

## Addendum D – Essential Function and Professional

### **ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS & PROFESSIONAL EXPECTATIONS**

The Respiratory Therapy Educational Program at Liberty University is a rigorous and intense program that places specific requirements and demands on the students enrolled in the program. An objective of this program is to prepare graduates to enter a variety of employment settings and to render care to a wide spectrum of individuals in need of respiratory care. The essential functions and professional expectations set forth by the Respiratory Therapy Educational Program establish the essential qualities considered necessary for students admitted to this program to achieve the knowledge, skills, and competencies of an entry-level respiratory therapist, as well as meet the expectations of the program's accrediting agency (Commission on Accreditation of Respiratory Care). All students admitted to the Respiratory Therapy Educational Program must meet the following abilities and expectations with or without reasonable accommodation. For more information on accommodation, contact the Coordinator of LU Online Disability Accommodation Support at (434) 592-5417 or [luoodas@liberty.edu](mailto:luoodas@liberty.edu) or the Director of Disability Accommodation Support (Residential) at (434) 582-2159 or [odas@liberty.edu](mailto:odas@liberty.edu).

Compliance with the program's technical standards does not guarantee a student's eligibility for the NBRC Board exam.

The Essential Functions for the Respiratory Therapy Program are the skills and competencies required of a respiratory therapist student who is expected to:

- Assess patients' need for respiratory therapy by interviewing patients, performing limited physical examinations, reviewing existing clinical data and recommending the collection of additional pertinent data;
- Perform cardiopulmonary diagnostic procedures, calculate test results, determine reliability, perform quality control, and evaluate implications of test results;
- Evaluate all clinical data to determine the appropriateness of the prescribed respiratory care, to participate in the development of the respiratory care plan, and to provide care using clinical patient care protocols;
- Select, assemble, and check for proper function, operation, and cleanliness of all equipment used in providing respiratory care;
- Be responsible for the transportation, set-up, calibration, maintenance, and quality assurance of respiratory care and pulmonary function testing equipment;
- Initiate and conduct therapeutic procedures, evaluate treatment efficacy, and modify prescribed therapeutic procedures to achieve one or more specific objectives in acute care, intensive care & life support, continuing care, and rehabilitation settings.
- Act as an assistant to the physician with special procedures such as bronchoscopy, invasive cardiovascular monitoring, insertion of chest tubes, etc.
- Demonstrate professional attributes of a member of the health care team including appropriate levels of confidence, cooperation, empathy, independence, initiative, judgment, maturity, organizational skills, ethics, and dependability;
- Respect and obey all pertinent laws and regulations and abide by the Code of Ethics (see code of ethics section of this handbook);
- Maintain confidentiality and accuracy of patient records and communicate relevant information to other members of the health care team;
- Project a professional and healthful image, including: appearance, courtesy, respect, self-control, honesty, punctuality, and responsibility.

Some of the activities required of students in respiratory therapy include:

- performing chest compressions during cardiopulmonary resuscitation, squeezing a bag while securing a face mask, identifying labels on medication vials, recognizing monitor alarms, recognizing the color of alarms, obtaining arterial blood using a syringe and needle, using computer keyboards, communicating by telephone, travel between patients' rooms, and in emergency situations, therapists must respond and react quickly under stress.

Candidates for selection to the respiratory therapy educational program will be required to verify they understand and meet these technical standards or that they believe that, with certain accommodations, they can meet the standards.

Liberty University's Office of Disability Academic Support will evaluate a student who states he or she could meet the program's technical standards with accommodation and confirm that the stated condition qualifies as a disability under applicable laws.

If a student states he or she can meet the technical standards with accommodation, then the University will determine whether it agrees that the student can meet the technical standards with reasonable accommodation. This includes a review a whether the accommodations requested are reasonable, taking into account whether accommodation would jeopardize clinician/patient safety, or the educational process of the student or the institution, including all coursework, clinical experiences and internships deemed essential to graduation.

I certify that I have read and understand the technical standards for selection listed above, and I believe to the best of my knowledge that I meet each of these standards without accommodation. I understand that if I am unable to meet these standards I will not be admitted into the program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Alternative statement for students requesting accommodations:

I certify that I have read and understand the technical standards of selection listed above and I believe to the best of my knowledge that I can meet each of these standards with certain accommodations. I will contact Liberty University's Office of Disability Academic Support to determine what accommodations may be available. I understand that if I am unable to meet these standards with or without accommodations, I will not be admitted into the program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date