

Clinical Life Science (Respiratory Care)

at Benedictine University

Why study Clinical Life Science with a Respiratory Care Concentration?

Respiratory therapists provide care for a diverse patient population, from newborns and children to adults and the elderly, with deficiencies and abnormalities of the cardiopulmonary system resulting from asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cystic fibrosis, emphysema, heart attack, infant respiratory distress, pneumonia, postoperative surgical complications, shock, stroke and trauma. Respiratory therapists perform patient assessment, care plan development and respiratory care protocol administration; critical care, including airway care, ventilatory support, physiologic monitoring and advanced life support; perinatal and pediatric respiratory care; cardiopulmonary diagnostics and pulmonary function testing; and patient education.

The 3+2 program between Benedictine University's undergraduate degree in Clinical Life Science and Rush University's master's program in Respiratory Care is uniquely designed for leadership and advanced practice preparation. Rush's master's program, which is typically full-time and lasts two years, combines advanced coursework with diverse clinical fieldwork and research to thoroughly prepare students for careers as advanced-level respiratory therapists.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Rush University offers the only respiratory care degree program in Illinois.
- Students gain hands-on experience at top-tier academic medical centers in Chicago.
- The program prepares students for entry-level and advanced respiratory therapist exams.
- Students experience Rush's innovative practitioner-teacher model in which faculty assume multiple roles as educators, researchers and practitioners.
- The programs have a low student-to-faculty ratio, ensuring that each student receives individualized attention.

ACCREDITATION

Rush University's respiratory care programs hold a letter of review from the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care. This status ensures that all students who complete the program are eligible for the examinations given by the National Board for Respiratory Care and state licensure in Illinois.

What careers are available with a degree in respiratory care?

Respiratory care program graduates are highly desired and successfully employed in a variety of settings, including: hospitals, clinics and physicians' offices; critical care units and transport; diagnostic laboratories and sleep centers; home care and extended-care facilities; colleges, universities and research facilities; and in industry. Employment of respiratory therapists is expected to grow 23 percent through 2016, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The average salary for respiratory therapists is more than \$56,000 per year.

How does the program work?

When you major in Clinical Life Science at Benedictine University, you will follow a three-year sequence of liberal arts and science courses. You are required to maintain a grade point average of 3.0 or better. Before March 1 of your junior year, you will have the opportunity to apply to Rush University's master of science program. Successful completion of the entire 3+2 program results in a bachelor of arts degree from Benedictine University and a master of science degree from Rush University.

(Please visit the departmental website at www.rushu.rush.edu/respiratorycare for a complete list of admissions requirements.)

Recommended Program

Bachelor of Arts in Clinical Life Science (Respiratory Care)

FRESHMAN

Writing Colloquium	3
Trigonometry (MATH 111)	3
Principles of Organismal Biology	3
General Chemistry I and Lab	4
Music/Fine Arts core elective	3
	16

Research Writing	3
Principles of Biology	3
Principles of Biology Lab	1
General Chemistry II and Lab	4
Religious Studies core elective	3
	14

JUNIOR

Speech Communication	3
Anatomy	4
Business/Economics core elective	3
Anthropology/Political Science core elective	3
Cultural Heritage (HUMN 240)	3
	16

Apply to Rush University

Human Physiology and Lab	5
Statistics or Biostatistics	3
General Ethics	3
Cultural Heritage (HUMN 250)	3
	14

SOPHOMORE

Microbiology	4
College Physics I and Lab	4
Survey of Psychology	3
Cultural Heritage (HUMN 220)	3
	14

College Physics II and Lab	4
Introduction to Computer Science with Office Suite	3
Cultural Heritage (HUMN 230)	3
Literature core elective	3
	13

SENIOR

Introduction to Respiratory Care	3.33
Cardiopulmonary Physiology	3.33
Respiratory Equipment and Technology	3.33
Health Care in America	1.33
Patient Assessment	3.33
Pulmonary Disease	3.33
Mechanical Ventilation	2.67
Pharmacology	2
Critical Care	3.33
Cardiopulmonary Diagnostics and Pulmonary Function Testing	3.33
Pediatric and Neonatal Respiratory Care	3.33
Clinical Observation	1.33
	33.97*

* to be transferred back to Benedictine to complete the Bachelor of Arts degree in Clinical Life Science.

Second year of the master's program at Rush University

An additional year is then completed at the master's level at Rush University to complete the requirements for the master of science degree.

Acceptance into the program at Rush University is not automatic and requires application.

Students who may wish to attend professional school or graduate schools should take Organic Chemistry (8 hours) and Biochemistry 361 (3 hours) instead of the Introduction to Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry courses.