illness and Health Care	3
SYO 4530	Inequality in America	3

## Civic Literacy Requirement

The 2017 Florida Legislature amended [Section 1007.25, Florida Statutes](#), to require students ***initially entering a State University System (SUS) and/or Florida College System (FCS) institution in 2018-2019*** and thereafter to demonstrate competency in civic literacy by passing an assessment or taking AMH 2020 United States Since 1877 or POS 2041 American Politics.

The 2021 Legislature further amended Florida Statutes, requiring students to complete both a civic literacy course and an exam. In 2024, the Board of Governors made an additional revision, recognizing two new courses meeting the Civic Literacy requirement, AMH 2010 United States to 1877 and AMS 2010 Civil Discourse and the American Political Order. As a result, there are four cohorts of students currently matriculating at Florida public institutions that are subject to varying requirements.

As demonstrated in the table below, the exact civic literacy requirements are based on the academic term in which a student first enrolled in a Florida public institution.

Students Included in Cohort	Civic Literacy Competency Requirement
Cohort 1: Students initially entering the SUS or FCS before fall 2018	None



Cohort 2: Students initially entering the SUS or FCS in Academic Year 2018 through Academic Year 2020	Complete a course <b>or</b> Assessment.
Cohort 3: Students initially entering the SUS or FCS in Academic Year 2021 through Academic Year 2023	Course <b>and</b> Assessment.
Cohort 4: Students initially entering the SUS or FCS in fall 2024 and thereafter	Course <b>and</b> Assessment.

Additionally, for Cohorts 3 and 4, approved accelerated mechanisms may meet the course and/or assessment requirement, and students who pass the Florida Civic Literacy Exam (FCLE) in high school are exempt from the postsecondary exam requirement.

There are multiple ways to satisfy this requirement. Students should work with their academic advisor to determine which option is best for their degree requirements/degree plan.

Additional information can be found on our [Civic Literacy](#) website, SUS regulation [BOG 8.006](#), and Florida Statute [s.1007.25\(4,a-b\)](#).

## Mathematics Pathway

Students are advised to complete the following courses to fulfill the mathematics pathway that aligns with the mathematics skills needed for success in their program and their career goals. Students should refer to their academic advisor for questions about the math pathway for their program. For information about this requirement, refer to the catalog page for [Mathematics Pathways](#). These courses may also fulfill requirements for General Education and Common Prerequisites.

### Statistical Reasoning

STA 2023	Elements of Statistics	3
MAC 1105	College Algebra	3

## Common Prerequisites

BSC 1085 & 1085L	Anatomy and Physiology I and Anatomy and Physiology I Laboratory <sup>+</sup>	4
BSC 1086 & 1086L	Anatomy and Physiology II and Anatomy & Physiology II Laboratory <sup>+</sup>	4
CHM 2045 & 2045L	General Chemistry I and General Chemistry I Laboratory <sup>+</sup>	4
MCB 2010 & 2010L	Microbiology for Health Sciences and Microbiology Lab for Health Sciences	4
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>16</b>

\* Indicates common prerequisites which can be used to satisfy General Education requirements.

## General Education Recommendations

ENC 1101	English Composition I	3
ENC 1102	English Composition II	3
MAC 1105	College Algebra	3
STA 2023	Elements of Statistics	3
AMH 2020	United States Since 1877	3
or POS 2041	American Politics	

PSY 2012	General Psychology	3
DEP 2004	Human Development Across the Lifespan	3
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>21</b>

## Lower Division Electives

Students must complete sufficient 1000/2000 level electives to satisfy at least 60 semester hours (sh) in the lower division. Current UWF students may use elective courses at any level (1000-4000) to meet this elective requirement.

### Recommended electives:

PHY 2053 & 2053L	Algebra-Based Physics I and Algebra-Based Physics I Lab	
HSC 3535	Medical Terminology	

## Major-Related Courses

HSA 3551	Health Ethics and Professionalism	3
HSC 4050	Health Sciences Capstone Course	3
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>6</b>

## Major

RET 3028	Foundations of Respiratory Therapy <sup>+</sup>	3
RET 3028L	Foundations of Respiratory Therapy Lab <sup>+</sup>	1
RET 3487	Cardiopulmonary Anatomy & Physiology <sup>+</sup>	3
RET 3493	Patient Assessment <sup>+</sup>	3
RET 3493L	Patient Assessment Lab <sup>+</sup>	1
RET 3884	Clinical Practicum I <sup>+</sup>	3
RET 3354	Cardiopulmonary Pharmacotherapy <sup>+</sup>	3
RET 3445	Cardiopulmonary Diseases & Diagnostics <sup>+</sup>	3
RET 3445L	Cardiopulmonary Diseases & Diagnostics Lab <sup>+</sup>	1
RET 3266	Fundamentals of Mechanical Ventilation <sup>+</sup>	3
RET 3266L	Fundamentals of Mechanical Ventilation Lab <sup>+</sup>	1
RET 3885	Clinical Practicum II <sup>+</sup>	3
RET 3448	Advanced Therapeutics & Patient Monitoring Concepts in Respiratory Therapy <sup>+</sup>	2
RET 4616	Professional Healthcare Presence: Leadership, Administration, & Education <sup>+</sup>	2
RET 4277	Critical Care Management <sup>+</sup>	3
RET 4277L	Critical Care Management Lab <sup>+</sup>	1
RET 4718	Neonatal-Pediatric Respiratory Care <sup>+</sup>	2
RET 4718L	Neonatal-Pediatric Respiratory Care Lab <sup>+</sup>	1
RET 4050	Evidence-Based Practice in Respiratory Care <sup>+</sup>	2
RET 4886	Clinical Practicum III <sup>+</sup>	4
RET 4535	Disease Management: Extended Respiratory Therapy Services <sup>+</sup>	2
RET 4950	Respiratory Therapy Capstone Project <sup>+</sup>	2
RET 4930	RT Seminar: Exam Preparation & Career Guidance <sup>+</sup>	1
RET 4887	Clinical Practicum IV <sup>+</sup>	4
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>54</b>

+ Courses included in the major GPA.