About the Department

The Department of Health Sciences strives to be a leader in the generation, dissemination and application of knowledge that advances the sciences and practice of our integrated health-related disciplines. We build and sustain academic programs that meet current and emergent needs of the health care community.

The Department of Health Sciences is comprised of undergraduate programs in medical laboratory science and respiratory therapy and a graduate program in applied health physiology. Each program provides coursework in the basic sciences, general education and specialized areas that prepare graduates for national certification in their fields of study. Health science students must have an aptitude for science and a good working knowledge of chemistry, biology, physiology and microbiology.

During the first two years of each undergraduate program, students take prerequisite and General Education courses. Admission into each of the undergraduate programs is a two-step process that includes both admission to Salisbury University and acceptance into the upper-division professional program. Program admission is competitive and it is highly recommended that students wishing to pursue the degree seek academic advisement early.

Information about admission policies can be found within the University’s catalog and on the department website. The last two years comprise the professional core, offering courses in the major with student laboratories accompanied by rotations through clinical facilities. The courses prepare students to practice in laboratory science or respiratory care under the guidance and supervision of professionals during internships in “real world” environments.

OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Being a Respiratory Therapist

If you enjoy working in a fast-paced environment where your technical and scientific responsibilities will be matched by a real need for human-relations skills, the profession of respiratory therapy may be the career you are seeking. Respiratory therapy is

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a health care specialty that offers a set of unique challenges in the areas of prevention, treatment, management and rehabilitation of people with diseases of the lungs and cardiovascular system.

As a respiratory care practitioner, you will be involved in a wide variety of life-saving and life-supporting situations. You will work side-by-side with physicians, nurses and others on the health care team, treating patients ranging in age from newborns to senior citizens. Your expertise will be in demand, and opportunities to expand your knowledge and skills will be great.

The profession has grown so quickly since its inception in the late 1940s that demand has exceeded supply, making the respiratory care practitioner’s talents a precious commodity in most medical institutions. In addition, many clinics, nursing homes and home-care programs are beginning to realize the potential benefits of having a trained respiratory care practitioner on staff. Coupled with the ever-increasing number of cardiopulmonary disorders diagnosed, these demands ensure that individuals who enter the profession will enjoy good career opportunities. By offering an exciting and challenging working environment, solid career opportunities and a real chance to help others, respiratory care is indeed “A Profession for Now and the Future.”

Students can complete their respiratory therapy coursework in Salisbury on the main campus or at the Universities at Shady Grove, in Rockville, MD.

“Respiratory therapy is the most rewarding and life-changing program with a challenging, hands-on curriculum and exceptional faculty.”
— Allie Ziegler (Respiratory Therapy)