Helping Others Breathe Easier

An effortless task for most, breathing can be painful and even frightening for those with asthma, emphysema, chronic bronchitis or cystic fibrosis, or because of injury, cancer or premature birth.

Working under the direction of a physician, a respiratory therapist (also known as a respiratory care practitioner) is involved in diagnosing, monitoring, evaluating and treating patients who suffer from a wide variety of respiratory conditions, including cardiopulmonary (heart and lung) disease.

Respected members of the health care team, respiratory therapists work in hospitals, nursing homes, physician offices, home health care agencies, sub-acute care facilities and medical equipment supply companies. Their duties may include performing diagnostic tests in a laboratory, monitoring and evaluating life-support machines, drawing arterial blood-gas samples, delivering aerosol medication, performing chest physiotherapy and educating patients in preventive medicine.

The Program

Macomb’s Respiratory Therapy Program is a two-year program leading to an Associate of Applied Science Degree. Students spend their first year training on the newest technology and equipment in Macomb’s Center Campus lecture and laboratory facilities. The second year includes 900 hours of clinical training at area hospitals and with sub-acute care facilities, in addition to lectures and labs on campus.

Graduates of the program are eligible to take national certification and registry examinations, and to apply for a Respiratory Therapist License in Michigan.

Selective Admissions Criteria

You must apply and be accepted into Macomb’s Respiratory Therapy Program. To qualify for consideration, students must successfully complete two biology courses (BIOL 2710 and 2730 or 2400) and submit an application packet by February 15 for admission into the fall term.

For a Selective Admission packet, visit www.macomb.edu and search “Selective Admission,” or call the Enrollment Office at 586.445.7999.

Accreditation

The Associate of Applied Science Degree in Respiratory Therapy Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC), 1248 Harwood Road, Bedford, TX 76021-4244. CoARC’s phone number is 817.283.2835.
Employment Outlook

With an associate degree in respiratory therapy and the required certifications, you will be qualified for careers including respiratory therapist and certified respiratory therapist. Median salary for these careers is $54,390 in Michigan with 11 percent growth in openings expected through 2024.

Two years at Macomb equals a tremendous savings—about $18,000—compared to attending a Michigan four-year public university. Approximately 80 percent of Macomb students leave the College DEBT FREE.