

II. INSTITUTIONAL RESOURCES AND PERSONNEL RESOURCES

Institutional Resources

2.01 The sponsor must ensure that fiscal, academic, and physical resources are sufficient to achieve the program's goal(s), as defined in Standard III, for all program locations, regardless of the instructional methodology used.

Interpretive Guideline:

The sponsor must have the financial resources required both to develop and to sustain the program on a continuing basis. The program must be able to recruit and retain sufficient qualified faculty and to purchase and maintain sufficient and appropriate academic resources, as reflected in annual budget appropriations. Annual appropriations should provide for the innovations and changes, including technological advances, necessary to reflect current concepts in education and in the profession. The budget must be such that adequate resources are assured for all enrolled students, even in the event of program closure (see Accreditation Policies and Procedures Manual).

Academic resources include but are not limited to: audio/visual equipment; instructional materials; laboratory equipment and supplies; technological resources that provide access to medical information and current literature (current books, journals, periodicals and other reference materials related to the curriculum). Physical proximity of library facilities or access to online educational materials in a library or computer laboratory with extended hours for student use should be evident. Capital equipment (e.g. ventilators, mannequins, etc.), can be purchased or leased, but all laboratory equipment must be available to students when needed. Programs must have a reasonable mechanism for student access to program laboratories, including off campus laboratory sites, at times other than those designated in the curriculum with appropriate supervision.

Physical resources refer to the space allocated to the program including that for offices, classrooms and laboratories, for confidential counseling of students, for program conferences and meetings and for secure storage of student files and records.

For distance learning programs/components, arrangements for all necessary (see Standards 3.01, 3.10, 4.08, and 4.09) laboratory and clinical instruction/experience for each student must be completed prior to her/his enrollment into the program. Such arrangements must be maintained throughout the student's education in the program.

Evidence of Compliance:

- Results of annual program resource assessment as documented in the CoARC Resource Assessment Matrix (RAM).
- For distance learning programs, copies of agreements/contracts with laboratories, clinical site(s) and preceptors/instructors for each student enrolled in the program.

Definitions: program goals; fiscal, academic and physical resources; assessment

Resources:

Key Program Personnel

2.02 The sponsor must appoint, at a minimum, a full-time Program Director, a full-time Director of Clinical Education, and a Medical Director.

Programs that offer a sleep specialist option must appoint a Primary Sleep Specialist Instructor as key personnel. Programs that offer a satellite location must appoint a Satellite Site Coordinator as key personnel. Additionally, programs that offer an Additional Degree Track (ADT) location that is geographically separate from the base program must appoint an ADT Coordinator as key personnel.

Interpretive Guideline:

Full-time faculty includes all persons employed full-time by the institution who are appointed primarily to the respiratory care program and whose job responsibilities include teaching, regardless of the position title (i.e., full-time laboratory and clinical instructors are considered faculty). The length of the full-time appointment (e.g., 10-month, 12-month, etc.) for the Program Director and Director of Clinical Education must be sufficient for them to fulfill their responsibilities (identified in 2.03 and 2.07, respectively), in addition to responsibilities required by the sponsor. Only one individual can assume the responsibilities of either the Program Director or Director of Clinical Education; thus, these full-time positions cannot be shared. The Medical Director (or co-directors) is/are not required to have full-time appointments. Program faculty must hold educational qualifications as required by the institution and regulatory agencies (i.e., institutional accreditor).

Documentation of employment must include Letters of Appointment and Acceptance (templates are available on the CoARC website). Letters of Appointment and Acceptance, as well as Job Descriptions, must be current and show evidence of being reviewed periodically with the applicable faculty member per institutional evaluation cycles. At a minimum, key program personnel must have academic appointments and privileges comparable to other faculty in the institution with similar academic responsibilities. A listing of both the key personnel and the program faculty should be readily accessible (at a minimum on the program's website).

Evidence of Compliance:

- Documentation of Employment;
- Written job descriptions with corresponding expectations and minimum qualifications;
- One or more organizational charts indicating the relationship of the key personnel to the program faculty, advisory committee, and administration.

Definitions: Documentation of employment

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90 **Resources:**
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93 **Program Director**
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95 2.03 The Program Director (PD) must provide effective leadership for the program including,
96 but not limited to, responsibility for communication, ongoing program planning and
97 assessment, and fiscal management. There must be evidence that sufficient time is
98 allocated to the PD so that each of his or her educational and administrative
99 responsibilities can be met.
100

101 **Interpretive Guideline:**

102 *The PD's administrative responsibilities include fiscal planning; program planning and*
103 *development; ongoing review and analysis of all program activities; ensuring that, in all aspects,*
104 *the program meets the requirements of the Standards. Educational responsibilities include*
105 *continuous curriculum development and review as well as teaching. The PD must work with the*
106 *DCE to ensure that clinical education for program students is coordinated with didactic and*
107 *laboratory activities and is sufficient to meet program outcomes required by the Standards. PDs*
108 *often hold other leadership roles within the institution (e.g., Dean, Department or Division Chair)*
109 *or spend non-program time in clinical practice, teaching or research. The PD workload must*
110 *balance these responsibilities with those related to the program. Documentation of sufficient*
111 *release time for the PD to perform the administrative duties of the program must be provided to*
112 *confirm compliance with this Standard. Release time must be documented within the faculty*
113 *member's workload with evident reduction in one or more areas: teaching, research, or service at*
114 *a minimum of 25%.*
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116 *Institutional policies related to academic standards and to faculty roles and workload are applied*
117 *to the program in a manner that recognizes and supports the academic and technical aspects of*
118 *the program, including, but not limited to, providing for reduction in teaching load for*
119 *administrative functions. The sponsor must identify functions to be considered for release time*
120 *(e.g., program administration, clinical education administration, accreditation reports, and*
121 *assessment activities).*
122

123 *While it is preferable that the PD perform these responsibilities at the main campus location for*
124 *non-distance learning programs, they may prefer to work at a distant location. This is acceptable*
125 *only if: the program sponsor ensures that sufficient personnel are available to undertake those*
126 *responsibilities that the PD would be unable to fulfill under such circumstances (i.e. supervising*
127 *students in the laboratory, ensuring that laboratory equipment is functioning properly, etc.); all*
128 *the data and technology necessary for them to fulfill these duties are immediately available; and*
129 *the sponsor makes prospective students aware of this circumstance.*
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131 **Evidence of Compliance:**

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 - CoARC Teaching and Administrative Workload Form;

- Policies and procedures addressing program workload for faculty;
- Job description with corresponding expectations;
- Appointment Letter/Contractual Agreement with documentation of release time, key personnel duties, and full-time status;
- Results of the CoARC Student and Personnel Program Resource Surveys (RAM).

Definitions: sufficient

Resources:

2.04 The PD of an associate degree program must have earned at least a baccalaureate degree from an academic institution accredited by a federally recognized institutional accrediting agency.

The PD of a program offering a bachelor's or master's degree must have earned at least a master's degree from an academic institution accredited by a federally recognized institutional accrediting agency¹.

Interpretive Guideline:

Effective June 1, 2010, degrees are only considered acceptable if they were awarded by an institution that is accredited by a federally recognized institutional accrediting body. For degrees from institutions in countries other than the United States, the CoARC will utilize an external review service (e.g., www.naces.org) to determine whether the foreign transcript is equivalent to the required minimum degree. Program Directors with degrees from non-accredited institutions that were awarded prior to June 1, 2010, are considered to meet this Standard provided they remain in that position. The degree can be in any field of study.

Evidence of Compliance:

- Official transcript denoting the highest degree earned.

Definitions:

Resources:

2.05 The PD must:

- a) hold a valid Registered Respiratory Therapy (RRT) credential and current state license;
- b) have a minimum of four (4) years' experience as a Registered Respiratory Therapist with at least two (2) years in clinical respiratory care;
- c) have a minimum of two (2) years' experience teaching either as an appointed faculty member in a CoARC-accredited respiratory care program or as a clinical instructor/preceptor for students of such programs;
- d) complete the CoARC Key Personnel Training Program.

Interpretive Guideline:

Documentation of credential validity can include a copy of the NBRC certificate or an NBRC Credentials Verification Letter. An expired RRT credential is not valid.

If a program utilizes a distance education format and the PD resides in a different state than the base location, or if the program is located near a state border and the PD resides in a neighboring state, they may hold a license from their state of residence, unless required by the program sponsor to hold a license in the state in which the program is located.

If a newly appointed Program Director has served in a permanent key personnel role for at least twelve (12) months in a CoARC-accredited program (as either PD or DCE) within the 36 months prior to their appointment, they do not need to complete the PD/DCE Academy. When required, the PD/DCE Academy must be completed within twenty-four (24) months of the appointee's assumption of the position. Should the appointee fail to complete the PD/DCE Academy within this timeframe, the program will be placed on Administrative Probation. Temporary and acting PDs are not required to complete the PD/DCE Academy. Transitional personnel may complete the PD/DCE Academy prior to their permanent appointment, but if this is not accomplished, they must complete the PD/DCE Academy within the above timeline, following their permanent appointment. All programs accepting applications for vacancies in the PD position after this date must comply with this Standard.

Evidence of Compliance:

- Documentation of a valid RRT credential;
- Documentation of a current state license;
- Completed CoARC CV Outline;
- CoARC Key Personnel Training Program certificate of completion.

Definitions: clinical instructor; clinical preceptor

Resources:

2.06 The PD must have frequent, regular, and consistent contact with students and faculty regardless of program location.

Interpretive Guideline:

Student course evaluations and interview responses during on-site visits should affirm that the PD is accessible to students throughout their course of study and that the extent of interaction between the PD and students facilitates the achievement of program goals.

Evidence of Compliance:

- Results of student course evaluations;

- Results of the CoARC Student and Personnel Program Resource Surveys (RAM).

Definitions: frequent, regular, and consistent

Resources:

Director of Clinical Education

2.07 The Director of Clinical Education (DCE) must provide effective leadership in developing, conducting, and ongoing assessment of the clinical education program. There must be evidence that sufficient time is allocated to the DCE so that his or her educational and administrative responsibilities can be met.

Interpretive Guideline:

Management of the program's clinical activities include:

- *organization, development and administration of, the clinical curriculum;*
- *planning for, acquisition of, and communication with, locations needed for development of evolving practice skills;*
- *ensuring that appropriate supervision/assessment of students is available at all clinical sites;*
- *and ongoing assessment of the overall effectiveness of the clinical training for all students.*

The DCE must work with the PD to ensure that student clinical exposures are coordinated with their didactic and laboratory education. The DCE will assume other responsibilities – within the program (administrative, teaching in the classroom and the laboratory) or as determined by the program sponsor – when assigned. There must be documentation that sufficient release time is allocated to the DCE so that all their programmatic, educational and administrative responsibilities can be met. Sufficient release must be documented within the faculty member's workload with evident reduction in one or more areas: teaching, research, or service at a minimum of 25%.

While it is preferable that the DCE performs these responsibilities at the main campus for non-distance learning programs, s/he may prefer to work at a 'distant location'. Standard 2.10 mandates that the DCE must have 'frequent, regular and consistent contact with students, clinical faculty, and clinical affiliates in all program locations.' While for distance learning (DL) programs this is usually done remotely, it is important that for non-DL programs, which usually have multiple program students on clinical sites at any given time during the school year, the DCE must interact with the sites personally. Accordingly, such a 'distant location' would preferably be in the general area of one of the program's clinical sites; it is important to note that their living at a distant location would not absolve them of the responsibility for personal interaction with all the program's clinical sites. In addition, the program sponsor would need to ensure that sufficient personnel would be available to undertake any positional responsibilities that the DCE would be unable to fulfill under such circumstances (i.e. supervising program students in the laboratory, ensuring that the laboratory equipment is functioning properly, etc.).

264 *Additionally, the technology necessary for the DCE to fulfill these and any other responsibilities*
265 *assigned by the program sponsor and the PD would need to be immediately available. This would*
266 *include on-line access to the main campus with technology sufficient to allow the DCE to teach*
267 *courses interactively, to communicate with students both privately (for counselling) and in groups,*
268 *to allow interactive faculty and advisory committee meetings as well as providing access to all*
269 *appropriate data. Such data would include assessments of student performance at clinical sites,*
270 *student assessments of clinical sites and preceptors, information from clinical sites regarding*
271 *student behavior, etc.*

272
273 **Evidence of Compliance:**

- 274 • CoARC Teaching and Administrative Workload Form;
- 275 • Policies and procedures addressing program workload for faculty;
- 276 • Job description with corresponding expectations;
- 277 • Appointment Letter/Contractual Agreement with documentation of release time, key
- 278 personnel duties, and full-time status;
- 279 • Results of the CoARC Student and Personnel Program Resource Surveys (RAM).

280
281 **Definitions:** sufficient

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283 **Resources:**

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285
286 2.08 The DCE of an associate degree program must have earned at least a baccalaureate
287 degree from an academic institution accredited by a federally recognized institutional
288 accrediting agency.

289
290 The DCE of a program offering a bachelor's or master's degree must have earned at least
291 a master's degree from an academic institution accredited by a federally recognized
292 institutional accrediting agency².

293
294 **Interpretive Guideline:**

295 *Effective June 1, 2010, degrees are only considered acceptable if they were awarded by an*
296 *institution that is accredited by a federally recognized institutional accrediting body. For degrees*
297 *from institutions in countries other than the United States, the CoARC will utilize an external*
298 *review service (e.g., www.naces.org) to determine whether the foreign transcript is equivalent to*
299 *the required minimum degree. Directors of Clinical Education with degrees from non-accredited*
300 *institutions that were awarded prior to June 1, 2010, are considered to meet this Standard*
301 *provided they remain in that position. The degree can be in any field of study.*

302
303 **Evidence of Compliance:**

- 304 • Official transcript denoting the highest degree earned.

305
306 **Definitions:**

Resources:

2.09 The DCE must:

- a) hold a valid Registered Respiratory Therapy (RRT) credential and current state license;
- b) have a minimum of four (4) years' experience as a Registered Respiratory Therapist with at least two (2) years in clinical respiratory care;
- c) have a minimum of two (2) years' experience teaching either as an appointed faculty member in a CoARC-accredited respiratory care program or as a clinical instructor/preceptor for students of such programs;
- d) complete the CoARC Key Personnel Training Program.

Interpretive Guideline:

Documentation of credential validity can include a copy of the NBRC certificate or an NBRC Credentials Verification Letter. An expired credential is not valid.

If a program utilizes a distance education format and the DCE resides in a different state than the base location, or if the program is located near a state border and the DCE resides in a neighboring state, they may hold a license from their state of residence, unless required by the program sponsor to hold a license in the state in which the program is located.

If a newly appointed Director of Clinical Education has served in a permanent key personnel role for at least twelve (12) months in a CoARC-accredited program (as either PD or DCE) within the 36 months prior to their appointment, they do not need to complete the PD/DCE Academy. When required, the PD/DCE Academy must be completed within twenty-four (24) months of the appointee's assumption of the position. Should the appointee fail to complete the PD/DCE Academy within this timeframe, the program will be placed on Administrative Probation. Temporary and acting DCEs are not required to complete the PD/DCE Academy. Transitional personnel may complete the PD/DCE Academy prior to their permanent appointment, but if this is not accomplished, they must complete the PD/DCE Academy, within the above timeline, following their permanent appointment. All programs accepting applications for vacancies in the DCE position after this date must comply with this Standard.

Evidence of Compliance:

- Documentation of a valid RRT credential;
- Documentation of a current state license;
- Completed CoARC CV Outline;
- CoARC Key Personnel Training Program certificate of completion.

Definitions:

Resources:

2.10 The DCE must have frequent, regular, and consistent contact with students, clinical faculty, and clinical affiliates at each program location.

Interpretive Guideline:

Student course evaluations and interview responses during site visits should affirm that the DCE is accessible to students and that the extent of interaction between the DCE and students facilitates the achievement of program goals. The DCE must be available and accessible to students and clinical faculty at all times when program students are engaged in clinical coursework. Examples of contact documentation between DCE and clinical faculty/affiliates can include a communications log, copies of email/texting correspondence, or program faculty meeting minutes.

Evidence of Compliance:

- Results of student course evaluations;
- Documentation of DCE contact with clinical faculty/affiliates;
- Results of the CoARC Student and Personnel Program Resource Surveys (RAM).

Definitions: clinical affiliates

Resources:

Medical Director

2.11 The sponsor must appoint a Medical Director to provide medical guidance, facilitate physician interaction with students, and assist the PD and DCE in ensuring that didactic, laboratory, and supervised clinical instruction meet current practice guidelines. The Medical Director must be a licensed physician and Board-certified (as recognized by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) or American Osteopathic Association (AOA)) in a specialty relevant to respiratory care.

Interpretive Guideline:

The Medical Director must collaborate with the Program Director and Director of Clinical Education to ensure that didactic and laboratory instruction and supervised clinical practice experiences meet current practice standards for respiratory therapists. The Medical Director must also be a member of the Advisory Committee. Documentation of their appointment as Medical Director of the program must include letters of appointment and acceptance (templates are available on the CoARC website).

A completed CoARC Curriculum Vitae Outline for Program Faculty (available on the CoARC website) can be used as a curriculum vitae. The CV or CoARC CV Outline Form must include documentation of the clinical site(s) where the physician is credentialed.

Documentation confirming that a specialty credential is both valid and current can include a copy of the credential or a Credential Verification Letter from the appropriate credentialing agency. Documentation of current licensure can include a copy of the license or a License Verification Letter from the appropriate licensing agency.

Documentation of physician interaction with students can include a physician interaction log in student clinical handbooks, evidence of student presentations to physicians in didactic or clinical settings, or documentation of student participation in research activities supervised by physicians.

Evidence of Compliance:

- Copy of current state license and board certificate(s);
- Curriculum vitae;
- Job description with corresponding expectations;
- Appointment Letter/Contractual Agreement;
- Records of Medical Director interaction with Key Personnel, including attendance at Advisory Committee meetings;
- Documentation of all physician interactions with students;
- Results of annual program resource assessment as documented in the CoARC RAM.

Definitions: assessment

Resources: CoARC templates

Primary Sleep Specialist Instructor

2.12 For programs offering the sleep specialist program option, there must be a faculty member designated as the primary instructor for that portion of the program. In addition to the CRT-SDS, RRT-SDS, or RPSGT credential, this individual must have a minimum of an associate degree, at least three (3) years of clinical experience in sleep technology and at least one (1) year of experience in a teaching position.

Interpretive Guideline:

For programs offering the sleep specialist program option, the primary instructor of the program-option is considered Key Personnel by the CoARC. Documentation of credential validity can include a copy of the NBRC or BRPT certificate or a NBRC/BRPT Credentials Verification Letter. Expired credentials are not valid. Documentation of employment must include Letters of Appointment and Acceptance (templates are available on the CoARC website). At a minimum, key program personnel should have academic appointments and privileges comparable to other faculty with similar academic responsibilities in the institution.

For academic degrees from institutions in countries other than the United States, the CoARC will utilize an external review service (e.g., www.naces.org) to determine whether the foreign

transcript is equivalent to the required minimum degree. The degree can be in any field of study.

Evidence of Compliance:

- Valid credential as a Sleep Disorders Specialist (CRT-SDS or RRT-SDS) or a Registered Polysomnographic Technologist (RPSGT);
- Documentation of a current state license;
- Completed CoARC CV Outline;
- Appointment Letter/Contractual Agreement;
- Job description with corresponding expectations;
- Academic transcript denoting at least the required degree.

Definitions: clinical experience

Resources:

Satellite Site Coordinator/ADT Coordinator

- 2.13 Programs with satellite location(s) and ADT location(s) separate from the base program must assign a faculty member who is a Registered Respiratory Therapist to be site coordinator at each location. This coordinator is considered Key Personnel. At a minimum, this individual must hold a bachelor's degree. This individual is responsible for ensuring that the educational experiences of students on that site are equivalent to those of the base program students, as well as for maintaining adequate, ongoing communication with the Program Director and Director of Clinical Education.

Interpretive Guideline:

Documentation of the RRT credential can include a copy of the NBRC certificate or an NBRC Credentials Verification Letter. Expired credentials are not valid. Documentation of contact with PD/DCE can include a communications log, copies of email or texting correspondence, and program faculty meeting minutes. A completed CoARC Curriculum Vitae Outline for Program Faculty (available on the CoARC website) can be used as curriculum vitae.

Evidence of Compliance:

- Documentation of a valid RRT credential;
- Documentation of a current state license;
- Official transcript denoting the required degree;
- Completed CoARC CV Outline;
- Appointment Letter/Contractual Agreement
- Institutional letter of appointment or equivalent document;
- Documentation of contact with PD and DCE;
- Results of CoARC Student and Personnel-Program Resource Surveys (RAM);
- Job description with corresponding expectations.

Definitions: satellite; equivalent; adequate; base program

Resources:

Instructional Faculty

2.14 In addition to the Key Personnel, there must be sufficient personnel resources to provide effective instruction and evaluation in all settings – didactic, laboratory, simulation activities, and clinical. In clinical rotations, the student-to-faculty ratio cannot exceed 6:1 for clinical instructors and 2:1 for clinical preceptors. In laboratory environments, the student-to-lab instructor ratio cannot exceed 12:1. During simulation exercises, the student-to-faculty/staff ratio cannot exceed 6:1. These expectations are to ensure that each student is reasonably supervised during hands-on learning activities.

Interpretive Guideline:

The program must ensure that sufficient, appropriately trained, licensed, and credentialed faculty are available for students at each location where instruction occurs. The program must be able to confirm that instructional faculty are qualified in the content areas that they are teaching. Qualified means that faculty have demonstrated a sufficiency of knowledge, skills and competency in those content areas. 'Appropriately credentialed' depends on the topics/skills being taught. Expired credentials are not valid.

The program must develop training that promotes consistency among individuals who perform evaluations in all settings. Training must include familiarizing them with the use of programmatic checkoffs and other programmatic evaluations. The program should review student evaluations of preceptors and clinical sites to determine if inconsistency of clinical evaluations exists. The DCE should work with employer representatives on the program Advisory Committee and/or with department supervisors at clinical sites to include as many clinical instructors and preceptors as possible in the training program. The training/assessment process should be revised when: there are significant changes in the program's clinical evaluations; new clinical competencies are introduced into the curriculum; or there is a significant change in the NBRC content outline.

Programs may determine that lower CoARC-required student to faculty ratios in clinical, laboratory, and simulation settings improve the quality of learning experiences for students. In addition, clinical sites may require lower ratios to ensure patient safety or to limit the number of students on site. However, under no circumstances may the student to faculty ratio exceed 6:1 for clinical instructors and 2:1 for clinical preceptors.

Clinical faculty can include off-site clinical supervisors or similar personnel who do not hold employment contracts with the program sponsor. However, all Clinical Preceptors must be employed by the clinical site at which they are supervising students. For all individuals who evaluate students in clinicals, the program must have documentation that program personnel

525 *have provided them with orientation regarding their roles and responsibilities, the clinical policies*
526 *and procedures of the program, and use of program clinical checkoffs for student assessment.*

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528 *Laboratory instructional faculty (at the base program campus and each off-campus location) must*
529 *have a faculty appointment (voluntary or paid) with the program sponsor. The program must*
530 *document that laboratory instructional faculty have received appropriate orientation and training*
531 *regarding their roles and responsibilities, programmatic policies and procedures, and the use of*
532 *program evaluation instruments that assess student competencies. Off-campus laboratory*
533 *instructor(s) must maintain adequate, ongoing communication with the Program Director and*
534 *Director of Clinical Education.*

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536 *A variety of instructional faculty may participate in teaching and in the evaluation of student*
537 *performance. Instructional faculty can include professionals, other than respiratory therapists,*
538 *with advanced degrees or with experience and training in a field or discipline other than*
539 *respiratory care (e.g., physicians, pharmacists, nurses, pulmonary function technologists, etc.).*
540 *Volunteer faculty, adjuncts, part-time faculty, or full-time faculty may meet this Standard.*

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542 **Evidence of Compliance:**

- 543 • Results of annual program resource assessment as documented in the CoARC RAM;
- 544 • Evidence of instructional faculty training in all settings specifically with regard to use of
- 545 programmatic instruments and job responsibilities.
- 546 • Student surveys of faculty performance (e.g., course evaluation);
- 547 • Course class lists and faculty teaching schedules;
- 548 • Appointment Letter(s) for laboratory instructional faculty, if applicable;

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550 **Definitions:** clinical instructor; lab instructor; clinical preceptor; simulation lab versus regular
551 laboratory

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553 **Resources:**

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556 **Administrative Support Staff**

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558 2.15 There must be sufficient administrative and clerical support staff to enable the program
559 to meet its goals as defined in Standard III.

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561 **Interpretive Guideline:**

562 *Administrative/clerical support may include “pool” staff that support other programs. This model*
563 *is used at many institutions. The level of administrative and clerical support should be sufficient*
564 *to allow Key Personnel to achieve their programmatic educational and administrative*
565 *responsibilities. Faculty should have access to instructional resources and specialists, such as*
566 *those in the areas of curriculum, testing, counseling, computer usage, and educational*
567 *psychology, as needed. Secretarial and clerical staff should be available to assist the Key Personnel*
568 *and other program faculty in preparing course materials, correspondence, maintaining student*

records, achieving and maintaining program accreditation, and providing support services for student recruitment and admissions activities.

Evidence of Compliance:

- Results of annual program resource assessment as documented in the CoARC RAM.

Definitions: administrative and clerical support staff

Resources:

Program Advisory Committee

2.16 The communities of interest served by the program include, but are not limited to, students, graduates, faculty, college administration, employers, physicians, and the public. An Advisory Committee (AC), with representation from each of the above communities of interest (and others as determined by the program to help achieve its goal(s)), must meet with key personnel at least annually to assist program and sponsor personnel in their evaluation of the curriculum, program outcomes, technical standards and program response to change, to consider the addition of/changes to optional program goals and to be made aware of any substantive changes reported to the CoARC.

Interpretive Guideline:

The purpose of an advisory committee (AC) is to provide program personnel with the opportunity to improve the program, evaluate program goals, recruit qualified students and meet employment needs of the community through discussions with members of all its communities of interest at meetings of the AC. The responsibilities of the advisory body should be defined in writing. The PD and DCE should participate in the meetings as non-voting members.

The Chair of the Advisory Committee must be elected by its members. Employees of the degree-granting sponsor and program key personnel are prohibited from serving as Chair. The Advisory Committee must include a member of the public who should be an informed person with a broad, community-based point of view and who can contribute an outsider's perspective. The public member cannot be a current or past member of any health care profession including Respiratory Care or an individual who has/had any relationship whatsoever with the program or its sponsor.

The AC should evaluate proposed changes to/addition of optional goal(s), and should review program outcomes, program technical standards, and modifications the program is considering addressing these and any other issues as they warrant. AC meeting minutes should reflect an annual review of all resources – curriculum, capital equipment, clinical affiliates, etc., – as well as an assessment of the program's annual Report of Current Status. In addition, the AC should be asked to review and approve proposed Substantive Changes as defined in Standard 1.07 (for delineation and process see the CoARC Accreditation Policies and Procedures Manual). Policies and procedures outlining AC responsibilities, appointments, membership terms, and meeting

protocols, as well as a record of Committee minutes, deliberations and activities during the most recent 5 years, will demonstrate compliance with this Standard.

If the program must submit a progress report or action plan to CoARC and/or faces an adverse action, the AC must be promptly informed.

Evidence of Compliance:

- Current membership list, identifying the community of interest with which each member is affiliated;
- AC meeting minutes demonstrating review and approval of revisions to program optional goal(s), curriculum, technical standards, and substantive changes;
- Documentation confirming that the AC was notified of a progress report or action plan submitted to CoARC and/or any adverse action, if applicable;
- Attendance list for AC meetings.

Definitions: communities of interest; curriculum

Resources:

Assessment of Program Resources

2.17 The program must, at least annually, use the CoARC Resource Assessment Surveys to assess the resources described in Standard II. Survey data must be documented in the RAM. The results of resource assessment must be part of the Program Director's continuous analysis of the program and used to make appropriate changes to program resources. Identification of any deficiency requires development of an action plan, documentation of its implementation, and evaluation of its effectiveness by ongoing resource assessment.

Interpretive Guideline:

Only the CoARC RAM format can be used for reporting purposes (available at www.coarc.com). The RAM format documents the following for each resource assessed: a) Purpose statements; b) Measurement systems; c) Dates of measurement; d) Results; e) Analysis of results; f) Action plans and implementation, and g) Reassessment. All specified resources must be assessed annually using the CoARC Student and Program Personnel Resource Assessment surveys (SPRS and PPRS) (www.coarc.com), and the results must be submitted to the CoARC, using the RAM format, along with the program's Annual Report of Current Status. The Student Program Resource Survey must be administered annually to all currently enrolled students, preferably at the end of each academic year. The PPRS must also be administered annually, preferably at the Advisory Committee (AC) meeting nearest the end of the academic year. If there is no such meeting, the survey may be completed online. The Personnel Program Resource Survey must be completed by program faculty, the Medical Director, and Advisory Committee Members, with members of each category answering questions pertaining to that group.

For both surveys, at least 80% of the responses for each of the seven (7) resource areas must be 3 or higher. Any resource for which this cut score is not achieved is deemed suboptimal and an action plan must be developed. If no specific deficiencies for that area are identified in the surveys, further assessment may be required. Resource Assessments must be reported separately for each portion of the program with a CoARC ID number. Programs must maintain all resource assessment documentation (RAM, SPRS, and PPRS) for five years. Financial resources must be evaluated using the Personnel Program Resource Survey and an itemized budget review by program Key Personnel.

Evidence of Compliance:

- Results of annual program resource assessment, documented in the CoARC RAM, which leads to the development and implementation of action plans to address identified shortcomings and subsequent evaluations of their effectiveness.

Definitions: assessment; action plan

Resources: