

## TECHNICAL PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Respiratory is a practice discipline with cognitive, sensory, affective, and psychomotor performance requirements. Based on those requirements, a list of “Technical Standards” has been developed. Each standard has an example of an activity or activities that a potential student will be required to perform while enrolled in the respiratory program. These standards are a part of each Respiratory course and of a respiratory therapist’s professional role expectation.

PERFORMANCE	STANDARD	ESSENTIAL ACTIVITIES/TASK (NOT ALL INCLUSIVE)
Critical Thinking/Problem Solving	Critical thinking ability sufficient for safe clinical judgment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify cause-effect relationships in clinical situations</li> <li>• Utilize patient assessment techniques to develop or alter respiratory procedures</li> <li>• Interpret and carryout written and verbal communication often in stressful, chaotic situations</li> <li>• Prioritize tasks and make appropriate decisions related to situations</li> <li>• Apply information in classroom to clinical setting, adapting to patient’s needs</li> </ul>
Interpersonal abilities sufficient to appropriately interact with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds	Interpersonal Behavioral and Social Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish rapport and maintain professional boundaries in relationships with patients, families, and colleagues</li> <li>• Willingness to resolve conflict and to respond to feedback in a professional manner</li> <li>• Function effectively under stress</li> <li>• Adapt to changing environments (flexible schedules, emergency conditions, etc.)</li> <li>• Display compassion, professionalism, empathy, integrity, concern for others, interest, and motivation</li> <li>• Perform procedures on patients in pain from trauma, disease, or under the influence of drugs/alcohol</li> </ul>
Communication	Communication abilities sufficient for interaction with others in verbal and written form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effectively communicate in English with patients, families, and health care colleagues</li> <li>• Explain respiratory procedures, initiate health-teaching, document and interpret respiratory technology actions and patient/client resources</li> <li>• Demonstrate ability to communicate orally concerning patients</li> <li>• Read the patient’s health record and/or physician orders</li> <li>• Legibly write patient history and notes</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Document own actions and patient responses as indicated</li> </ul>
Mobility/Dexterity	Ability to sufficiently assist patients in moving and walking, maneuver in small spaces, and provide safe and effective patient care in a timely fashion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist all patients in proper positioning to perform respiratory care modalities</li> <li>• Be able to push, pull and lift 50 pounds independently</li> <li>• Push a stretcher, wheelchair, or other transportation devices without injury to self, patient, or others without assistance</li> <li>• Move respiratory equipment from one location to another, including corners, getting on and off elevators, and manipulating it in a patient's room unassisted</li> <li>• Administer CPR, chest compressions</li> </ul>
Motor Skills	Fine and gross motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective care in a timely fashion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manually move and position respiratory equipment ease</li> <li>• Maintain sterile technique when performing various procedures</li> <li>• Perform various procedures requiring the use of hand and eye coordination</li> <li>• Properly utilize respiratory supplies</li> <li>• Demonstrate method for properly setting respiratory equipment</li> <li>• Demonstrate endurance by standing for long periods (6-8 hours) of time and walking a distance of at least 3-5 miles.</li> </ul>
Observational/ Interpretive Skills	Ability to complete assessment of physical health conditions, implementation of patient care and monitoring procedures; and to monitor for issues related to environmental and patient safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Observe patient responses; read orders; obtain data from computer screens; control panel buttons/patient monitors</li> <li>• Obtain data from radiographs for assessment and determination of tube placement</li> <li>• Detect environmental issues that are contributory to assessing and/or maintaining patient's health status</li> </ul>
Self-care	Ability to present professional appearance and implement measures to maintain own health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement universal precautions; follow established procedures for body hygiene</li> </ul>
Hearing	Auditory skills sufficient to monitor and assess patient's health needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detect and respond independently to monitoring alarms, signs of patient's distress and/or a patient's communication of distress</li> <li>• Use the telephone to discuss the patient's status with the healthcare team and relay lab reports, etc., and answer questions from other clinicians</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be able to respond to audible paging systems independently</li> <li>• Respond independently to questions and instructions from other health care providers; and in proximity as well as at 20 feet, with and without the presence of extraneous noises</li> <li>• Respond to verbal communication from patients and/or clinicians while the person is wearing an oxygen or surgical face mask</li> </ul>
Visual	Visual ability sufficient for observation and assessment necessary in the operation of equipment and for safe patient care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perceive and respond independently to warning signals from team members and/or patients of impending danger or emergency, i.e., a change in an individual's appearance, and/or physical communication of distress</li> <li>• View controls, letters, numbers, etc., of varying size located on respiratory equipment and supplies independently</li> <li>• View radiographic images on a computer screen and evaluate for recommendations necessary for patient care</li> </ul>
Tactile	Tactile ability sufficient for patient assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perform palpitation and tactile assessment to assist with patient assessment and evaluate respiratory conditions</li> </ul>
Mental	Mental ability sufficient for patient care, assessment, and operation of equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be able to visually concentrate and focus attention, thoughts, efforts, and behavior on patients and equipment for varying periods of time</li> <li>• Be able to respond to patient's changing physical conditions independently</li> </ul>