

**SALISBURY UNIVERSITY**  
**RESPIRATORY THERAPY PROGRAM**  
**“FIT FOR DUTY”**

**ASSESSMENT:** Salisbury University’s Respiratory Therapy students are expected to report to clinical fit for duty, which means able to perform their clinical duties in a safe, appropriate, and an effective manner free from the adverse effects of physical, mental, emotional and personal problems.

**Physical Requirements:** Respiratory Therapy is a physically demanding profession. Students are required to work twelve hour shifts covering several areas throughout the hospital and may be on their feet for extended periods of time. As a graduate you will most likely be required to work shifts, weekends, and holidays. Respiratory therapy students also help lift patients and transport patients to various sites in the hospital while maintaining ventilation with manual equipment. Ventilators must be cleaned and moved from one area of the hospital to other areas on a regular basis. Specialty gas cylinders are also transported from one area of the hospital to another. Metering devices must be attached to these cylinders requiring the use of wrenches and some degree of physical strength.

A great deal of manual dexterity is required to manipulate artificial airway equipment, needles for arterial puncture and application of certain types of oxygen equipment. Students must be able to hear equipment alarms from a distance and distinguish subtle changes in air entry and breaths sound in the lungs and airways. Patients are often observed from a distance and heart monitors must be accurately read from at least the end of the patient’s bed, approximately 6 feet away. The student may be exposed to cleaning materials as well as biological (i.e. blood, mucous), infectious/communicable diseases, and chemically hazardous materials in the clinical setting.

Emergency situations frequently occur that require immediate response and action by the student. Considerable reaching, stooping, bending, kneeling and crouching are also required. Students must have the ability to judge distance and space relationships, see peripherally, distinguish and identify different colors.

**Psychological Requirements:** Must be emotionally stable in order to provide safe care to patients. Students on medication must be considered to be on a stabilized dose in order to provide patient care.

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Provider: In your opinion, is there any reason why the student could not withstand the physical or mental exertions related to the requirements in the Respiratory Therapy Program? Yes  No  If yes, please explain:

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I find the above named individual “fit for duty” and free from communicable disease: Yes  No

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Signature of Healthcare Provider

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Date

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Print Name of Healthcare Provider

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Address stamp