

Western Technical College

HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION

Respiratory Therapy Program Western Technical College

Supplemental Information

- **Course Sequence and Delivery.** The Respiratory Therapy program at Western Technical College is a two-year Associate Degree program. During the first year, students complete the foundational science, math and general education requirements. Respiratory Therapy Survey and Respiratory/Cardiac Physiology are the only first-year program courses.
 - *Important notes about **Anatomy and Physiology (A&P)** courses: Because performance in A&P courses is reflective of how well a student will perform in program courses and on national board exams, **General A&P is a pre-requisite for program admission.** Advanced A&P is highly recommended but not required.*
- **Clinical.** Students complete clinical experiences at a minimum of five clinical sites. The two La Crosse hospitals (Gundersen Lutheran and Mayo Clinic Health Systems) are the primary clinical sites. Winona Health, Black River Falls Memorial, and Rochester Mayo are also attended for one week each and you will be expected to travel to those sites.

You will spend 32 to 40 hours per week in the hospital setting during the five clinical courses. Because therapists work all hours of the day and night, it will be expected that you rotate through all three shifts: day (approximately 6:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.) evening (approximately 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.) and night shifts (approximately 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.) during your clinical rotations.

Some clinical sites may charge students an additional fee to attend clinical at their facility. Currently, some organizations are charging a \$10 fee directly to students for online training. These fees may vary from site to site and may be added or increased at any point in time. The College has no control over the fees charged by our educational partners. At this time, none of our five main clinical sites require a fee.

- **Reliable Transportation.** Students are responsible for their own transportation to clinical sites.

- **Textbook expenses**
 - Textbooks are kept to a minimum and include a main textbook (approx. \$180.00) and 2 board exam preparation material (approx. \$380.00).
- **Expenses and other requirements in addition to textbooks**
 - Viewpoint Screening purchase (Background Check and Health Portal Immunization Tracker packages- amount varies, contact Western's Health and Public Safety Division office for current cost)
 - Uniform- Red Scrub top and Black Scrub Pants (\$30-\$90)
 - Stethoscope (\$85 and up)
 - Water resistant watch (Smart watches are acceptable- additional details are shared for clinical rotations)
 - Mock Board exams and other certifications during the year- (approximately \$200; included in the course materials fee)
 - Clinical course tracking fees (approximately \$130.00)
 - Home computer with reliable internet
 - Smart phone to record lab competency videos, upload to YouTube, and for some clinical records/purposes.
 - Possible clinical fees for online training

- **Positive Background Check.**

Viewpoint Screening will report *all* contacts you have had with law enforcement, including crimes, convictions, pending charges, acquittals and dismissed charges. If there is something on your background check, Western staff will review the report and determine whether the item is significant.

Many items are considered insignificant by clinical affiliates and will not prevent you from doing clinical or fieldwork assignments. In that event, you will be notified by email that you have been cleared for clinical or fieldwork.

If your background check reveals a significant item, two clinical sites will be contacted and asked whether they would permit someone with that background to do clinical or fieldwork experience in their facilities. **Clinical sites have the right to refuse clinical placement to any student based on the background check results.** Their response indicates whether it will be difficult for you to gain placement in clinical or fieldwork sites. The Associate Dean who oversees the program will contact you to let you know the decision of the two sites and answer questions you may have. The response of those two sites is not a guarantee of what will happen once you are in the program. It is your decision whether or not to enter the program based on the uncertainty of being accepted at clinical sites. Multiple clinical sites are required for experience based on our accreditation and criticality of the required competencies to graduate.

A student who is convicted of a felony may not be able to practice in the State of Wisconsin according to the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DPS).

- **Arrests after Background Check is Completed.**

Any new arrests or charges must be reported to the Associate Dean of the Respiratory Therapy program (608.785.9275) within five (5) working days. Failure to do so may result in program dismissal.

- **Licensing or Certification Requirements after Graduation.** After graduation, you'll be eligible to take the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) written Therapist Multiple Choice (TMC) Exam. Graduates who pass this exam earn the title **Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT)** and may apply for **state licensure**. In the program's 40 years and since regulated by the NBRC, Western board exam pass rate statistics for the TMC are well above the national average/threshold.

If the graduate achieves a high enough score on the TMC exam, they are eligible to take the NBRC's **Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT)** exam and earn the RRT title.

- **Special Needs.** If you have a documented disability, there may be accommodation that can be provided to assist in your successful completion of the program. Please contact Western's Disability Services (608.785.9875) if you are in need of more information.
- **Body Art and Piercings.** In the Health & Public Safety Division, a student may display no body art or piercing that might be considered offensive. Most employment settings have policies that are generally broad; however, they do reserve the right to deny employment and student clinical/practicum/fieldwork placement if body art or piercings are found to be offensive to those in that setting.
 - The wearing and displaying of jewelry in the health care or public safety setting is generally limited to wrist watches and wedding rings or small non-dangling earrings. The purpose of this limitation is related to infection control, safety and public perception of the employees while they are on duty.
 - If a Western student has significant visible body art and/or piercings, we are unable to guarantee that the student will be able to be placed for the multiple clinical/practicum/fieldwork experiences that most programs require. You may be asked to cover the body art with clothing or dressings or remove the piercings in order to complete your rotation. If your program has a more restrictive policy on body art or piercings, it will be enforced. It is your decision whether or not to enter the program based on the uncertainty of being accepted at those sites.
- **Program Faculty.** If you have specific questions about the program or your situation, please contact the Respiratory Therapy program faculty directly.

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