

## SALT LAKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE RESPIRATORY THERAPY PROGRAM

### ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS FOR CAREER SUCCESS

All individuals, including persons with disabilities, who apply for admission to the respiratory therapy program, must be able to perform specific essential functions with reasonable accommodations. Essential functions are the basic activities that a student must be able to perform to complete the curriculum and function as a respiratory therapist. The following list contains information regarding essential skills outlining the physical abilities and behavioral characteristics necessary for the student to successfully participate in and complete the respiratory therapist program. These standards are not conditions of admission but reflect the performance abilities and characteristics necessary to successfully complete requirements for respiratory care. It is ultimately the student's responsibility to meet these essential skills if accepted into the respiratory therapist program. The student should consult with the program coordinator to discuss any individual situation if he or she may not be able to meet these essential performance requirements.

#### ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

- Must be able to stand and walk for up to six hours at a time, and a minimum of eight hours in a day.
- Must be able to safely lift and carry up to 50 pounds unassisted, and up to 250lbs assisted.
- Must have visual acuity (assisted or unassisted) to be able to clearly see patient conditions such as pathological changes in skin color and texture, use accessory muscles of breathing, mist from a nebulizer. Also, to clearly see for readings on bedside monitors necessary for interpretation including, but not limited to, waveforms, blood pressure, oxygen saturation, etc.
- Must be able to hear verbal directions, pagers (voice messaging), gas flow through equipment, as well as breath sounds and heart sounds through a stethoscope.
- Must be able to speak spontaneously and convey medical and surgical concepts clearly and coherently in English
- Must understand linguistic, social and cultural influences that impact health care interactions (e.g., specialized vocabulary, discourse styles, language register, dynamics of power and prestige between interlocutors, and triadic communication) appropriate for the medical environment.
- Must be able to appropriately synthesize, and affectively convey verbally, all scopes of medical information consecutively and simultaneously. Including understanding the ramifications of each format and demonstrating the knowledge and skills to move effectively between these formats during a single interaction. Such as while performing a medical procedure/discourse considering patient safety factors, such as acute care needs and the potential for disrupting the healthcare teamwork.
- Must be able to obtain details and essential information from medication labels written in English to ensure the safety of patients and must be able and willing to accurately follow the directions of the medical team in the use and scope of these medications.
- Must be able to see and manipulate all sizes of equipment. Have good depth perception to manipulate instrumentation and equipment with either natural or corrected vision while adhering to sterile technique.
- Must be able to bend, reach, squat, kneel, lift both arms above head and grasp, move and lift patients.
- Must be able to manipulate small surgical instruments with steady, reliable, accurate movements to meet the standards of respiratory practice.
- Must be able to make generalizations, evaluations, or decisions without immediate supervision as a registered respiratory therapist.

- Must be able to perform simple to complex mathematical skills including addition, subtraction, multiplication, division of whole numbers and fractions required for handling of medications and calculation of military time.
- Must be able to obtain details, inferences, essential information and vocabulary from medical records, manuals, journals, instruction in use and maintenance of equipment, safety rules and procedures written in English.
- Must be able to understand main ideas, important details, implications, relationships between ideas, organize information and understand speaker's purpose and speaker's attitude which demonstrates knowledge of medical terms, procedures, and protocols.

\*\*If you are unable to perform one of the above essential functions, please contact the Health Sciences Admissions Office at [healthsciencesadmissions@slcc.edu](mailto:healthsciencesadmissions@slcc.edu) before submitting your application.

I have read and understand the essential functions.

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Print name

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Signature

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Date