



COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION FOR RESPIRATORY CARE

The NBRC Therapist Multiple Choice (TMC) Exam High Cut Score as a Measure of Exam-Based Program Outcomes

[Position Statement Approved by the CoARC Board on November 21, 2015]

A key component of the mission of the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) is to ensure that respiratory care education programs prepare students for entry into the profession. CoARC Standard 3.01 requires all programs “to prepare graduates with demonstrated competence in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains of respiratory care practice as performed by registered respiratory therapists (RRTs).” As an outcomes-based accreditor, the CoARC has historically relied on the results of several program outcome measures, including both the Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT) and the Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) examinations.

With the advent of the National Board for Respiratory Care’s (NBRC) new TMC Exam in January of 2015, all graduates seeking to enter the profession must take a single written examination. The TMC exam has two cut scores associated with it; graduates attaining the lower cut score will obtain the CRT credential. Achieving the higher cut score means a graduate earns the CRT credential and is eligible to take the Clinical Simulation Exam (CSE). Graduates who successfully complete the TMC at the higher cut score and pass the CSE earn the RRT credential.

The CoARC will be assessing outcomes data over the next few years in order to identify an outcomes threshold for the high cut score on the TMC. This threshold would be the minimum percentage of graduates in a three-year reporting period that must achieve the higher cut score for a program to avoid a citation. An announcement will be made once the data have been reviewed and a threshold established. Compliance with this threshold will be required with the annual reports due on July 1, 2018.

Questions regarding this notice should be directed to Tom Smalling, Executive Director at (817) 283-2835 ext. 101, or by email at: tom@coarc.com