

Essential Functions for Success as a Respiratory Therapist

All Respiratory Care Program students of Reading Area Community College are required to meet the following essential functions for success in the Program:

Physical Demands:

- Perform prolonged, extensive, or considerable standing/walking, lifting, positioning, pushing, and/or transferring patients or equipment
- Possess the ability to exert 20 to 50 pounds of force occasionally. (Occasionally: activity or condition exists up to 1/3 of the work time) and/or 10 to 25 pounds frequently (Frequently: activity or condition exists up to 2/3 of the work time)
- Possess the ability to lift and carry 20 pounds occasionally
- Perform repetitive movements such as stooping, bending, kneeling, twisting, and crouching
- Possess the ability to run up a flight of stairs for patient emergencies

Motor Skills:

- Possess the ability to perform fine motor movements with hands in order to grasp, pull, push, hold, squeeze with both hands, or manipulate objects
- Possess the ability to perform fine motor movements with fingers to write with a pen or pencil, to type on a keyboard, to twist or turn an object, such as a dial on a mechanical device, and to squeeze, push, or pull a small object with fingers, such as a syringe or eye dropper
- Possess the ability to perform gross motor skills, including movement within confined spaces, maintaining balance while sitting or standing, reaching above the shoulders, and reaching below the waist.
- Possess sufficient motor function to perform inspection, palpation, auscultation, and percussion of patients.
- Possess physical dexterity and strength to lift and transfer a patient and to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation

Sensory Demands:

- Color vision: ability to distinguish and identify colors (may be corrected with adaptive devices)
- Distance vision: ability to see clearly 20 feet or more (may be corrected with adaptive devices)
- Depth perception: ability to judge distance and space relationships
- Near vision: ability to see clearly 20 inches or less (may be corrected with adaptive devices)
- Hearing: able to recognize a full range of tones (may be corrected with adaptive devices) and a full range of person-to-person sound levels, including situations when face masks are in place
- Smell: ability to detect bodily odors, smoke, gases or noxious fumes

Working Environment:

- Anticipate and take the appropriate precautions for exposure to
 - Infectious and contagious disease, without prior notification
 - Blood borne diseases
 - Hazardous agents, body fluids and wastes
 - Odorous chemicals and specimens
 - Flammable or explosive gases
 - Latex and non-latex (neoprene) materials
 - Radiation exposure, such as might occur during X-rays
- Possess the ability to adapt and interact with patients or other staff members having different religion, culture, ethnicity, race, sexual orientation, and psychological and physical disabilities, and under a wide variety of circumstances
- Possess the ability to establish and/or honor personal boundaries, adapt to sudden changes in environmental stress, provide emotional support to another person within acceptable boundaries, and monitor own personal emotions
- React quickly to handle emergency or crisis situations
- Perform consistently well in situations where there are many interruptions and remain focused on the most critical tasks

Communication and Critical Thinking Skills:

- Proficiency in English is a criterion for admission into the Respiratory Care Program. Students must be able to speak, write, and read English to complete course work successfully and to ensure safety for themselves and others. Students are required to speak English in the clinical setting. Using the language of English and acceptable clinical standards, students must also be able to
 - Read and understand columns of writing, digital displays, and graphic printouts
 - Calibrate equipment using written instructions
 - Convert numbers to and from the Metric system
 - Tell time
 - Measure time
 - Count numbers or rates
 - Use and understand common measuring tools, such as a ruler or syringe
 - Read and understand measurement marks on devices
 - Add, subtract, multiply, and divide whole numbers
 - Compute fractions
 - Use a calculator

I attest that I have read and understand the content of this document. I understand the essential functions are subject to change in accordance with the Respiratory Program's clinical affiliation agreements and/or professional changes in practice.

Student Signature

Date