**Respiratory Care Technology Program Core Performance Standards**

**(Technical Performance Standards)**

In order to graduate from the Respiratory Care program, students of this program must be able to perform certain technical requirements, and must be able to meet certain physical and mental requirements to ensure the safe performance of respiratory care procedures.

Due to the nature of typical clinical assignments, students must be able to meet the criteria listed below to meet standards related to critical thinking; interpersonal & communication; mobility; motor skills (fine & gross); hearing; visual; tactile; and professional disposition.

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| **Performance** | **Standard** | **Essential Activities/Tasks** |
| **Critical Thinking** | Critical thinking ability necessary for clinical judgment regarding decisions on patient care. | * Identify cause-effect relationships in clinical situations, and take corrective action when necessary * Utilize patient assessment techniques to develop or alter respiratory care plans * Possessing basic math and algebraic manipulation skills (without calculator) to accurately calculate physiologic equations used in Respiratory Care evaluation and management of the patient. |
| **Interpersonal Skills** | Interpersonal abilities needed to interact with individual, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds. | * Establish rapport with patients, clients, and health care colleagues * Communicate in a meaningful manner with patients and heath care colleagues |
| **Communication**  **Skills** | Communication abilities sufficient for professional interaction with others in verbal and written form, including via electronic devices. | * Explain treatment procedures, initiate health teaching, document and interpret respiratory care actions and patient/client responses * Demonstrate charting procedures and verbal staff communication concerning patients |
| **Mobility** | Physical abilities necessary to move from room to room, assist patients, maneuver in small spaces, utilize stairwell when necessary. | * Move around in patient’s room, work spaces, administer CPR, assist patient into wheelchair/bed and perform transport duties * Possess physical capabilities that would allow for maintenance of equipment such as cleaning and storage * Demonstrate proper procedure for turning and/or lifting patient in bed * Lift at least 15 lbs. of weight * Respond quickly in an emergency |
| **Motor Skills** | Gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective respiratory care | * Calibrate and use equipment necessary to perform respiratory care procedures * Demonstrate method for reading flow meters and pressure gauges and safe handling of medical gases and their storage systems * Maintain sterile technique when performing sterile procedures * Perform various procedures requiring the use of both hands |
| **Hearing** | Auditory ability sufficient to monitor and assess health needs | * Hear monitor alarms, emergency signals, and cries for help; auscultate sounds * Distinguish changes in tone and pitch, as in listening to patient’s breath sounds, heart sounds, and blood pressure with the use of a stethoscope |
| **Visual** | Visual ability sufficient for observation and assessment necessary in respiratory care | * Observe patient presentation and responses * Observe visual alarms when monitoring respiratory and other patient care monitoring equipment * Identification of patient, verification of oxygen flow, possess color vision to properly identify color on medical gas cylinders |
| **Tactile** | Tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment | * Perform palpation functions of physical examination and / or those related to therapeutic intervention * Demonstrate method for palpating arterial sites |
| **Professional Disposition:**  **Accountability and Responsibility** | Demonstrate accountability and responsibility in all aspects of the respiratory care profession | * Able to distinguish right from wrong; legal from illegal, and act accordingly * Accept responsibility for own actions * Able to comprehend ethical standards and agree to abide by them * Consider the needs of patients in deference to one’s own needs |