



Admission Guide for the Associate in Science Degree in Respiratory Care

The application will be available **September 1-30, 2024**

**Admission requirements and application deadlines are subject to change.
Please [check](#) for any admission updates.**

Students are admitted to Valencia's Respiratory Care Program by a selective admission process. The Health Sciences Admission Committee selects 28 students once per year to begin the program in the Spring term.

ADMISSION CHECKLIST:

The admission requirements that MUST be satisfied PRIOR to application submission to the Respiratory Care Program are:

1. Read about Respiratory Care admission, [program requirements](#), and the [Valencia Catalog](#); read this program guide in its entirety to confirm you are capable of meeting the Core Performance Standards listed in this guide.
2. Be a U.S. Citizen, a U.S. permanent resident or an International Student.
International Students: In addition to a background check required for clinical compliance (after program acceptance), a second background check from your home country is required. If you have a concern about how this may impact your program acceptance, please contact the Health Sciences Compliance Office:
HSCompliance@valenciacollege.edu
 - (See [Page 5](#) of this Program Guide for [clinical compliance information](#))
 - **NOTE: All individuals who have DACA, Temporary Protection Status, Refugee, Asylee status, etc. must complete the [Employment Authorization Document \(EAD\)](#) prior to submitting application.**
(*Graduates need a social security number to sit for credentialing examination through the National Board for Respiratory Care.*)
3. Attend an [Allied Health Information Session](#) (**strongly recommended**).
4. Submit a completed [Valencia Application](#) for Admission, click on **Future Students, Admissions**, and pay the \$35 application fee; satisfy the requirements for [Degree-Seeking Status](#) and be in [Active Student Status](#). Admission to Valencia does **not** imply acceptance to a health sciences program.
5. Submit **all official transcripts** from all institutions (include High School transcripts or GED score report) must be submitted to Valencia and posted on your record prior to applying. Students using AP/IB/CLEP scores to satisfy one or more prerequisite courses must request official scores from collegeboard.org (AP/CLEP) or ibo.org (IB).
AP/IB/CLEP credits earned as 'Z' grades on record equate to 'A' grades for points.
***Note: If you are a transfer student and are not considered "first time in college" you are not required to submit a high school transcript.**
6. Must be at least 18 years of age by the program start date.
7. Satisfy the Valencia entry testing requirements and satisfactorily complete any [Mandatory Courses](#) in Reading, Professions of Caring or New Student Experience, Mathematics, English, and English for Academic Purposes in which you are placed (must be at college-level for Reading, Mathematics, English).

8. Complete the Prerequisites for Admission with a minimum grade of C:
The grade for each course must be posted to your Valencia transcript.
 - **BSC 2093C** Anatomy and Physiology I
 - [Core Math](#) (MAC 1105 College Algebra recommended)
 - **PHY 1007C** Physics with Medical Applications
9. Have a minimum **overall college GPA of 2.0** including all undergraduate transfer work for admission into the program. Must be in good academic standing. **NOTE:** Transfer students with completed coursework at Valencia College also need to have a minimum Institutional/Valencia GPA of 2.0 at the time of applying (in addition to the minimum overall college GPA of 2.0).
10. Prior to submitting your program application, you are encouraged to meet with your assigned advisor. You can locate your assigned advisor by logging into Atlas, Courses tab, Academic Profile. We strongly recommend that you meet early in your course planning to ensure all requirements, including program pre-requisite courses mentioned in this guide, are met.
11. After completing numbers 1 – 10 and prior to the application deadline, submit a completed [Respiratory Care Program Application](#), and pay the \$15 non-refundable Health Sciences program application fee.

RESPIRATORY CARE ADMISSION POINTS GUIDE

The Health Sciences Admission Committee uses the following point system to select qualified students to be admitted into the program. Student selection is based on the total number of points earned below. In the case of a tie, overall GPA will be considered.

Note: If a student was previously accepted into a Health Sciences Program at Valencia College and subsequently deemed ineligible for return to the program, the selection committee has the right to contact the applicant's previous program. This information will be included in the consideration for program admission.

PROGRAM COURSE REQUIREMENTS THAT AWARD POINTS TOWARD ADMISSION

All the prerequisite courses listed below must be completed by the application deadline.

You may not repeat a course for grade forgiveness for which you previously have earned a grade of A, B or C.

Courses	Credit Hours	Points
BSC 2093C Human Anatomy & Physiology I (BSC1010C is the prerequisite)	4.0	A=10 pts, B=8 pts, C=6 pts
PHY 1007C Physics with Medical Applications (MAC 1105 College Algebra is the prerequisite) *NOTE: Course can be in progress at time of application	4.0	A=10 pts, B=8 pts, C=6 pts
Core Math (MAC 1105 College Algebra is recommended)	3.0	A=3 pts, B=2 pts, C=1 pt
ADDITIONAL ADMISSION POINTS		
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 additional admission points to be a competitive applicant.		
BSC 2094C Human Anatomy & Physiology II (BSC1010C is a prerequisite)	4.0	A=10 pts, B=8 pts, C=6 pts
MCB 2010C Microbiology (BSC 1010C is the prerequisite)	4.0	A=10 pts, B=8 pts, C=6 pts
ENC 1101 Freshman Composition I	3.0	A=3 pts, B=2 pts, C=1 pt
Core Humanities	3.0	A=3 pts, B=2 pts, C=1 pt
PSY 2012 General Psychology	3.0	A=3 pts, B=2 pts, C=1 pt
POS 2041 U.S Government, AMH 2010 U.S. History to 1877, or AMH 2020 U.S History 1877 to present Points are not awarded for "D" grades	3.0	A=3 pts, B=2 pts, C=1 pt
Earn a passing score (60%) on the Florida Civic Literacy Exam (FCLE)	N/A	1 pt
ADDITIONAL ADMISSION POINTS (OPTIONAL)		
The following courses are not required for graduation with the degree. 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 1004 Professions of Caring or SLS 1122 New Student Experience	3.0	A=3 pts, B=2pts, C=1pt
HSC 1531 Medical Terminology	3.0	A=3 pts, B=2pts, C=1pt
Alternate: Previous-year applicant placed on Alternate List		3 pts

Total Possible Points: 65

***NOTE:** Transfer courses may need to be reviewed by an Advisor for potential course substitution or equivalency. **Courses taken at other institutions may not be equivalent to Valencia Allied Health Program course requirement, as listed in this guide.** Course substitution or equivalency must be on your Valencia record **before** submitting the program application. Course substitutions are only permitted when students have not previously earned a grade of A, B or C for the required course.

Transfer courses with 'S' or 'P' grades need to be reviewed for eligibility by the [Health Sciences team](#).

GUIDELINES for ALL HEALTH SCIENCE LIMITED ACCESS PROGRAMS (EXCEPT THE BACHELOR DEGREE PROGRAMS AND ADVANCED TECHNICAL CERTIFICATES)

Valencia College's Health Science programs are offered through the department of Health Sciences and the Department of Nursing, which provide information about specific admission criteria for the programs. The Health Sciences Program Guides, of which this is one, are developed for a specific academic year (August to July) and, as a rule, changes to admission and program requirements becoming effective at the start of an academic year. **Valencia College, however, reserves the right to make changes in admission and program requirements as circumstances require.** If a mid-year change becomes necessary, it will be indicated for the specific program on the [Program Updates](#) page.

Students interested in a health sciences career are encouraged to explore the many challenging and rewarding opportunities available in health professions. The health sciences programs may have clinical experiences that expose the student to blood borne pathogens via contact with bodily fluids including, but not limited to blood and saliva. Students accepted into these programs will be expected to adhere to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines for the use of Standard Precautions. The CDC defines standard precautions as "a set of precautions designed to prevent the transmission of HIV, Hepatitis B virus (HBV), [and] other blood borne pathogens when providing first aid or health care." Under standard precautions, blood and certain body fluids are considered potentially infectious for HIV, HBV, and other blood borne pathogens. Students will be expected to adhere to hand hygiene protocols and consistent use of personal protective equipment including masks, gloves and eyewear. In some health sciences programs, students may need to conduct peer-to-peer examinations in lab settings.

Valencia College offers eight health sciences programs which lead to an A.S. degree. They are the Cardiovascular Technology, Dental Hygiene, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Emergency Medical Services Technology (including EMT (Emergency Medical Technology) and Paramedic technical certificates), Health Information Technology (including Medical Information Coder/Biller technical certificate), Nursing (R.N.), Radiography, and Respiratory Care. Admission to these programs is limited because of clinical facilities and staff. Once you complete your A.S. degree in Cardiovascular Technology, you can continue at Valencia College to earn your Bachelor's degree in Cardiopulmonary Sciences or a bachelor-level Advanced Technical Certificate (ATC) in Echocardiography. With additional education at the bachelor's level and professional experience, you will enhance your skills and have more career options available.

Students whose official records indicate they are seeking admission to a limited access Associate in Science (A.S.) health sciences program will have the health sciences program designated as their secondary major and the Associate in Arts (A.A.) Degree designated as their primary major in order to maximize their educational opportunities. If the student has already earned a Bachelor's or A.A. degree, the student will **not** have A.A. designated as a major.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

Program Application information for each admission cycle can be found on the [program's webpage](#). Program applications received after the deadline date will not be considered for the identified term. Students who are not accepted will need to reapply for a future term. Students must complete a Valencia College application for admission and the application for the specific health sciences program. **General Admission to Valencia College does not imply acceptance to the health sciences program.** Students may apply to more than one limited access Health Science program; however, enrollment is limited to only one Health Sciences program in a term. A new program application is required if reapplying for admission. **Having previously earned a college degree does not grant an advantage in admission to a Health Sciences program that does not require a degree for admission,** nor does it exempt students from taking the ATI Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) if the ATI TEAS is required for admission to the program.

Communication Policy: Application review may take **4-6 weeks after the deadline closes.** **Students are expected to check Atlas email regularly for any communication about an application.** Application updates are **only** communicated through the Valencia College Atlas email. Students who are offered an accepted program seat are required to attend the mandatory program orientation to keep the seat and start the program. The admission decision email will include a **strict deadline** to accept an offered program seat. If a response is not received by the deadline of the acceptance invite, then the next student will be invited for the opportunity of acceptance.

Mandatory Orientation: The mandatory program Orientation for accepted students may be held four to six weeks prior to the program start date. Once accepted to a program, students will receive an email via ATLAS regarding the Orientation date, requirements, and deadlines. The Orientation materials will give the student information regarding the processes for

completing background checks, fingerprinting, drug screening, and other requirements completed through the designated vendor.

BACKGROUND CHECK, FINGERPRINTING, DRUG TESTING, IMMUNIZATIONS AND CPR CERTIFICATION

The Health Sciences programs include student clinical rotations in external affiliate health care facilities with which Valencia College has agreements for student clinical assignments. The affiliates' policies require that students serving in a clinical rotation be cleared of offenses that would disqualify them from participating in student clinical assignments. Thus, all students * **conditionally accepted** to a Health Sciences program are required to submit to a criminal background check, fingerprinting and drug testing as well as provide documentation of specific immunizations and an American Heart Association (AHA) and Basic Life Support (BLS) CPR certification following acceptance to a program. The timeframe for meeting these requirements will be provided in the Orientation information that will be sent to the student upon acceptance through ATLAS email. All clinical Compliance must be met a few days prior to beginning the program by the class start date. Students may need to renew their background and drug testing requirements annually. Email the [Compliance Department](#) for more details at ***If you have a positive background check, fingerprints, or drug screening, you *may* be denied enrollment in a Health Sciences program due to the inability to participate in a student clinical assignment.** If you have concerns regarding known background issues, it is recommended that you email questions to the Compliance Department

TRANSPORTATION TO CLINICAL SITES

Students accepted in the Health Information Technology Associate in Science Degree program may be assigned a practicum site in Orange, Osceola, and/or Polk Counties. If accepted to a program, students will be assigned a site by the clinical coordinator and will be responsible for furnishing transportation to the assigned community and/or hospital facilities used by Valencia for clinical practice.

Valencia is an [Equal Opportunity](#) Institution

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, which 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 expectation of a Respiratory Therapist.

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.” The School of Allied Health at Valencia 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 who may need 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: <http://valenciacollege.edu/HR/EqualAccessEqualOpportunity.cfm>

Criteria	STANDARD	EXAMPLES OF REQUIRED ACTIVITIES (NOT ALL INCLUSIVE)
Critical Thinking	Critical Thinking ability sufficient for safe clinical judgment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Identify cause-effect relationships in clinical situations. * Evaluate assessment data to ascertain appropriate measures that are of diagnostic value. * Practice positive problem solving and coping skills when faced with adversity. * Assess patient’s condition and needs from a distance of at least 20 feet. * Based on assessment data; initiate proper emergency care protocols, including notification of Rapid Response team, initiating CPR.
Interpersonal	Interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, families and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Establish rapport with patients, families, and colleagues. * Display compassion, empathy and concern for others. * Work collaboratively with other healthcare providers in stressful situations. * Cope with anger/fear/hostility of others in a calm way. * Handle multiple priorities in stressful situations. * Concentrate and focus attention
Communication	Communication abilities sufficient for interaction with others in verbal and written form.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Communicate verbally in English to the patient in order to: converse, explain treatment procedures, initiate health teaching, relieve anxiety, gain their cooperation, document and interpret nursing care actions and patient responses. * Speak with other members of the health care team utilizing effective verbal communication skills. * Read and cognitively comprehend written materials, the patient’s medical record and/or physician’s orders. * Write using a legible and concise documentation style which is readable and in the English language including documentation in electronic medical record. * Skill in the use of personal computers and general office software.
Mobility	Physical abilities sufficient to move from room to room and maneuver in small spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Move around in patient’s rooms, work spaces and treatment areas, * Assist all patients, according to individual needs and abilities, in moving, twisting, turning, kneeling, bending and maintaining balance in administering nursing care and procedures. * Able to lift and or support at least 25 lbs. in order to reposition, transfer, and ambulate patients safely. * Able to push/pull a minimum of 100 lbs. such as pushing stretchers, beds, wheelchairs and other transportation device without injury to self, patient, or others.
Motor Skills	Gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Accurately able to draw up medications without contaminating the syringe/needle. * Calibrate and use equipment. * Position patient as necessary for nursing care or procedures.
Hearing	Auditory abilities sufficient to monitor and assess patient needs, and to provide a safe environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Hear a patient talk in a normal tone from a distance of 20 feet. * Hears monitor alarms, emergency signals, cries for help and overhead pages. * Hears sounds that indicate changes in patient’s physiological condition (i.e. breath sounds, blood pressure, apical pulse).
Visual	Visual ability sufficient for observation and assessment necessary in the operation of equipment and care of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Observe the patient in order to assess the patient’s condition and responses to nursing care and procedures. * Has ability for frequent use of far vision (clarity of vision at 20 feet or more),

	patients.	near vision (clarity of vision at 20 inches or less), color vision, depth perception, and seeing fine details.
Tactile	Tactile ability sufficient for patient assessment and operation of equipment.	* Frequently perform simple grasping, firm grasping, fine manipulation, to perform nursing skills such as insertion of foley catheter, insertions of IV's * Perform palpation, tactile assessment, functions of physical examination and/or those related to therapeutic intervention (i.e. changes in skin temperature, edema, etc.).

CRITERIA	STANDARDS	SOME EXAMPLES OF NECESSARY ACTIVITIES (NOT ALL INCLUSIVE)
Critical Thinking Interpersonal	Critical thinking ability sufficient for clinical judgment. Interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds.	
Communication	Communication abilities sufficient for inter-action with others in verbal and written form	Explain treatment procedures, initiate health teaching, document and interpret respiratory care actions and patient/client responses
Mobility	Physical abilities sufficient to move from room to room and maneuver in small spaces	Moves around in patient's rooms, workspaces, and treatment areas, administer cardio-pulmonary procedures
Hearing and Visual	Auditory ability sufficient to monitor and assess health needs Visual ability sufficient for observation and assessment necessary in respiratory care	Hears monitor alarm, emergency signals, auscultatory sounds, cries for help Observes patient/client responses
Motor Skills	Gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective respiratory care	Calibrate and use equipment; position patients/ clients
Tactile	Tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment	Perform palpation during head and neck examination; record vital signs; detect calculus

VALENCIA COLLEGE
SCHOOL of HEALTH SCIENCES

Sample Form of the Health and Physical Core Performance Requirements

Assess Ability to Meet Program Requirements	Y E S	N O	If NO, Note Limitations	Assess Ability to Meet Program Requirements	Y E S	N O	If NO, Note Limitations
General Requirements (has the ability to...)				Require Lifting (ability to lift...)			
Sit				25 to 34 lbs.			
Stand				35 to 50 lbs.			
Walk				Up to and over 100 for some Clinical Areas			
Bend							
Kneel							
Crouch				Pushing/Pulling (ability to push and pull...)			
Twist				Up to and over 100 for some Clinical Areas			
Maintain Balance							
Reach							
Climb Stairs							
Sensory Requirements (has ability for...)							
Far Vision							
Near Vision				Hand Manipulation (ability with...)			
Color Vision				Simple Grasping			
Depth Perception				Firm Grasping			
Seeing Fine Details				Fine Manipulation			
Hearing Norm Speech				Use of Keyboards			
Hearing Overhead Pages							
Infectious Diseases				Mental & Emotional Requirements (ability to...)			
Chemical Agents				Cope with high level of stress			
Dust, Fumes, Gases				Make decisions under high pressure			
Extremes in Temperature or Humidity				Cope with anger/fear/hostility of others in a calm way			
Hazardous or Moving Equipment				Concentrate			
Loud Noises				Handle a high degree of flexibility			
				Handle multiple priorities in stressful situations			
				Demonstrate high degree of patience			
				Work in areas that are close and crowded			
				Verbally Communicate under stress			