

# The Coalition Chronicle

Coalition for Baccalaureate and Graduate Respiratory Therapy Education

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## Boise State University Boise, Idaho



### *Spotlight Article*

#### ***Master of Science in Respiratory Care Program***

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#### **About Boise State**

Located in one of the most talked about cities in the country, Boise State University is a metropolitan campus located in the heart of Boise, Idaho. The growing campus runs along the banks of the Boise River and offers the unique feel of an active, buzzing city united in a strong sense of community. With over 24,000 students from every state and more than 60 foreign countries enrolled in more than 200 areas of study, Bronco Nation is thriving. In addition to making national headlines for the blue turf, Boise State University has grown to become a nationally recognized research institution. The university has a growing research agenda and

plays a crucial role in the region's knowledge, economy and famed quality of life. In the past 10 years, the university has quadrupled the number of doctoral degrees, doubled its master's degrees and now offers 13 online degree programs. Boise State is committed to developing the whole student by providing an educational path for students to seek success beyond the major to positively impact the world around them. Learn more at [www.BoiseState.edu](http://www.BoiseState.edu).



## Department of Respiratory Care

**R**espiratory Care has had a presence at Boise State since 1970. Beginning as a small program, transferred from Treasure Valley College, and adopted by what was then Boise State College, the small program and its students were nurtured by both dedicated faculty as well as community partners who understood the clinical necessity of the profession. In the nearly 40 years since, what was once a program of two faculty who welcomed, at most, fourteen on-campus students working toward an associate degree in respiratory therapy has grown to become an innovative leader in the field of respiratory care education.

The department faculty and staff have always had an eye on the future, anticipating how best to help shape the field of respiratory care. Although the department began offering a baccalaureate option in 1982, Boise State University was among the first in the nation to rise to the challenge set forth by the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) to advance from an entry-level requirement of an associate degree to a baccalaureate by altering the curriculum to offer *only* a baccalaureate degree in 2011. As faculty became aware that respiratory care practitioners across the country would also rise to pursue the new AARC recommendations, the department worked to meet the demand for a rigorous, inclusive baccalaureate option. The faculty and staff developed a program designed specifically for credentialed practitioners with an associate degree to obtain their baccalaureate degree at Boise State, offering the Degree Advancement Program (DAP) in 2007. This program, offered completely online, was among the first of its kind not only at Boise State, but also in the nation, to provide a rigorous yet flexible option for students across the world to obtain a Bachelor of

Science in Respiratory Therapy (BSRT) degree. Growing from 17 students at its inception to over 300 today, the Boise State Department of Respiratory Care's Degree Advancement Program is now the largest in the world.

Driven by a collective mission to provide the most inclusive, innovative, and community-based education such that graduates are prepared with the knowledge, motivation, and commitment required to move the profession forward, Boise State continues to define the standard of respiratory care education. Currently the Boise State Department of Respiratory Care has 11 full-time faculty, 16 adjunct faculty, and three dedicated staff who oversee nearly 400 students among the on-campus BSRT, online RRT-BSRT, and the new online Master of Science in Respiratory Care (MSRC) programs.



### **Master of Science in Respiratory Care**

The online Master of Science in Respiratory Care degree is the latest in innovative online offerings from the Boise State University Department of Respiratory Care. It is also among some of the newest programs to be added to Idaho's largest graduate college, with 103 doctoral, master's, or graduate certificates. Designed specifically for the working respiratory care provider, the Boise State MSRC Program offers an inclusive curriculum for those desiring an advanced degree with limitless potential. Students take no more than six graduate credits per semester; meaning, students can earn this 36-credit MSRC degree in only two years with no need to travel to Boise until graduation day, and even that is optional!

The program curriculum has an emphasis of educational leadership and content that focuses on the mastery of learning outcomes that include professional communication, leadership development, educational development, evidence-based inquiry, advanced knowledge, and organizational management.

Ensuring that students experience the same level of exceptional commitment and attention from faculty that has become synonymous with Boise State Respiratory Care is a top priority. As

such, the Boise State MSRC program subscribes to a cohort-based model, admitting around 25 students each fall. This model, along with seven-week, sequential terms supports the development of an online learning community in which professionals from across the country work together to expand their worldview, challenge the status quo and develop knowledge specifically targeted at advancing the field of respiratory care. Throughout the program, students are challenged to design, implement, assess a targeted research project that demonstrates the mastery of each of the program learning outcomes. This capstone research project is refined throughout the program and students are mentored closely by faculty toward the goal of developing a defensible and publishable body of work.

The program is competitively priced and is supported by a University-specific fee model that does not impose out-of-state tuition on students in this program. Students who hold an active NBRC registry credential (RRT) as well as a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited university are encouraged to apply. Priority deadline for admission to the fall cohort is June 1<sup>st</sup>; however, applications will be reviewed once completed. The Boise State MSRC is in the process of completing the requirements set forth by the Commission for Accreditation of Respiratory Care (CoARC) for degree advancement programs.

## Getting to know the MSRC faculty

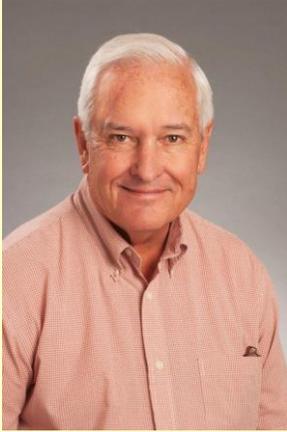


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She has been a Registered Respiratory Therapist since 2007, specializing in neonatal and pediatric intensive care. After gaining clinical experience in the Treasure Valley, she was fortunate to travel with several medical mission groups as an interdisciplinary effort to perform pediatric congenital heart surgery in underserved areas of the globe.

Megan Koster earned a Master of Health Science with an emphasis in Health Promotion from Boise State University in 2011 and has been a full time faculty member since then. Although her passion remains grounded in neonatal and pediatric intensive care, other interests include exploring the inequities of healthcare access and delivery across the globe.

Koster earned her Doctor of Education degree from the University of New England in 2017 and continues to research the assessment of intelligence in higher education with special focus on admission practices in health programming.



**Joe Coyle, M.D., FCCP**  
**Senior Lecturer, Department of Respiratory Care**  
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Dr. Coyle is an Anesthesiologist and Critical Care physician with a long interest in Respiratory Care Education. Dr. Coyle is a graduate of Hahnemann Medical College and he did his Anesthesiology residency at Bethesda Naval Hospital. Dr. Coyle did Fellowships in Cardiac Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital. He is board certified in both anesthesiology and critical care medicine. He served in the Navy at Bethesda Naval Hospital and then moved to the Cleveland Clinic, where he served as Director of the Cardiac Anesthesiology Fellowship Program. He moved to Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte, NC, where he served for 26 years in a variety of roles including Director of Cardiac Anesthesia, Director of the Cardiac Surgical Intensive Care Unit, Medical Director of Respiratory Care, Vice Chief of the Department of Anesthesia, and Director of Quality Improvement.

Dr. Coyle was a Clinical Associate Professor at University of North Carolina at Charlotte for nine years, where he helped found and direct the online BSRT and RESPCARE programs. He won the teaching award for the College of Health and Human Services twice during that time. He was long time Chairman of the North Carolina Respiratory Care Board and was recently made the Emeritus Chair of that licensing board. He has served nationally as an examiner for the American Board of Anesthesiology and he is currently a Commissioner on CoARC, the national accrediting organization for respiratory care. He currently serves as the Chair of the Degree Advancement Committee for CoARC.

While at UNC Charlotte, Dr. Coyle was Medical Director for the Health Risk Assessment Program and mentored several master and doctoral level students in clinical research.

## Curriculum

The Boise State MSRC degree consists of 36-credits, offered completely online and has thoughtfully been designed for respiratory care practitioners who are dedicated to lifelong learning and who are interested in academia, leadership, or becoming a bedside consultant through the advanced understanding of both disease and patient management. The final program requirement is a



research-based capstone project that demonstrates mastery of six program learning outcomes. The six program learning outcomes, aimed at holistic development of the respiratory care practitioner include:

- **Professional Communication**  
Students will utilize effective oral and written communication skills consistent with professional communication as may be published in a peer-reviewed journal or presented at a professional conference.
- **Leadership Development**  
Students will apply leadership and management theory through the lens of change theory to both the educational and clinical environments.
- **Educational Development**  
Students will utilize educational theory in the development of an educational module to inform colleagues, patients, or public.
- **Evidence Based Inquiry**  
Students will apply research design, methods, and analysis to answer a critical research question relevant to the advancement of the field.
- **Advanced Knowledge**  
Students will explain advanced concepts relating to critical care pathophysiology, disease management, clinical management and care coordination.
- **Organizational Management**  
Students will apply organizational management theory, quality improvement standards, ethical practice, and innovative approaches for organizational change.

These six outcomes are mastered throughout a rigorous, inclusive curriculum wherein students are allowed, and encouraged, to tailor assignments to serve individual interest or purpose. The curriculum framework consists of three main areas of leadership, education, and clinical management, which cumulatively support an emphasis in educational leadership. Students work through course content toward the development of a research-based capstone requirement under close advisement and mentorship of MSRC faculty. Upon completion of this program, graduates are prepared for a variety of opportunities throughout any of the healthcare, academic, or leadership environments. A brief overview of MSRC curriculum is included here.

## DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Course Number	Title	Credits Hours
RESPCARE 500	Educational Leadership	3
RESPCARE 505	Evidence Based Medicine	3
RESPCARE 510	Advanced Cardiopulmonary Physiology	3
RESPCARE 515	Applied Research Methods	3
RESPCARE 520	Advanced Pulmonary Disease Management	3
RESPCARE 525	Educational Methodology	3
RESPCARE 530	Advanced Cardiovascular Disease Mgmt	3
RESPCARE 535	Managing Organizational Change	3
RESPCARE 540	Healthcare Management	3
RESPCARE 545	Ethics of the Profession	3
RESPCARE 570	Capstone I	2
RESPCARE 571	Capstone II	4
<b>Total</b>		<b>36</b>

Additional detailed information about the MSRC curriculum, capstone project, and admissions is included on our website. Applications for the upcoming fall semester are welcomed.



### **Contact information**

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URL: <https://online.boisestate.edu/masters-degrees/respiratory-care/>



[www.cobgrte.org](http://www.cobgrte.org)



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