

Baccalaureate Major in Respiratory Care

► OVERVIEW

St. Catherine University is one of the few colleges in the upper Midwest to offer a baccalaureate degree in the field of respiratory care that prepares students for advanced-level practice as respiratory therapists. They become members of an interdisciplinary healthcare team who evaluate, treat and manage patients of all ages with respiratory illness and other cardiopulmonary disorders in a wide variety of settings. With approximately 900 hours of clinical experience in critical care, pediatric intensive care, home care, pulmonary diagnostics, and rehabilitation, students are active participants in their learning and work collaboratively with faculty to develop technical skills, critical thinking and professional communication. Graduates of the program are well-prepared to provide excellent patient care, promote cardiopulmonary health, manage disease and prevention, and assume leadership positions in the profession.

► STUDY PLAN AND CURRICULUM

The St. Kate's Respiratory Care Major builds upon a broad foundation of coursework in the liberal arts and basic sciences and prepares students to provide comprehensive and holistic care in a variety of settings. The major is offered in six consecutive semesters and one summer session for day students. There are curricular options available for students already possessing baccalaureate degrees, students enrolled in ACTC colleges and students transferring undergraduate credit. Skills courses include:

- Principles of Patient Management
- Principles of Ventilation
- Pathophysiology in Critical Care
- Clinical Applications
- Advanced Therapeutics
- Clinical Specialty

► FACULTY

Our respiratory care faculty are highly qualified with expertise in critical care, biomedical ethics, pulmonary diagnostics and administration. They are active and connected in the medical community and national professional organizations.

► ACCREDITATION

The Respiratory Care Major at St. Catherine University is accredited as an advanced-level respiratory care program by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care and the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

► ACCEPTANCE TO THE MAJOR

Students are required to apply to the Respiratory Care Major and must have completed 30 credit hours with a minimum overall GPA of 2.5, including prerequisite courses. Applications are accepted between September 15 – May 30, prior to the fall semester when the student plans to begin course work. Admission to the Respiratory Care Major is contingent upon completion of prerequisite requirements at the designated levels of success and the availability of space. St. Catherine University students who began their undergraduate study at St. Kate's are given priority access to the program. Students who indicate interest in the Respiratory Care Major after May 30 are encouraged to contact the program chair. Late applications to enter the major will be considered on an individual basis. Applications are available by request from the Respiratory Care Dept.

► CLINICAL EXPERIENCES

Clinical experiences are an essential component of this program. Students will be provided with opportunities to apply their knowledge and assessment skills in various clinical areas and settings, including adult, pediatric, neonatal, rehabilitation, and pulmonary function. The program utilizes a 1-1 student/preceptor ratio, and practicums are held at nationally renowned metropolitan healthcare facilities affiliated with HealthEast, Fairview/M Health, Park Nicollet, HealthPartners, Allina, North Memorial Medical Center, Hennepin Health, and Children's Minnesota. Seniors, with guidance from their advisors, designate areas of special interest for in-depth study, including adult care, pediatric care, management, education, cardiopulmonary diagnostics, and pulmonary rehabilitation/home care.

► CREDENTIALING

Graduates of the program are eligible to take the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) credentialing exams. Upon completion of the NBRC entry-level exam, graduates earn the Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT) credential. This allows them to apply to the Minnesota Board of Medical Practice to work as a respiratory therapist in the state of Minnesota. Upon successful completion of the NBRC registry exam, they earn the Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) credential, indicating advanced professional achievement.

Baccalaureate Major in Respiratory Care – Recommended Program of Study

YEAR 1 (PRE-RC)

| Fall Semester | Spring Semester | Summer Session |
|---|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| SOCI 1000: Sociology (4 SH) | CHEM 1010 or CHEM 1110 & 11201 (4 SH) | |
| STAT 1090, ECON 1090, HLTH 1090 or PSYC 1090 (4 SH) | PSYC 1001: Psychology (4 SH) | |
| CORE 1000 WI: The Reflective Woman (4 SH) | Supporting Courses/Electives (4 SH) | |
| Supporting Courses/Electives (4 SH) | | |

YEAR 2 (RC LEVEL 1)

| Fall Semester | Spring Semester | Summer Session |
|---|--|----------------|
| RESP 2100: Intro, to Respiratory Care (4 SH) | RESP 2200: Principles of Patient Management (4 SH) | |
| BIOL 2610: Anatomy & Physiology 1 (4 SH) | BIOL 2620: Anatomy & Physiology 2 (4 SH) | |
| COMM 1030 Speaking to Lead and Influence (4 SH) | BIOL 2450: Intro. to Microbiology (4 SH) | |
| Supporting Courses/Electives (4 SH) | INDI 1150: Basic Pt Care (2 SH) | |
| | RESP 1160: RESP Pt Care and Assessment (2 SH) | |

YEAR 3 (RC LEVEL 2)

| Fall Semester | Spring Semester | Summer Session |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| RESP 3100: Principles of Ventilation (4 SH) | RESP 3200 WI: Advanced Therapeutics (4 SH) | RESP 3310: Clinical Appl. III (6 SH) |
| RESP 3110: Clinical Applications I (2 SH) | RESP 3210: Clinical Applications II (4 SH) | |
| RESP 3120: Pathophysiology in Critical Care I (2 SH) | RESP 3220: Pathophysiology in Critical Care II (2 SH) | |
| INDI 3150: Pharmacology (4 SH) | Supporting Courses/Electives (4 SH) | |
| Supporting Courses/Electives (4 SH) | | |

YEAR 4 (RC LEVEL 3)

| Fall Semester | Spring Semester |
|--|---|
| RESP 4100: Advanced Critical Care (4 SH) | RESP 4800 WI: Senior Seminar (4 SH) |
| RESP 4115: Clinical Specialty I (4 SH) | RESP 4225: Clinical Specialty II3 (4 SH) |
| PHIL 3400: Biomedical Ethics2 (4 SH) | CORE 3990WI: Global Search for Justice (4 SH) |
| Supporting Courses/Electives (4 SH) | Supporting Courses/Electives (4 SH) |

WI=Writing Intensive Course.

1. CHEM 1110 & 1120 recommended. 2. PHIL 3400 Fulfills the St Kate's CRST/WOST requirement 3. RESP 4210 recommended

▶ FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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