

Common ELAC / SMC Respiratory Therapy Program FAQ's

Below you will find common questions and answers about the ELAC / SMC Respiratory Therapy Program. Please contact the RT Program at if you have any more questions.

The ELAC / SMC Respiratory Therapy Program

Phone: 323-265-8813

Email: RTProgram@elac.edu

Location: C2-126-A (behind the men's basketball gym and next to the P3 (Cesar Chavez entrance) parking lot. (The Bungalow is listed as the "Allied Health Department")

Website: <https://www.elac.edu/academics/departments/alliedHealth/respiratorytherapy/>

Common Questions & Answers

Question: What are the prerequisite courses needed to apply to the Respiratory Therapy (RT) program?

Answer: Satisfactory ("C" or better) completion of each of the following college courses:

2018-2019 Cohort Prerequisites

- Human Anatomy 1 or Biology 20
- Human Physiology 1 or Biology 20
- General Microbiology 1 or 20
- Chemistry 51 or 65
- Communication 101 or 121
- Intermediate Algebra 125
- Reading & Composition 101

Question: What is the required GPA for all the coursework prerequisites?

Answer: All required coursework must be completed with a grade of "C" or better (2.0 GPA); with an overall 2.5 GPA in the science courses.

Question: What are the science courses requiring an overall 2.5 GPA?

Answer: Anatomy, Physiology, Microbiology & Chemistry.

Question: Do transfer students have to retake the prerequisite courses at ELAC?

Answer: Using their transcripts as proof of completion, students can initiate the "General Petition" in the Admissions Office requesting that credit be granted for those courses which the student feels meets or exceeds the minimum course requirements listed by the Program.

Question: Where do transfer students attempting to join the program turn their transcripts in?

Answer: To both the RT office and the Admissions Office to initiate a "General Petition."

Question: When does the program accept applications?

Answer: From the 1st day of the fall semester until the last day of the following spring semester. (Check the

ELAC RT website for any changes to our dates.

<http://www.elac.edu/academics/departments/alliedHealth/respiratorytherapy/index.htm>)

Question: When does the program begin annually?

Answer: At the start of each fall semester, a cohort of 50 students (split between both the ELAC & SMC campuses) begins the two-year program curriculum.

Question: How are students selected for admission into the program?

Answer: Once the number of applications exceeds the accreditation-mandated capacity, the name of ALL students are placed into a lottery where the candidate names are selected by a double-blind draw in the presence of the program director and Administrator. 5 additional students will be selected for the wait list. Should any applicant selected for program admission be unable to enroll or fails to complete the mandatory orientation process, the name of the first student on the wait list will be given the opportunity to fill the vacancy, until the wait list is exhausted.

Question: Where do I obtain an application to apply for the RT program?

Answer: The application can be found at the following link: (also in the Respiratory Therapy webpage)

<https://www.elac.edu/academics/departments/alliedHealth/respiratorytherapy/>

Question: What paperwork must I submit along with the application?

Answer: If an applicant has completed all of the required prerequisite classes WITHIN the 9 campus LACCD system, unofficial (internet generated) transcripts will suffice. For coursework completed OUTSIDE of the LACCD system, official transcripts must be attached to the application.

Question: If my transcripts are not ready at the time I want to submit my application to the program, will my application still be reviewed?

Answer: Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Question: Do I submit my program application and / or transcripts to the Admissions Office at ELAC?

Answer: No. A complete application, including transcripts, must be turned into the RT office. Applicants may also may the completed application to the following address:

East Los Angeles College RT Program
Attention: Juan Loza
1301 Avenida Cesar Chavez
Monterey Park, California 91754

Question: How will I know if I was accepted into the program?

Answer: Applicants are notified via email ONLY, approximately 2-4 after the application deadline has passed.

Question: What must a student do once he/she receives an acceptance letter via email?

Answer: Upon acceptance, the candidate will be given a list of responsibilities that must be completed by the prescribed deadline, and are solely responsible for completing all assigned tasks. These tasks include the scheduling of an appointment with a RT Faculty advisor, an academic counselor, as well as attending a mandatory orientation. Failure to complete the assigned tasks within the designated time may result in the accepted status being rescinded.

Question: Once admitted into the program, what is the duration of time before obtaining an AS Degree?

Answer: Approximately 22 months; provided that all general education requirements for the AS degree have

been completed.

Question: How do I know what classes I need to take once I'm admitted into the program?

Answer: Once formally admitted, the student will be assigned to an RT advisor, who will work with the student to establish their written "RT Education Plan."

Question: How are the RT courses scheduled?

Answer: All courses are scheduled in sequential order each semester, and must be completed with a grade of "C" or better before progressing to the next semester. Most RT courses are only offered once / year.

Question: Is it possible for students to work and be part of the program?

Answer: While it is possible to work a part-time job during the 1st-year of theory courses, the number one reason that students give us for being unable to achieve success in the RT program is the inability to schedule sufficient time to study. The increased time demands of being a 2nd year clinical student pose a serious challenge for students who try to work. Thus, it is highly discouraged whenever possible.

Question: Does the RT program offer any evening or weekend classes?

Answer: At this time, all on-campus theory classes are scheduled in the morning and afternoons. Although some clinical rotations many occur at night or on a weekend.

Question: Is it possible to take a leave of absence once the student has been admitted into the program?

Answer: Generally the only time a LOA is granted will be due to extenuating circumstances (i.e., health concerns, emergencies, etc.).

Question: What requirements need to be met before students can start the clinical phase of the program?

Answer: Providing the following:

- 1) A clear background check
- 2) A complete physical examination, including lab work and chest radiography.
- 3) A clear vaccination (immunity) status
- 4) Purchase of malpractice insurance
- 5) Equipment and uniform
- 6) LA County fire and AHA BLS cards that will not expire during the clinical rotation.

Question: What happens if the background check is not clear of discrepancies (i.e., felonies, misdemeanors, etc.)?

Answer: This is handled on a case-by-case basis, depending on the requirements of each clinical site, but if the student can be placed in a contracted hospital, unfortunately, the student may not be able to be admitted into the clinical component of the program.

Question: When does the malpractice insurance have to be purchased?

Answer: The malpractice insurance needs to be purchased prior to the start of the clinical rotations.

Question: Does the program assist students with general education (GE) academic advisement to meet ELAC's Associate Degree GE requirements?

Answer: No. Students must meet with an ELAC academic counselor to review their preparation in meeting these requirements.

Question: Can students enter the program before completing the degree requirements?

Answer: No; it is strongly advised that ALL GE degree requirements be completed before the start of the program. It is MANDATORY that ALL general education degree requirements be completed PRIOR to the

start of the clinical courses, and must be verified by an ELAC academic counselor before the student will be permitted to enroll in RT 15. Please note that RT students are exempt from taking the Health requirement.

Question: Once I complete the RT coursework, who will be responsible for providing my accreditation?

Answer: Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) accredits all U. S. Respiratory Therapy programs.

Question: Are students from another RT program allowed to transfer into the ELAC/SMC RT program?

Answer: Students interested in transferring to the ELAC / SMC RT program must first schedule an appointment with the Program Director. Each individual will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis for respiratory course transfer credit. A "General Petition" form must be completed and submitted to the Admissions Office requesting that ELAC formally accept the requested transfer courses in lieu of those offered at ELAC; syllabi and college catalog course descriptions for ~~the~~ each course being requested must be included in the petition. Lastly, **ALL** transfer students must submit a letter from their former RT Program Director that states they are competent and clinically safe.