

The Coalition Chronicle

Coalition for Baccalaureate and Graduate Respiratory Therapy Education

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Spotlight Article

Radford University



Waldron College of Health & Human Services Radford University Carilion Respiratory Therapy Program

**By Chase Poulsen, PhD, RRT, RRT-NPS, RRT-ACCS
Associate Professor and Program Director**

Institutional History and Overview

Radford University, a public university with over 11,000 students, has received national recognition for many of its undergraduate and graduate academic programs. The University offers a wide range of academic, cultural, human service and research programs and is well known for its strong faculty/student bonds, innovative use of technology in the learning environment and vibrant student life on a 204-acre campus. Radford offers students many opportunities to get involved and succeed in and out of the classroom through 76 bachelor's degree programs in 47 disciplines, three associate degrees, and six certificates at the

undergraduate level; 27 master's programs in 22 disciplines and six doctoral programs at the graduate level; and 14 post-baccalaureate certificates and one post-master's certificate.



In addition to the robust academic offerings and engaging student experiences on the main campus, Radford University also offers a clinical-based educational experience for more than 1,000 students in Roanoke, Virginia as part of Radford University Carilion (RUC), a public-private partnership focused on the cutting-edge delivery of health sciences programming, outreach and service. RUC was created as a result of the merger of Jefferson College of Health Sciences into

Radford University in July 2020, making it the only state institution within the Commonwealth to offer a Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Therapy.

RUC prides itself on being affiliated with Carilion Clinic, a healthcare organization employing nearly 14,000 healthcare professionals with facilities across Southwest and Central Virginia. RUC students have access to state-of-the-art equipment and facilities that are national leaders in all areas of healthcare practice and administration. RUC is also dedicated to interprofessional education. Each semester, RUC hosts interprofessional experiences, which provide students with crucial, one-of-a-kind, hands-on learning opportunities.

The Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Therapy at RUC is a four-year program that combines hands-on laboratory, classroom and clinical learning. The program provides graduates with the knowledge, skills and experience needed to begin their careers. The program was acknowledged by the NBRC in the Summer 2019 with the distinguished RRT credentialing success award, and its outcomes continue to be above the national average. The program and clinical affiliates provide hands-on experience in sub-acute care, pediatric, neonatal and adult ICU rotations, flight transport, long-term vent units, physician office rotations, sleep labs, pulmonary function testing and more.



Entrance Requirements

In addition to the traditional four-year academic path in Respiratory Therapy, RUC offers the opportunity for junior-level transfer with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 and eight credits of anatomy and physiology if applicants have done one of the following:

1. Completed the first two years of our plan of study;
2. Graduated from a VCCS school with an associate degree; or
3. Graduated from a regionally accredited institution with a bachelor's degree

Plan of Study

RUC 2020 Respiratory Therapy Curriculum

Coursework Needed to Complete Prior to Year Three		
BIOL 310/311 or 322	Anatomy and Physiology I and II / A&P for Pre-Majors	6-8*
University and College Core and General electives		39-41*
TOTAL CREDITS Needed to Progress (GPA >2.5) OR JUNIOR LEVEL TRANSFER CRITERIA		47
Year Three – Fall Semester		
HLTH 215	Medical Terminology	2-3 *
RETH 302	Foundations of Respiratory Care I	4
RETH 304	Cardiopulmonary Anatomy and Physiology	3
RETH 305	Integrated Sciences for Respiratory Therapy	3
RETH 308C	Clinical Practice I	1
RETH 309	Patient Assessment	3
ELECTIVE	General Elective	0-1
	TOTAL	17
Year Three – Spring Semester		
BIOL 334	Microbiology	4
RETH 310	Cardiopulmonary Pharmacology	3
RETH 311	Foundations of Respiratory Care II	4
RETH 318C	Clinical Practice II	3
RETH 332	Pulmonary Function Studies	2
	TOTAL	16
Year Three Summer Semester		
BIOL or NURS 321	Pathophysiology	3
HCMA 300	U.S. Healthcare System	3
RETH 320	Mechanical Ventilation	4
	TOTAL	10
Year Four – Fall Semester		
STAT 130 or 200	Statistics Course	3
RETH 330	Cardiopulmonary Pathophysiology	3
RETH 420	Neonatal/Pediatric Respiratory Therapy	3
RETH 430	Patient Case Management I	3
RETH 448C	Clinical Practice III	3
	TOTAL	15
Year Four – Spring Semester		
HSCI 300	Foundations in Healthcare Research or Research Course	3
RETH 411	Patient Education and Rehabilitation	2
RETH 450	Patient Case Management II	3
RETH 478C	Clinical Practice IV	3
RETH 488C	Clinical Specialty Rotation	1
RETH 490	Professional Seminar	3
	TOTAL	15
TOTAL CREDITS NEEDED TO GRADUATE		120

Faculty



Chase Poulsen, Ph.D., RRT, RRT-NPS, RRT-ACCS. Poulsen is the Program Director and Chair of the Department of Clinical Health Sciences. He graduated from Mansfield University with an A.S. in Respiratory Therapy in 1993. After graduation and working for a year at Arnot Ogden Medical Center in Elmira, N.Y., Poulsen continued his education and career at the State University of New York Health Science Center in Syracuse, N.Y., with a certificate in Cardiopulmonary Services. Moving to Grand Junction, Colorado, in 1996, he obtained a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from Colorado Christian University while being employed by St. Mary's Hospital. Pursuing his interests in the educational field, Chase moved to Bangor, Maine, in 1998, and secured a faculty position at Kennebec Valley Community College, where he stayed until 2004, at which point he moved to Jefferson College, now RUC. He finished his Ph.D. in Education through Old Dominion University in May 2013. His research has focused on interprofessional education and collaborative efforts among programmatic students. He holds the rank of associate professor at both RUC and the Virginia Tech School of Medicine, where he instructs first- and second-year medical students.



Linda Cochran, M.S., RRT, RRT-NPS, AE-C, CPFT, RRT-ACCS is the current Director of Clinical Education, has been a respiratory therapist since 1974, starting out as an O.J.T. (On-the-Job Training). Her A.S. degree in Respiratory Therapy is from Butler University, and her B.S. and M.S. degrees are from Indiana University in Indianapolis. She completed 27 quarter hours of masters-level respiratory therapy coursework through Northeastern University. She also has the credentials of a neonatal pediatric specialist, certified asthma educator, certified pulmonary function technician, and adult critical care specialist. Cochran is retiring in 2020 and has made exemplary strides in clinical education. She has been a dedicated faculty member and will be sorely missed by the faculty and students within RUC. She holds the rank of assistant professor.



Douglas Wright, Ph.D., RRT, RRT-ACCS. Wright first received an A.A.S. from the Community College of the Air Force in Mechanical and Electrical Technology while serving as an airman in the United States Air Force. After military service, he went on to receive his B.S. in Cardiopulmonary Science from Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center-Shreveport (LSUHSC-S), School of Allied Health Professions. After working briefly as a registered respiratory therapist, he was accepted into the doctoral program in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Physiology at LSUHSC-S. During his tenure as a graduate assistant, he taught Pulmonary Physiology to allied health students. His research focused on two DNA repair proteins from *M. tuberculosis*.



Kathy Pellant, M.S., RPSGT, RRT obtained her A.S. degree in Respiratory Therapy from the Jefferson College of Health Sciences (Roanoke, Virginia) and her B.S. in Health Sciences from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. She completed her Master of Science in Respiratory Care through Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts, in 2020. In addition to being credentialed in respiratory therapy, Pellant is credentialed in polysomnography and is the manager of Carilion Clinic Sleep Lab.



Edmundo R. Rubio, M.D is Co-Medical Director/Faculty, Carilion Clinic Dr. Rubio is Section Chief, Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, Carilion Clinic and has specialties in critical care medicine, pulmonary medicine and sleep medicine. He is certified in internal medicine, critical care, pulmonary medicine, sleep medicine.

Colleges: University of Chile Medical School

Internships: New Hanover Regional Medical Center

Residencies: New Hanover Regional Medical Center

Fellowships: Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine, Tulane University School of Medicine



Joseph Tamez, M.D. is Co-Medical Director/Faculty, Carilion Clinic

Specialties: Pediatric Hospitalist, Pediatric Pulmonology

Certifications: Pediatric Pulmonology, Pediatrics

Colleges: University of Texas

Internships: Arkansas Children's Hospital

Residencies: Arkansas Children's Hospital

Fellowships: Pediatric Pulmonology – Children's Medical Center, Cincinnati, Ohio

