

RESPIRATORY THERAPY

Program Number: 10-515-1

Associate of Applied Science Degree

Campus: Fond du Lac, some courses available at West Bend

This program is eligible for financial aid (<http://www.morainepark.edu/financial-aid/>)

Full-Time Enrollment Only

Become a respiratory therapist in less than three years with an associate degree from Moraine Park Technical College.

About the Program

Respiratory therapists work as part of a health care team to evaluate, treat and manage patients of all ages with respiratory and other cardiopulmonary disorders.

Respiratory therapists see patients with diseases, infections and viruses of the cardiopulmonary system, such as lung cancer, asthma, emphysema, bronchitis and pneumonia. Common respiratory care includes managing mechanical ventilation life support systems, assessing the cardiopulmonary status of patients, drawing blood samples, performing blood gas analysis and pulmonary function testing, initiating ordered respiratory care, evaluating and monitoring patients' responses to such care and modifying the prescribed respiratory therapy and cardiopulmonary procedures. Respiratory therapists also provide patient, family and community education, and participate in life support activities as required. Upon graduation, Moraine Park Respiratory Therapy students are qualified for admission to the entry-level and advanced practitioner examinations to become a registered respiratory therapist.

Accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (www.coarc.com (<http://www.coarc.com/>)), Moraine Park's Respiratory Therapy program (CoARC #200444¹) awards an Associate of Applied Science degree, and is offered at the Fond du Lac Campus. 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.

¹ Outcomes data from the 2023 Annual Report of Current Status has been posted on the CoARC website. Follow this link directly to the CoARC website:
<https://coarc.com/students/programmatic-outcomes-data/>

What You'll Learn

Moraine Park Respiratory Therapy students gain hands-on experience in applying respiratory therapy concepts to patient care situations, demonstrating technical proficiency required to fulfill the role of a respiratory therapist and practice respiratory therapy according to established professional and ethical standards.

Transfer Opportunities

Your academic journey can continue at a four-year college or university. Earn your associate degree at Moraine Park and then apply those credits toward a bachelor's degree. Starting at MPTC makes completing a bachelor's degree **affordable, accessible** and **convenient**. You can

go anywhere as MPTC has transfer agreements with colleges and universities both in Wisconsin and throughout the country.

Visit the Transfer to a Four-Year College (<https://www.morainepark.edu/transfer-to-a-four-year-college/>) page for more information on credit transfer agreements between Moraine Park and four-year colleges, both public and private.

Additional Information

State Licensure Disclosure: Moraine Park Technical College offers programs designed to meet the educational requirements leading to licensure or certification that may be required for employment in certain professions. See Professional Licensure and Certification Disclosure (<https://catalog.morainepark.edu/program-information/professional-licensure/>) for more details.

Licensing Organization: American Association of Respiratory Care (<http://www.aarc.org>)

Clinical evaluation of competencies is the exit assessment graduation requirement for the program.

Admission Process

Standard Admissions (<http://www.morainepark.edu/admissions/new-student/how-to-apply-for-admissions/>) steps details

This program also requires:

- Health Requirements
- Criminal Background Check

Core Intent Form Details: Students are *provisionally* accepted to the Respiratory Therapy Program in "pre-core" status. Before students are able to begin core program classes, the Core Intent Form (<https://www.morainepark.edu/academics/program-information/respiratory-therapy-core-intent-process/respiratory-therapy-core-intent-form/>) must be submitted.

Credit for Prior Learning

Transform the skills and abilities developed through previous experience into college credit through MPTC's Credit for Prior Learning process.

- Transfer credit from other colleges/universities
- Earn college credit for your military training and experience
- Earn college credit via Advance Placement, CLEP, DANTES/DSST or MPTC Challenge Exams
- Earn college credit from previous/current work and life experiences

Visit MPTC's Credit for Prior Learning (<https://www.morainepark.edu/academics/credit-for-prior-learning/>) page for more information.

Approximate Costs

NOTE: The fees below are 2025-2026 fees. They will be updated when 2026-2027 fees are approved.

Tuition

Occupational

- \$152.85 per credit (resident)
- \$229.28 per credit (out-of-state resident)

Associate of Arts/Associate of Science

- \$192.20 per credit (resident)
- \$288.30 per credit (out-of-state resident)

Online students are not charged out-of-state fees.

Student Fees

- \$5.00 minimum per course Material Fee
- \$13.76 per-credit Supplemental Fee for Undergraduate courses
- \$4.50 per term mandatory Student Accident Insurance Fee

Please refer to Tuition & Fee Information (<https://catalog.morainepark.edu/admissions-registration/tuition-fee-information/>) for additional enrollment fee information.

Financial Aid

Financial Aid is available for associate degree and technical diploma programs (those that are 2 semesters in length and typically with 28 credits or more). Processing can take 4-5 weeks after a student's completed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA (<https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa/>)) is received.

Several factors influence the total cost of your degree, including enrollment fees, the number of credits required, textbooks and equipment. [Financial aid](https://www.morainepark.edu/pay-for-college/financial-aid/) (<https://www.morainepark.edu/pay-for-college/financial-aid/>) can assist with those costs.

Course Requirements

Course	Title	Credits
Clinical Admissions Requirements		
Core Intent Form submission required		
801-136	English Composition 1	3
806-177	General Anatomy and Physiology	4
Credits		7
Semester 1		
501-101	Medical Terminology	3
515-111	Respiratory Survey	3
515-171	Respiratory Therapeutics 1	3
806-197	Microbiology	4
890-101	College 101	2
Credits		15
Semester 2		
103-159	Computer Literacy - Microsoft Office	1
515-112	Respiratory Airway Management	2
515-172	Respiratory Therapeutics 2	3
515-173	Respiratory Pharmacology	3
515-174	Respiratory and Cardiac Physiology	3
801-196	Oral and Interpersonal Communication	3
Credits		15
Summer		
515-175	Respiratory Clinical 1	2
Credits		2
Semester 3		
515-113	Respiratory Life Support	3
515-176	Respiratory Disease	3
515-178	Respiratory Clinical 2	3
515-179	Respiratory Clinical 3	3

Behavioral Science Course (https://catalog.morainepark.edu/program-information/general-education/behavioral-social-science/)		3
Credits		15
Semester 4		
515-180	Respiratory Neonatal and Pediatric Care	2
515-181	Respiratory and Cardio Diagnostics	3
515-182	Respiratory Clinical 4	3
515-183	Respiratory Clinical 5	3
Social Science Course (https://catalog.morainepark.edu/program-information/general-education/behavioral-social-science/)		3
Credits		14
Total Credits		68

Additional Program Requirements

Due to accreditation requirements, completion of mock certification and registry exams are required for graduation.

Program Outcomes

- Apply respiratory therapy concepts to patient care situations.
- Demonstrate technical proficiency required to fulfill the role of a Respiratory Therapist.
- Practice respiratory therapy according to established professional and ethical standards.

Career Opportunities

- Respiratory Therapist
- Respiratory Care Practitioner
- Respiratory Care Therapist
- Staff Therapist
- Pulmonary Rehabilitation Therapist
- Perinatal/Pediatric Therapist
- Pulmonary Function Technologist/Therapist
- Sleep Disorder Center Technician
- Nursing Home Therapist
- Respiratory Care Educator
- Pulmonary Case Navigator
- Home Care Therapist/Manager
- Acute Care Respiratory Therapist

Statewide Median Salary for Recent Graduates

\$60,000