

SOUTHWESTERN ILLINOIS COLLEGE

RESPIRATORY CARE PROGRAM

TECHNICAL SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

RESPIRATORY CARE PRACTITIONER'S GENERAL JOB DESCRIPTION

- Utilizes the application of scientific principles for the identification, prevention, remediation, research and rehabilitation of acute or chronic cardiopulmonary dysfunction thereby producing optimum health and function
- Reviews existing data, collects additional data, and recommends obtaining data to evaluate the respiratory status of patients, develop the respiratory care plan, and determine the appropriateness of the prescribed therapy
- Initiates, conducts, and modifies prescribed therapeutic and diagnostic procedures such as:
 - administer medical gases, humidification and aerosols, aerosol medications, postural drainage, bronchopulmonary hygiene, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, disease-management education and homecare
 - providing support services to non-invasive and mechanically ventilated patients
 - maintaining artificial and natural airways
 - performing pulmonary function testing, hemodynamic monitoring and other physiologic monitoring
 - collecting specimens of blood and other materials
- Documents necessary information in the patient's electronic medical record and on other forms, and communicates that information to members of the health care team
- Obtains, assembles, calibrates, and checks necessary equipment
- Uses problem solving to identify and correct malfunctions of respiratory care equipment
- Demonstrates appropriate interpersonal skills to work productively with patients, families, staff and co-workers
- Functions safely, effectively, and calmly under stressful situations
- Maintains composure while managing multiple tasks simultaneously
- Prioritizes multiple tasks
- Accepts directives, maintains confidentiality, does not discriminate, and upholds the ethical standards of the profession

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS: PHYSICAL AND MENTAL STANDARDS

The Respiratory Care Program requires agility and strength sufficient to move from room to room, lift and position patients, maneuver in small places, and perform clinical services. Students must possess gross and fine motor abilities as well as auditory, visual, and tactile acuity, which

are required to assess health status and perform effective patient care. To achieve the necessary requirements for issuance of an Associate in Applied Science degree in Respiratory Care, the graduate must meet technical skills with or without reasonable accommodations. Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations are encouraged to contact the Disability & Access Center at 618-222-5068 to ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. See the chart below for specific requirements by the Respiratory Care program.

Frequency: O = Occasionally (1-33%) F = Frequently (34-66%) C = Constantly (67-100%)

Physical Stamina Required (Description)	Frequency	Specify need for accommodation
<i>Lift</i> - up to 50 pounds to assist moving patients, supplies, equipment. <i>Lift</i> - up to 200 pounds when moving patients.	F O	
<i>Stoop</i> - adjust equipment.	F	
<i>Kneel</i> - manipulate equipment, perform CPR, plug in electrical equipment.	O	
<i>Reach</i> - overhead lights, equipment, cabinets, attach oxygen to outlets, stocking	C	
<i>Motor skills, manual dexterity</i> – small and large equipment for storing, moving; apply sterile gloves; take BP; operate computers; perform CPR; utilize syringes, tubes, catheters; set up and maintain sterile field.	C	
<i>Stand</i> for prolonged periods of time (to deliver therapy, check equipment and patient; perform surgical procedures).	C	
<i>Climb Stairs</i> to respond quickly to an emergency on another floor when elevators are unavailable or full.	O	
<i>Feel</i> - palpate pulses; perform physical exams; feel arteries or veins for puncture; assess skin temperature.	C	
<i>Push/Pull</i> large wheeled equipment, i.e. mechanical ventilators, wheelchairs, patients, x-ray, equipment, EKG machines, and office equipment.	C	
<i>Walk</i> for extended periods of time.	C	
<i>Walk quickly or run</i> to respond to emergency calls or assist in critically ill patient transports.	O	
<i>Manipulate</i> - knobs, dials associated with diagnostic or therapeutic devices; small instruments, syringes.	C	
<i>Hear</i> - verbal directions, alarms, telephone; hear through a stethoscope for heart sounds, lung sounds, and blood pressure.	C	
<i>See</i> - patient conditions such as skin color, work of breathing; read small print and calibration on equipment; perceive color.	C	
<i>Talk</i> - communicate goals and procedures to patients in English.	C	
<i>Read</i> - typed, handwritten, computer information in English.	C	
<i>Write</i> - communicate pertinent information (patient assessment, outcome assessments) in English.	C	

Mental Attitude (Description)		
Function safely, effectively and calmly under stressful situations.	C	
Maintain composure and concentration while managing multiple tasks simultaneously.	C	
Prioritize multiple tasks.	C	
Social and communication skills necessary to interact with patients, families, co-workers - of the same or different cultures; respectful, polite, discrete; able to work as a team.	C	
Maintain personal hygiene consistent with close contact during direct patient care.	C	
Display actions, attitudes consistent with ethical standards of the profession.	C	
Exposure to blood borne pathogens – Hepatitis, HIV.	F	