



ODESSA
COLLEGE

AAS Respiratory Care Program Admissions Guide

Program Contact Information:

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Applicants for competitive entry programs in respiratory must satisfy minimum criteria in order to be eligible for consideration of ranking. All prerequisite courses should be completed to be competitive for ranking, though exceptions have been made in certain situations and with prior approval by the Director of Respiratory.

AAS Respiratory Care applicants are required to meet the following minimum requirements:

Admission to Odessa College:

- Must have a High School Diploma or GED.
- Enrolled at Odessa College as a Credit Student. Complete the Applytexas.org application if you are not currently an OC student.
 - o Must be TSI College ready. (For more info please contact Odessa College Admissions office.)

Required HESI Testing:

Call Testing Center at 432-335-6620 for details and scheduling

- Testing can be taken up to 2 times in a calendar year (January 1—December 31). There must be at least 31 calendar days between reattempts. Students may retake on the sections they wish to retake.
- Applicants can schedule a tutoring appointment by visiting www.odessa.edu/lrc, selecting “Schedule Tutoring Appointment” and choosing “HESI” to meet with a tutor. HESI workbooks are available for student use in the LRC as well.
- Scores are valid for 2 years; highest scores will be taken. Applications will not be accepted if minimum scores are not achieved.

	Math	Reading	Grammar	Anatomy & Physiology
Score	Points Awarded			
95-100	10	10	10	10
90-94	8	8	8	8
86-89	6	6	6	6
82-85	4	4	4	4
75-81	2	2	2	2
<75	Ineligible for admission			

Critical thinking points are awarded as follows:

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

GPA Requirement:

- **Minimum GPA of 2.5 or higher for your application to be considered.**
- All official transcripts for previous education must be on file with the Odessa College Records Office. After acceptance to Odessa College, unofficial transcripts are acceptable to the respiratory department.
 - o Foreign Students: Transliteration of all foreign coursework is required.
 - o Transfer Students: Make sure to complete the "Evaluate my Transcript" form with the Records Office prior to submitting your respiratory application.

Pre-requisite Courses:

BIOL 2401	Anatomy and Physiology I
BIOL 2402	Anatomy and 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
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**Applicants are encouraged to speak with a Success Coach regarding substitutions for ENGL 1301 and HUMA courses*

- BIOL 2401 & 2402 must be completed within the last 5 years from application time. If a student has taken BIOL 2401 & 2402 more than once, the average of the last 3 attempts within the 5-year window will be taken into consideration for eligibility.
- All pre-requisite courses must be successfully completed with a “C” or better.
- Course substitutions for prerequisite courses must be approved by the Director of Respiratory and are encouraged to speak with a Success Coach for a transcript review.

Mandatory Shadow Experience

- All applicants are required to complete a one-time shadow experience with a Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) at a local hospital prior to applying. Applicants may arrange this experience by contacting the Respiratory Care Department Director or Educator at Medical Center Hospital or Midland Memorial Hospital.
- Verification of the shadow experience—such as a brief written statement or confirmation email from the facility—must be submitted to rsptcare@odessa.edu or included in the application file before the application deadline.

Additional Information

- It is *highly recommended* that applicants submit any healthcare items for clinical clearance that may have completed with the initial application. See Clinical Clearance Requirements in the Program Acceptance Summary section below.
- Night and weekend clinical rotations may be required in the program. This information will be communicated to students in a timely manner throughout the program.

Deadlines for Application Process & Program Information:

AAS Respiratory Program	
Application Timeframe	May 1—June 16
Campus	Odessa- Main Campus
Seats Available*	Up to 15
Program Length	22 months

**Number of students admitted may vary by term based on program instructional and clinical resources.*

Application Submission

Applications will be accepted in person at Odessa College, Wood Health Science Building 3rd floor. If application accommodations are needed, email rsptcare@odessa.edu for further instructions.

**Applicants must provide copies of all documents required. Please refer to the application checklist.*

*APPLICATION DOCUMENTS WILL NOT BE REVIEWED UNTIL AFTER THE APPLICATION DEADLINE. Make sure your application is complete prior to submission. **Incomplete applications will not be accepted.**

Application Checklist

1. Completed printed application form
2. Printed HESI exam results
3. Printed unofficial transcripts
4. Completed shadow experience document

Program Acceptance Summary

Students are responsible for the following requirements AFTER accepting a seat in the program:

PROGRAM ORIENTATION: a one-day in person orientation is mandatory. Failure to attend results in the forfeit of the applicant's seat in the program.

Uniforms, Specialized Equipment, and Lab Supplies required for clinical. Students will receive information after acceptance.

CLINICAL CLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS:

- Tetanus-diphtheria- 1 dose of tetanus-diphtheria toxoid (TD) is required within the last 10 years. The booster dose may be in the form of a tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis containing vaccine (Tdap).
- Measles, Mumps, and Rubella Vaccines-
 - o Students born on or after January 1, 1957 must show, prior to patient contact, acceptable evidence of vaccination of two doses of a measles-containing vaccine administered since January 1, 1968 (MMR Vaccine).
 - o Students born on or after January 1, 1957 must show, prior to patient contact, acceptable evidence of vaccinations of one dose of a mumps vaccine.
 - o Students must show, prior to patient contact, acceptable evidence of one dose of rubella vaccine. o Serological confirmation is acceptable.
- Hepatitis B Vaccine- students are required to receive a complete series of hepatitis B vaccine prior to the start of direct patient care or show serologic confirmation of immunity to hepatitis B virus.
- Varicella Vaccine- students are required to have received one dose of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine on or after the student's first birthday or, if the first dose was administered on or after the student's 13th birthday, two doses of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine are required. Serological confirmation is acceptable.
- Flu Vaccine- current during every flu season (October-March).
- Negative Initial and Annual Tuberculosis Screening.
- Maintenance of current CPR - Basic Life Support Certification (American Heart Association, ONLY) after acceptance into the program
- Clearance by acceptable Drug Screening at program admission, or upon return from break in enrollment, and additionally throughout the program. These are scheduled by the program.
- Clearance by physician to fulfill clinical duties.
- Completion of all HIPAA, and online or in person hospital orientations.
- Authorize a criminal background check. This procedure is required for students to go the clinical facilities. Information regarding this process will be given upon acceptance. Certain offenses on the student's background check, if applicable, may prevent acceptance to the program.
- Proof of personal Health Insurance coverage by the first day of the program.

- Physician clinical clearance form by first day of the program.

Application Point Ranking System

As part of the admission criteria, the point values for all respiratory applicants will be totaled. A rank ordered list of respiratory applicants by point total will be developed. The applicants with the highest number of points will be admitted into the respiratory program each fall semester until all available spots are filled.

Ties: In the event of a tie, the applicant will be chosen based on the student with the highest overall science GPA related to Anatomy and Physiology I & II, in the event of tie in this area the final tie break will be highest overall Graduation GPA.

Points are calculated based upon the following criteria:

Grade Point Average (GPA):

For point ranking purposes, the GPA will be based on the average of the grades achieved on the five required prerequisite courses completed within the nursing program plan of study. The applicant's GPA will be determined in the following manner:

GPA	Points Awarded
3.7 - 4.0	20
3.5 - 3.69	19
3.3 - 3.49	18
3.1 - 3.29	17
2.9 - 3.09	16
2.7 - 2.89	8
2.5 - 2.69	4
<2.5	0

HESI:

These scores are calculated based on your HESI Math, Reading, Grammar, Anatomy & Physiology, and Critical Thinking scores. The categories will be scored as follows:

	Math	Reading	Grammar	Anatomy & Physiology
Score	Points Awarded			
95-100	10	10	10	10

90-94	8	8	8	8
86-89	6	6	6	6
82-85	4	4	4	4
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<750	0

Interview Requirement and Process:

As part of the admissions process, all qualified applicants to the Respiratory Care Program are required to participate in a structured interview. The interview is designed to evaluate the applicant's communication skills, motivation, understanding of the profession, professionalism, teamwork, empathy, and overall readiness for the program. Applicants are scored using a standardized rubric, with each category rated on a binary scale (0, 0.5 and 1). The interview panel may include program faculty and staff. The total score will contribute to the applicant's final ranking for admission consideration.

Important Information for Prospective Respiratory Care Students:

This document is for informational purpose only and is not to be construed as a binding offer or contract between the College and the student. This document was revised December 2025 and is subject to change without prior notice. This document is intended to be used with the College Catalog, Application Checklist and AAS RT Student Handbook which provide complete information on courses as well as College regulations and procedures.

The Odessa College Associate Degree Respiratory Care program received provisional accreditation July 2025 by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care. Odessa College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity.