



RESPIRATORY CARE PROGRAM GUIDE

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## ASSOCIATE APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE RESPIRATORY CARE PROGRAM

### General Information

The Associate Degree in Applied Science for the Respiratory Care Program offers a comprehensive degree option for the respiratory student. Graduates are eligible to take the National Board for Respiratory Care Exams. Visit [www.nbrc.org](http://www.nbrc.org) for more information about the national examinations.

The program consists of instruction in specialized courses in respiratory with concentrated study in the basic sciences and mathematics. Courses include lecture, lab, and clinical components. Students must achieve a minimum grade of "C" or higher in each biological/physical science, mathematics, and respiratory course.

Classroom instruction is closely correlated with guided clinical practice in affiliated health care agencies. The program requires four semesters of full-time day commitment.

Some travel will be required to clinical sites in order to provide the student a well-rounded clinical experience. Current clinical affiliates are Baptist Health Hardin in Elizabethtown, Taylor Regional Hospital in Campbellsville, Owensboro Health Twin Lakes Medical Center in Leitchfield, Breckinridge Memorial Hospital in Hardinsburg, Norton Audubon Hospital in Louisville, Norton Hospital in Louisville, Norton Brownsboro Hospital in Louisville, Home of the Innocents in Louisville, Norton Children's Hospital in Louisville, U of L Health Jewish Hospital in Louisville, University of Louisville Hospital in Louisville, Gould's Discount Medical in Louisville, and Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Lakeview in Elizabethtown. Transportation to clinical affiliates is the responsibility of each student.

The Associate of Applied Science Degree Respiratory Care Program is 68 total credit hours including the general education courses. The completion of prerequisites and other general education courses will require the student to have had one to two semesters of classes prior to admission. Any of the general education courses in the curriculum may be taken prior to the selective admissions process. The program recommends completion of the general education courses before admittance consideration. Additional sites may be added or sites deleted as needed to accomplish program goals.

**Because there is no waiting list, a student who has applied and not been admitted to the respiratory program, but wants to be considered again, must come to another preadmission conference and complete a new preadmission form (application).**

Respiratory Care classes require a large amount of study time, lab practice and flexible scheduling. Therefore, to be successful in completing these courses, it is highly recommended that students plan a reasonable commitment of time and effort to the program.

## PROGRAM GOALS AND MISSION

### Goal

The Goal of the Respiratory Care Program at Elizabethtown Community and Technical College (ECTC) is to prepare graduates with demonstrated competence in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavioral) learning domains of respiratory care practice as performed by registered respiratory therapists (RRT's).

### Respiratory Care Mission Statement

The mission of the Respiratory Care Program at ECTC is to prepare respiratory therapists who provide competent and optimal patient care by means of technical proficiency, critical thinking and professional conduct in medical facilities across Kentucky.

### College Mission Statement

ECTC is a comprehensive open access college that prepares people to live and work in a constantly changing world through dynamic teaching and learning environments.

ECTC accomplishes its mission by providing:

- Associate in Arts and Associate in Science degree programs which provide students with the opportunity to complete the first two years of a baccalaureate degree.
- Associate in Applied Science degree, diploma and certificate programs as well as courses to prepare individuals to excel in a complex workforce.
- Continuing and life-long education, short-term customized training for business and industry designed to strengthen the work force and expand the life skills, knowledge and cultural enrichment of the community.
- Developmental education courses to prepare individuals for success in transfer and technical courses.
- Associated services that support student development and success such as academic advising, library services, learning labs, assessment, career counseling, and cultural enrichment activities, among others.

Elizabethtown Community and Technical College, a member of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS), is a public two-year degree granting institution responding to and serving the needs of our diverse communities.

## RESPIRATORY CARE PROFESSION AND ELIGIBILITY

### Respiratory Care

The Respiratory Care Program at Elizabethtown Community & Technical College prepares the graduate to play an active role in the restoration and/or maintenance of cardiopulmonary homeostasis. The role of the respiratory therapist includes the assessment of patient cardiopulmonary systems, administration of medical gases, aerosol therapy, chest physiotherapy, breathing retraining, and measures for periodic lung expansion. The Graduate Therapist is also able to assume a leadership role (under medical supervision) in the management of artificial airways, continuous mechanical ventilation, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and pulmonary rehabilitation. Further, he/she is prepared to perform adjunct laboratory procedures such as obtaining and analyzing arterial blood gases and other clinical laboratory data and measuring pulmonary functions.

Upon completion of the Respiratory Care Program, the graduate is eligible for the national examination process. Graduates will first complete the Therapist Multiple Choice Exam. Passing the exam at the low-cut score grants a graduate the title of Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT). Passing at the high-cut score enables a graduate eligibility to take the Clinical Simulation Exam. Passing this exam grants the title of Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT). Graduates of this Respiratory Care Program are eligible to pursue advanced training/course work and specialization as a Certified Pulmonary Function Technologist (CPFT), Registered Pulmonary Function Technologist (RPFT), Neonatal Pediatric Respiratory Care Specialist (NPS), Adult Critical Care Specialist (ACCS) and the Sleep Disorders Specialist (SDS). The graduate earning any national credentials maintain those credentials anywhere in the United States and Canada. See web site for NBRC ([www.NBRC.com](http://www.NBRC.com)). The state of Kentucky currently requires a minimum earned credential of Certified Respiratory Therapist to obtain licensure to practice care.

### Eligibility

Enrollment in the Respiratory Care Program is limited due to available resources, and the number of applicants accepted is set by the accrediting board, the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care ([www.coarc.com](http://www.coarc.com)).

Graduates of an approved high school or those holding a G.E.D. diploma are eligible to apply for the program. All applicants must have completed 12 college credit hours with a cumulative grade point average above a 2.5.

All students should possess:

- a. Sufficient tactile and visual acuity, such as is needed in the accurate monitoring of life support systems and for the observation necessary for patient assessment.
- b. Sufficient auditory perception to receive verbal communication from patients and members of the health care team and to assess health needs of people through the use of monitoring devices such as monitors, stethoscopes, and alarms systems.
- c. Sufficient gross and fine motor coordination to respond promptly and to implement respiratory therapy skills including the manipulation of equipment to meet health needs.
- d. Sufficient communication skills (verbal, non-verbal and written) to interact with individuals and to communicate their needs promptly and effectively.
- e. Sufficient intellectual and emotional functions to plan and implement respiratory care.

## RESPIRATORY CARE APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply to the Selective Admissions Respiratory Care Program each applicant must attend a preadmission conference and submit the following credentials in order to be considered for admission by the committee:

1. Application for admission according to established KCTCS and college guidelines;
2. Letter of intent to the Program Director;
3. Official transcripts of previous postsecondary education; and
4. Submission of documentation indicating that minimum admission requirements have been met to enter (BIO 137, MAT 146 or MAT 150 with a grade of C or better).

This program has been approved for a substantive change in curriculum. Beginning with the Spring 2022 admission, the Program will run courses on an 18-month rotation. This means students will be required to attend a summer session in order to complete the respiratory requirements. The admission process will rotate with each subsequent class. Subsequent admission dates would be in the Fall of 2023, Spring 2025, Fall 2026, etc.

**ALL REQUIRED information must be available to the selective admissions committee by October 1st of the year preceding the year of Spring admissions and by April 1<sup>st</sup> of years accepting Fall admissions in order to be reviewed and considered.** Applications for admission to the program may be accepted beyond the date, provided that:

1. Positions are still unfilled.
2. All of the required documentation has been submitted.

Students may apply to the program while taking a prerequisite needed for first semester admission, however must be aware preference will be given to students that have already completed all general education courses needed for the Associate of Applied Science Degree associated with this program. The selection process is based on a points system that evaluates a student's academic performance. Academic performance will earn points according to the system on the following page.

## Point System

\*After the qualified applicant pool has been determined, students will be assigned points according to the standards below. Fifteen students with the highest point totals will be admitted to the program every other Spring Semester.

CRITERIA	MAX POINTS (100 points)	CALCULATION TOTAL
I. Total Credit Hours General education courses required in the Respiratory Care Program	Maximum points: 15 points Points are awarded at the rate of one point per credit hours for courses earning a "C" or better.	ENG 101 PY 110 or SOC 101 COM 252 or COM 181 Heritage/Humanities CIT 105
II. GPA in courses required in the Respiratory Care Curriculum	Maximum Points: 10 points No points awarded for GPA of less than 2.5	3.5 – 4.0 = 10 points 3.0 – 3.5 = 8 points 2.5 – 3.0 = 6 points
III. Course Load Students are awarded points based on the course load while taking and completing the Math or Anatomy and Physiology required courses with a grade of "C" or better.	Maximum Points: 12 points Points as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BIO 137 (6-12 hours)</li> <li>BIO 139 (6-12 hours)</li> <li>MAT 150 or MAT 146 (6-12 hours)</li> </ul> *Less than 6 hours = 0 points	12 hours including BIO or MAT = 4 points 9 hours including BIO or MAT = 3 points 6 hours including BIO or MAT = 1 point
IV. BIO/MATH courses required in the Respiratory Care Curriculum	Maximum Points: 15 points Points will only be awarded if the course has not been repeated due to prior failure. Course must be within the last 7 years to be eligible for credit. "W" does NOT count as a repeat option.	BIO 137: A = 5 points B = 3 points C = 1 point BIO 139: A = 5 points B = 3 points C = 1 point MAT 150 or Mat 146: A = 5 points B = 3 points C = 1 point
V. CREDIT HOURS earned at: * ECTC/KCTCS (12 or more hours) Or *Transfer Student (21 hours & 12-20 hours)	Maximum Points: 20 points	ECTC/KCTCS School Credits of 12 or more: 20 points Other Institution: 21 credits: 15 points 12 – 20 credits: 10 points
VI. HIGHEST ACADEMIC DEGREE previously earned from a nationally accredited college	Maximum Points: 10 Points	Associate Degree: 5 points Bachelor Degree or Higher: 10 points
VII. ADDITIONAL SCIENCE SUPPORT COURSES	Maximum Points: 3 Points Awarded for any additional science course taken. Example: Chemistry Physics Biology *Microbiology credit given below	1 point awarded per courses with a "C" or better.
VIII. ACT / KCTCS accepted Equivalent Exam Placement Scores	Maximum Points: 4 Points	ACT 21 or higher = 4 points Other Exam Placement Scores will be reviewed by the Selections Committee and Points determined based on National Averages.
IX. Additional Recommended Courses	Maximum of 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AHS 115</li> <li>English 102</li> <li>BIO 225 or BIO 226</li> </ul>	1 point per courses listed with a "C" or better
X. Job Shadowing	8 points max earned per hour shadowed.	1 point awarded per each hour in an approved site (Norton Healthcare, Hardin Memorial, & Taylor Regional Hospital) ½ point per hour for sites not listed-must be verifiable

1. When determining placement, the GPA will be calculated only from course work required in the respiratory care curriculum.
2. No remedial or developmental courses will be considered when calculating the GPA.
3. Acceptance and enrollment in the respiratory program are contingent upon successful completion of the prerequisites for the first semester program courses and good academic standing at the college. The minimum course completion requirement is a grade C or better in MAT 146 or MAT 150 and a grade C or better in BIO 137. Preference will be given to applicants who have an average of 2.5 or better in 12 or more credit hours of college work including at least one science course.
4. Letters will be sent to all applicants accepted into the program, no later than the week following Finals week of the semester preceding the admittance semester. All students that have applied to the program will be notified of acceptance, alternate status, contingency status or denial by the contact information provided on the application form.

### **Admission/Readmission**

#### 1. Admission:

Preference may be given to applicants who have an ACT composite standard score of 21 or above, or KCTCS accepted Equivalent Exam Placement Score.

#### 2. Readmission:

- A student who withdraws from or earns lower than a grade of “C” in a respiratory therapist course will be dropped from the Selective Admission Associate Degree Respiratory Therapist Program.
- At the time of withdrawal/drop from the Respiratory Care Program, the student must meet with specific course faculty and the program director to complete an “Attrition/Readmission Plan if intending to apply for readmission.”
- Application for readmission should be made two months prior to the subsequent semester applied for or two months prior to anticipated enrollment for a semester that was previously failed.
- Readmission to the Respiratory Care Program will be dependent on available resources.
- Students will only be considered for readmission one time.
- In order to be considered for readmission by the Respiratory Care Admissions Committee, the applicant must:
  - a. Submit a written request to the program coordinator.
  - b. Submit the completed “Attrition/Readmission Plan” with appropriate documentation.
  - c. Meet current admissions guidelines.
- If more than two years have lapsed since initial enrollment in the program, the applicant must repeat the Respiratory Therapist courses.
- If a student is dismissed from the program for clinical practice violations, eligibility for readmission is forfeited.



- Students accepted into the program but are a no call/no show status the first week of classes will not be considered for readmission.
- A student may be readmitted to the Respiratory Care Program no more than one time.

## EXPENSE AND CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK

### Expenses:

**Tuition:** (See tuition rates in published schedule for each semester)

**Other Costs:** Books, personal needs, lab materials, transportation to clinical facilities, uniforms, CPR, Background check, Drug screening, Immunizations, Mock exams, Kettering Review, Liability insurance and Data Arc or other clinical documentation tracking tool

### Criminal Background Check/Drug Screening:

All students accepted into an Allied Health program must submit a mandatory, satisfactory, criminal background check and drug screening in order to be granted eligibility for clinical practice. Unsatisfactory background check results will be reviewed.

If you have a felony offense on your record, you may not be able to get a license in the state of Kentucky. (See Kentucky Board for Respiratory Care for licensure information.)

## GENERAL EDUCATION AND SCIENCE COURSE WORK

BIO 137	Human Anatomy & Physiology 1	4
BIO 139	Human Anatomy & Physiology 2	4
MAT 150	College Algebra and Functions (OR)	3
MAT 146	Contemporary College Math	(3)
COM 252	Introduction to Interpersonal Communications (OR)	3
COM 181	Basic Public Speaking	(3)
PY 110	General Psychology (OR)	3
SOC 101	Introduction to Sociology	(3)
ENG 101	Writing 1	3
	Heritage/Humanities	3
	<b>General Education Total</b>	<b>23</b>

\*Computer Literacy a student must demonstrate Computer Literacy Skills or enroll in a Computer Course. CIT 105 or OS 105: 3 credit hours.

\*If you are a first-time college student, you may be required to take FYE 105: 3 credit hours.

## RESPIRATORY CARE CORE COURSE WORK

RCP 110	Cardiopulmonary Anatomy and Physiology	3
RCP 120	Theory and Principles of Respiratory Care	4
RCP 125	Cardiopulmonary Evaluation	4
RCP 135	Respiratory Pharmacology	1
RCP 150	Clinical Practice 1	2
RCP 175	Clinical Practice 2	3
RCP 180	Ventilatory Support	3
RCP 190	Advanced Ventilatory Support	2
RCP 200	Clinical Practice 3	3
RCP 204	Emergency and Special Procedures	3
RCP 210	Cardiopulmonary Pathophysiology	3
RCP 212	Neonatal/Pediatric Respiratory Care	3
RCP 214	Advanced Diagnostic Procedures	3
RCP 225	Clinical Practice 4	3
RCP 228	Preventative and Long Term	2
RCP 250	Clinical Practice 5	3
	<b>Technical Course Credit Total</b>	<b>45</b>
	<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>68</b>



hours. **Prerequisites:** RCP 120 with a grade of C or better; Valid Health Care Provider CPR card. **Corequisites:** RCP 120; Valid Health Care Provider Card.

- **RCP 175 Clinical Practice II** **3 credits**

Students will participate in the health care team while practicing techniques of respiratory care including airway management and bronchial hygiene in the assigned setting. Clinical 180 contact hours. **Prerequisites:** RCP 150 with a grade of C or better.
- **RCP 180 Ventilatory Support** **3 credits**

The technological and physiological aspects of mechanical ventilation including the theory of operation, classification and management of the patient ventilator system are covered. Lecture 2 hours/Laboratory 4 hours/week. **Prerequisites:** RCP 120 and RCP 150 with a grade of C or better.
- **RCP 190 Advanced Ventilatory Support** **2 credits**

Advanced concepts in ventilatory support, including monitoring and management of the patient ventilator system are addressed. Lecture 1.5 hours/Laboratory 2 hours/week. **Prerequisites:** RCP 180 with a grade of C or better.
- **RCP 200 Clinical Practice III** **3 credits**

Students will practice adult mechanical ventilation procedures and airway management in the critical care setting while continuing to perform other respiratory care skills. Clinical 180 contact hours. **Prerequisites:** RCP 175 with a grade of C or better.
- **RCP 204 Emergency & Special Procedures 1** **3 credits**

Prepare student to participate in advanced emergency life support and special procedures. Lecture 2.5 hours/Laboratory 2 hours/week. **Prerequisites:** RCP 130 and BIO 139 with a grade of C or better. **Corequisites:** RCP 130 and BIO 139.
- **RCP 210 Cardiopulmonary Pathophysiology** **3 credits**

The etiology, diagnosis, clinical manifestations and management of cardiopulmonary disorders as related to respiratory care are addressed. Lecture 3hours/week. **Prerequisites:** RCP 110 with a grade of C or better.
- **RCP 212 Neonatal/Pediatric Respiratory Care** **3 credits**

Special needs of neonatal and pediatric patients are addressed. Fetal cardiopulmonary development and changes at birth are covered. Equipment, procedures, and methods used in care and evaluation of neonatal and pediatric patients are also covered. Cardiopulmonary conditions and diseases particular to neonates are discussed. Lecture 2.5 hours/Laboratory 2 hours/week. **Prerequisites:** RCP 110 and RCP 190 with a grade of C or better. **Corequisites:** RCP 190.
- **RCP 214 Advanced Diagnostic Procedures** **3 credits**

Prepares students to assist physician in advanced diagnostic and therapeutic procedures. Lecture 2.5 credit hours/Laboratory 0.5 credit hours. **Prerequisites:** BIO 139 with a grade of C or better.
- **RCP 225 Clinical Practice 4** **3 credits**

Students will observe and practice advanced cardiopulmonary evaluation techniques while improving efficiency in the ventilatory management of adult patients. Students may also practice

pediatric and neonatal mechanical ventilation techniques in the assigned setting. Clinical 180 contact hours. **Prerequisites: RCP 200 with a grade of C or better.**

- **RCP 228 Preventive and Long-Term Respiratory Care 2 credits**

Prevention of cardiopulmonary disorders and care of individuals with long-term cardiopulmonary disability are covered including psychosocial and physical needs. Emphasis is on improving the quality of life and cardiopulmonary reserve. Special respiratory care needs of diverse client populations in a variety of settings are covered. Lecture 2 hours/week. **Prerequisites: RCP 110 with a C or better.**

- **RCP 250 Clinical Practice 5 3 credits**

Emphasis is on preparing the student to participate in efficient planning, managing and delivering respiratory care to diverse client populations. Clinical 180 contact hours. **Prerequisites: RCP 225 with a grade of C or better.**

Elizabethtown Community and Technical College (ECTC) follows the curriculum approved for the community colleges in the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS). Course descriptions may be found in the KCTCS catalog available in the Admissions Office, or online at <https://kctcs.edu/education-training/course-catalog/>. Students wishing to transfer into the program should make an appointment to see the coordinator of the program for transfer options. Students taking KCTCS classes with the intention of transferring should seek advice at the destination institution. Transportation to community agencies is the responsibility of each student.

**RESPIRATORY CARE PROGRAM**  
**EXAMPLE OF POSSIBLE COURSE SEQUENCE FALL ADMITS**

**Preadmission:**

MAT 150	College Algebra	3
	(OR) MAT 146 Contemporary College Math	
BIO 137	Human Anatomy & Physiology I	<u>4</u>
		<b>7</b>

**Fall Semester:**

RCP 110	Cardiopulmonary Anatomy and Physiology	3
RCP 120	Theory and Principles of Respiratory Care	4
RCP 150	Clinical Practice 1	2
ENG 101	English 101	3
RCP 135	Respiratory Pharmacology	1
RCP 228	Preventive & Long-Term Respiratory Care	<u>2</u>
		<b>15</b>

**Spring Semester:**

RCP 125	Cardiopulmonary Evaluation	4
RCP 175	Clinical Practice 2	3
RCP 180	Ventilatory Support (Bi-term 1)	3
RCP 190	Advanced Ventilatory Support (Bi-term 2)	2
COM 252/181	Communications or Basic Public Speaking	3
RCP 210	Cardiopulmonary Pathophysiology	<u>3</u>
		<b>18</b>

**Summer Session:**

RCP 200	Clinical Practice 3	3
RCP 225	Clinical Practice 4	3
BIO 139	Anatomy & Physiology II	<u>4</u>
		<b>10</b>

**Spring Semester:**

RCP 214	Advanced Diagnostic Procedures	3
RCP 204	Emergency and Special Procedures	3
RCP 250	Clinical Practice 5	3
RCP 212	Neonatal/Pediatric Respiratory Care	3
PY 110/100	General Psychology or Introduction of Psychology	<u>3</u>
		<b>15</b>

**Total 68 Credits**

**RESPIRATORY CARE PROGRAM**  
**EXAMPLE OF POSSIBLE COURSE SEQUENCE SPRING ADMITS**

**Preadmission:**

MAT 150	College Algebra	3
	(OR) MAT 146 Contemporary College Math	
BIO 137	Human Anatomy & Physiology I	<u>4</u>
		<b>7</b>

**Spring Semester:**

RCP 110	Cardiopulmonary Anatomy and Physiology	3
RCP 120	Theory and Principles of Respiratory Care	4
ENG 101	English 101	3
RCP 135	Respiratory Pharmacology	1
RCP 125	Cardiopulmonary Evaluation	<u>4</u>
		<b>15</b>

**Summer Session:**

RCP 150	Clinical Practice 1	2
RCP 175	Clinical Practice 2	3
BIO 139	Anatomy & Physiology II	<u>4</u>
		<b>9</b>

**Fall Semester:**

RCP 228	Preventive & Long-Term Respiratory Care	2
RCP 200	Clinical Practice 3	3
RCP 180	Ventilatory Support (Bi-term 1)	3
RCP 190	Advanced Ventilatory Support (Bi-term 2)	2
COM 252/181	Communications or Basic Public Speaking	3
RCP 210	Cardiopulmonary Pathophysiology	<u>3</u>
		<b>16</b>

**Spring Semester:**

RCP 214	Advanced Diagnostic Procedures	3
RCP 204	Emergency and Special Procedures	3
RCP 225	Clinical Practice 4 (Bi-term 1)	3
RCP 250	Clinical Practice 5 (Bi-term 2)	3
RCP 212	Neonatal/Pediatric Respiratory Care	3
PY 110/100	General Psychology or Introduction of Psychology	<u>3</u>
		<b>18</b>

**Total 68 Credits**



## GRIEVANCE MECHANISMS AND ACCREDITATION

### Grievance Mechanisms

Students with a grievance should discuss the problem with the respiratory care faculty member involved. If the problem is not resolved, the student is to bring the problem to the attention of the Respiratory Care Program Director. If the student is still not satisfied with the results, he/she may go to the Division Chairperson then to the Academic Dean. The Kentucky Community and Technical College System Code of Student Conduct is followed on all matters in which a student feels his/her academic rights have been violated.

### Accreditation

The Elizabethtown Community and Technical College Respiratory Care Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care. Visit their web site at [www.coarc.com](http://www.coarc.com). Our Program can be found here: <https://www.coarc.com/Students/Find-an-Accredited-Program.aspx>

The Elizabethtown Community and Technical College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The address is 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097.

The Elizabethtown Community and Technical College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, religion, marital status, sex or disability in employment, educational programs, or activities set forth in Title IX, Title VI, and Section 504 and ADA.



## RESPIRATORY CARE CONTACT INFO

**PREADMISSION CONFERENCE DATES to be announced  
ELIZABETHTOWN COMMUNITY TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

**Room 304 RCP Building or Virtual (SEE Website)**

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\*During classroom hours, the office phone is unattended. Please leave a voicemail. I will return your call. I am excited that you are interested in Respiratory Care, and I want an opportunity to talk to you!