RESPIRATORY CARE PRACTITIONER—ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE DEGREE

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Hartnell College Respiratory Care Practitioner (RCP) program is a 4-semester course of study consisting of classroom, high-fidelity simulation, skills laboratory, seminar, and clinical experiences. Clinical experiences are in Monterey, Santa Clara, and San Luis Obispo counties. Upon successful completion of program requirements, graduates are eligible to take the National Board of Respiratory Care’s Registry Examination (RRT, CRT). After passing, graduates may practice as respiratory care practitioners in a variety of acute and community-based settings. The Hartnell College Respiratory Care Practitioner Program is in the accreditation process of the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC).

PROGRAM OUTCOMES:

The Respiratory Care Practitioner (RCP) Program at Hartnell College will provide skilled graduates to the healthcare community who have obtained their professional license (RCP) and credentials (CRT and RRT). Graduates will “demonstrate competence in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains of respiratory care practice as performed by registered respiratory therapists (RRTs).”

Upon successful completion of the Respiratory Care Practitioner (RCP) program a student will

1. comprehend, apply, and evaluate information necessary to practice as a respiratory care practitioner (cognitive) as evidenced by their ability to
   a. analyze and evaluate patient’s subjective and objective data from the patient’s record to formulate or revise a respiratory care plan.
   b. educate patients and their families about disease states, treatment and health promotion.
   c. pass the licensure examination accepted by the California State Respiratory Care Board (National Board for Respiratory Care Entry Level Examination) and qualifying for licensure as a California Respiratory Care Practitioner. Graduates will also successfully pass the National Board for Respiratory Care Advanced Practitioner Written and Simulation Registry Examination within one year of program completion.

2. perform the skills competently as a respiratory care practitioner (psychomotor) as evidenced by their ability to
   a. assess patients in the health care setting and document findings and interventions.
   b. implement respiratory therapeutic interventions in a timely manner consistent with patient safety and infection control standards.
   c. communicate clearly and professionally in interpersonal interactions with patients, family members, and the health care team.

3. practice professional attitudes and behavior (affective) as evidenced by their ability to
   a. practice within the legal and ethical scope of practice.
   b. work effectively as a health care team member.
   c. ensure safe and supportive care by building cross-cultural relationships, addressing the physical and psychosocial needs of the patient.