

AAS RESPIRATORY CARE PROGRAM ADMISSIONS GUIDE

Odessa College

Program Contact Information

Role	Name	Email	Phone
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Competitive Entry Notice: Applicants must satisfy minimum criteria to be eligible for ranking. All prerequisite courses should be completed to be competitive for ranking; exceptions may be made in certain situations with prior approval by the Director of Respiratory.

Minimum Admission Requirements

Admission to Odessa College

- Must have a High School Diploma or GED.
- Must be enrolled at Odessa College as a credit student. Complete the ApplyTexas application if you are not currently an OC student.
- Must be TSI College Ready. Contact Odessa College Admissions for additional information.

Required HESI Testing

- Call the Testing Center at 432-335-6620 for details and scheduling.
- The HESI may be taken up to 2 times in a calendar year (January 1-December 31).
- There must be at least 30 calendar days between HESI attempts. Students may retest only the sections they wish to improve.
- Applicants may schedule HESI tutoring through the Learning Resources Center (LRC). HESI workbooks are also available for student use.
- HESI scores are valid for 2 years. The highest scores will be used. Applications will not be accepted if minimum scores are not achieved.

HESI Admission Scoring

Score	Math	Reading	Grammar	A&P
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	Ineligible	Ineligible	Ineligible

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 the 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 Care Department.
- Foreign students: transliteration of all foreign coursework is required.
- Transfer students: complete the "Evaluate my Transcript" process with the Records Office prior to submitting the Respiratory Care application.

Prerequisite Courses

Course	Title
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 Framework

- Applicants are encouraged to speak with a Success Coach regarding approved substitutions for ENGL 1301 and HUMA courses.
- BIOL 2401 and BIOL 2402 must have been completed within the last 5 years at the time of application.
- If BIOL 2401 or BIOL 2402 has been taken more than once, the average of the last 3 attempts within the 5-year window will be considered for eligibility.
- All prerequisite courses must be completed with a grade of C or better.
- Course substitutions must be approved by the Director of Respiratory. A transcript review with a Success Coach is encouraged.

Mandatory Shadow Experience

- All applicants must complete a one-time shadow experience with a Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) at a local hospital prior to applying.
- Applicants may arrange the 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 tgomez@odessa.edu or included in the application file before the deadline.

Application Dates & Program Information

Item	Details
Application Window	May 1 - June 30
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 are accepted in person at Odessa College, Wood Health Science Building, 3rd floor.
- If application accommodations are needed, email tgomez@odessa.edu for further instructions.
- Applicants must provide copies of all required documents. Refer to the application checklist.

IMPORTANT: 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

- Completed printed application form
- Printed HESI exam results
- Printed unofficial transcripts
- Completed shadow experience document

Program Acceptance Summary

After accepting a seat in the program, students are responsible for completing the following requirements.

- Mandatory one-day, in-person program orientation. Failure to attend results in forfeiture of the applicant's seat.
- Required uniforms, specialized equipment, and lab supplies. Details are provided after acceptance.

Clinical Clearance Requirements

- Td/Tdap: 1 dose of tetanus-diphtheria toxoid (Td) within the last 10 years; the booster may be Tdap.
- MMR: required vaccination evidence prior to patient contact; serological confirmation is acceptable as applicable.
- Hepatitis B: complete vaccine series prior to direct patient care or serologic confirmation of immunity.
- Varicella: required vaccination evidence; serological confirmation is acceptable.
- Current flu vaccine during each flu season (October-March).
- Negative initial and annual tuberculosis screening.
- Current CPR - Basic Life Support certification through the American Heart Association only, after acceptance.
- Acceptable drug screening at program admission, upon return from a break in enrollment, and additionally throughout the program as scheduled.
- Physician clearance to fulfill clinical duties.
- Completion of HIPAA and required hospital orientations.
- Authorization of a criminal background check required for clinical placement.
- Proof of personal health insurance coverage by the first day of the program.
- Physician clinical clearance form by the first day of the program.

Application Point Ranking System

Admission criteria are totaled into a point score. Applicants are rank ordered by total points, and applicants with the highest point totals are admitted each fall semester until available seats are filled.

Tie-breaker: Highest overall science GPA for Anatomy & Physiology I and II; if still tied, the final tie-breaker is the highest overall graduation GPA.

GPA Points

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

Interview Requirement & Process

All qualified applicants are required to participate in a structured interview. The interview evaluates communication skills, motivation, understanding of the profession, professionalism, teamwork, empathy, and overall readiness for the program. Applicants are scored using a standardized rubric, and the interview score contributes to the final ranking for admission consideration.

Important Information for Prospective Students

This guide is for informational purposes only and is not a binding offer or contract between Odessa College and the student. Information is subject to change without prior notice. Use this guide with the College Catalog, Application Checklist, and AAS Respiratory Care Student Handbook for complete program and college requirements.

The Odessa College Associate Degree Respiratory Care Program received provisional accreditation in July 2025 by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care.