Dear Prospective Student,

Thank you for your interest in our advanced standing option for respiratory therapists. Congratulations on taking the first step toward attaining a bachelor’s degree! As you are probably aware, the AARC has called for 80% of RTs to either have, or be working toward, a bachelor’s degree by 2020. The Commission on Accreditation of Respiratory Care (CoARC Standard 1.01) now requires that all RT programs created after January 1, 2018 provide a bachelor’s degree or above. Future advancement in the profession will be closely linked to your academic accomplishments.

You are making a wise choice by deciding to pursue your BS degree. According to the AARC, “to succeed in 21st century health care, RTs need to keep pace with their colleagues in nursing and other disciplines, where a bachelor’s degree or higher is becoming the norm.” Earnings potential improves with advanced degrees, as well. The AARC 2014 Human Resources Survey found that “each increase in academic degree was associated with an increase in annual compensation by at least $3,000.”

As a graduate of CoARC accredited, associate degree program in respiratory therapy at a regionally accredited college or university, you are eligible to apply for advanced standing in the respiratory therapy baccalaureate degree program at Indiana University. Of course, you have questions, like “How does it work?”

- Basically, with an AS degree, many (or all) of your community college prerequisites can count toward the first year of your 4-year BS degree.
- Your RT courses can be accepted as block credit for year 3 (junior year).
- Most students will need to earn about 26-29 credits to complete additional state general education core requirements and program prerequisites. If you have credits from any other college or high school AP class, those may reduce the number of courses you need to take.
- Once admitted to the program, you complete senior respiratory therapy courses. If you are an RRT with work experience and a current state license, you will not have to do clinic for year 4 (senior year). While the other seniors are taking 17 credits, you will take 11, for two semesters (22 credits.) You will get credit for the two clinical courses as you advance to the appropriate semesters. You will simply pay a small administrative fee (currently $100) for each clinical course to apply the credit to your transcript.
Please note, IUPUI has a limit on the number of credits that can be transferred from a two-year institution. If most or all of your completed courses are from a community college, all future courses need to be from a university, (not a community college.) Contact me, or your IUPUI Health Professions Advisor, Rene Baugh at askhpp@iupui.edu as soon as you make the decision to pursue your BS in Respiratory Therapy. We are happy review your current transcripts and help you plan your course work. We want to help you reach your career goals as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Janice Johnson, MS, RRT
Program Director
Indiana Respiratory Therapy Education Consortium
Phone 317-962-8475
jjohnson2@iuhealth.org