

Frequently Asked Questions

How long is the program?

The program is approximately twenty-four months in length and spans two academic calendar years. Students who are accepted into the program (notification is typically in July) begin program coursework in the fall semester and continue straight through six continuous semesters (with breaks of a few weeks between all semesters). Graduation is in December. (For example, if you are selected to begin courses in August of 2021, you will graduate in May of 2023.)

Are classes available during the evenings or on weekends or online?

Our program is currently full-time, during the day (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.), between Monday and Friday, and mostly in person. We do not anticipate offering part-time, evening, or weekend courses in the near future, although we have temporarily resorted to some online instruction in light of COVID-19. Clinical days vary in times with arrival times as early as 5:45am.

Can the program be completed on a part-time basis?

No. All Respiratory courses must be taken in sequence and can be taken only in the semester listed in the curriculum. Each semester has a varied credit hour, with an expectation of full-time devotion. Additional requirements depend on whether the student has already completed all other general education/core requirement courses listed in the Respiratory curriculum. Those courses are:

ENG 1301 Composition I

MATH 1314 College Algebra

BIOL 2404 Human Anatomy & Physiology

Those students desiring to continue their education in a university-based Respiratory Care Program (B.S) should enroll in BIOL 2401 and BIOL 2402 in lieu of the BIOL 2404 requirement for St. Philip's College.

What are the hours during clinical rotations?

The student will be at the clinical site for approximately 16 hours per week during the Fall and Spring semesters and Summer up to 36 hours for the clinical portion of the program. The specifics (locations, etc..) are left to the discretion of the clinical instructor and will comply with the rules of the clinic to which the student is assigned.

What clinical sites will I attend?

Methodist Healthcare System, Baptist Healthcare System, Christus Children's Santa Rosa, Kindred Hospital, Rio at Mission Trails, University Healthcare System, Southwest General Hospital, Resolute Hospital, Peterson Hospital, Connally Memorial Hospital. These clinical sites are subject to change. The expectation is to potentially have students visit all sites listed, however it is a possibility you could have minimal exposure to some sites. Travel distance or facility employment does not influence your clinical site locations.

How much can I work while enrolled in the program?

It is strongly recommended that the student plan to work only minimally, if at all, while enrolled in the program. There is much new information to learn; therefore, a considerable amount of study time is required. Students will average 25-35 hours per week for classroom, clinical, and lab and should anticipate additional time for academic study and practice of learned skills. There are also outside assignments, such as service-learning and attending professional organization meetings, that will require additional time outside of typical classroom hours. Furthermore, the student will already be dedicated to approximately a 40-hour, full-time schedule each week of programmatic requirements.

What are the costs?

The approximate costs per semester include (based on 2020-2021 tuition and fees):

Semester	Tuition In/Out of District	Fees
Prerequisites	\$990-\$1386/\$2150-\$3010	\$30-\$42
Fall	\$1386/\$3010	\$767
Spring	\$1287/\$2795	\$764
Summer	\$396*/\$860*	\$362
Fall	\$990/\$2150	\$755
Spring	\$1089/\$2365	\$758
Summer	\$396*/\$860*	\$362
Total	\$6930/\$15,050	\$3810
	Total	\$10,740/\$18,860

*Dependent on Summer Momentum Plan

Additional Items	Estimated Cost	Purchase Time Frame
Background Check	\$54	Prior to acceptance
Drug Screen	\$32	Prior to acceptance
Immunization Tracking	\$35	Prior to program start
Vaccines (TB, Hepatitis, etc..)	Varies	Prior to program start
Health Insurance	Varies	Prior to clinical start
Scrubs/Attire	\$80-\$150	Prior to clinical start
Additional clinical supplies	\$100-\$300	Prior to clinical start
CPR Certification	\$35	Prior to clinical start
Resources	\$1200	Throughout program
NRP Step One	\$35	Semester IV
Texas Medical Board Application	\$125	Semester V
Fingerprinting	\$38.25	Semester VI
SAE Examinations	\$120*	Semester VI
Juris-Prudence Exam	\$35	Post-Graduation
Therapist Multiple-Choice Exam (TMC)	\$190	Post-Graduation
Clinical Simulations Exam	\$200	Post-Graduation
Optional Costs		
AARC Student Membership	\$25	

*Potentially paid for by program.

** Immunization costs will vary, depending on the healthcare provider, insurance coverage, and the number of required vaccinations already completed (e.g., in the military or as required for public school entrance).

How is the job market for Respiratory Therapists? What can I expect as a starting salary?

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics May 2019 salary report lists the national mean hourly wage for Respiratory Therapists at \$29.48/hr. and a mean annual income of \$63,330.00. The Texas mean hourly wage for Respiratory Therapists is \$26.50/hr. and mean annual income is \$55,120.00.

I am not sure I understand the application process. Am I applying to the Respiratory Care Technology Program? To St. Philip's College? Or both?

Application to the Respiratory Program is a separate process from applying to St. Philip's College. Before applying to the Respiratory Program, applicants must first apply to and be accepted into St. Philip's College if they have not taken classes at an Alamo Colleges campus within the previous year. Begin with the ApplyTexas application, accessed via applytexas.org. Further information on applying to St. Philip's College for future, former, and transfer students is

available at <https://www.alamo.edu/spc/admissions/how-to-apply/>. Applicants should ensure they are applying for the fall semester.

What is the deadline for applications?

Application packages containing all supporting documents should be postmarked by June 1 of each year for the cohort that will begin in the fall. For example, if you apply in March of 2021 and are selected, you will begin classes in August of 2021. Applications are only accepted during the spring semester each year – between March 1 and June 1. Dates are subject to change with extensions to deadlines under the discretion of the program.

What should be included on the Respiratory Care Technology Program Application Form?

The application should be typed and filled out completely and accurately. You should also include your alamo email as well as a personal email. Please ensure you provide your social security number and banner ID, both are required for program reporting purposes.

Should I submit letters of recommendation with my application?

Letters of recommendation do not influence the selection process, as it is an exclusively points-based system. You may include letters if you wish to do so, but they will not influence your chance of selection.

Am I required to get a background check and drug screening?

You will be required to obtain a background check and drug screening prior to starting the program. The program director will provide information on how to proceed through Precheck. Acceptance into the program is contingent upon passing the background check and drug screening.

Do I have to provide a transcript from St. Philip's College or any of the other Alamo Colleges with my application if I have taken all my courses there?

Yes. The applicant must submit official transcripts from **all** colleges attended. The faculty of the Respiratory Program are not permitted to obtain an applicant's St. Philip's College (or other Alamo Colleges) transcript—the applicant must provide it.

How can I improve my chances of earning acceptance into the program?

The selection process is based on the application package scores alone. With a maximum possible score of 100. The score is obtained from the following items: Overall GPA (20 points), Prerequisite GPA (30 points), TEAS Exam Score (25 points), completed Application and Essay (5 points), interview (10 points), and any additional items (10 points). Additional item section could include, but not limited to, CPR Certification, medical terminology courses, ethics training, medical work experience and medical volunteer hours. The average selectee scores is 65 or better on the ATI TEAS.

What supporting documentation do I need to submit for additional items?

Additional supporting documents could include, but are not limited to work experience resume, CPR certification, Medical terminology course completion (unofficial transcript highlighting the course), other degree held (degree certificate/transcripts), volunteer hours-preferred medical hours (validation form), or any other related items. If unsure if item qualifies as supporting, include in packet for evaluation.

I got a "C" in English Composition I. Should I retake the class for a better grade?

The program will neither recommend students retake nor discourage students from retaking a course if they choose to do so. It is good to remember the scoring process is subject to change from year to year, and the most substantial number of points are available from the Prerequisite GPA. With that said, most selectees have all As and Bs in their general education courses reflected by a higher prerequisite GPA score, which in turn would award more points to the applicant.

I completed a prerequisite course 20 years ago. Do I need to retake it?

You do not need to repeat the course if St. Philip's College accepts your coursework for credit. The program recommends, but does not mandate, completion of Anatomy and Physiology I and II within the last five years. However,

check with the advisor to confirm Anatomy and Physiology will be applicable, as some courses will not be eligible if taken over 10 years prior.

What are you looking for in the essay? How can I improve my essay score?

We would like to see your reasons for wanting to pursue a career as a Respiratory Therapist **and** for choosing the Respiratory Therapy Program at St. Philip's College. We will not be assessing these reasons, but it allows us to learn something about our applicants. Scoring is based on your technical accuracy and attention to detail. Points will be deducted for errors in format, grammar, punctuation, and spelling. Remember, as a Respiratory Therapist you will be documenting the treatment you provide in official medical records and will need to do so precisely and succinctly.

To improve your essay score, ensure you eliminate all typographical and grammatical errors. Have a trusted friend, colleague, instructor, or staff member at the Rose R. Thomas Writing Center in the Sutton Learning Center (room 201) proofread your essay before submission. Also, please ensure you follow the formatting requirements (one-page typed length, 12-point font, etc.) as given on our website. This does not include the title page. Your best bet is to have a paragraph or two on the second page so there is no doubt your essay is the proper length.

What scores do I need to be selected?

We are unable to give a firm number that will guarantee admission into the program. Each year's candidates score differently; thus, the cutoff varies from year to year. The range of Assessment Technologies Institute's Test of Essential Academic Skills (ATI TEAS) examination and total package scores for the students selected to begin the program in 2019 were 50-91 TEAS and overall scores of 50-94. The overall scores in 2020 ranged from 50-80, based on a 100-point value assessment. To ensure your competitive ranking a TEAS score of 65 or better is recommended.

Why do I have to take the Assessment Technologies Institute's Test of Essential Academic Skills (ATI TEAS)? What does that have to do with respiratory therapy?

The ATI TEAS and its predecessors have long given the Allied Health programs an objective means of predicting student success. In particular, we have many years of correlating data demonstrating that students who score lower on the TEAS, particularly in the reading comprehension portion, tend to struggle with the complex material presented in the Respiratory Therapy Program.

I am concerned that I may not score very high on the Assessment Technologies Institute's Test of Essential Academic Skills (ATI TEAS). What can I do to increase my score?

You should complete the ATI TEAS examination well in advance of the June 1 deadline. Ideally, you will test in the summer of the year before which you wish to apply, however it should also follow the prerequisite courses. This will enable you to more easily register for a date and allow ample time to retest should you wish to do so. In any case, do bear in mind that test dates and seats fill very quickly. It may be impossible to secure a test date at St. Philip's if you wait too long, as nearly every program in Allied Health requires an ATI TEAS score from its applicants.

Study materials for the test are available from the ATI website itself (https://www.atitesting.com/ati_store/TEAS-Products.aspx), various online retailers, or the public library (<http://sapl.sat.lib.tx.us/search/Y?SEARCH=teas>). There are also limited copies of TEAS study guides in the St. Philip's College library. If you do use a study guide, please ensure it is for the TEAS 6 or has a copyright date of 2016 or later to ensure you have the guide for the current version of the test. [Tutoring](#) is also available on campus (subject to change due to COVID restrictions). SPC is now an approved testing site.

Other helpful information regarding the TEAS:

- The science section has typically been 90 percent anatomy and physiology, with 10 percent other items. This section is historically the most difficult for most students and the one that has the most significant negative

impact on the overall score. If possible, the program recommends taking the TEAS at the end of the semester in which you are taking A&P so that the information is fresh in your mind.

- Math is the second most challenging section of the test for most students. There will be some basic calculations, order of operations, geometry, and algebra. Students will see word problems along with calculations and equations.
- If you require accommodations, be sure to see the Disability Office at least three weeks before your test date so that proper notification can be provided to the test administrator.
- Proper government-issued identification is required (e.g., driver's license, military ID card, or passport). The Alamo Colleges/St. Philip's College ID badge is not an acceptable form of identification for this test.
- Arrive at least 30 minutes before the start of the test.
- Food and drinks are not allowed during testing.

The two TEAS 6 guides/review books that students have highly recommended in the past are:


- ATI TEAS Review Manual: Sixth Edition Revised 6th Edition ISBN 13: [9781565335752](#)
- ATI TEAS Secrets Study Guide: TEAS 6 Complete Study Manual, Full-Length Practice Tests, Review Video Tutorials for the Test of Essential Academic Skills, 6th ed. Edition ISBN-13: [9781516703838](#)

What if I score less than the recommended minimum 65 on the Assessment Technologies Institute's Test of Essential Academic Skills (ATI TEAS)?

If you score less than 65 on the ATI TEAS, you may consider still applying to the Respiratory Therapy program, or you may decide to retest at the time of your choosing.

What TEAS score sheets do I need to include?

Please include copies of your Transcript and your Individual Performance Profile. These documents will look similar to the samples below:



Transcript for John Doe

Institution: St Philips College ALLIED HEALTH Program Type: Allied Health

Proctored Assessment												
Assessment Name	Date/Time	Individual Score	Proficiency Level	Individual Mean		Total Focused Review Time	Individual Score					
				National Program	Individual Program			0	10	20	30	40
ATI TEAS	12/20/17 1:12:00 PM	75.3%	Proficient	88.8%	78	N/A	▲					
Test of Essential Academic Skills V for Allied Health	30/1/2015 1:00:00 PM	75.3%	N/A			N/A	▲					

Practice Assessment															
Assessment Name	Date/Time	Individual Score	Practice Time	Total Focused Review Time	Individual Score										
						0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90
													▲		

Continuing Education Credits - Earned as of 3/29/2018	
<input type="checkbox"/> - Course Completed and Completed Date	<input type="checkbox"/> - Course Not Completed and Due Date
Total Contact Hours Earned ▶	

Tutorials - Earned as of 3/29/2018

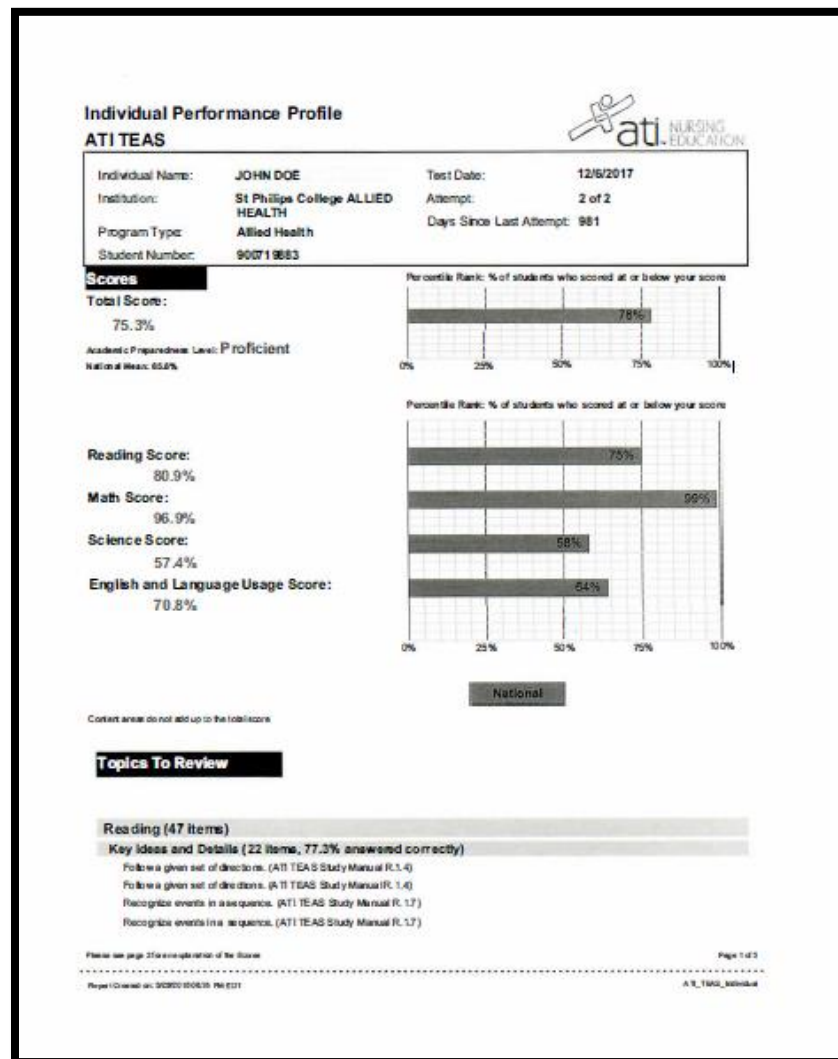
NOTE: * denotes custom assessment.

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State Report Card



How do I obtain a disciplinary waiver/FERPA form?

If found to be eligible, you may be required to sign a FERPA release form, allowing the program to contact prior Institutions attended to obtain any disciplinary information.

What immunizations are required for the program?

Please refer to the below information regarding immunizations.

All students accepted into an Health Sciences program at St. Philip's College must present evidence of having met the following immunization requirements BEFORE the student will be allowed to begin any clinical assignment:

- **Tetanus, Diptheria, Pertusis (Tdap)** – 1 within ten (10) years and thereafter a Td every 10 years.
- **Measles/Mumps/Rubella (MMR)**
 - Measles & Mumps—Proof of either: 1) MMR vaccine or up to date blood test showing you're immune to measles or mumps OR 2) Get 2 doses of MMR (1 dose now and the 2nd dose at least 28 days later).
 - Rubella—Proof of either: 1) MMR vaccine or up to date blood test showing you're immune to rubella OR 2) one does of MMR (although you may get 2 doses).
- **Tuberculosis Skin Test (PPD)** – within one (1) year. If PPD result is positive, student must obtain chest x-ray report confirming no active case of tuberculosis (within 2 years).
- **Hepatitis A** – Series of 2 vaccines. (Required for the following programs: Medical Laboratory Technician, Histologic Technician, and Phlebotomy)

- **Hepatitis B** – Proof of either: 1) documented evidence of a complete hep B vaccine series or an up to date blood test showing you're immune to hepatitis B OR 2) Get the 3-dose series (dose #1 now, #2 in a 1 month, #3 approximately 5 months after #2 and get an anti-HBs serologic tested 1 – 2 months after #3).
- **Varicella (chicken pox)** – Proof of either: 1) a physician-documented history of disease 2) an up to date blood test that shows you're immune to varicella or 3) documentation of 2 doses of varicella immunizations (injections must be spaced 4 weeks apart).
- **Meningitis** – required for any student under the age of 22.
- **Flu (Influenza)**—Get 1 dose of influenza vaccine annually.
- **COVID-19**- Based on affiliation requirements.

*Additional immunization may be required.

Do I have to maintain health insurance?

Yes. You are required to maintain health insurance for the entirety of the program.

What if I have attended an information session and did not receive a certificate?

Please email the program director Christa Mitchell at cmitchel86@alamo.edu with information on the date you attended the session, and you will be provided a certificate to include in your packet.

How can I facilitate the processing of my application?

If possible, type your student application form. Frequently it is difficult to read handwritten application forms. This is especially problematic with e-mail addresses (e.g., trying to discern if you wrote a capital “Z” or a number “2”). The program’s primary method of communicating with you is through the e-mail you provide in your application.

Please do not staple any of the items together. If you feel you need to keep items together, please use paper clips. Also, do not include any unnecessary extra items. Placing all your documents neatly into page protectors or binders slows down the processing of your package, as the program has its own filing system and does not allow for the inclusion of these items.

Also, remember to include cmitchell86@alamo.edu in your e-mail’s safe senders list. All your status notifications will come from this e-mail address. The first e-mail you will receive after submitting your application is an acknowledgment that the program has received your package. Please acknowledge receipt of this first e-mail to ensure we have the correct contact information for you.

Other suggestions?

Throughout the application and selection process, you will need to precisely follow written instructions, organize your time and materials, meet deadlines, and demonstrate initiative in obtaining information when questions arise. These are also the skills and abilities required of an excellent respiratory therapist. In that vein, we are also assessing your ability and willingness to accept and carry out these responsibilities as a part of the application process.