

2007 Respiratory Therapy Technical Standards

TECHNICAL STANDARDS

The following statements identify the physical capabilities appropriate to the profession of Respiratory Therapy.

- A. The prospective Respiratory Therapy student must possess sufficient strength, motor coordination and manual dexterity to be able to:
 - 1. Stand and walk for up to 90% of work time. The ability to bend, squat, kneel and climb stairs is also necessary.
 - 2. Lift up to 45 pounds and carry up to 25 pounds.
 - 3. Push and pull heavy objects such as ventilators and compressed gas tanks.
 - 4. Use their hands and fingers 100% of the time for such duties as percussing and auscultating patients, assembling and disassembling equipment and manipulating controls on machines.
- B. The students must be able to communicate verbally in an effective manner in order to explain respiratory therapy procedures and direct patients during those procedures.
- C. The student must be able to hear, understand and react quickly to verbal instructions, the patient's needs, and the requests of others. The student must be able to hear alarms on equipment and monitors.
- D. The student must have near vision acuity in order to read charts, observe patients, read machine controls and patient monitors. The ability to read LED's is needed as is the ability to see in dim light.
- E. At the end of the training program, the Respiratory Therapy graduate must be capable of:
 - 1. Maintaining effective performance in stressful situations related to equipment and patient problems. The graduate must be able to respond appropriately to situations requiring emergency care of the patient.
 - 2. Providing physical and emotional support to the patient during procedures.
 - 3. Working closely with members of the health care community.