

Respiratory Care Associate Degree Education Program Statistics

ASSOCIATE DEGREE TYPES

ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE IN RESPIRATORY CARE (ASRC)

- Completion of the degree entails > 60 credit hours often past two years, including credits in a particular program specialization.
- Major credits in the field of study
- General education credit requirements of a four-year bachelor's degree
- Focuses on coursework in the direct sciences.

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE IN RESPIRATORY CARE (AASRC)

ASSOCIATE OF OCCUPATIONAL STUDIES IN RESPIRATORY CARE (AOSRC)

- Completion of the degree entails 60 credit hours which can be accomplished in two years, including credits in a particular program specialization.
- Major credits in the field of study
- Minimal general education requirements
- Focuses on coursework in the direct sciences.
- Less credits applicable for transfer



DEGREE REQUIREMENTS A.S. VS A.A.S./A.O.S.

Requirements	A.S.	A.A.S. A.O.S.
Prerequisites: Medical Term, Anatomy, Physiology, Chemistry, Microbiology, Algebra, Physics	24-29	< 24
Core Major Coursework (aligned with CoARC standards)	40-55 ~ 48	40-55 ~48
Clinical Experience	Varies	Varies
General Education	~ > 18	< 18
TOTAL:	82 - 106	60 - 75



COARC ACCREDITED PROGRAMS (2025)

Type	CA	FL	TX
Associate of Science (A.S.)	31	24	2
Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.)	0	1	27
Associate of Occupational Studies (A.O.S.)	5	0	0
Bachelor of Science (B.S.) (Entry into Practice)	1	3	4
Bachelor of Science Degree Advancement (B.S.) (Entry after completing Associate Degree)	2 (8)	0	0
Masters of Science (M.S.)	0 (1)	1	2
Advanced Practice Respiratory Therapist (A.P.R.T) 1 CoARC Accredited Program Nationwide			



California Respiratory Care Program Education Requirements Survey February 2025

	AS	AAS or AOS
California Programs invited to participate (Public & Private)	31	5
Programs responded **	15	4

** Email was sent to all Program Directors identified per CoARC website. Survey open between Feb 5-12, 2025. Initial and two follow up reminder emails provided to improve response rate.

Question	AS	AAS or AOS
1. PREREQUISITE preparation courses that are required prior to entry into your Respiratory Care Program.	Anatomy Physiology Chemistry Microbiology Medical Terminology (40%)	Included with major coursework while completing program
2. Total unit value for PREREQUISITE requirements (semester units)	14 - 21 - 30	0
3. Total unit requirement for the RESPIRATORY CARE MAJOR courses (semester units)	39 - 52 - 69	48 - 56.5 - 67
4. Total unit requirement for the GENERAL EDUCATION courses (semester units)	12 - 20 - 25	9 - 15 - 19
5. Total Units (semester units)	65 - 93 - 124	60 - 71.5 - 86
6. LABORATORY PRACTICE (hours)	96 - 285 - 450	120 - 170 - 260
7. ON SITE CLINICAL EXPERIENCE (hours)	87 - 770 - 1044	0 - 670 - 720
8. How long to complete program once admitted (months)	20 - 22 - 28	20 - 20.5 - 22
9. Has your academic institution discussed a reduction in Major coursework units?	Yes (6), No (9)	Yes (0), No (4)

If “yes” to Q #9, what is the impact in course modifications AND meeting graduate competency and CoARC outcomes (comments):

- Removing 4 GE units focused on allied health programs as well as chemistry pre-requisite (4 units). Total 8 semester unit reduction.
- Ensuring meeting NBRC matrix information is being taught and CoARC requirements being met.
- Decreased Respiratory Care Major units from 91-69 due to college accreditation requirements for our BSRC program. Classes were reduced on average about 20 minutes per class which has not significantly impacted our program.
- We've discussed adding more lab hours so that we can still meet outcomes.....We would not reduce clinical hours but we would reduce lecture hours, increase lab hours, and also adding prerequisite or co-requisite courses in the program so students can be considered full time.
- It would be great if the RCB could provide standards for programs in terms of minimal clinical hours and major coursework. BVNPT does this. CoARC continues to get more vague in terms of requirements so it's impossible for them to determine what California RCPs need.