Respiratory Therapy Technology Program
Associate of Applied Science Degree
Cleveland Clinic
Information and Application Packet

http://www.kent.edu/ashtabula/rt

Applications for the RTT program are due November 1.

Applications may be accepted after the due date if seats are available. Contact Program Director for details.
Program Directory

**Program Director**
Yvonne George, D.Min., M.Ed., RRT  
Ofc: 127B Morrison Health & Science Building  
Phone: 440-964-4308  
Fax: 440-964-4955  
ygeorge@kent.edu

**Director of Clinical Education**
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Ofc: 127D Morrison Health & Science Building  
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**Faculty**
Megan Alicea, M.E.T, BSRC, RRT  
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mjacob22@kent.edu

**Secretary**
Theresa Hootman  
Ofc 121 Morrison Health & Science Building  
Phone 440-964-4252  
Fax: 440-964-4355  
thootma1@kent.edu

**Satellite Coordinator**
Open Position

Ashtabula Campus Departments

**Student Services Office**
Phone: 440-964-3322  
Fax: 440-964-4269  
Website: www.ashtabula.kent.edu  
Email: info@ashtabula.kent.edu

**Dean’s Office**
440-964-4212

**Tutoring & Student Accessibility Services**
Accessibility Services 440-964-4225  
Tutoring 440-964-4232

**Financial Aid**
440-964-4213

**Bookstore**
440-964-4225

**Library**
440-964-4239

Effective March 22, 2022
THE SCOPE AND PRACTICE OF RESPIRATORY CARE

Respiratory therapists are members of a team of health care professionals working in a wide variety of clinical settings to evaluate, treat, and manage patients of all ages with respiratory illnesses and other cardiopulmonary disorders. As team members, respiratory therapists should exemplify the ethical and professional standards expected of all health care professionals.

Respiratory therapists provide a broad range of patient care which includes clinical decision-making and patient education. The respiratory care scope of practice includes, but is not limited to the following basic competencies:

- acquiring and evaluating clinical data;
- assessing the cardiopulmonary status of patients;
- performing and assisting in the performance of prescribed diagnostic studies such as: obtaining blood samples, blood gas analysis, pulmonary function testing, and polysomnography;
- evaluating data to assess the appropriateness of prescribed respiratory care;
- establishing therapeutic goals for patients with cardiopulmonary disease;
- participating in the development and modification of respiratory care plans;
- case management of patients with cardiopulmonary and related diseases;
- initiating prescribed respiratory care treatments, managing life support activities, evaluating and monitoring patient responses to such therapy and modifying the prescribed therapy to achieve the desired therapeutic objectives;
- initiating and conducting prescribed pulmonary rehabilitation;
- providing patient, family, and community education;
- promoting cardiopulmonary wellness, disease prevention, and disease management;
- promoting evidence-based practice by using established clinical practice guidelines and by evaluating published research for its relevance to patient care.

(Excerpt from: CoARC’s “Accreditation Standards for the Profession of Respiratory Care” 2015)

Additional Information about Respiratory Therapy can be accessed at the American Association of Respiratory Care’s (AARC) website: www.aarc.org or https://be-an-rt.org/.
Prospective Student,

This unique program was designed through a collaboration between Kent State University at Ashtabula and Cleveland Clinic, to offer program instruction at the Clinic Main Campus. The idea was to provide Clinic staff with easy access to this opportunity to progress in their career.

The Associate of Applied Science in Respiratory Therapy Technology (RTT) at Cleveland Clinic gives you the skills to evaluate, treat and care for patients with breathing and cardiopulmonary disorders. Practicing under the direction of a physician, respiratory therapists assume primary responsibility for all respiratory care therapeutic treatments and diagnostic procedures. Respiratory Therapists also provide complex therapy requiring considerable independent judgment, such as caring for patients on life support in intensive-care units of hospitals. An associate degree is earned with successful completion of 65 semester hours of coursework.

After graduating with the associate degree in Respiratory Therapy, graduates are then eligible to take the national credentialing examinations administered by the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC). Credentials that can be earned by Kent State graduates include the Certified and Registered Respiratory Therapist (CRT, RRT). **Note: To work in the State of Ohio as a Respiratory Care Professional, licensure is required. In Ohio, the RRT credential is required to obtain the Respiratory Care Professional license.** See the State Medical Board of Ohio’s website for detailed information about licensure to work in the State of Ohio. [https://med.ohio.gov/Apply/Respiratory-Care-RC](https://med.ohio.gov/Apply/Respiratory-Care-RC)

For information about licensure in other states see Kent State’s Professional Licensure Disclosures website: [https://www.kent.edu/cde/professional-licensure-disclosures](https://www.kent.edu/cde/professional-licensure-disclosures)

Students have the option to obtain a Limited Permit (license) after completing their first year in the RTT program allowing them to work for a limited time until the RRT credential is earned. (The Limited Permit is optional and not part of the RTT program. In addition, worked hours under the Limited Permit cannot be used towards required clinical time.)

Many Northeastern Ohio Medical Facilities hire student therapists to do routine therapy because it is more cost effective, and it provides an opportunity to get to know the student before they graduate. Typically, these students obtain fulltime employment right after they graduate because their place of employment is already familiar with them.

Thank you for your interest in our program.

Yvonne George, D.Min., M.Ed., RRT
Academic Program Director
Respiratory Therapy
Kent State University at Ashtabula and Cleveland Clinic

**PROGRAM WEBSITE:** [https://www.kent.edu/ashtabula/rt](https://www.kent.edu/ashtabula/rt)
UNIVERSITY ADMISSION PROCESS

1. Graduate from an accredited high school or receive a passing score on the GED examination.

2. Complete and submit the KSU admission application.
   *This can be completed online at [https://www.kent.edu/ashtabula/apply-now](https://www.kent.edu/ashtabula/apply-now) or a paper application can be mailed.*

3. Contact all high schools and colleges attended and request official transcripts be mailed to KSUA 3300 Lake West Rd, Ashtabula, Ohio 44004 to be evaluated for transfer credit(s). Admissions will not accept transcripts that are hand delivered.

4. Attend the orientation for freshmen. Schedule this with the Office of Admissions (440-964-4217).

5. Schedule and complete the computerized placement testing for reading, writing, and math skills at the KSUA testing center services, 440-964-4304. (Transfer students may be exempt from placement testing and should check with admissions or Program Director.)

6. Schedule an appointment with the Program Director at 440-964-4308. The director will answer questions about the requirements for admission into the RTT program.

PROGRAM PRE-ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Completion of Anatomy and Physiology I (BSCI 11010 or 21010)
- Completion of Chemistry (10050 or 10055 or 10060 or 10061)
- Completion, or placement out of MATH 00022 (or equivalent).
- A minimum “C” (2.0) grade in all required courses
- A cumulative GPA of \( \geq 2.70 \)
- Complete shadowing experience. There are two methods whereby this may be accomplished:
  - Spend at least 4 hours of job shadowing with a respiratory therapist in a medical facility
    - Contact Karla Balasko at Cleveland Clinic ([balaskk@ccf.org](mailto:balaskk@ccf.org)) to schedule
    - Use job shadowing form on page.
  - Complete essay on the Respiratory Care profession (complete attached essay form). (If COVID-19 restrictions prevent shadowing.)

NOTE: Kent State University at Ashtabula or Cleveland Clinic does not offer advanced placement into the RTT program.

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PROGRAM APPLICATION

To apply to the program, go to: https://kent.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8eTzi50VaYx7KWp to apply online, or complete the paper application contained in this packet. Please be sure to respond to all of the questions on the application.

PROGRAM ADMISSION PROCESS

The RTT Program admits a new class of 20 students each Spring Semester. Applications should be submitted by November 1 (however, applications may be accepted after the November 1st deadline if there are open seats remaining). There is no separate application fee. Students that will complete pre-admission requirements during the fall semester may also submit an application. These students may receive provisional admission while completing preadmission criteria.

STUDENT SELECTION

Should there be more than 20 qualified applicants, student selection will be made based on student performance (using a point system) in the following areas:

- Cumulative GPA in student’s most recent academic experience
  - (If applicable, a student must obtain ≥ 6 semester hours to establish a new GPA from another accredited college or university.)
- Number of required non-RTT courses completed
- Grades received in the non-RTT courses completed
- Submission of completed shadowing experience form

Program applications are scored based on the aforementioned criteria then prioritized based on that score for admission. Applicants will be notified by email if they are accepted or not within 3 weeks following the application deadline. There is no waiting list, but students who continue to take required courses will have a stronger, more competitive application the following year.

Pursuant to federal regulations and state law, Kent State University is committed to provide all persons equal access to its programs, facilities, employment, without regard to race, color, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, disability, genetic information, military status, or identification as a disabled veteran, or veteran of the Vietnam era, recently separated veteran, or other protected veteran. Inquiries regarding federal regulations and state law may be directed to the Office of Affirmative Action, Wright Hall, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio 44242-0001.

PROGRAM ADMISSION – ACCEPTANCE

Accepting a seat in the program is only for the upcoming spring semester. If a student waits, they must reapply the following year. Once accepted to the program, students must take each semester consecutively for 2 years due to RTT courses being offered only once per year. If a student fails a class, at the discretion of the RTT program director, they may be readmitted to the program the following year, one time only, to retake the failed semester and continue the program.

1. Accepted students must attend a program orientation meeting in early January. The orientation will be from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm (approximate time) prior to the beginning of the first program semester. Additional details including date and location will be provided

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in the acceptance email.

2. All students accepted into the program are required to complete a state and federal background check. **Instructions will be provided in your acceptance letter.**

   *Students must notify the RTT program director of any convictions prior to starting the program. A past conviction may disqualify him/her from completing clinical rotations, taking credentialing examinations, receiving a state license to practice (Section 4761.04 of the Ohio Revised Code), and/or obtaining employment after graduation.*

**PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

The RTT program is designed as a hybrid. Lectures are offered online and labs are offered at the Cleveland Clinic Simulation Lab **one day per week.** Clinical rotations start the first fall semester and will continue each semester until the program ends. Clinical rotations will be held at various Cleveland Clinic facilities to provide students with a diverse clinical experience. In the first fall (semester 3 of the program), the clinical rotation is one eight shift per week. In the final three semesters clinicals are two 8 hour days per week. Usually, students are notified of their clinical site(s), day(s), and times no later than 1 month prior to the beginning of the rotation.

**REQUIRED COURSEWORK**

The RTT program requires a minimum of 65 semester/credit hours, which can be completed in two calendar years. Respiratory Therapy courses can only be taken following acceptance into the program, and must be taken in the semester offered and in the order shown on the program Roadmap. Some RTT courses include laboratory and clinical components. Students must pass the didactic portion of the course **AND** achieve satisfactory skill competencies in the lab **AND** at the clinical site in order to pass these courses.

The program cannot be completed in less than two years, but the workload during the program can be reduced by completing some courses prior to starting the program. However, students using financial aid should work closely with the Program Director to plan semesters accordingly to fulfill credit hour requirements set by their financial aid plan.

More detailed information including the college Roadmap and course descriptions can be found in the Kent State University College Catalog at: [http://catalog.kent.edu/colleges/ap/respiratory-therapy-technology-aas/#roadmaptext](http://catalog.kent.edu/colleges/ap/respiratory-therapy-technology-aas/#roadmaptext).

**FINANCIAL AID/SCHOLARSHIPS**

Financial Aid and Scholarship Information can be found at: [https://www.kent.edu/ashtabula/aid](https://www.kent.edu/ashtabula/aid).

**TUITION/FEES/OTHER PROGRAM RELATED COSTS**

**Tuition:** Information about tuition can be found on the university tuition webpage: [https://www.kent.edu/ashtabula/tuition-fees](https://www.kent.edu/ashtabula/tuition-fees)

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Fees: Students with the RTT major are assessed a $118 fee, each spring and fall semester.

Books: The costs of textbooks vary, but students can expect to pay approximately $600 per year on textbooks.

Other costs:
- Students will need to purchase uniforms, shoes, and a stethoscope and a wrist watch for clinicals. These items can be purchased for an estimated $200.
- Ohio background check and fingerprinting is required for clinicals. The cost is included in the purchase of access to the web-based vendor (described below).
- Students will need to complete a physical exam and be current on specific immunizations. The cost for this will vary based on the students insurance and the healthcare provider chosen.
- Kent State University at Ashtabula’s allied health programs utilize a web-based vendor to manage background checks, physical exam and immunization documentation. Students will pay a one-time fee of $113 which includes the cost of their background check (subject to change).

Questions about tuition, fees or other costs related to the program should be directed to the program director: Yvonne George, ygeorge@kent.edu, 440-964-4308.

COURSES FROM OTHER INSTITUTIONS

Transfer courses: Kent State University accepts credits from regionally accredited schools such as Cuyahoga Community College, Cleveland State University, Lakeland Community College and others from around Ohio and the country. For a formal evaluation of your transcripts to determine how classes from another institution will transfer, apply to KSU and have your transcripts sent to the Ashtabula campus. For an informal assessment of how courses will transfer, you may contact the RTT Program Director to discuss probable scenarios. You may also visit the college’s transfer page for information about transferring courses at: https://www.kent.edu/transfer, or you can visit Transferology at: https://www.transferology.com/ to determine probable transfer credits within Ohio.

Transient classes: Students who wish to complete a course at another institution while enrolled at KSU must complete the necessary “transient student” paperwork (available in Student Services or from the Program Director) prior to starting the course. The purpose is to ensure credits are applied to the student’s KSU transcript. The student taking transient coursework is responsible to make sure that his or her coursework taken at another university is acceptable for transfer and meets the graduation requirements of the RTT Program. Students in the program are strongly discouraged from taking transient classes their final semester because of the difficulty in obtaining transcripts from other institutions of higher education in time for graduation.

Effective March 22, 2022
Application for the Associate of Applied Science in Respiratory Therapy Technology Program

Complete online Application at: www.ashtabula.kent.edu/rt

Banner ID # ___________________________ Submission Date: ________________

Name: ___________________________ (Last and Maiden) (First) (Middle initial)

Address: ___________________________ (Street: number and name) (City, state, and zip code)

County: ___________________________ Email: ___________________________

Phone Primary: ___________________________

Year graduated from High School or obtained GED ________________

What is your current or most recent cumulative grade point average? ________

Please circle Yes (Y) or No (N) for the following questions:

Have all High School and College transcripts been submitted to KSU? Y or N

Are you a transfer student? Y or N

Have you taken the ACT, or Alek’s test? Circle all that apply.

Did you complete the required anatomy, math, & chemistry courses earning “C” (2.0) or greater? Y or N or in progress

Did you completed at least four (4) hours of job shadowing with a respiratory therapist? Y or N or in progress

Why did you choose Respiratory Therapy as a profession? ___________________________

______________________________

How did you hear about the program? ___________________________

Fill in the following information for completed and in progress courses required for admission.

BSCI 11010 or 21010 Anatomy & Physiology 1 ___________________________ School ___________________________ Grade ___________________________

CHEM 10050 or 10055 or 10060 or 10061: ___________________________ School ___________________________ Grade ___________________________

Completion, or placement out of MATH 00022 (or equivalent). ___________________________ School ___________________________ Grade ___________________________

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To verify awareness of additional program requirements, please initial after each statement.

I am aware that I am required to complete a state and federal criminal background check with fingerprinting. (A past conviction may disqualify you from completing clinical rotations, taking credentialing examinations, receiving a state license to practice [Section 4761.04 of the Ohio Revised Code], and/or employment after graduation.)

I am aware that passing a drug screen is required in order to participate in clinical rotations.

I am aware that a physical examination is required to verify my ability to perform the physical and emotional job requirements of a Respiratory Therapist. Additionally, evidence of specific current immunizations and boosters are required, supported by titers if necessary.

I am aware that a current American Heart Association CPR card for Health Care Providers is required.

I attest to the best of my knowledge all the information submitted in this application form and required supplementary documentation is the truth.

Applicant’s Signature: ________________________________

Date Submitted: ________________________________

This application and all required materials must be submitted to the RTT Program by November 1, prior to the spring you are planning to begin. Students will be notified via email within 3 weeks of the application deadline if they were accepted to the program.

Please return to: Kent State University at Ashtabula  
Respiratory Therapy Technology Program  
Attention: Program Director HSB 127B  
3300 Lake Road West  
Ashtabula, OH 44004  
fax: 440-964-4355

Equal Opportunity

Pursuant to federal regulations and state law, Kent State University is committed to provide all persons equal access to its programs, facilities, employment, without regard to race, color, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, disability, genetic information, military status, or identification as a disabled veteran, or veteran of the Vietnam era, recently separated veteran, or other protected veteran. Inquiries regarding federal regulations and state law may be directed to the Office of Affirmative Action, Wright Hall, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio 44242-0001.
Respiratory Therapy Job Shadowing

Form

To be completed by Student

Job shadowing introduces potential respiratory therapy students to the roles and responsibilities of today’s respiratory therapists. A minimum of four (4) hours must be completed prior to admission in the Respiratory Therapy Program at KSU. Contact Karla Balasko at Cleveland Clinic (balaskk@ccf.org) to schedule. (Dress in appropriate attire: dress shirt with dark, solid colored or khaki casual pants; no jeans, shorts, or sandals.)

Please request to shadow a registered respiratory therapist (RRT) for your shadowing field experience. Some hospitals may require an orientation and/or paperwork prior to any shadowing. Please plan accordingly. The form below must be completed and submitted to the Program Director when the student applies to the program by November 1.

Prospective Student’s Name: ________________________________

Shadowing Experience:

Hospital Name ________________________________

What did you observe?

________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

What did you like most about this experience?

________________________________________________________

What did you like least about this experience?

________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

Contact Hours completed? _________ Date ________________

Kent State University at Ashtabula
Attention: Respiratory Therapy Program Director
3300 Lake Road West Room 127B • Ashtabula, Ohio 44004
Phone: 440-964-4308 • Fax: 440-964-4355 •
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Respiratory Therapy Job Shadowing Form
To be completed by Registered Respiratory Therapist

Prospective student: Please give this form to the Respiratory Therapist you are shadowing. This form must be faxed directly to Kent State University at Ashtabula by the Respiratory Therapist. We cannot accept forms hand delivered by the student.

Prospective Student Name ___________________________ Date ____________
Hospital Name_____________________________ Hours completed (4 minimum)_____
Comments _________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

RT Name (print) _________________________________
RT Signature __________________________ Contact number: _________________

Please FAX: 440-964-4355 or mail to Kent State University at Ashtabula, Attn: RTT Program Director, 3300 Lake Road West, Ashtabula, Ohio 44004

Forms must be received by the application deadline of November 1st.
Respiratory Therapy Essay

If COVID-19 restrictions prevent you from completing a shadowing experience, complete a two to three paragraph essay on the work performed by Respiratory Therapists and why you are interested in this type of work. Please include links for websites or pages you accessed the information to support your comments.