Please contact the following numbers for counselor's office hours: (915) 831-4636, (915) 831-4036, (915) 831-4155.

HEALTH CTE, CREDIT and CE, MATH & SCIENCE
Specialized Admissions Program Information Guide
For
RESPIRATORY CARE TECHNOLOGY
ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE (AAS-RSPT)
2026-2027 Catalog

PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

Program Coordinator: Maria Bailey, MHA, RRT-RCP.
Office Location: RG Campus, RM B-305
Phone #: 915-831-4216
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Clinical Coordinator: Ashley Becker, BS, RRT-NPS.
Office Location: RG Campus, RM B-404
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Dean: Souraya A. Hajjar, Ed.D., MPH, CHES, CHCO.
Office Location: RG Campus, RM A-240
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Program Medical Advisor: Ahmad M. Hajj, M.D.

RSPT AAS-Program Counselor:
Office Location: RG Counseling Dept., 103 Montana Ave., 3rd. floor

Ricardo Lopez de Lara, Lead Counselor
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PROGRAM MAP

Program Map provides additional information regarding salary projections, employment opportunities, licensure requirements and Educational milestones. Link: https://www.epcc.edu/Academics/Catalog/program-map?programID=1108

Students qualifying for Specialized Admissions must satisfy the following: General Requirements, minimum set TSIA2 scores, Mandatory courses, and Pre-Program Specifics. Once all requirements are completed, ranking points are derived from the highest TSIA2 scores and G.P.A of ranking courses. Applicants who complete all ranking courses may be more competitive for admission into their program of choice.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Applicants for Specialized Admissions must satisfy Minimum Criteria to be eligible for ranking. The following is required of all applicants:

- Prior to ranking, **the student must** submit all previous college/university official transcripts (transliteration of all foreign coursework required). For online Transcripts Evaluation: **sendtranscripts2@epcc.edu PDF with a password protection.**
- Students must have a **High School Diploma or GED. Submit official transcripts to:**
  El Paso Community College Admissions Office
  P.O. Box 20500, El Paso, Texas 79998
- Student must:
  1. **Be approved to take credit academic courses by EPCC.**
  2. Have successfully completed **TSIA2 Assessment Tests.**
  3. **Complete an online Health Careers Orientation** at: **https://www.epcc.edu/Admissions/Orientation/health-careers-orientation**
  4. **Submit Specialized Admissions Application** form, pay $ 10.00 fee at any EPCC Cashiers' office, send receipt via email to specialized.adm@epcc.edu or hand carry to: VV Campus, 919 Hunter, Enrollment Services Center; Admissions and Registration Office.
  5. **A grade of a "C" or better is required for all academic and specialized courses listed under the degree plan.**
- **EPCC Cumulative GPA of 3.0 is required.**

- **Effective Fall 2011, and based on new federal regulations, students are not allowed to repeat previously passed courses more than once."** Students should meet with a counselor to determine how a repeat course (s) would impact his/her academic, prerequisite, specialized admissions, or transferability of courses. It is the student's responsibility to check with the Office of Student Financial Services to inquire how a repeat course (s) would impact their financial aid or veteran's assistance.

TSIA2 MINIMUM REQUIRED ASSESSMENT SCORES FOR RSPT

Test Area	Test Code	TSIA2 Cut Scores	Percentage
Math	PTMT	940	15
Reading & Writing	PTER	940	15
Essay	PTWE	5	10

- **TSIA2 Official Assessment scores are valid for two (2) years with the highest test score used for qualifying and ranking.**
- **Posting TSIA2 Assessment scores will take between 24 to 48 hours. Assessment Tests must be completed at least 48 hours prior to ranking date. Consult your Respiratory Program Counselor for advice.**

MANDATORY COURSES: 4 COURSES

A student must successfully complete mandatory courses prior to ranking. Applicants who do not satisfactorily complete mandatory course work will not qualify for ranking into this program. Mandatory courses cannot be substituted.

▲ Mandatory Courses must have a grade of "C" or better.

- ▲ BIOL 2404 Anatomy & Physiology
- ▲ RSPT 1201 Introduction to Respiratory Care
- ▲ RSPT 2317 Cardiopulmonary Pharmacology
- ▲ MATH 1314 College Algebra

NOTE: Mandatory Courses are good for 3 years.

RANKING COURSES: 3 COURSES

Ranking courses are within the degree plan in which performance most reliably predicts future ability to successfully complete the program. It is highly recommended to complete all ranking courses prior to ranking to be competitive. Ranking courses cannot be substituted.

▲ Ranking Courses should be completed no later than Spring Semester to be eligible for June 1.

- ▲ BIOL 2404 Anatomy & Physiology
- ▲ RSPT 1201 Introduction to Respiratory Care
- ▲ RSPT 2317 Cardiopulmonary Pharmacology

NOTE: BIOL 1306 and BIOL 1106 are pre-requisites for BIOL 2404 with a "C" or better. Students can complete prerequisites by taking these courses or by taking a Biology CLEP exam prior to ranking. RSPT Courses and BIOL 2404 are good for 3 years.

PROCESSING OF PRE-PROGRAM SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

It is highly recommended that the applicant completes the Pre-Program Specific Requirements at least three (3) weeks prior to the ranking date. The applicant must complete "Specialized Admissions" requirements for qualifying and ranking. There is a scheduled ranking date for this program. Normal processing may take a few days or a few weeks depending on document type and individual circumstances.

If documents have been received but not processed, then the student will be coded as ineligible for that ranking.

PRE-PROGRAM SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

Applicants for Specialized Programs must also meet Pre-Program Specific Criteria prior to qualifying for ranking. The following is required of all applicants:

- **Community Wide Orientation** - Conducted online: **https://www.epcc.edu/Admissions/Orientation/community-wide-orientation** (must be renewed every year).
- **CPR** - American Heart Association (AHA) CPR/BLS (only Health Provider training accepted) card from AHA. Military Training Network (AHA recognized) cards will be accepted. Hybrid AHA courses with live skills demonstrations will be accepted. CPR card must remain current throughout the course of the program (Certification may not be older than two (2) years).

➢ **HIPAA Training** - Conducted online: https://www.epcc.edu/Academics/Health/hipaa (must be renewed every year).

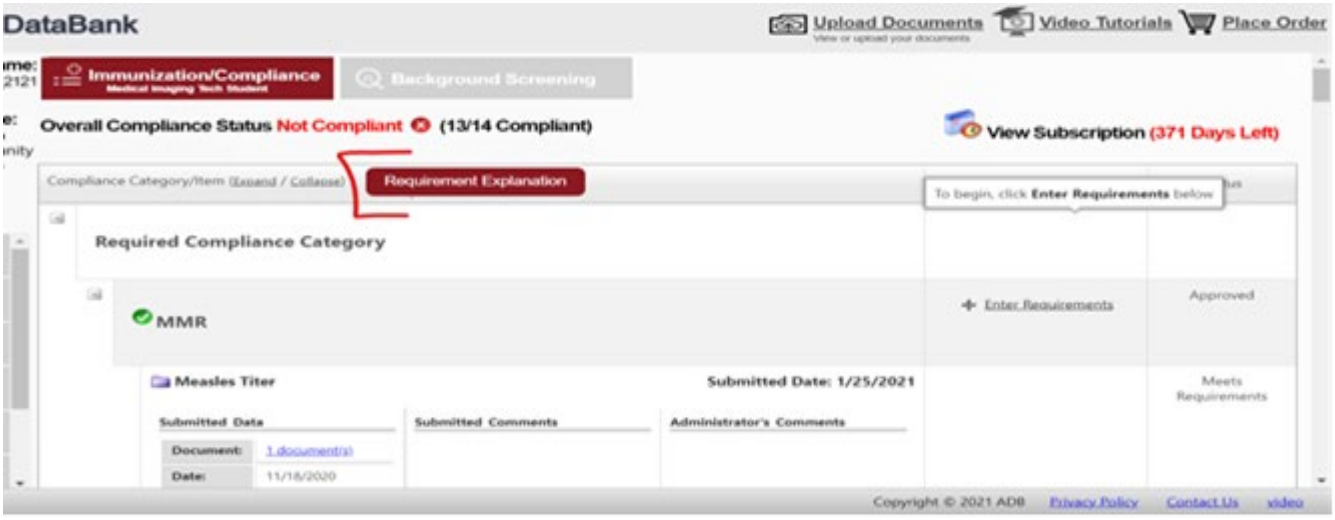
➢ **Immunizations and Titers –The following must be completed:**

- **POSITIVE TITER required for Hepatitis B vaccination series of three and Titer** (can take 4-6 months to complete) or Twinrix (Hepatitis A & B) series of four (4) shots: Days: #0, #7, #21, plus booster after 365 days or disease prior to **TITER**. Documentation of starting the series must be on file.
- **POSITIVE TITER required for each two doses - Measles, Mumps and Rubella Vaccinations (MMR)** (completed) **and Titer.**
- **POSITIVE TITER required for each two doses - Varicella Vaccination and Titer** (completed).
- **Tetanus/Diphtheria and Pertussis (TDAP)** vaccine (completed, expires after 10 years).
- **Tuberculosis (TB) screening is required annually**. NOTE: If the TB skin is used. i**t is highly recommended to complete any and all TB skin testing prior to receiving the MMR and/or Varicella vaccines. MMR or Varicella vaccines could cause a false negative TB skin test result. You may use either one of the following screenings:**
  1. **QuantiFERON (Q Gold) test OR**
  2. **Tuberculosis (TB) skin test**.
     - **A**. Individuals that will be using the TB skin test who have previously tested negative, have never tested, or are not sure if previously tested.
       - **a.** Initial 2 Step TB Skin Test (effective January 1, 2018, for all students/faculty new to health programs).
         - i. Initial TB skin test (TST) administered and read 48-72 hours later.
         - ii. If initial TB skin test is negative, the second TST must be administered no sooner than 7 days and no later than 21 days after administration of the initial TST.
         - iii. If initial TST is positive, DO NOT ADMINISTER the second TST. Individual needs Chest X-ray and annual TB Assessment/Clearance (or equivalent document) from Health Care Provider.

  NOTE: TB Skin Test that is Positive (previously). Requires completed Annual TB Assessment/Clearance form.
- **Influenza vaccine is required** (done annually).
- **Meningitis or Booster** – (Effective January 1, 2012, a Bacterial Meningitis Vaccination is required for all entering students under the age of 22. The term "entering students" includes new students to EPCC, transfer students, and returning students. Students must provide proof of an initial meningitis immunization or booster to the Admissions and Registration Department at any campus. The meningitis immunization must be administered at least 10 days before the start of the semester and must have been administered within the last five years).
  NOTE: If you have had the vaccination at an earlier date, you may start with a Titer, as the result will indicate if you need the vaccine. If you have not had the vaccination and after vaccination is applied, you must wait 4-6 weeks for immunity to show up on the TITER.
- **COVID-19 is required.**

Visit Admission and Registration EPCC web page for additional information. **Website:** https://www.epcc.edu/Admissions/immunization-law

A tracking system, COMPLIO, will assist students and coordinators alike to be compliant with immunizations, CPR, First Aid, physical, etc. All students participating in health programs must be part of the American Databank, in order to keep their clinical data in compliance and updated. **If you have any questions contact Maria Bailey, Program Coordinator at: mbrawner@epcc.edu or Ashley Becker, Clinical Coordinator at: abecker2@epcc.edu**
COMPLIO Link: https://www.epcc.edu/Academics/Health/Documents/Background_Check_Substance_Abuse_Testing.pdf
Follow the example below when inputting your Program required documents; students can find this information under the "Requirement Explanation" button.



POST ACCEPTANCE REQUIREMENTS

Students are responsible for the following requirements AFTER accepting a seat in the Program:

- Must file a degree plan with the designated Health Counselor.
- **Background Check- (fee is required)** Each student must complete a background check prior to enrolling in clinical courses. Background checks are required prior to acceptance into most health programs or courses. Students are responsible for the costs. Currently, the approved vendor for El Paso Community College is American Databank: **http://www.elpasoex.com/**. Only background checks from American Databank are accepted. **You will receive a letter from the Dean of Health Career and Technical Education, Math & Science division to inform you of the status of your background check. The student will not be able to go to the clinical areas/health care facilities until cleared.**
  ***NOTE:** If a student has not enrolled in a health-related program for one or more semesters, the student must redo the background check at his/her own expense, for further information, please ask a Health Counselor or call the Program Coordinator.

  There are two Levels of background checks: **Level I** applies to all students and includes: (1) Social Security Number Verification. (2) Criminal Search 7 years minimum or up to five criminal searches. (3) Violent Sexual Offender and Predator Registry Search. (4) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) list of Excluded Individuals/Entities. (5) GSA List of Parties Excluded from Federal Programs. (6) U.S. Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), List of Specially Designated Nationals (SDN), and (7) State Exclusion List.
  Level II is for students already licensed or certified in any area. **Level II** requires all of the Level 1 elements plus (1) License Verification, (2) Certification Verification, and (3) Employment Verification, including reason for separation and eligibility for re-hire.
  A positive criminal history will require proof of the official case disposition for clearance. Generally: Disqualifying criminal offenses include but are not limited to any felony conviction within the last 10 years, or two or more misdemeanors in crimes against persons, or families, such as homicide, kidnapping, rape, sexual assault, assault, battery, aggravated robbery, theft. Any misdemeanor or felony conviction involving abuse, neglect, or exploitation against a child, vulnerable adult, or disabled individual. Felonies or two misdemeanors involving manufacture, importation, delivery, or possession of controlled substances, including felony conviction of DWI or two misdemeanor DWI convictions. Deferred adjudication for any felony is also a disqualifying event for enrolling into any of the Health Programs.
  Please note that many professional licensure or certification agencies may have additional requirements. You should reference the requirements for each agency.
- **Health Care Insurance** (evidence). Mandatory Healthcare insurance is required for students doing clinicals at healthcare facilities.
- **Physical Examination** (Current) completed by a Physician, Nurse Practitioner or Physician's Assistant licensed in the United States (Not older than one year). **Website:** FFAA-1.pdf (epcc.edu
- **Physical Technical Standards Form** (completed):
  https://www.epcc.edu/Administration/InstitutionalEffectiveness/PoliciesandProcedures/FB-8.pdf
- **Program Orientation.** "Admitted students will receive notification of Program Orientation following verified acceptance into the program."
- **Specialized Equipment and/or Lab Supplies** In accordance with course syllabi, students must purchase their own individual equipment and/or supplies. The program coordinator will provide students with detailed information.
- **Substance Abuse Screening** will be required for each student enrolling in health career programs with clinical components. The student will be required to pay for any additional drug abuse screen test if it must be repeated for any reason. ***NOTE:** Students must re-take and pay for substance abuse test if test was taken **three months** prior to the first clinical education course. For further information, please ask a Health Counselor or call the Program Coordinator. **Website:** http://www.elpasoex.com/
- **Textbooks** and other course materials must be purchased at the student's expense in accordance with course syllabi.
- **Transportation:** Students are responsible for their own transportation to off-campus clinical/learning sites.
- **Transportation:** Students are responsible for their own transportation to off-campus clinical/learning sites.
- **Uniforms:** In accordance with course syllabi, students must purchase their own uniforms. The Program Coordinator will provide students with detailed information.

The Respiratory Care Technology Program is Accredited by the Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC), 264 Precision BLVD., Telford, TN 37690; Phone (817) 283-2835, Fax: (817) 354-8519.
Email: info@coarc.com Website: http://www.coarc.com

To complete the requirements for progression and graduation, students enrolled in this program must have a grade of **"C"** or better in all specialized courses. The term "specialized courses" refers to all courses carrying the prefix of the program in which the student is majoring or the prefix of another health-related discipline.

RSPT AAS PROGRAM DEGREE COURSES

Check El Paso Community College Catalog for Course Prerequisites

Prerequisite Semester

BIOL 2404 Anatomy & Physiology (Specialized, Single-Semester Course, Lecture + Lab) (C) (MNS) **Prerequisites:** Placement at College Level Reading or Writing by TSIA or equivalent; OR completion with a "C" or better or concurrent enrollment in the following: INRW 0311 or INRW 0312 or INRW 0313; and BIOL 1306 and 1106 with a "C" or better or Biology CLEP exam.

CHEM 1311 General Chemistry I Lecture (C) (MNS) **Prerequisite:** Placement at college-level English Language Arts Reading by TSIA2 or equivalent; OR completion with a C or better or concurrent enrollment in the following: INRW 0311 or INRW 0312 or INRW 0313; and MATH 1314 with a C or better. Corequisite: CHEM 1111.

CHEM 1111 General Chemistry I Lab **Corequisite:** CHEM 1311

HPRS 1206 Essentials of Medical Terminology

MATH 1314 College Algebra (C) (MNS) **Prerequisite:** Placement at college-level Mathematics by TSI2 or equivalent; OR Completion of NCBM 0114 with a **CR** or NCBM 0314 with a **C** or better; OR concurrent enrollment in NCBM 0114 or NCBM 0314.

RSPT 1201 Introduction to Respiratory Care

First Semester

ENGL 1301 Composition I (C) **Prerequisite:** Placement at college-level English Language Arts Reading by TSIA2 or equivalent; OR completion of INRW 0311 or INRW 0312 or INRW 0313 with a **C** or better; OR concurrent enrollment in INRW 0311 or INRW 0313.

RSPT 1240 Advanced Cardiopulmonary Anatomy and Physiology **Corequisite**: RSPT 1360

RSPT 1360 Clinical-Respiratory Care Therapy/Therapist I **Corequisite:** RSPT 1240.

RSPT 1410 Respiratory Care Procedures I

RSPT 2317 Cardiopulmonary Pharmacology

Second Semester

PHIL 2306 Introduction to Ethics (C) (HFA) **Prerequisite:** Placement at college-level English Language Arts Reading by TSIA2 or equivalent; OR completion with a **C** OR better or concurrent enrollment in the following: INRW 0311 or INRW 0312 or IINRW 0313.

RSPT 1411 Respiratory Care Procedures II **Prerequisite:** RSPT 1201. **Corequisite:** RSPT 2362.

RSPT 2210 Cardiopulmonary Disease

RSPT 2362 Clinical-Respiratory Care Therapy/Therapist II **Prerequisite:** RSPT 1360.

Third Semester (Summer)

RSPT 2355 Critical Care Monitoring **Prerequisite:** CHEM 1311 and 1111.

RSPT 2360 Clinical-Respiratory Care Therapy/Therapist III **Prerequisite:** RSPT 2362. Corequisite: RSPT 2414.

RSPT 2414 Mechanical Ventilation **Corequisite:** RSPT 2360.

Social and Behavioral Sciences Elective[1] (C) (SBS) **Pref. Course:** SOCI 1301

Fourth Semester

RSPT 2130 Respiratory Care Examination Preparation **Prerequisite:** RSPT 2414.

RSPT 2358 Respiratory Care Patient Assessment **Prerequisite:** RSPT 2317. **Corequisite:** RSPT 2361.

RSPT 2361 Clinical-Respiratory Care Therapy/Therapist IV **Prerequisite:** RSPT 2360.

RSPT 2453 Neonatal/Pediatric Cardiopulmonary Care

[1]**Social and Behavioral Sciences Elective:** Complete one course from CRIJ 1301, PSYC 2301, 2314, or SOCI 1301 (Preferred course)[1].

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Official Ranking Date: **June 1.**
- Program Begins - **Fall.**
- Maximum Students Admitted: **24 Students.**
- **Community Wide Orientation** - Conducted online: **https://www.epcc.edu/Admissions/Orientation/community-wide-orientation**
- HIPAA online at: **https://www.epcc.edu/Academics/Health/hipaa**
- Health Careers Orientation online at: **https://www.epcc.edu/Admissions/Orientation/health-careers-orientation**
- Online additional program-specific and career information: **https://www.epcc.edu/Academics/Health**
- Students who completed articulated or dual credit courses in health in high school should bring this to the attention of the counselor. College credit may still be available.
- RSPT website: **https://www.epcc.edu/Academics/Health/respiratory-care-technology**

OTHER INFORMATION

- CPR and First Aid Courses are available through the Health CTE, Credit and CE, Math & Science Division. Please see the current Continuing Education Course Schedule or call 915-831-7820 for more information.
- Our EPCC Rio Grande Border Health Clinic is located at the Rio Grande Campus, for information call: 915- 831-4016 or call 915-831-4017 for Dental, Medical Sonography, Echocardiogram or Physical Therapy clinics.

This document is to be used with EPCC College Catalog, which provides complete information on courses as well as College regulations and procedures. This is for informational purposes only and is not a binding offer or contract between the College and the student. This document was revised September 2025 and is subject to change without prior notice.

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