

Sample Knowledge Base/FAQs

Is the university's Associate of Science in Respiratory Therapy (ASRT) program accredited?

Yes! The Independence University (IU) respiratory therapy program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) upon the recommendation of the Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC).

CoARC accreditation ensures that graduates of the university's ASRT program may sit for the National Board for Respiratory Care's CRT and RRT credentialing exams.

How does a student apply for admission to the Associate of Science in Respiratory Therapy (ASRT) program?

Applying for admission is easy!

- **Apply online.** Simply go to the IU Web site (www.independence.edu) and click Admissions.
- **Apply by telephone.** Call an IU Enrollment Advisor at 800-791-7353. Your Enrollment Advisor will walk you through the admission process.

With IU's open academic calendar, you can apply for admission and enroll at any time of year. Contact IU today!

When may a student apply to the Associate of Science in Respiratory Therapy program?

Independence University follows a **convenient** and **open** academic calendar. This means that you may apply to the ASRT program at any time of year. IU's continuous rolling enrollments ensure that you can start your first course as soon as the application process is successfully completed.

What are the admission requirements for the Associate of Science in Respiratory Therapy program?

The admission requirements for the ASRT program are as follows:

- All applicants must have a high school diploma, GED, or the equivalent. Official transcripts must be provided.
- Non-U.S./international applicants must submit official scores for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).
- Non-U.S./international applicants must also submit an official evaluation of their academic credentials completed by a member agency of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (www.naces.org).

- Finally, all ASRT applicants must complete a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and a Preceptor Agreement with a clinical facility and preceptor in their local area. IU's team of advisors will advise applicants through the process of completing these forms.

Independence University is *student*-centered. With IU's open academic calendar, you can apply and enroll at any time of year!

Are there any prerequisites for the ASRT program?

Yes. The prerequisites are as follows:

- Introduction to Respiratory Therapy/Infection Control
- Human Anatomy and Physiology
- Cardio and Renal Anatomy and Physiology
- Cardiopulmonary Pharmacology

With the exception of Human Anatomy and Physiology, prerequisites must have been completed within the last five (5) years. Students who do not enter with these prerequisites may still be admitted to IU and complete these courses at the university. Once a student completes the prerequisites, he or she may enroll officially in the ASRT program and begin the core respiratory therapy courses.

What are the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Preceptor Agreement?

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Preceptor Agreement are key components of your clinical instruction in respiratory therapy. These forms establish a relationship between the respiratory therapy student (you), the university's ASRT program, the clinical facility where your instruction will take place, and the preceptor who will be your clinical instructor.

To enroll officially in the ASRT program, you must secure a preceptor and clinical site (which may be your place of employment) and submit a Preceptor Agreement and MOU to the university. The ASRT program's Director of Clinical Education then reviews these forms, which must be approved before an applicant can enroll officially in the program.

How does an applicant get a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Preceptor Agreement forms?

The ASRT program provides blank forms to applicants, either through its program advisors, the IU Web site, or via email.

If you are applying to the ASRT program and need copies of the MOU and Preceptor Agreement, contact the program and an advisor will gladly help you.

Do respiratory therapy applicants find their own preceptor and clinical site?

Applicants do find their own preceptor and clinical site. Many applicants work in the acute care setting and are able to secure clinical instruction with the support of their employer, often at the clinical site where they currently work. Applicants who do not work in health care will have to seek out a clinical site and preceptor in their local area.

Will the university help a student locate a preceptor and site if the student is having trouble doing so?

Occasionally, Independence University will refer applicants to active clinical sites if the applicant lives within a reasonable distance from that site. However, the university cannot guarantee or promise applicants that it will provide them with a clinical site or preceptor. In fact, the university encourages the recruitment of applicants who have initial support by an employer or local hospital.

What types of transcripts do ASRT applicants need to submit?

Applicants to IU and its respiratory therapy program must submit official transcripts of all previous college-level work. If an applicant has never attended college, he or she will submit official documentation of a high school diploma, GED, or the equivalent. If an applicant is a non-U.S./international student, he or she does not submit official transcripts but, instead, submits an official transcript evaluation completed by a member agency of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (www.naces.org).

Applicants who take advantage of the university's fast-track enrollment option may enroll in their first course without providing official transcripts. The applicant will then order official transcripts with the university's assistance. Once official transcripts arrive, the university will review them to ensure that the applicant has the credentials needed to continue in the program.

Please note that all transcripts or NACES transcript evaluation must be *official*. This means that the transcripts or NACES evaluation must be sent directly by the issuing institution to IU.

Requiring official transcripts is standard practice in higher education. This practice protects *your* education by ensuring that all applicants are carefully screened before being admitted to an accredited respiratory therapy program.

Can I complete clinical instruction where I currently work?

Yes! Many of our ASRT students complete clinical instruction at their place of employment. Although you cannot be paid for time spent in clinical instruction, completing this instruction at your current facility offers a convenient way to fulfill the clinical requirement.