



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## (Prospective Students)

**Q: How do I find a program in my area?**

**A:** Refer to our [Find an Accredited Program](#) link. You can search by name, state, degree, or category. If you find a program that you are interested in, you will need to contact that program directly to discuss admission, transfer, or completion requirements. You can also review the program's most recent [outcomes information](#) on our website.

**Q: Why do I need to attend an accredited program or institution?**

**A:** Accreditation of both the program and its educational sponsor is essential to you. If you don't graduate from a CoARC-accredited program, you will not be eligible to take the NBRC credentialing exams, which means that you won't be able to practice as a respiratory therapist in the United States.

Accreditation of the college or university sponsoring the program by an agency recognized by the US Department of Education (USDE) is necessary for the program to be accredited by CoARC. In addition, if the sponsor is not accredited by a USDE-recognized agency, you will not be eligible for student loans. Information about program credentialing is available on the CoARC website. It is also recommended that you go to the NBRC website ([www.nbrc.org](http://www.nbrc.org)), where you can learn about eligibility for the NBRC exams and obtain contact information for the licensing agencies in each state.

**Q: What does it mean when a program says they have applied for accreditation or have an "Approval of Intent"?**

**A:** Accreditation is a process in which a program is comprehensively reviewed to ensure it meets all CoARC's requirements. The first step in the process is the submission of a Letter of Intent application by the potential program's sponsor, stating its intent to start a new Respiratory Care program. If the sponsor satisfactorily completes this step, CoARC then issues an 'Approval of Intent' indicating that the program is ready to move to the next step, 'Provisional Accreditation.' Once Provisional Accreditation is conferred by CoARC, the program is allowed to admit students. There is no guarantee that a program with an 'Approval of Intent' will be granted Provisional Accreditation by CoARC.



**Q. What if my program of choice holds Provisional Accreditation?**

A: Students that graduate from programs holding Provisional Accreditation are eligible to apply for the NBRC Respiratory Care Credentialing Examination(s). Graduates of a program designated as having the Provisional Accreditation status have the same rights and privileges as graduates of an accredited program.

**Q: What are the admission requirements for an accredited CoARC program?**

A: Each program has its own requirements for admission. You should contact the program or institution directly for admission requirements, including any prerequisites. The contact information for all CoARC-accredited programs is on this website under the [Find an Accredited Program](#) link.

**Q: Does CoARC accredit any online programs?**

A: CoARC accredits a number of programs that offer some or many of their courses via distance learning. However, all clinical components of the required curriculum can only be completed face-to-face.

**Q: What happens if the program I am attending loses its accreditation?**

A: When a program loses its accreditation, CoARC works with the college sponsor of that program to ensure that there is a 'teach out' plan for all the students in the program. This means that if your college does not plan to do the teach-out itself, it will arrange for you to continue your education with an accredited program in another college. All students who successfully complete the course work at the Respiratory Care program in the 'teach out' college would be considered graduates of a CoARC-approved program and, therefore, eligible to apply for the NBRC Respiratory Care credentialing examinations.

**Q: What if I have questions about the curriculum or student policies of the program that I am enrolled in?**

A: You should speak to the program faculty and/or administration to get answers to specific questions about that program.