*Alabama Commission on Higher Education*

**PROPOSAL FOR A NEW DEGREE PROGRAM**

1. **Date of Proposal Submission: December 2021**

**Full program name and level: Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Care (BSRC)**

**CIP Code: 510908**

1. **Learning Outcomes and Program Review:**

Succinctly list at least four (4) but no more than seven (7) of the most prominent student learning outcomes of the program.

**Upon Completion of the respiratory care program, graduates will be able to:**

1. **demonstrate competence in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains of respiratory care practice as performed by registered respiratory therapists (RRTs).**
2. **collaborate effectively with other health care professionals to provide direction and input with decisions related to the plan of respiratory care services and resources for clients.**
3. **demonstrate the ability to recall, apply, and analyze information required of advanced-level respiratory therapists.**
4. **utilize effective and professional communication with clients from diverse backgrounds, in addition to peers and other health care professionals.**
5. **engage in critical thinking and problem solving through evidence-based practice in multiple health care settings.**
6. **Employment Outcomes and Program Demand**

Indicate the primary industry where graduates would seek employment using the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS): <https://www.naics.com/search/>

NAICS Code: **621399**

Select at least one and up to three Standard Occupational Codes (SOCs) where graduates of the new program would seek employment: <https://www.bls.gov/soc/2018/major_groups.htm>

SOC 1 **29-1126.00**

SOC 2

SOC 3

Please explain whether further education/ training is required for graduates of the proposed program to gain entry-level employment in the occupations you have selected.

**Further education or training will not be required to gain entry-level employment as a respiratory therapist.**

Please describe how you will determine whether graduates are successful in obtaining relevant employment or pursuing further study.

**Employment Surveys will be sent to graduates of the program.**

Briefly describe how the program fulfills a specific industry or employment need for the State of Alabama. Please refer to the State’s “In-Demand Occupations List” (see [ACHE’s Academic Program](https://ache.edu/Instruction.aspx) page for most recent list) or include local and statewide occupational projections, along with data sources as appropriate.

**Respiratory therapy (RT) departments in Alabama have been greatly impacted by the COVID pandemic and the need for additional therapists is high. All local area hospitals have RT employment vacancies that they are struggling to fill. Two hospitals located within six miles of UNA report over 20 RT vacancies at this time. The RT program at UNA will graduate advanced respiratory therapists and help fill this gap. Per the Alabama “In-Demand Occupations List,” there are 200 average annual openings for respiratory therapists in the state. There currently is only one university (Jacksonville State University) in Alabama which offers a BS in Respiratory Care. The program at JSU is over 140 miles away, there is a need in the North Alabama area. Two of the top three fastest growing counties in Alabama are located in North Alabama, Limestone and Madison counties respectively.**

Briefly describe evidence of student demand for the program, including enrollments in related coursework at your institution if applicable. If a survey of student interest was conducted, please briefly describe the survey instrument, number and percentage of respondents, and summary of results.

**A one question Qualtrics survey was distributed to current students from various colleges/departments (Applied Health Sciences, Biology, Interdisciplinary/Professional Studies and Pre-Nursing) to gauge interest in the University offering a Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Care to become a licensed respiratory therapist. A total of 227 participants responded to the survey and the findings revealed that 47% (n= 107) replied “yes” and 37% (n=84) replied “maybe” regarding interest in the program. Only 15% (n=36) participants replied “no” related to interest in the program. Findings revealed that the majority (84%) would be interested in the possibility of UNA offering a BS in Respiratory Care.**

1. **Curriculum and Prerequisites**

Program Completion Requirements: (Enter a credit hour value for all applicable components, write N/A if not applicable)

Credit hours required in program courses \_\_**63**

Credit hours in general education or core curriculum \_\_**57**\_\_\_

Credit hours required in support courses \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Credit hours in required or free electives \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Credit hours in required research \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Total credit hours required for completion \_\_120\_\_**

Please indicate the maximum number of credits that can be transferred in from another institution and applied to the program:

**63 credit hours in general education**

Please describe any work-based learning (WBL) activities that are required or recommended for program completion (including internships, practical/clinical experience, applied research, or other immersive experiences designed to prepare graduates for employment in the field). Definitions and examples of different types of WBL are available at <https://www.alapprentice.org/>.

**The students will participate in numerous work-based learning activities in the RC program.Students will be required to attend lab, clinical and simulation experiences for this program. Students will be required to complete clinical rotations in local hospitals while under the direct supervision of licensed respiratory therapists. These activities are preparatory only, no pay is provided through WBL.**

Does the program include any options/concentrations? If so, please describe the purpose and rationale for the options, and list the courses for each in the table below.

**No**

Please complete the table below indicating all coursework for the proposed program, specifying any new courses developed for the program, along with courses associated with each option as applicable. Include the course number, and number of credits. Coursework listed should total the number of hours required to complete the program.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Course Number and Title | Number of Credit Hours | \* If New Course |
| RC 300 – Respiratory Anatomy and Physiology | 3 | \* |
| RC 302 – Respiratory Pathophysiology | 3 | \* |
| RC 304 – Foundations in Respiratory Care | 3 | \* |
| RC 306 – Respiratory Pharmacology | 3 | \* |
| RC 308 – Respiratory Foundations Lab | 3 | \* |
| RC 310 – Respiratory Clinical Practice I | 1 | \* |
| RC 330 - Pulmonary Diagnostics | 3 | \* |
| RC 332 – Respiratory Pharmacology | 3 | \* |
| RC 334 – Mechanical Ventilation I | 3 | \* |
| RC 336 – Critical Care Lab | 3 | \* |
| RC 338 – Clinical Practice II | 4 | \* |
| RC 410 – Pediatric and Neonatal Respiratory Care | 3 | \* |
| RC 412 – Advanced Critical Care Lab | 2 | \* |
| RC 414 – Seminar I | 2 | \* |
| RC 416 – Mechanical Ventilation II | 3 | \* |
| RC 418 – Clinical Practice III | 6 | \* |
| RC 442 – Clinical Practice IV | 6 | \* |
| RC 444 – Seminar II | 2 | \* |
| RC 446 – Respiratory Care Leadership and Education | 3 | \* |
| RC 448 – Senior Capstone | 2 | \* |
| RC 450 – Research and Evidence-Based Practice | 2 | \* |

Intended program duration in semesters for full-time students: **4 semesters**

Intended program duration in semesters for part-time students: **Program is for full time students only.**

Please indicate any prior education or work experience required for acceptance into the program: **Must fulfill all of the required general education requirements to be accepted into the program.**

Describe any other special requirements for the program: **Health related requirements in accordance with Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) and the Alabama Department of Public Health guidelines, student liability insurance, criminal background check, and drug screening.**

1. **Specific Rationale (Strengths) for Program**

What is the specific rationale for recommending approval of this proposal? List 3-5 potential program strengths.

1. **Workforce development, this program will address the shortage of training respiratory therapists in the state.**
2. **Opportunities for greater interprofessional collaboration experiential learning experiences.**
3. **Strong institutional and regional support for the creation of this program.**
4. **Accrediting body changes which support a Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Care as the preferred qualification for Respiratory Care departments in hospital organizations.**

Please list any external entities that have supplied letters of support attesting to the program’s strengths, and attach letters with the proposal.

North Alabama Medical Center

Helen Keller Hospital

Athens Limestone Hospital

Huntsville Hospital Madison

UAB Hospital

Children’s of Alabama

1. **Program Resource Requirements**

**A. Faculty.** Please provide or attach a brief summary of primary and support faculty that includes their qualifications specific to the program proposal. Note: Institutions must maintain and have current and additional primary and support faculty curriculum vitae available upon ACHE request for as long as the program is active, but you do not need to submit CVs with this proposal.

Please provide faculty counts for the proposed program:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Status | Faculty Type | |
| Primary | Support |
| Current- Full Time | 1 |  |
| Current-Part Time | 1 |  |
| Additional-Full Time (to be hired) |  |  |
| Additional-Part Time (to be hired) |  | 1 |

Note: Annual compensation costs for additional faculty to be hired should be included in the

NEW ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM SUMMARY table.

Briefly describe the qualifications of new faculty to be hired:

**Director of Clinical Education (DCE):**

Education, Credentialing and Experience Requirements: Minimum of a master’s degree, from an accredited institution accredited by a regional accrediting agency. The DCE must hold a valid RRT credential and current state license. The DCE must have a minimum of four years’ experience as a Registered Respiratory Therapist with at least two years in clinical respiratory care and have a minimum of two years’ experience teaching in an accredited respiratory care program either as an appointed faculty member or as a clinical preceptor.

**Medical Director:**

Education, License, and Certification Requirements: The Medical Director must be a licensed physician and Board certified as recognized by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) or American Osteopathic Association (AOA) in a specialty related to respiratory care.

**Part Time Instructor:**

Education, Credentialing and Experience Requirements: Minimum of a master’s degree, from an accredited institution accredited by a regional accrediting agency. Faculty must hold a valid RRT credential and current state license. Faculty must have a minimum of four years’ experience as a Registered Respiratory Therapist with at least two years in clinical respiratory care and have a minimum of two years’ experience teaching in an accredited respiratory care program either as an appointed faculty member or as a clinical preceptor.

**B. Staff.** Will the program require dedicated staff? Yes No

X

If so, indicate the number or percentage of FTEs. Salary/ benefits costs should be included in the program summary table below.

Note: Annual compensation costs for staff to be hired should be included in the

NEW ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM SUMMARY table.

**C. Equipment.**Will any special equipment be needed specifically for this program?

X

Yes No

If yes, please list. Their cost should be included in the NEW ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM SUMMARY table.

**See Attachment**

**D. Facilities.**Will any new facilities be required specifically for the program?

X

Yes No

If yes, please list. Only new facilities need be listed. Their cost should be included in the NEW ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM SUMMARY table.

**E. Library.** Will additional library resources be required to support the program?

X

Yes No

Please provide a brief description of the current status of the library collections supporting the proposed program.

If yes, please briefly describe how any deficiencies will be remedied, and include the cost in the NEW ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM SUMMARY table.

**F. Assistantships/Fellowships.** Will you offer any assistantships specifically for this program?

X

Yes No

If “Yes”, how many assistantships will be offered?

Their cost should be included in the NEW ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM SUMMARY table.

**New Academic Degree Program Summary: Instructions**

* The NEW ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM SUMMARY table is intended to provide a realistic estimate of the costs of the program over the first seven years of implementation and also serves as the basis for post-implementation conditions for new enrollments and completions.
* This should only include only \***the additional costs*\**** that will be incurred after implementation, not to include any current costs. For instance, if new faculty will be hired for the program, new faculty salary/ benefits should be included for each year following implementation, but salary/benefits for existing faculty would not be included.
* Indicate the **\*new\*** sources and amounts of funds available for the program’s support, not to include any current revenues. For instance, if the proposed program will replace an existing program or option, you would only count tuition for additional students over and above the current revenue levels.
* Completion projections **must meet minimum viability requirements** set by §16-5-8(2) of the *Code of Alabama, 1975*:

Associate degree 7.5 graduates per year on average

Baccalaureate degree 7.5 graduates per year on average

Master’s degree 3.75 graduates per year on average

Doctoral degree 2.25 graduates per year on average

* New enrollment projections must be sufficient to ensure that the program will be sustainable over time and meet minimum viability requirements for program graduates. Therefore, new enrollment numbers must exceed completion numbers to account for attrition or enrollment fluctuations.
* Please use the Excel form from ACHE’s Academic Program webpage (<https://ache.edu/Instruction.aspx> under “Forms” 🡪 “Program Summary Table”) as the “soft copy” for this section.



**Please use the Excel form from ACHE’s Academic Program webpage :**

(<https://ache.edu/Instruction.aspx> under “Forms” 🡪 “Program Summary Table”).