

University of Hartford
Respiratory Care
Program Technical Standards

In order to perform the tasks required of a respiratory therapist certain physical/behavioral capabilities are required. Students must demonstrate the ability to perform required functions, as a routine part of classroom, laboratory, or clinical education. Students should be aware that successful completion of the Respiratory Care Program will depend upon the ability to meet the following technical standards:

1. A reasonable amount of strength and mobility are required for but not limited to the following:
 - a. Lift, (up to 50 lbs) move or push heavy equipment, specifically ventilators, therapy equipment, stretchers and/ or wheelchairs with patients in them
 - b. Assist in lifting (up to 50 lbs) or repositioning patients who may be paralyzed, comatose or otherwise incapacitated, from patient beds and stretchers or wheelchairs
 - c. Provide physical assistance and care for patients in a timely manner in all circumstances which may involve the activities of sitting and standing in one place for 60-90 minutes
 - d. Reach overhead (stretching) and below waist level (bending) to manipulate equipment
 - e. Administer CPR without assistance

2. Manual dexterity, effective motor skills and eye-hand coordination are required for but not limited to the following:
 - a. Manipulate and calibrate equipment
 - b. Don surgical gloves
 - c. Fill syringes
 - d. Set up equipment
 - e. Perform routine therapies, i.e. aerosol treatments, suctioning and manual ventilation
 - f. Document patient assessment and outcome of therapy
 - g. Draw blood

3. Sensory function in at least one upper limb is required for but not limited to the following:
 - a. Palpate vessels for blood sampling
 - b. Palpate pulses
 - c. Assess skin surface texture and temperature

4. The auditory ability (corrected as necessary) to recognize and respond to faint or muffled sounds is required for but not limited to the following:
 - a. Assess breath sounds
 - b. Respond to patient needs since ventilator alarms may be muffled due to ICU noise

- c. Monitor equipment operation or dysfunction which may be indicated by low sounding bells or buzzers
 - d. Function when the use of surgical masks are required for protection of the patient or hospital personnel
 - e. Respond to pages and emergency calls from the hospital public address system and cell phone/ pager system
5. Visual acuity (corrected as necessary) is required for but not limited to the following:
- a. Read patient monitor values and ventilator values in dimly lit surroundings
 - b. Read waveform graphic monitors
 - c. Recognize and interpret facial expressions and body language
 - d. Identify normal and abnormal patterns of movement and breathing
 - e. Discriminate color changes
 - f. Interpret and assess the environment
6. The ability to effectively communicate orally and in writing in the English language is required but not limited to the following:
- a. Ascertain and record patient histories
 - b. Monitor and document patient progress
 - c. Provide clear and audible directions to patients face-to-face
 - d. Provide accurate information when discussing patient management with physicians and other support staff
 - e. Assess information and to communicate and document effectively via a computer
 - f. Collect, interpret, and analyze information
7. Possess acceptable mental/attitudinal standards are required for but not limited to:
- a. Function safely, effectively, and calmly in stressful situations
 - b. Maintain composure while managing multiple tasks simultaneously
 - c. Prioritize multiple tasks
 - d. Exhibit social skills necessary to interact effectively with patients, families, supervisors, classmates, instructors and co-workers of the same or different cultures such as respect, politeness, tact, collaboration, teamwork, and discretion
 - e. Display attitudes/actions consistent with the ethical standards of the profession

These standards reflect reasonable expectations of the Respiratory Care student for the performance of common functions of the Respiratory Therapist. The University of Hartford complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. A prospective student who is otherwise qualified, but requires reasonable accommodation, should contact Access-Ability Services at in Auerbach Hall, Room 209 860.768.4312. They will determine what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential. All technical standards must be met with either reasonable accommodation or without accommodation.