



TWO DEGREES, ONE PATH

TRANSFER PATHWAY GUIDE 2025-2026

Associate in Science To
Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Care Program

Overview

Completion of the following curriculum will satisfy the requirements for the Associate in Science (AS) degree at Gateway Community and Technical College (GCTC) and the pre-requisite requirements for selective admission into the Respiratory Care Bachelor of Science (BS) program at Northern Kentucky University (NKU), pending admittance.

The Respiratory Care pathway is a 2 + 3 pathway where students can earn an Associate in Science at Gateway Community and Technical College and then transfer to NKU. Alternatively, students can choose to transfer to NKU upon completion of listed courses before meeting Gateway degree requirements and then use the reverse transfer process to use credits taken at NKU to fulfill the remaining associate degree requirements. A minimum of three years will be required to complete the Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Care degree after transferring to NKU.

About the Program: Respiratory Care is the allied health profession devoted to the diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation of patients with diseases of the respiratory system. Respiratory therapists must have a thorough understanding of normal pulmonary anatomy and physiology and of the pathology and treatment of various breathing-related disorders. They work in adult and pediatric hospitals, in some nursing homes, and for a growing number of home-care companies. With the authorization of a healthcare provider, they give aerosolized medications and various special breathing treatments to patients with acute or chronic pulmonary disease. Respiratory therapists are life-support specialists, setting up artificial ventilators for patients of all ages who cannot breathe for themselves. When a cardiac arrest occurs in the hospital, respiratory therapists provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation and manual ventilation. With sophisticated equipment, they measure the effectiveness of breathing and levels of oxygen and carbon dioxide in the blood. Following recognized protocols or authorized orders, they institute therapies to reduce the work of breathing and to improve ventilation and oxygenation.

The professional program is six semesters long. Besides didactic, lab, and clinical training in basic respiratory care, the first professional year includes courses in microbiology and anatomy/physiology.

The second professional year focuses on more advanced or specialized modalities of respiratory care. The third professional year includes courses necessary to develop an informed, broadly educated healthcare professional. To provide experience with patients, the program has clinical affiliations with hospitals in the northern Kentucky and Greater Cincinnati area. Successful completion of the program leads to the Bachelor of Science and to eligibility for the Therapist Multiple Choice (TMC) credentialing examinations given by the National Board for Respiratory Care. After passing the TMC exam, the graduate is eligible for a Kentucky Mandatory Certificate, an Ohio Respiratory Care Professional License, or licensure in another state.

Applying to the Gateway2NKU Program

Students can apply to participate in the pathway program by completing the online application on the NKU transfer webpage. Students must be enrolled in at least six credit hours at Gateway, enrolled in an associate degree program, plan to transfer to NKU, and maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA at Gateway.

Degree Requirements for GCTC

1. Completion of minimum 60 credit hours
2. Minimum cumulative GPA 2.0
3. Minimum of 15 credit hours earned at the institution awarding the degree,
4. Demonstration of digital literacy
5. College success requirement

Admission Requirements for NKU

Students completing an associate degree with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher will be accepted into NKU.

Special admission requirements: The respiratory care program admits students each fall through a selective admission process. Once applicants have regular admission to NKU, they will be considered for the professional RSP courses if these criteria are met:

1. Completion of a program application form.
2. GPA of 2.30 or higher on previous college coursework, on a 4.0 scale.
3. Completion of the following courses with a grade of C or better:
 - a. [BIO 208/BIO 208L\(BIO 137\)](#)
 - b. Mathematics general education course (STA 205 or STA 205R required for program completion). (STA 220 or MAT 151/STA 251)
 - c. General education course in the "written I" part of the communication category (ENG 101)
 - d. [CHE 115/CHE 115L](#) (CHE 130/135)
4. Successful completion of a criminal background check prior to final acceptance into the program.
5. Applicants whose native language is other than English must demonstrate an established level of English proficiency by taking the Internet-based TOEFL. Please see **English Proficiency** below for more information.

Applications completed prior to **February 15** are given priority. Conditional acceptance into the program can be given to students enrolled in any prerequisite course by the priority application date of **February 15**. Successful completion of these courses must be documented at the end of the term for final program admission. Students will be notified of their admission status in writing. Students who want to major in Respiratory Care but do not yet meet the above criteria should declare pre-respiratory care as their major, apply for acceptance into the program, and follow the advice of their Respiratory Care faculty advisor. Many students take prerequisites, general education, and science requirements before starting the professional RSP course sequence. Students must also fulfill the immunization requirements listed on the Respiratory Care program immunization form and described in the Respiratory Care program student handbook before they are given hospital clinical assignments, a required part of the curriculum.

English Proficiency: A certain level of English proficiency is necessary for academic success in respiratory care courses as well as for patient and client safety. For this reason, applicants whose native language is other than English must demonstrate an established level of English proficiency by taking the Internet-based TOEFL as part of the application process and must have a minimum cumulative score of 90 with minimum individual scores of 26 in speaking, 22 in listening, 20 in writing, and 22 in reading. Only official scores will be accepted and the testing must be within two years of application to the program. Only the Internet-based TOEFL (iBT) will be accepted. Students must register for the iBT using the school code for Northern Kentucky University which is #1574. Students must take the test early enough to ensure that the results are reported to the university by required application deadlines. "Official language" is defined as an individual's first acquired language and the language of educational instruction. For a complete list of NKU approved countries with English as the "official language," please contact the International Student & Scholar Services at 859-572-6517 or <https://inside.nku.edu/internationalstudents.html>. The Test of English as a Foreign Language is offered by the Educational Testing Service and may be taken at various test centers throughout the world.

The TOEFL requirement may be appealed under extenuating circumstances. The appeal should be made in writing to the Respiratory Care program director, who may request that the applicant have an interview with the director or designee.

Student criminal background check: Healthcare agencies are charged with providing care and protecting the safety of vulnerable populations including children and the aged. Agencies used for clinical placement require students to undergo criminal background checks and may deny clinical access to those convicted of felonies and certain misdemeanors. Conviction of these offenses may result in a student's denial of admission to, or dismissal from, the College of Health of Health & Human Services. Applicants are required to submit to criminal background checks as identified by the College of Health & Human Services as part of the application process. The cost of this and any subsequent screening will be borne by the student. The student is responsible for notifying the College of Health & Human Services of any change in the status of this record after starting the program. Note that successful completion of a criminal background check does not ensure eligibility for certification, licensure, or future employment. **All students must be physically free of illegal drugs and alcohol. Drug testing may be required by specific clinical sites at the student's expense. Failure of a drug test may result in program dismissal.**

Technical standards: Candidates eligible for the Respiratory Care program must be able to meet the following technical standards. These standards specify skills necessary for successful completion of the program and subsequent employment as a respiratory care practitioner. *

Issue	Standard	Some Examples of Necessary Activities (not all inclusive)
Critical Thinking	Critical thinking ability sufficient for clinical judgment.	Identify cause-effect relationships in clinical situations, develop respiratory care plans.
Communication	Communication abilities sufficient for interaction with others in oral and written forms.	Explain treatment procedures, initiate health teaching, document and interpret therapeutic procedures and patient/client responses.
Interpersonal Skills	Interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds.	Establish rapport with patients and colleagues from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds.
Mobility	Physical abilities sufficient to move from room to room and maneuver in small spaces.	Move around in patients' rooms, work spaces, and treatment areas; administer cardiopulmonary procedures.
Motor Skills	Gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective respiratory care.	Calibrate and use equipment; position patients/clients.
Hearing	Auditory ability sufficient to monitor and assess health needs.	Hear monitor alarms, emergency signals, and auscultatory sounds.
Visual	Visual ability sufficient for observation and assessment necessary in respiratory care.	Observe patient/client responses; able to differentiate color.
Tactile	Tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment.	Perform palpation, functions of physical examination and those related to therapeutic intervention (for example, insertion of a catheter).

**Students with disabilities should declare the disability and provide verification to the Office of Student Accessibility so reasonable accommodations can be made.*

Progression: A student must achieve a grade of at least C in each Respiratory care course, as well as in each science course and required courses for the major, in order to continue in the program. Accurate knowledge of chemistry and human anatomy and physiology is essential for the effective application of respiratory therapy. For this reason, the required science courses must be taken before or during the semester in which they are listed in the program curriculum. Failure to meet this requirement will result in failure to progress in the program. Science courses older than seven years or with grades lower than C will not be recognized as fulfilling program requirements

Assessment of Major: In the sixth term, as part of " RSP 480 Respiratory Care Seminar (3 credits)" students as a group must take the TMC self-assessment examinations from the National Board for

Respiratory Care. The examinations (1) give students the opportunity to demonstrate a synthesis of knowledge about respiratory care, (2) help students prepare for the actual TMC examination, and (3) provide group examination performance information for program self-evaluation as required for accreditation.

You should also know: The Respiratory Care program is a full-time, daytime, face-to-face program. The schedule is challenging with classes and clinical activities each day plus out-of-class/clinical assignments. The time frame is demanding, and any work outside of the program needs to be both flexible and limited in hours per week in order for the student to be successful in the Respiratory Care program.

◆ Indicates prerequisite.

Degree Requirements for NKU

To earn a bachelor's degree at NKU, students must

1. Complete a minimum of 120 credit hours
2. Complete at least 25% of the credit hours required at NKU
3. Complete the last 30 credit hours at NKU
4. Complete at least 45 credit hours numbered 300 or above
5. Minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA across all major coursework
6. Meet all requirements for the major
7. Completion of a minor, focus, or second major (if required by major)

General Transfer Information

Students must complete the online application to NKU. There is no application fee for students who are transferring from GCTC.

KCTCS Scholars Award: Students who are KY residents transferring directly from a KCTCS institution with at least 36 hours from that institution and minimum GPA of 3.0, were never enrolled as a degree-seeking student at NKU, and will be enrolled in at least 12 credit hours both fall and spring semester are eligible for a limited number of annual scholarships (fall and spring only). Students must gain admission to NKU by June 15 for fall and November 1 for spring to be eligible for a possible scholarship. Online accelerated programs are not eligible for the KCTCS Scholars Award.

Tuition and scholarship information specific to transfer students can be viewed on the [NKU Adult & Transfer Center website](#).

GCTC AS TO NKU BS IN RESPIRATORY CARE CHECKLIST
Gateway Community and Technical College

Category 1: GCTC General Education Core Requirements

GCTC Course	Course or Category	Credits	NKU Course	Completed
ENG 101	Writing I (WC)	3	ENG 101	
ENG 102	Writing II (WC)	3	ENG 102	
TBS XXX	Oral Communication (OC)	3	TBD XXX	
TBS XXX	Arts & Humanities (AH) – Heritage	3	TBD XXX	
TBS XXX	Arts & Humanities (AH) – Humanities	3	TBD XXX	
PSY 110	General Psychology	3	PSY 100	
TBS XXX	Social & Behavioral Science (SB) (not PSY)	3	TBD XXX	
BIO 137	Human Anatomy and Physiology I (SL)	4	BIO 208/208L	
BIO 139	Human Anatomy and Physiology II (SL)	4	BIO 209/209L	
MAT 150	College Algebra (QR)	3	(MAT 102 or MAT 103) + MAT 100T	
STA 220	Statistics (QR)	3	STA 205	
Subtotal General Education Core Courses		35		

TBS XXX means to be selected by GCTC student.

TBD XXX means to be determined by NKU based on course selected.

For Social and Behavioral Sciences courses, two disciplines must be represented and different from those in the Arts and Humanities category.

*A grade of A or B in MAT 150 equates to MAT 103 + MAT 100T at NKU. A grade of C or D in MAT 150 equates to MAT 102 + MAT 100T. MAT 150 is a prerequisite for CHE 130.

Category 2: GCTC AS Requirements

GCTC Course	Course or Category	Credits	NKU Course	Completed
CHE 130 and CHE 135	Introductory General and Biological Chemistry with Lab	4	CHE 115/115L	
BIO 225	Medical Microbiology	4	BIO 202/202L	
Subtotal AS Requirement Courses		8		

Category 3: GCTC Electives

GCTC Course	Course or Category	Credits	NKU Course	Completed
CIT 105 or OST 105*	Introduction to Computers or Introduction to Information Systems	3	INF 101	

GCTC Course	Course or Category	Credits	NKU Course	Completed
FYE 105 or FYE 110	Achieving Academic Success or First Year Experience and Applications	3	UNV 100T	
PSY 230	Psychosocial Aspects of Death and Dying	3	HSR 314	
Taken at NKU	Foundations of Health Informatics	3	HIN 355	
TBS XXX	Elective	3	TBD XXX	
TBS XXX	Elective	3	TBD XXX	
	Subtotal Elective Courses	18		
	Total Associate Degree Hours	61		

*If completing digital literacy using other means (like FYE 110), additional credits will be required in order to fulfill elective requirements.

If student completes all program pre-requisites and general education classes, instead of completing the final four elective courses before applying to the Respiratory program at NKU, they can choose to go ahead and transfer to NKU and then use the reverse transfer process to send back the final credits to meet Gateway degree requirements using classes taken at NKU.

Please refer to the first page of this pathway for important transfer information for the competitive admissions process for this program.

Northern Kentucky University

Category 4: NKU Major Requirements for the BS in Respiratory Care

NKU Course	Course	Credits	GCTC Course	Taken at GCTC
BIO 202/202L	Microbiology for Health Professionals with Lab	4	BIO 225	x
BIO 208/208L	Human Anatomy and Physiology I with Lab	4	BIO 137	x
BIO 209/209L	Human Anatomy and Physiology II with Lab	4	BIO 139	x
CHE 115/115L	Physiological Chemistry with Lab	4	CHE 130/135	x
ENG 101	Writing I	3	ENG 101	x
HHS 230	Communication and Patient Care	3		
HIN 355	Foundations of Health Informatics	3	Taken at NKU	x
HSC 410	Healthcare Management	3		
HSC 421	Healthcare Research	3		
Select 1: HSC 413 HSC 415 HSC 440 HSR 314	Select one course from the following: Aging in Today's Society Ethical and Legal Issues in Healthcare Issues in Chronic Disease Management Death, Dying, and Grief	3	PSY 230	x
STA 205	Applied Statistics	3	STA 220	x
RSP 201	Fundamentals of Respiratory Care	3		
RSP 201L	Respiratory Care Equipment and Procedures	1		

NKU Course	Course	Credits	GCTC Course	Taken at GCTC
RSP 205	Respiratory Care Pharmacology	3		
RSP 220	Introduction to Respiratory Critical Care	4		
RSP 235	Cardiopulmonary Anatomy and Physiology	3		
RSP 286	Clinical Practicum I	3		
RSP 296	Clinical Practicum II	3		
RSP 310	Mechanical Ventilation	3		
RSP 310L	Mechanical Ventilation Lab	1		
RSP 331	Cardiopulmonary Diagnostics	3		
RSP 350	Cardiopulmonary Pathophysiology	3		
RSP 362	Prenatal-Pediatric Respiratory Care	3		
RSP 386	Clinical Practicum III	3		
RSP 396	Clinical Practicum IV	3		
RSP 430	Advanced Pathophysiology	3		
RSP 441	Evidence-based Practice in Resp Care	3		
RSP 445	Health Assessment and Promotion	3		
RSP 460	Advanced Respiratory Critical Care	3		
RSP 480	Respiratory Care Seminar	3		
RSP 486	Clinical Practicum	3		
RSP 485	Respiratory Care Capstone	3		
	Subtotal Major Credit Hours at NKU	69		
	Subtotal Major Credit Hours at GCTC	61		
	Total Baccalaureate Degree Credit Hours	130		

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