

Respiratory Care Competitive Admission Process – 2026/2027

Cincinnati State

Admission to the college versus admission into the technical RT portion of the program (RT courses)

Once you are admitted into the college and declare respiratory as your major, you will receive a letter of admission into Respiratory Care (RC). At this point, you can start working on prerequisites and general education courses that apply to the RC curriculum. This does not, however, mean that you can start taking RT technical courses. You can recognize those because the course number begins with RT. You can take the RT technical courses after you have been accepted through the competitive admission process.

When can I apply for competitive admission and start taking the RT technical courses?

Once you finish the prerequisites, you can submit a competitive admission packet. The prerequisites are:

- High school diploma or GED
- High School or college biology with a C or better
- Ready to take Statistics (MAT 131)
- Ready to take English Comp I (ENG 101)
- 2.75 overall GPA from the most recent qualifying institution (at least 12 credit hours)

After you finish the prerequisites, you can submit a packet for competitive admission beginning the **first day of Spring semester through February 25th**.

NOTE: Other program curriculum courses like A&P, microbiology, pathophysiology, English, statistics are general education courses required for your degree, but they are NOT prerequisites for applying for competitive admission.

What if I am ready to apply except for one course?

If a student has only one remaining prerequisite course at the time of packet submission, special permission may be granted by the program chair to submit a packet under the condition that the remaining prerequisite is completed with a C or better by the end of the spring semester for that year. If a student is accepted and does not pass the remaining course with a C or better in the spring semester, that student will lose their spot in the program.

How are students selected and how many are selected?

Competitive admission packets are scored according to the criteria and point system discussed later in this document. The top 25 highest scores are chosen to begin the RT technical portion of the program.

When and how will I find out if I am accepted?

All applicants are emailed of their acceptance status between February 25th and March 15th. Applicants are notified via their C State email only, so students should check their email daily during this period. Accepted students will typically have one week to accept the offer before it is withdrawn and given to another student.

When will I begin the RT technical courses?

The cohort of selected students will begin together the following fall semester after being accepted.

How can I earn points toward my competitive admission packet?

There are two broad categories of points.

1. Math/science GPA
2. Experience points

How is my math/science GPA calculated?

Each student's math/science GPA will be calculated from the following:

1. Qualifying HS or qualifying college pre-requisite biology
2. Any college level math that counts toward the program pathway
3. Curriculum math and science courses.

Points = math/science GPA X 6.25

Examples

<i>Math/Science GPA</i>	<i>Calculation</i>	<i>Points earned</i>
2.8	2.8×6.25	17.5 points
3.5	3.5×6.25	21.8 points
4.0	4.0×6.25	25 points

What if I have more than one courses that could be counted as a prerequisite?

If multiple courses at the defined prerequisite entry level are eligible for being counted as a prerequisite, only the highest eligible grade will be used as part of the math/science GPA. Please note, however, that multiple attempts to take the *same* course will follow the preceding guideline for course repeats.

What if a prerequisite was a series or multiple quarters/semesters?

If a prerequisite is a series (multiple HS quarters), the grades in the series will be averaged

What if I have had to repeat courses? Does that affect my math/science GPA?

All repeat attempts for college level math and science courses will be averaged, unless the course is being repeated to improve an original grade of a C or higher, in which case only the higher of the two grades will be used.

For example, if a student takes A&P, earns a D, and then retakes the course and earns an A, the grades for both attempts will be averaged. If, however, a student takes A&P, earns a C, and retakes the course to improve their grade, then only the higher of the two grades will be used.

Simplified:

- a. Course (D or F grade) + repeats = average all attempts
- b. Course (C grade) + repeats = highest grade

What if I have taken multiple levels of a math or science course?

For math/science GPA calculation, if multiple levels (not including a series) of a subject at college level were taken, they will all be averaged into the math/science GPA. For example, if a student takes statistics and also has trigonometry, both courses will be averaged into the math/science GPA and an extra point will be given for the higher-level course.

Simplified:

College entry + College higher = average them + 1 point for advanced level

How do I earn experience points?

- Work ahead points. One point will be awarded for any of the following completed with a C or better. Must be completed before application is submitted for credit.
 1. Statistics
 2. A&P1
 3. A&P2
 4. Microbiology
 5. Pathophysiology

One half point will be awarded for any of the following curriculum courses completed with a C or better. Must be completed before application is submitted for credit.

1. English Comp 1
2. English Comp 2
3. Social Science Elective

Additional non-curriculum courses that earn one-half point according to the guidelines above include

1. Medical Terminology (HS or college)
2. Pharmacology
3. Physics (HS or college)
4. Chemistry (HS or college)

- 1 point – You have worked directly with patients in a healthcare setting for at least 6 months. Attach a letter from a supervisor, signed and on letterhead, stating type of work and dates of service, or attach a letter from HR stating your dates of service and position.

- 3 points - Military experience (attach DD 214 honorable discharge form, or a contract showing active duty/reserve status).

- Number of Cincinnati State semester hours divided by 36 (example: 36 hours = 1 point)

OR...

Prior degree

Associate = 3 pts

Bachelor or higher = 4 pts

Note: the degree must be transferred to C State and must be from a regionally accredited institution.

International degrees must be evaluated for U.S. equivalency

- Up to 3 points - Honors level or higher level than required math and science courses with a C or better; 1 point max per subject (math, A&P)

Example 1- A student who takes honors A&P1 and honors A&P2 will earn one extra point.

Example 2- if a student took college algebra, which fulfills the curriculum math requirement and then took calculus, which is higher than required, both courses will be averaged into the math/science GPA (as explained earlier), and one extra point will be awarded for calculus.

- 1 point - Repeat applicant. If you were an eligible applicant in the previous year and were not selected, you will be awarded one point for reapplying.

Miscellaneous notes:

- It is the responsibility of each applicant to ensure that applicable high school and/or college transcripts are sent to Cincinnati State and enough time is allowed for the transcripts to be applied to their degree audit. Any transcripts that are not applied to the degree audit at the time of application submission, and any degrees or credits from colleges that are not regionally accredited will not be considered to be counted toward the application points.
- Only courses completed by the time a packet is submitted will be counted for application points.
- Only grades of a C or better will qualify to satisfy a course requirement.
- Students applying to a selective admission program who choose to take a Pass/Fail grade in a course used to determine points for admission will receive the equivalent of the score given for a grade of C if they passed the course when points are calculated.

Once I am accepted, what is next?

Once the selected applicants are notified, the following are next steps:

- Attend a mandatory meeting held in March or April
- Attend a mandatory program orientation held in the summer before the core program begins.
- Submit the completed *physical form* (attached to the acceptance email) and applicable documentation. The student must have a complete physical and provide documentation for all required immunizations. This is to be turned in at the mandatory program orientation to be held in the summer.
- Turn in a current American Heart Association *BLS for the Healthcare Provider* card by the first week of the fall semester. The card may not be more than 9 months old.

**** Following instructions is part of the requirements for being accepted. Therefore, any student who does not attend the March/April mandatory meeting, the program orientation, does not have their physical completed with required documentation, or does not have their approved BLS card by the required dates will forfeit their spot in the program.***

What if I am not accepted into the program?

Not being selected does not mean you will not be a good RT, nor does it mean we do not want you in the program. It just means other students scored higher than you the year you applied. If RC is what you want to do as your profession, I would encourage you to reapply. You should meet with the Program Chair to make a plan for scoring more points when you reapply.

Additionally, keep in mind that if a selected student drops before the program begins, their spot will be offered to the next person on the ranking list.