

COLLEGE APPLICANTS

NORTHERN ESSEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

CHECKLIST FOR RESPIRATORY CARE PROGRAM APPLICANTS For September 2026 Admission

Dear Student:

You may wish to use this checklist to create a personal record of the documents/activities you have completed towards applying to the Respiratory Care Program.

Admission Information:

Admission to the Respiratory Care Program is competitive. There are more qualified applicants to the program than there are seats available. Beginning **the 1st Monday in October** AND after having met with a Center for Health Professions advisor to verify completion of all admission requirements (criteria and any HES 102 waiver decisions), applicants may submit their online application to be considered for admission. When the program and waitlist have been filled, no further applications will be accepted. Notifications that applications are no longer being accepted will appear on the Respiratory Care Program NECC web page.

Academic Advising:

Individuals interested in applying to the Respiratory Care Program are required to meet with an advisor when starting the admission process to assist with questions and clarify the process. Final review of the admission criteria will be done by an advisor from the Center for Health Professions.

- ☐ **APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION** (if you are a new student or have not been enrolled for the previous three years) Major Choice: **General Studies: Health Specialization, Interest in Respiratory Care.**
- ☐ **Official transcript showing evidence of high school graduation, or the equivalent with passing GED/HiSet scores.**
- ☐ **Official college transcript(s)** if transfer credits are being requested. **GPA 2.0 or higher is required each course being requested.**
- ☐ Completion of the **Mandatory Respiratory Care Information Session** after January 1, 2025. For Information Session dates, go to [our website where all information sessions are listed.](#)

☐ **Prerequisite courses documented:**

Science. Two science courses, taken either in high school or college, with a grade of 'C' or higher. One of the science courses must be in biology with lab, anatomy and physiology with a lab, chemistry with a lab, or physics with a lab. Science courses must be completed within the five (5) years prior to current admission cycle to be considered toward admission and program completion. Science courses taken >5 years would not be eligible without submitting a formal 5-year science waiver petition. Suggested science courses for admission are BIO 115 – Physiologic Chemistry and BIO 121 – Anatomy and Physiology I.

- ☐ **Completion of the Test of Essential Academic Skills for Allied Health Professionals (TEAS) within the last 5 years with minimum scores in each content area:** See attached TEAS FACT SHEET.

PLEASE NOTE: For students who require TEAS re-testing, all sections of the TEAS minimum cut sub-scores will be required. No allowance is made for partial testing.

TEAS Reading	<u>63%</u>
TEAS Mathematics	<u>60%</u>
TEAS Science	<u>44%</u>
TEAS English	<u>53%</u>

NOTE: Applicants who have previously earned a Bachelor's Degree are exempt from taking the TEAS Exam.

NOTE: Applicants who have earned a College Certificate from the NECC Sleep Technologist Program AND within the past 3 years earned either the RST (Registered Sleep Technologist) credential OR the RPSGT (Registered Polysomnographic Technologist) credential are exempt from taking the TEAS Exam. Proof of the earned credential must be submitted during the application process.

IMPORTANT FINAL STEP:

- ☐ **Change of Major/ACTION FORM** –Upon completion of all of the above items from the checklist, the student will need to meet with a Center for Health Professions advisor to determine eligibility to apply to the Respiratory Care Program for Fall 2026.

The Respiratory Care Program and the Division of Health Professions are committed to educating a workforce that mirrors the rich socioethnic culture of the communities we serve. Therefore, we endeavor to attract and recruit a diverse group of students for each incoming class. We also reserve the right to invoke a geographical preference for applicants from the college's primary service area.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

Important Dates

While there is no deadline for completing applications to the Respiratory Care Program, we encourage you to do so as soon as possible. Completed applications are reviewed and admission decisions are made on an on-going basis.

Program Capacity

The Respiratory Care Program has a limited number of seats. In general, the College accepts up to 20 students to begin this program each September.

The criteria describe the MINIMUM standards that must be met in order to be reviewed for admission to this program. Currently, the number of qualified applicants exceeds the number of available seats. Consequently, once it has been determined that the applicant meets the MINIMUM criteria, he/she is admitted on a rolling admission process.

Wait List Status

The Respiratory Care Program Review Committee establishes a Wait List for qualified applicants who are not initially accepted into the program. The Wait List is approximately 50% of the program capacity. Students are called from the Wait List on a space available basis. Students who are placed on the Wait List, and for whom a seat does not open during the current admission cycle, are given first option on admission for the following year.

If there are significant changes in the admission criteria, students on the Wait List may be required to comply with the new criteria. This decision is at the sole discretion of the academic program faculty.

Transfer Credits

Transfer credits from other colleges/universities are awarded only for comparable courses that are completed with a grade of 'C' or higher.

Science courses must have been taken not more than five (5) years prior to the anticipated start date of the Respiratory Care Program to count as credits towards completing the program.

Health Requirements

Information regarding the College's health requirements will be sent to you upon your acceptance to the program.

Information about the Program's Technical Standards which describe the physical and behavioral characteristic required to successfully complete the program are available the [health forms at our website](http://www.necc.mass.edu/academics/courses-programs/areas/health/required-form/), which can be found at <http://www.necc.mass.edu/academics/courses-programs/areas/health/required-form/> and we encourage you to review these as soon as possible.

CPR Certification

All students in the Respiratory Care Program are required to hold CPR certification at the Health Care Provider level. Evidence of current certification is required before a student is allowed to participate in clinical education courses, and certification must be maintained throughout the program.

Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) and Sex Offender Record Information (SORI)

Students interested in participation in an academic program that involves working with children, the disabled, or the elderly, or a cooperative education experience or a program that includes a clinical affiliation with a private or public health care provider, may be required to undergo a Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) check, a Sex Offender Registry Information (SORI) check, and/or a Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) check. Students will need to provide a government issued photo identification and sign a release form allowing the college to view the student's CORI or SORI reports. Depending on the contents of a student's CORI or SORI reports, participation in an academic program or a cooperative education experience or a clinical or practicum affiliation related thereto, may be denied. CORI checks may be performed pursuant to Mass. General Laws, Chapter 6, Sections 172(C), and consistent with guidelines promulgated by the Executive Office for Health and Human Services, and/or the Commonwealth's Department of Public Health. SORI checks may be performed pursuant to Mass. General Laws, Chapter 6, Section 172(C). CHRI checks may be performed based on the NH Code of Administrative Rules and state statutes to include RSA 106-B:14 and RSA 106-B:7,1(b). For more information, contact Program Coordinator.

Clinical Affiliate Random Drug & Alcohol Screening Analysis Notification to Students

Please be advised that students enrolled in the following Health Professions programs will be required to undergo and pass a drug screening or a drug & alcohol screening analysis in order to be eligible for placement in a clinical facility. Students who are assigned to clinical education experiences at the clinical facilities may be required to undergo and pass random drug screening or random drug & alcohol screening analysis in order to remain at that clinical facility. Students who either fail to pass, or refuse to submit to, or fail to report within the required time frame for a drug screening or a drug & alcohol screening analysis will be deemed ineligible for clinical placement, which may affect their status in the program. Health Programs in which Students are Subject to Drug Screening Analysis only: Dental Assisting, Paramedic Technology (EMT-P), Medical Assisting, Nursing Associate Degree, Healthcare Technician, Practical Nursing, Radiologic Technology, Computer Tomography. Health Programs in which Students are Subject to Drug & Alcohol Screening Analysis: Sleep Technologist, Respiratory Care. If you have any questions pertaining to this policy, please contact the Office of the Dean of Health Professions.

Information about Massachusetts Licensure

In order to practice respiratory care in Massachusetts, individuals must obtain a license, which according to law requires that individuals must: complete an accredited respiratory care program, apply to the Board, be of good moral character, pass a licensure examination, and pay the appropriate fee before licensure may be obtained. For further information about licensure as a respiratory therapist in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, please visit [their website](#).

Affirmative Action

For information on Affirmative Action Policy: <https://www.necc.mass.edu/employment/statement-non-discrimination/>

RESPIRATORY CARE PROGRAM
Test of Essential Academic Skills for Allied Health Professionals (TEAS)
FACT SHEET

1. What is the Test of Essential Academic Skills for Allied Health Professionals used for Respiratory Care Program admission?

This test is an assessment of an applicant's scholastic aptitude. It is designed to predict an applicant's academic readiness prior to admission into the Respiratory Care Program. The specific test used by NECC is the Test of Essential Academic Skills V for Allied Health Professionals

2. Where can I take the test?

TEAS testing used to meet the criteria can be taken at Northern Essex Community College at the Academic Placement & Testing Center on either the Haverhill or Lawrence campus or remotely proctored. If transferred in from another institution, TEAS scores are only accepted if remotely proctored.

3. What academic content areas will I be tested on?

The TEAS consists of four content areas: **Math, Reading, English and Science.**

The **Math** subtest covers whole numbers, metric conversion, fractions and decimals, algebraic equations, percentages and ratio/proportion.

The **Reading** subtest covers paragraph comprehension, passage comprehension, and inferences/conclusions.

The **English** subtest measures knowledge of punctuation, grammar, sentence structure, words and spelling.

The **Science** portion of the test covers scientific reasoning science knowledge, biology, chemistry, anatomy and physiology, basic physical principles and general science.

4. Are there essay questions on this test?

No. This is an on-line test, consisting of all multiple choice questions.

5. How long will it take for me to complete the TEAS?

This test will take approximately four hours. Each of the four content area tests must be completed within a specified time.

6. Is there a particular score I must achieve on the TEAS?

You must achieve the minimum scores in all content areas:

TEAS Reading	<u>63%</u>
TEAS Mathematics	<u>60%</u>
TEAS Science	<u>44%</u>
TEAS English	<u>53%</u>

7. Is there any way that I can prepare for the TEAS?

Yes. There are several options for TEAS test prep offered by ATI: <https://www.atitesting.com/teas>. There are a limited number of ATI TEAS Study Guides available through the Center for Health Professions for students currently enrolled in courses and pursuing a criteria-based program. The use of the study guides is limited to one month.

8. When will I take the TEAS?

The TEAS is administered on a regular basis. For more information, go to: [the ATI registration page](#).

9. Is there a fee to take the TEAS?

Yes. **There is a non-refundable fee of \$94.00***. Registration and payment for the test are done on-line. For more information, go to [our Health Profession Testing site](#) which can be found at <https://www.necc.mass.edu/admissions/testing-center/health-profession-testing/>

***Note:** Fee subject to change

10. What should I bring with me on the testing date?

- **2 forms of identification including a picture ID.**
- Your ATI confirmation e-mail
- Your ATI username and password.

No water, food, calculators, beepers or cell phones are allowed. As room temperature varies, it is suggested that you dress in layers to accommodate the environment.

11. How will I know how I performed on the TEAS?

Results will be available immediately. Students can access their score reports by logging onto [the ATI website](#).

12. How often can I take the TEAS?

An applicant may take the TEAS test a maximum of three times during an admission cycle. Should a retest be required, the TEAS test may not be retaken sooner than three months from the previous test for a total of three times. The most recent test results will be used for that admission cycle only.

13. What happens if I miss the test?

If the testing session is missed, you will not be refunded