



ODESSA COLLEGE

Odessa College Respiratory Care

Information Session

Associate of Applied Science • Hands-on healthcare career pathway



Breathe strong. Serve locally. Grow professionally.

Today's Zoom Session

A quick roadmap so prospective students know what to expect.

- 1 What respiratory therapists do
- 2 Why the career matters in West Texas
- 3 How the OC Respiratory Care program is structured
- 4 Admissions requirements and ranking points
- 5 What happens after acceptance
- 6 Next steps, contacts, and Q&A



Keep questions ready for the end, or
place them in the Zoom chat
anytime.

What Is Respiratory Care?

A specialized healthcare field focused on cardiopulmonary care.

Respiratory therapists are trained in pulmonary medicine and provide therapeutic care for people with breathing and cardiopulmonary conditions.

Assess breathing, oxygenation, and ventilation

Deliver oxygen, aerosol medication, lung expansion, and airway clearance therapies

Support patients from newborns to adults in hospitals and specialty areas

Work as part of the healthcare team with physicians, nurses, and other professionals



Education entry point: Associate degree from an accredited respiratory care program

What Respiratory Therapists Do

RTs are hands-on, critical-thinking clinicians.

Emergency & Critical Care

Airway support, ventilators, rapid response, ICU teamwork

Neonatal & Pediatric Care

Support newborns, children, and families with specialized respiratory needs

Diagnostics & Monitoring

Oxygen levels, lung function, blood gases, and patient response

Patient Education

Teach breathing treatments, equipment use, and disease management

Zoom talking point: “If you like science, technology, teamwork, and direct patient care, respiratory care may be a good fit.”

Why Respiratory Care at Odessa College?

Local training for a high-need healthcare profession.



22
months
Program length

Up to 15
Seats available per
application cycle

AAS
Associate of Applied
Science in Respiratory
Care

Main campus program with classroom, lab, and direct patient care clinical practice
Designed to help meet the need for licensed respiratory care professionals in the Permian Basin and OC service area
Provisional accreditation received July 2025 by CoARC

Program Snapshot

How students learn across the program.



Classroom

Learn respiratory science, anatomy, disease processes, and clinical decision-making.



Skills Lab

Practice oxygen delivery, airway care, equipment setup, simulations, and patient scenarios.



Clinical

Apply skills with real patients under supervision at clinical sites.

Core respiratory coursework is completed over 6 semesters and includes 48 credit hours of respiratory care courses.

Admissions Pathway

Minimum items students should understand before applying.

- 1 Apply to OC**
Be admitted as a credit student and be TSI college-ready.
- 2 Complete prerequisites**
Finish required courses with a C or better; A&P must be current within 5 years.
- 3 Take HESI**
Scores are valid for 2 years; testing allowed up to 2 times per calendar year.
- 4 Shadow an RRT**
Complete one-time shadow experience and submit verification.
- 5 Submit packet**
Printed application, HESI scores, unofficial transcripts, and shadow document.

Application window listed in the guide: May 1 – June 30

Prerequisite Courses

Students should meet with a Success Coach early for transcript planning.

Course	Requirement
BIOL 2401	Anatomy & Physiology I
BIOL 2402	Anatomy & Physiology II
ENGL 1301	Composition I
HPRS 1106	Essentials of Medical Terminology
HUMA 2319 or 2323	American Minority Studies or World Cultures
PSYC 1300	Learning Systems Framework

Important reminders

Minimum GPA: 2.5 for application consideration
All prerequisites must be completed with a C or better
A&P I and II must be within 5 years of application time

HESI & Ranking Points

HESI scores contribute to competitive admission ranking.

Required HESI sections

Math
Reading
Grammar
Anatomy & Physiology
Critical Thinking

Minimum score note

For Math, Reading, Grammar, and A&P, scores below 75 are ineligible for admission based on the admissions guide.
Critical Thinking scores below 750 receive 0 points.

Score	Points
95–100	10
90–94	8
86–89	6
82–85	4
75–81	2
<75	Ineligible

Critical Thinking	Points
951–1000	10
900–950	8
851–899	4
800–850	2
750–800	1
<750	0

How Applicants Are Ranked

Admission is competitive and based on total points.

Point areas shown in the guide

Prerequisite GPA points

HESI section points

Structured interview score

Tie-breakers: science GPA, then overall graduation GPA

Interview focus areas

Communication

Motivation

Understanding of the profession

Professionalism

Teamwork

Empathy

Readiness

Zoom emphasis: submit a complete application packet before the deadline. Incomplete applications are not accepted.

After Acceptance

Students complete clinical clearance before direct patient care.

Orientation

One-day in-person orientation is mandatory after accepting a seat.

Uniforms & supplies

Students receive details for clinical uniforms, equipment, and lab supplies.

Clinical clearance

Vaccines or titers, TB screening, BLS, drug screen, background check, physician clearance, HIPAA/orientations, health insurance.

Program expectations

Night and weekend clinical rotations may be required.

Reminder: clearance requirements are completed after seat acceptance, but students can start locating records early.

Student Support & Contacts

Students should reach out early and ask questions.



Program Director

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Lead Success Coach

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Success Coach tip: bring unofficial transcripts and questions about prerequisites, substitutions, or transfer credits.

Best Next Steps After This Session

Turn interest into an action plan.

This week

Apply to Odessa College
or confirm your OC
student status.

Next 2–4 weeks

Meet with a Success
Coach to map
prerequisites and
transcript needs.

Before applying

Schedule HESI, complete
required scores, and
arrange the RRT shadow
experience.

Application window

Prepare printed packet
for May 1 – June 30
submission window.

Final reminder: admissions information is subject to change, so students should use the current guide, catalog, checklist, and handbook.



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Questions?

Drop questions in the chat or unmute when called on.