



RESPIRATORY CARE & CARDIOVASCULAR TECHNOLOGY Information, Curriculum and Application Packet

HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Thank you for your interest in the Cardiopulmonary Technologies Programs at Edison State College. Applications for admission into these Associate in Science Degree Programs are accepted January 1st to May 31st each year. The Respiratory Care and the Cardiovascular Technology Programs are limited access programs and will select only students who meet the academic, testing and prescribed clinical admission requirements outlined in this information packet.

This packet includes answers to commonly asked questions, overview for admission, a term-by-term layout of each program and an application that can be used for either of the Cardiopulmonary Technologies Programs. In addition to reviewing this informational packet, potential applicants and students are also strongly encouraged to review the Edison State College Catalog available on line at www.edison.edu and the web pages for the Respiratory and Cardiovascular Technology Programs.*

**This information is subject to revision at the discretion of the College.*

Both programs are nationally accredited. The Cardiovascular Technology Program is accredited in invasive cardiology by the *Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs* (www.CAAHEP.org) based on the recommendation of the Joint Review Committee on Education in Cardiovascular Technology. The Respiratory Care Program is accredited by the *Committee on Accreditation in Respiratory Care*.

For further information, please contact either Program Director. Their individual contact information is available at each Program's website. Reference your question(s) to the information sheet/admission criteria for the program.

CARDIOPULMONARY TECHNOLOGIES PROGRAMS
CARDIOVASCULAR & RESPIRATORY CARE
TWO YEAR ASSOCIATE DEGREES
INFORMATION SHEET

1) **What will the program prepare me to do?**

The graduate is employable as either a registry eligible Respiratory Therapist or a registry eligible Invasive Cardiovascular Technologist.

2) **What are the duties of a Respiratory Therapist?**

Under medical direction, a Respiratory Therapist administers oxygen and other medical gases, aerosolized medications and breathing treatments with various types of pressurized breathing equipment; performs basic life support or cardiopulmonary resuscitation; manages life support equipment including mechanical ventilators; performs special diagnostic procedures such as pulmonary function testing, cardiac output determination, arterial blood gas puncture and analysis; and assists with special therapeutic procedures such as bronchoscopy, intra-aortic balloon pump monitoring, pulmonary artery catheterization and hyperbaric oxygen administration and other life support techniques. The Respiratory Therapist is typically employed within the traditional acute care hospital setting, in skilled nursing centers, in neonatal and pediatric intensive care, in physician office settings, rehabilitation centers and by respiratory home care agencies.

3) **What are the duties of a Cardiovascular Technologist?**

This program is designed to lead to a career in Invasive Cardiology. An Invasive Cardiovascular Technologist (CVT) will typically work in the cardiovascular catheterization laboratories (cath labs) in hospitals, clinics or cardiology practices. Our specialty of invasive cardiology will prepare the graduate to function in multiple facets in the cardiac catheterization laboratory. Working with a cardiologist they perform sophisticated tests in order to diagnose and quantify cardiovascular disorders including coronary artery disease, cardiac valve disease, overall cardiac function, disorders of the heart's electrical conduction system and or vascular disease. Cardiovascular Technologists perform diagnostic cardiovascular catheterization studies on patients including coronary arteriography, hemodynamic monitoring and analysis, and electrophysiology studies. They also assist the cardiologist in interventional repair procedures including coronary angioplasty, rotator procedures, intra-coronary stenting, pacemaker insertion and radiofrequency ablation.

An elective is available within the program for cardiac ultrasound or echocardiography. This elective provides students with a foundation in echocardiography, but does not provide students with comprehensive knowledge and skills for a career in that field. Counseling for specialized experience in Echocardiography is available on a post graduate basis.

4) **When are students admitted to the programs?**

In July, prior to the fall semester, this begins in August of each academic year.

5) **Is there limited (selected) admission to the programs?**

Yes, due to the limitations of clinical training space. In addition, there are times when application volume is heavy and students are selected as outlined on pages 3, 4, 6 & 12 of this package.

6) **What are the criteria for admission to the program?**

Admission Criteria

An applicant may be admitted to either the Cardiovascular Technology or Respiratory Care Programs based on the following criteria.

Interested applicants should:

- a) Possess a high school or equivalency diploma/GED.
- b) Be at least eighteen (18) years old by the first day of class.
- c) Complete admission requirements to Edison State College. (Refer to College Catalog.)
- d) Complete all Department of Learning Assistance (DLA) courses, if required.
- e) Complete a Cardiopulmonary Technologies Program Application Form.

This form should be received in the Program Office between January 1st and May 31st of each admission year, along with a copy of all transcripts, and a receipt for payment of the \$15 application fee (payable at the College Cashier), which covers both the Respiratory Care and Cardiovascular applications. An assessment of each applicant's critical thinking skills is also required. This is accomplished by having each applicant take the Watson-Glaser Critical Thinking Exam which will be scheduled following calculation of the Phase I admission points. Applicants with sufficient points will receive an e-mail between May and June of each admission year indicating admission status and, if applicable, the time and date of the interview appointment with the CVT-RC Admission Panel.

- f) Complete a Criminal History Background Check and drug screening as directed after the panel interview.

Typically, the number of applicants exceeds available clinical training space (35 spaces for the Respiratory Care Program and 20 spaces for the CVT Program). Individuals will be selected for admission based upon their point system ranking. Applicants with the highest Phase I and Phase II points will be ranked first. To review the items included for the calculation of Phase I and Phase II admission points, please refer to Page 12 of this package.

Orientation sessions for Respiratory Care and Cardiovascular Technology will take place beginning in February. Please call 239-985-8398 for additional information.

7) **How and when will I know if I have been admitted to the program?**

Notification letters of the status of each applicant will be e-mailed no later than the first week of July for each admission year directly from the Program Office. Admission is on a full-time basis. Students completing their panel interview, as part of the admissions process into the Respiratory Care or CVT Programs at Edison State College, who will be involved in direct patient care during clinical rotations in a hospital or related medical facility, are required to complete a ***Criminal History Background Check and be required to complete drug testing for controlled substances.*** These processes must be completed **before** final acceptance into the RC or CVT Programs.

8) **What part does the Criminal Background Check play for my admission to either Program?**

Each applicant is required to inform the Program Director, in writing, of any criminal charges on his/her record in any state or national jurisdiction upon submission of an application for enrollment to the program. This information needs to include an explanation of circumstances for possible review by an admission committee.

Applicants are notified of the procedure to complete a background check and drug screen with CertifiedBackground.com at the completion of the panel interview. This criminal background screening ensures consistency with the requirements of Chapter 435, Florida Statutes, by health care agencies with which Edison State College has clinical affiliation agreements. Background screening must be completed

before final acceptance to the Cardiovascular Technology or Respiratory Care Program can be approved. The CertifiedBackground.com process requires an \$87 processing fee payable to CertifiedBackground.com at the applicant's expense.

Applicants with criminal records are forewarned that the Florida Department of Health, Division of Medical Quality Assurance, requires any licensure applicant who has ever been convicted or found guilty of a felony, regardless of adjudication, to explain the circumstances. The same is true for other states with licensure statutes as well as national certification boards. These individuals will need to gain clearance from these agencies before they are allowed to take state licensure and national certification examinations that are usually required for employment.

Criminal History Findings

Any applicant or enrolled student who has been found guilty of, regardless of adjudication, or entered a plea of nolo contendere, or guilty to, any offense under the provisions of Florida Statutes or under similar statutes of another jurisdiction may be disqualified from admission or continued enrollment in the Cardiovascular Technology or Respiratory Care Program.

Those offenses are:

- Murder
- Manslaughter
- Vehicular homicide
- Killing of an unborn child by injury to the mother
- Assault, if the victim of the offense was a minor
- Aggravated assault
- Battery, if the victim of the offense was a minor
- Aggravated battery
- Kidnapping
- False imprisonment
- Sexual battery
- Prohibited acts of persons in familial or custody authority
- Lewd and lascivious behavior
- Arson
- Theft, robbery, and related crimes, if the offense is a felony
- Fraudulent sale of controlled substances, only if the offense was a felony
- Incest
- Abuse or neglect of a disabled adult or elderly person
- Exploitation of disabled adult or elderly person
- Aggravated child abuse
- Child abuse
- Negligent treatment of children
- Sexual performance by a child
- Alcohol or Drug offenses which were a felony, or if the offense involved a minor
- Offenses indicating unfitness to serve as a health care professional

9) **When are core course (CVT or RET prefix) classes normally scheduled?**

Most classes and labs are scheduled during the day. Classroom days are commonly from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Clinical days may range from 4 to 12 hours and occur between 5:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. depending on the program, semester and clinic site. Some clinical assignments may be scheduled in the evening. See the Program Director for a semester by semester example.

10) What is the length of each program?

The program is 22 months (six semesters), if the student takes a fulltime class load. There is more than one pathway for completion of these programs.

11) When can I sit for the Registry examinations?

The Cardiovascular graduate is eligible for the invasive registry exam offered by CCI (Cardiovascular Credentialing International) just prior to, or upon graduation. Upon successful completion of the invasive registry exam, graduates earn the RCIS (Registered Cardiovascular Invasive Specialist) credential.

Thirty days before graduation, Respiratory Care students are eligible to take the NBRC (National Board for Respiratory Care) entry level or CRT examination. After graduation and successful completion of the CRT exam, the graduate then takes the written advanced practitioner exam and the clinical simulation exam (RRT exams).

12) Will I be participating in a hospital or other health agencies as part of my course work?

Yes, pre-clinical rotations begin in the CVT and RC labs beginning with spring semester (January). Rotations to local hospitals begin in Summer A of the first year for the RC Program and in the fall of the second year for the CVT program. Clinical sites are located in the Naples, Ft. Myers, Cape Coral, Port Charlotte and Punta Gorda areas. You will need an approved uniform, a name badge, and watch with a second hand. You may also need to purchase a stethoscope. Because students rotate through hospitals in a large geographic area, reliable transportation is a necessity.

Selected courses in the program have an insurance fee to cover liability and accidental injury insurance for you while you are in the clinic.

13) What courses could I take while waiting to be admitted to the program?

Any of the co-requisite course work listed in the college catalogue for each of the Cardiopulmonary Technology Programs with the exception of courses which have either a RET or a CVT prefix. These courses are taken after program admission. All RET and CVT courses are offered on the Lee Campus of Edison State College; however, most of the general education courses are also available at the Charlotte County, Collier County, and LaBelle Center Campuses. Many of the general education courses are available on-line.

IMPORTANT! Please consult either of the Cardiopulmonary Technology Program Directors for additional advisement. Multiple options for completing the first 3 semesters of the programs are possible.

14) Is an interview required?

Yes, an interview with an Admission panel is part of the Limited Access Admission process for both the CVT and Respiratory Care Programs. Applicants qualify for this last phase of the admission process by scoring above a certain level for the academic criteria and critical thinking instrument.

15) Are any of my previous college courses transferable to this program?

If you attended another college, formal transcripts must be sent to the college Admissions Office, for evaluation, at the time you apply for admission to the college. The Admissions and Records Offices are involved with transfer of the basic general education college courses such as English, Psychology, Mathematics, etc.

If you attended another Respiratory Therapy or Cardiovascular Technology Program, these courses will be evaluated for transfer by the Cardiopulmonary Technology Department. In this case, you must also provide the program with a copy of your transcripts. This copy does not need to be a secure, formal copy. The department will also require other documentation such as a letter of good standing from the Program Director indicating eligibility to continue in the program you started, course syllabi or schedules to verify content, particularly for out-of-state students. Only courses in which you earned a grade of “C” or better are transferable.

16) Can I get credit for any previous experience in the practice of Respiratory Therapy and/or Cardiovascular Technology?

Yes, credit by examination and/or demonstration of clinical competencies is available for selected RET & CVT courses with documented evidence of related experience, in conjunction with Edison State College policy.

17) What is the cost of these programs?

Tuition is charged per credit hour taken. Florida residents pay \$104.48 per credit hour. Non-residents pay \$388.52 per credit hour. Laboratory courses have a \$30-\$35 course lab fee attached. There is an annual fee of \$32.50 for Cardiovascular Technology and \$26.50 for Respiratory Care for liability and accidental injury insurance. A clinic support fee of \$125 is assessed for each of the four clinical courses. Tuition rates and fees are subject to review and change each academic year. In general, the cost for these programs is about 12 to 15% of average annual first year earnings for a Respiratory Therapist or Cardiovascular Technologist.

18) How many credit hours are required in each program?

There are 76 credit hours in Respiratory Care and 77 credit hours in Cardiovascular Technology which are required for the program. Additional costs include books, uniforms, and various testing fees. The college does not provide housing and the student is responsible for transportation to and from assigned hospitals or health agencies for clinical course work.

19) Can this curriculum be used to further advance my education towards a Baccalaureate Degree?

Edison State College is approved to offer a B.A.S. Degree in Cardiopulmonary Sciences. If you are interested in another institution, it is suggested that you contact the specific institution to which you wish to transfer for additional information. The Edison University Center is established to assist you with transfer options for a variety of colleges and universities.

20) Must I take the courses in the sequence in which they are listed in the curriculum?

There are variations of order possible for the general education courses. Some of these courses require testing or pre-requisites. The RET and CVT prefixed courses must be taken in the order presented. Each core course must be passed with a grade of “C” or better before the student may advance in the program. All RET and CVT courses are offered only once a year during the semester they are listed in the curriculum. Advisement for course registration each semester is done through a designated respiratory care/cardiovascular technology program advisor.

21) Does the program offer a job placement service?

Yes. Although the program cannot guarantee employment, we do offer assistance. The college offers advisement on job placement; furthermore, a list of potential opportunities is maintained by the Program Director of each program.

22) What salary range can I expect as a graduate therapist or technologist?

A starting full-time Registered Respiratory Therapist/Registered Cardiovascular Technologist in the Southwest Florida area could expect to start between \$39,000 and \$54,000. Signing bonuses, on-call pay or shift differential may also contribute to the annual salary at some institutions.

23) Do the CVT and Respiratory Care Programs keep a waiting list?

The programs do not keep a “waiting list.” Individuals not accepted for a class may re-apply to the program for the next year, but are not given preference on that basis. During each admission year the programs may accept alternate candidates that may then begin the program course but may not be guaranteed a clinic seat. You will receive additional information of your options if you are offered alternate admission into either program.

24) Is there specific health, physical activity or technical requirements for advancement into the clinical phases of the CVT and RC Programs?

Yes. A completed medical health form and self assessment of Program Technical Standards must also be submitted and approved by the Program Coordinator prior to admission to clinical rotations. This health record will contain results from a physical examination and laboratory tests including immunization records. An updated health record verified by a licensed physician or designee must be submitted on a yearly basis before attending clinical courses.

Cardiovascular Technology or Respiratory Care students who do not meet the standards of good physical and mental health, as required by clinical facilities for safe patient care, may reapply and be considered for application to the applicable program after resolution of the health problem.

Additionally, student drug screens, criminal history reports, and medical records, when submitted, will become the property of Edison State College, and will not be available for copying or for use to meet the requirements of outside employers or other agencies/persons. Students who are out of their program for six months or more must submit new records.

Appeal Process

If a review of a criminal background check or a medical health report deems an applicant or student ineligible for admission or continuation in the Cardiovascular Technology or Respiratory Care Program, an appeal can be filed with the Health Professions Student Review Committee.

EDISON STATE COLLEGE
APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION TO THE
CARDIOPULMONARY TECHNOLOGIES PROGRAMS

Edison State College is an Equal Access Institution

Your application packet must include: 1) program application, 2) receipt of payment of \$15 application fee, and 3) unofficial copies of transcripts. Note: Official transcripts must be sent to the Registrar's Office along with your Edison State College Application.

- 1) Name _____
- 2) Mailing Address _____

(City) (State) (Zip Code)
E-Mail Address _____
- 3) Telephone (____) _____
- 4) Have you applied to Edison? _____ Edison ID@ _____
- 5) Current employment:
Organization _____
Address _____
Immediate Supervisor _____
Your position _____
- 6) List any college courses in which you are currently enrolled:
 - a)
 - b)
 - c)
 - d)
- 7) Briefly identify your past experience with health care: _____

Please attach additional documentation if you have experience directly related to Respiratory Care or Cardiovascular Technology.

- 8) **Current choice of major: a) Respiratory Care b) Cardiovascular Technology**
PLEASE NOTE: If you desire to be considered for both programs, you must submit a separate application for each program. Only one \$15.00 application fee is necessary.

**Edison State College 2011-2012
Respiratory Care - AS Degree**

FIRST YEAR

Fall Semester	Credit Hours
*MGF 1106 Math for Liberal Arts I	3
CHM 2032 Gen Chem Health Science	3
CHM 2032L Gen Chem Health Sci Lab	1
**BSC 1093C Anatomy & Physiology I	4
RET 1024 Intro Cardiopulmonary Tech	3

Total 14

SECOND YEAR

Fall Semester	Credit Hours
RET 2874L Clinical Practicum II	4
RET 2234C Respiratory Therapeutics	4
RET 2254C Resp Care Assessment	4
RET 2714 Neonatal-Pediatric Resp Care	3

Total 15

FIRST YEAR

Spring Semester	Credit Hours
PHY 1007 Physics for Health Sciences	3
BSC 1094C Anatomy & Physiology II	4
PSY 2012 General Psychology I	3
ENC 1101 Composition I	3
RET 1007 Resp Care Pharmacology	1
RET 1275C Clinical Care Techniques	2
RET 1613C Cardiopulmonary A & P	2

Total 18

SECOND YEAR

Spring Semester	Credit Hours
RET 2875L Clinical Practicum III	4
RET 2264C Adv Mechanical Ventilation	4
RET 2295 Pulmonary Studies	3
RET 2244 Critical Care Applications	2

Total 13

FIRST YEAR

Summer Semester	Credit Hours
**MCB 2010C Microbiology	4
RET 1832L Clinical Practicum I	2
***HUM Humanities Elective	3

Total 9

SECOND YEAR

Summer Semester	Credit Hours
RET 2930 RC Practitioner as Professional	2
RET 2876L Clinical Practicum IV	5

Total 7

*MAT 1033 or Testing may be a requirement for admission into MGF 1106.

**BSC 1010 or Testing is a prerequisite for BSC 1093C and MCB 2010C and should be taken prior to Fall semester.

*** The Humanities elective can be taken in Summer B of the first year or any 1st year semester.

**Edison State College 2011-2012
Cardiovascular Technology - AS Degree**

FIRST YEAR

Fall Semester	Credit Hours
*MGF 1106 Math for Liberal Arts	3
CHM 2032 Chemistry for Health Sci	3
CHM 2032L Chemistry Health Sci Lab	1
**BSC 1093C Anatomy & Physiology I	4
ENC 1101 Composition I	3
RET 1024 Intro Cardiopulmonary Tech	3
Total	17

SECOND YEAR

Fall Semester	Credit Hours
CVT 2420C Invasive Cardiology I	4
CVT 2620C Non-Invasive Cardio Tech I	2
CVT 2805C Cardiovasc Interven Pre-Prac	2
CVT 2840L Cardiovascular Practicum II	6
Total	14

FIRST YEAR

Spring Semester	Credit Hours
PHY 1007 Physics for Health Sciences	3
BSC 1094C Anatomy & Physiology II	4
HUM Humanities Elective	3
CVT 1200 Cardiovasc Pharmacology	3
RET 1613C Cardiopulmonary A & P	2
CVT 1800L Cardiovasc Pre-Practicum I	2
Total	17

SECOND YEAR

Spring Semester	Credit Hours
CVT 2421C Invasive Cardiology II	4
RET 2244 Critical Care Applications	2
CVT 2841L Cardiovascular Practicum III	6
	12
CVT 2621C Non-Invasive Cardio Tech II	4
CVT 2621 is an Elective	
Total	16

FIRST YEAR

Summer Semester A	Credit Hours
**MCB 2010C Microbiology	4
CVT 1801L Cardiovasc Pre-Practicum II	2
Total	6

SECOND YEAR

Summer Semester A	Credit Hours
CVT 2920 Cardiovasc Tech as Professional	2
CVT 2842L Cardiovascular Practicum IV	6
Total	8

FIRST YEAR

Summer Semester B	Credit Hours
PSY 2012 General Psychology I	3
Total	3

*MAT 1033 or Testing may be a requirement for admission into MGF 1106.

**BSC 1010 or Testing is a prerequisite for BSC 1093C and MCB 2010C and should be taken prior to Fall semester.

**EDISON STATE COLLEGE
CARDIOPULMONARY TECHNOLOGIES PROGRAM
CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION**

Admission into the Respiratory Care/Cardiovascular Technologies Program is a simple process. **Phase I** evaluates applicants according to the number of points earned through: cumulative grade point average, math/science grade point average, and number of credit hours earned by or before the application deadline of **May 31st**. Courses not completed by the deadline are not considered. Following Transcript Evaluation a candidate must schedule an appointment to take the Critical Thinking Exam for CVT or RC Admission.

Phase II evaluates the affective and communication skills of applicants using an admission panel interview. Only applicants who have met a minimum number of Phase I points will be scheduled for a Panel Interview worth a maximum of 20 points. Those candidates with the highest total points from **Phases I and II** are offered admission to either the CVT or RC program in rank order.

Phase I: Academic Maximum Points 60 Critical Thinking Instrument Maximum Pts 20

Phase II: Interview Maximum Pts 20

Overall GPA*		Math/Science GPA*		Co-Requisites Completed	Educational Experience	
<u>GPA</u>	<u>POINTS</u>	<u>GPA</u>	<u>POINTS</u>	<u>1 Pt Each</u>	<u>CoReqPOINTS</u>	
4.0-3.90	15	4.00-3.9	30	BSC1093C*	_____	(Point Range: 0 – 0.5)
3.89-3.8	14	3.89-3.8	29	BSC1094C*	_____	
3.79-3.7	13	3.79-3.7	28	CHM2032/*	_____	<u>Sem. Hrs.</u> Pts
				CHM2032L*	_____	
3.69-3.6	12	3.69-3.6	27	ENC1101	_____	
3.59-3.5	11	3.59-3.5	26	HUM. ELEC	_____	100+ 5.0
3.49-3.4	10	3.49-3.4	25	MCB2010C*	_____	90 – 99 4.5
3.39-3.3	9	3.39-3.3	24	MGF 1106*	_____	80 – 89 4.0
3.29-3.2	8	3.29-3.2	23	PHY 1007*	_____	70 – 79 3.5
3.19-3.1	7	3.19-3.1	22	PSY 2012	_____	60 – 69 3.0
3.09-3.0	6	3.09-3.0	21	or SOC 1000	_____	50 – 59 2.5
2.99-2.9	5	2.99-2.9	20			40 – 49 2.0
2.89-2.8	4.5	2.89-2.8	19			30 - 39 1.5
2.79-2.7	4	2.79-2.7	18			20 - 29 1.0
2.69-2.6	3.5	2.69-2.6	17			11 - 19 0.5
2.59-2.5	3	2.59-2.5	16			
2.49-2.4	2.5	2.49-2.4	15			
2.39-2.3	2	2.39-2.3	13			
2.29-2.2	1.5	2.29-2.2	12			
2.19-2.1	1	2.19-2.1	11			
2.09-2.0	0.5	2.09-2.0	10			
< 2.0		< 2.0	0			

Edu Exp Points = _____

Phase II: Maximum Points 20
*Affective Skills***
Interview 0 - 20 pts.

*** Included in Math/Sci GPA**

GPA points are based on college credits, with a minimum of eleven credits of college course work for the overall GPA and a minimum of seven credits in the math/science area, for the Math/Science GPA Pts. Math/Science GPA is based upon Math/Science co-requisites required for the Program.

****Interviews will be required after May 1st each year for the applicants with the most Phase I points.**

Overall GPA Points: _____

Math/Sci GPA Points: _____

Co-req Points: _____

Edu Exp Points: _____

Critical Thinking Instrument Pts: _____

Phase I Sub Total: _____

Interview Points: _____

Total Admission Pts: _____