Associate in Science Degree in Respiratory Care

Admission Guide | Catalog Year: 2026-2027

Program Overview

The Associate in Science Degree in Respiratory Care at Valencia College is a limited-access, five-term program designed for students seeking to become Respiratory Therapists. Admission to Valencia College does not guarantee admission to the Respiratory Care Program. This guide outlines program eligibility, admission requirements, application steps, and key deadlines to support applicants through the admission process.

Admission Updates (Effective Fall 2026)

Admission Requirement Updates

- PSY 2012 (General Psychology) will no longer be considered for additional admission points in the Respiratory Care program selection process.

Application Deadlines

Program Start Term	Application Open	Application Close	Term Start Date
Spring 2027	September 1, 2026	September 30, 2026	January 11, 2027

Program Location & Delivery Format

Students admitted to the Respiratory Care program are assigned to the West Campus at the time of admission. Lecture and Lab simulation experiences are delivered at the West Campus. Clinical experiences take place at affiliated healthcare agencies throughout Central Florida.

Complete Before Submitting the Secondary Health Sciences Application

Item	Details
Attend an Allied Health Information Session	Virtual and in-person Allied Health Information Sessions are offered each term to review program requirements. Visit valenciacollege.edu/HealthInfoSessions for the current schedule, presentation slides, and pre-recorded sessions.
Review Program Requirements	Confirm that you meet all program requirements outlined in this guide, including completion of required prerequisite coursework, and minimum overall GPA requirements.
Confirm Eligibility – Program Participation Requirements	Before applying, applicants must meet the following eligibility requirements: • Applicants must be 18 or older by the start date of the program • Eligible applicants include U.S. Citizens, U.S. Permanent Residents, International Students and individuals with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), Temporary Protected Status (TPS), Refugee, or Asylee status. • Applicants who are not U.S. Citizens or Permanent Residents must have a valid Employment Authorization Document (EAD) for clinical placement purposes. Please note, graduates must have a Social Security Number (SSN) to be eligible to sit for credentialing examination through the National Board for Respiratory Care.
Apply to Valencia College	Submit a Valencia College admission application and complete ALL steps outlined in Steps to Enrollment. *Note: This is the General Admission application and not the secondary Health Sciences application.*
Meet with a Student Success Coach	After applying to Valencia College, students are strongly encouraged to meet with their assigned Student Success Coach early and regularly while completing prerequisite coursework. Ongoing advising support helps ensure all admission and eligibility requirements are met prior to submitting the secondary health sciences program application.
Submit Transcripts	Submit high school and college transcripts from all institutions attended. Transcripts must be posted to your Valencia College record before submitting the secondary health sciences program application deadline (recommend 3 months prior). Students using credit by exam (such as AP, CLEP, or IB) for prerequisite coursework must request official score reports from the appropriate testing agency. *Transfer students are not considered "first-time-in-college" and are not required to submit a high school transcript.*

Verify Transfer Courses Equivalency (if applicable)	Transfer courses may need to be reviewed for potential course substitution or equivalency. This must be completed before submitting the secondary health science application.
Complete Program Prerequisites	All required prerequisite courses must be completed with a grade of C or better prior to the application deadline. Refer to the Admission Requirements section for full details.
Core Performance Standards	Review the Core Performance Standards to ensure you are able to meet program requirements, with or without reasonable accommodations.

Respiratory Care Program Admission Requirements

To be eligible for admission consideration to the Associate in Science Degree in Respiratory Care program, applicants must meet all minimum requirements by the application deadline.

Admission Requirements	
Academic Standing	Must be in Good Academic Standing at Valencia College at the time of application.
Minimum Overall GPA	2.0

Required Prerequisite Coursework			
All required prerequisite courses listed below must be completed with a grade of C or better to be eligible for admission consideration+.			
Course	Title	CR	Points
BSC 2085C	Human Anatomy & Physiology I	4	A=10, B=8, C=6
PHY 1007C	Physics with Medical Applications	4	A=10, B=8, C=6
Core Math	See Area 3: Core Math	3	A=3, B=2, C=1
Additional Points – Required for Graduation The following courses are required for graduation with the degree. Completion of these courses with a minimum grade of C prior to the application deadline will result in more admission points to be a competitive applicant.			
BSC 2086C	Human Anatomy & Physiology II	4	A=10, B=8, C=6
MCB 2010C	Microbiology	4	A=10, B=8, C=6
ENC 1101	Freshman Composition I	3	A=3, B=2, C=1
Core Humanities	See Area 2: Core Humanities	3	A=3, B=2, C=1
POS 2041, AMH 2010^, AMH 2020	U.S. Government or U.S. History to/from 1877	3	A=3, B=2, C=1
Florida Civic Literacy Exam (FCLE)	Earn a passing score (60%) on the FCLE		1
Additional Points – Not Required for Graduation The following courses are not required for graduation. Completion of these courses with a minimum grade of C prior to the application deadline will result in additional admission points to be a competitive applicant.			
HSC 1531	Medical Terminology	3	A=3, B=2, C=1
HSC 1004 OR SLS 1122	Introduction to Health Professions OR New Student Experience	3	A=3, B=2, C=1
Alternate	Previous year applicants identified as Alternate		3
	Total Possible Points:		62
+ Credit by exam satisfies prerequisite course and credit requirements (such as CLEP, AP/IB, or S/P/Z grades); however, these credits do not carry grade points and are not included in the combined prerequisite GPA used in the competitive selection process.			
* Grade of C or higher in BSC 1010C or BSC 2085C is a required prerequisite for BSC 2086C & MCB 2010C.			
^ AMH 2010 must be completed Fall 2024 or later to satisfy admission & Civic Literacy requirements.			

How to Apply to a Health Science Program

Applying to the Respiratory Care Program is a two-step process. Applicants must complete both the Valencia College General Admission process (if not already active) and the secondary Health Science Program application by the published deadline (pg. 1).

Steps to Apply	Description
Confirm Valencia College Student Status	Before applying to a health science program, applicants must have an active Valencia College student status. • New students must first submit a General Valencia College Application
Submit the Secondary Health Science Application	Access the Secondary Health Science Application, then select the desired Health Science program during the published application window at: valenciacollege.edu/apply-health. • Applications must be submitted using your MyVC username and password • Applicants attempting to access the application outside the published window will encounter an error message.
Application Support	• If you receive an error message during the published application window, contact healthscienceapplications@valenciacollege.edu • Valencia College employees using a @valenciacollege.edu email address must contact the same inbox for assistance.
Submit Application Fee	• Pay the $15 non-refundable application fee • Applications are not complete—or reviewed—until payment is received

What Happens After You Apply

Application Review Process: Applications are reviewed approximately four to six weeks after the closing deadline. Applicants who meet all minimum admission requirements will be ranked and selected through a competitive review process. Admission decisions are communicated via the applicant's MyVC email.

Admission Decisions

Decision Type	Description
Selected	Offered admission into the Program. Applicants must confirm acceptance by the stated deadline to secure their seat.
Alternate	Offered placement on the alternate list. Applicants must confirm acceptance of their alternate status by the stated deadline to remain eligible to be offered a seat if one becomes available. Admission is not guaranteed.
Not Selected	Met minimum admission requirements but was not selected due to limited program capacity.
Ineligible	Did not meet one or more program eligibility or admission requirements by the application deadline.

Requirements If Selected for Admission

Mandatory Program Orientation: All students selected for admission must attend the Program Orientation, which is held prior to the start of the program.

2026-2027 Orientation Date

Term	Orientation Date	Start of Term
Spring 2027	November 3rd, 2026	Monday, January 11, 2027

Clinical Compliance Requirements

Compliance requirements and deadlines will be discussed during Orientation. Students who are accepted into a Health Sciences Program must submit the items listed below:

Item	Description
Level II Background Screening	Comprehensive criminal background check that includes fingerprint-based checks for statewide criminal history records
Drug Screening	10 Panel Drug Screening
Fingerprints	Required to meet clinical placement requirements
CPR Certification	American Heart Association (AHA) Basic Life Support (BLS)
Required Vaccinations	1. COVID-19^ 2. Hepatitis B+ 3. Influenza (Flu) *^ 4. MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)+ 5. Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis) 6. Tuberculosis (TB) screening* 7. Varicella (Chickenpox)+ * Required annually + May be met with titer (proof of immunity) ^ May be declined or met through an exemption process

Contact Information

Questions?	Contact
Application Questions	healthscienceapplications@valenciacollege.edu
Compliance Questions	hscompliance@valenciacollege.edu
Health Sciences Website	valenciacollege.edu/health
Allied Health Info Session	valenciacollege.edu/HealthInfoSessions
Valencia College Application	valenciacollege.edu/apply-credit/
Secondary Health Science Application	valenciacollege.edu/apply-health
Valencia Assessment Center	valenciacollege.edu/teas
ATI TEAS Website	atitesting.com/teas/transcript
ATI TEAS Matching Request Form	forms.valenciacollege.edu/assessment-ati-score-matching-request
Equal Opportunity Institution	valenciacollege.edu/about/equal-opportunity-title-ix/

Non-Tuition Program Expenses

Expense	Estimated Cost
CastleBranch Account	$200
Uniforms	$230
Lab Kits	$350
Trajecsys	$180
Instructional Material	$3,000
Immunizations	$500
Estimated Total (Non-Tuition): $4,460 Disclaimer: Costs are estimates and subject to change. Tuition, fees, transportation, and personal expenses are not included.	

Respiratory Care Core Performance Standards
For Admission and Progression

Respiratory Care is a practice discipline with cognitive, sensory, affective, and psychomotor performance requirements. Based on these requirements, the following list of "Core Performance Standards" has been developed. Each standard has an example of an activity, or activities, that a student will be required to perform while enrolled in the Respiratory Care Program. These standards are a part of each Respiratory Care course and of the professional role.

For the Respiratory Care Program, a qualified individual with a disability is one who, with or without reasonable accommodations or modifications, meets the essential eligibility requirements for participation in the program. Valencia College: School of Allied Health makes no preadmission inquiries concerning an applicant's disability status. Information related to an applicant's disabilities is not a part of the information reviewed by the Admission Committee.

These Performance Standards should be used to assist students in identifying the academic and clinical expectations for all students. Students needing reasonable accommodations to fulfill required program outcomes or clinical expectations are encouraged to contact the Office for Students with Disabilities to engage in an interactive process regarding their request. It is the student's responsibility to notify and register with the Office for Students with Disabilities to identify and receive reasonable accommodations. Reasonable accommodations are effective only after engaging in this process and are not retroactive. Determination is made on an individual basis as to whether any accommodations or modifications can be reasonably made. Valencia is an Equal Opportunity Institution.

Core Performance Standards		
Criteria	**Standard**	**Examples Of Required Activities**
Critical Thinking	Ability to make sound clinical decisions under pressure.	Analyze assessment data, identify cause-effect relationships, respond to emergencies, and solve problems.
Interpersonal	Ability to work compassionately and effectively with diverse individuals.	Build rapport, manage stress, stay focused, and collaborate with patients and healthcare teams.
Communication	Clear verbal and written communication in English.	Explain care, document accurately, read medical records, and use electronic systems professionally.
Mobility	Ability to navigate and assist in clinical environments safely.	Move freely, reposition patients, and transport equipment without risk of injury.
Motor Skills	Fine and gross motor control to provide effective respiratory care.	Draw medications, operate equipment, and assist with positioning patients.
Hearing	Adequate hearing to ensure safe and responsive care.	Detect alarms, monitor patient sounds, and respond to verbal cues from a distance.
Visual	Visual acuity for safe patient observation and accurate documentation.	Assess patients, detect subtle physical changes, and read printed and electronic records.
Tactile	Tactile sensitivity for physical assessments and interventions.	Perform palpation, insert devices, and identify changes in skin condition or temperature.