

Associate Degree Respiratory Therapy
Essential Skills for Admission and Progression
Physical and Psychological Requirements

A prospective respiratory therapy candidate must demonstrate the physical and psychological ability to provide safe respiratory care. Every prospective student must assess his or her ability to provide safe and competent respiratory care prior to choosing respiratory as a career. To understand the physical and psychological qualifications needed for success, the essential abilities have been listed below.

Qualifications	Standard	Examples of Necessary Activities
Critical Thinking	The respiratory student must possess critical thinking ability sufficient for problem solving and clinical judgment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify cause-effect relationships in clinical situations • Develop appropriate interventions • Assess risks and provide for patient safely • Consider multiple priorities and make effective decisions quickly • Develop and evaluate Respiratory care plans
Interpersonal Skills	The respiratory student must possess interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, families and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish helping relationships with patients, families, significant others and the interdisciplinary healthcare team • Cope effectively and calmly during emotions and stress in the workplace • Demonstrate caring behaviors
Communication	The respiratory student must possess communication abilities sufficient for interaction with others in verbal and written form.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate relevant, accurate, and complete information in a concise and clear manner both verbally and in writing to patients and healthcare team members • Utilize information technology to support and communicate the planning and provision of care • Ability to conduct interviews and inservices
Mobility	The respiratory student must possess physical abilities sufficient to move from room to room and maneuver in small spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move around in patient rooms, bathrooms, workspaces, and treatment areas • Administer cardiopulmonary resuscitation • Stand, squat, reach above head, lift, push, pull • Walk the equivalent of 5 miles daily at work
Motor Skills	The respiratory student must possess gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective respiratory care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operate and calibrate respiratory care equipment proficiently, e.g. assemble equipment, insert needles and catheters, manipulate ventilators, and position patients
Hearing	The respiratory student must possess auditory ability sufficient to monitor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hear monitor and ventilator alarms, emergency signals and cries for help

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	and assess patient's needs and maintain facility safety.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auscultate blood pressure, breath, and heart sounds
Visual	The respiratory student must possess visual ability sufficient for observation and assessment necessary in respiratory care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observe patient responses to treatment, such as changes in skin color, work of breathing, or facial expression • Read patient medical records • Read and interpret ventilator graphics
<u>Tactile:</u>	The respiratory student must possess tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform palpation, functions of physical examination and/or those related to therapeutic intervention • Perform therapeutic and diagnostic modalities required on the job
Weight Bearing	The respiratory student must possess the ability to maneuver/move 30-50 pounds, weekly and sometimes daily.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Position patients to perform therapies • Moving and relocating heavy equipment
Emotional	The respiratory student must possess emotional stability sufficient to maintain composure in stressful situations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cope effectively with stress in the workplace • Cope with client and colleague emotions calmly • Receive corrective feedback calmly
Environmental	The respiratory student must possess the ability to tolerate environmental stressors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adapt to variations in work schedules • Work safely with chemicals used in healthcare settings • Work in areas that are close, crowded or noisy • Observe infection control procedures

1. A prospective student with a disability that is concerned that the disability may impact his or her ability to perform one or more of these skills, provide patient care, or participate in other job activities, is encouraged to contact a disabilities services counselor for assistance by calling 919-536-7208 or by emailing disabilityservices@durhamtech.edu.
2. To verify a student's ability to provide essential respiratory care during clinical training, a physical examination is required of all students. This examination will be documented by a physician/nurse-practitioner/physician's assistant on the form provided by the Admissions and Enrollment Services office.
3. Subsequent yearly TB screening is required. Participation in clinical is contingent upon negative documentation and/or appropriate medical treatment and clearance.
4. Although it is not required, students are highly encouraged to be vaccinated for Hepatitis B prior to clinical rotation in respiratory courses.
5. Occasionally, a student may experience a change in the status of these requirements while progressing through the curriculum. Should this occur, the student is required to notify the program's clinical coordinator.

Student Name: _____

Durham Tech Student ID #: _____

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I certify that I have read the Essential Skills for Admission and Progression form. I certify that I understand the physical and psychological requirements needed for providing safe respiratory care. I have assessed my ability to perform these skills and am able to demonstrate these essential skills.

Student signature _____ Date _____

*Please submit only this signature page with your application and retain the list of requirements for future reference.