



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

DATE: June 7, 2010

RE: Letter of Guidance for Respiratory Therapy Programs

Staff members of the Board of Regents recommend the Respiratory Therapy program is a viable candidate for the issuance of a *Letter of Guidance*, in lieu of a Program Alignment Map. As a result of external accreditation, three of the four purposes of program alignment are met when applied to the Respiratory Therapy program.

- 1) The identification of a nationally recognized third-party industry credential is satisfied with the Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT) credential which is required for employment.
- 2) An industry value-added exit point is prescribed because external accreditation mandates an associate degree in Respiratory Therapy as a minimum for entry into employment.
- 3) The identification of a few common technical courses to bridge articulation between secondary and postsecondary partners are unnecessary in this case because accreditation requires program candidates be at least 18 years of age and have obtained a high school diploma or the equivalent to receive admittance into the program.
- 4) Upon reviewing respiratory therapy programs offered at colleges across Kansas, staff submits a recommended maximum program length of 76 credit hours be allotted as eligible for state funding. The 76 credit hours include all courses associated with the respiratory therapy program to include: prerequisites, support courses, and professional courses.

Accordingly, the staff members of the Board of Regents propose the acceptance of this Letter of Guidance for Respiratory Therapy educational programs.

Respiratory Therapist

- CRT Credential
- RRT Credential



A.A.S.

**Maximum of 76 Credit Hours
for State Funding**

Notes

Specifics pertaining to the Respiratory Therapy program

1. Program standards established by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC). CoARC programmatic accreditation is mandatory.
2. Course competencies and standards align with the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) content matrix requirements, which all programs must adhere to.
3. Completers are eligible to sit for CRT credential and obtainment of this credential is required for licensure to practice in Kansas.
4. Completers are also eligible to sit for RRT credential, which is an advanced practice level credential.
5. Obtainment of an Associate Degree is required. There are no other exit points.
6. The practice of Respiratory Therapy is regulated by the Kansas Board of Healing Arts.
7. Articulation with secondary programs may only occur using Common Support Courses, not professional coursework.