

University of South Alabama
Department of Cardiorespiratory Care
CRC 460 Advanced Level Exam Review
Spring Semester 2018

Course Information

Course format: RT contents will include in-class exercises, discussion, quizzes, unit tests and the NBRC Secured Therapist Multiple Choice Examination.

Faculty Information

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Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 1 pm to 3 pm; other days and times by appointment.

Course Description

There are two major credentialing exams for respiratory care practitioners - Therapist Multiple Choice (TMC) exam and the Clinical Simulation Exam (CSE). The TMC is used by most state RT boards for licensure. The TMC has two (2) passing scores – low and high passing scores. The low passing score is required for the CRT (Certified Respiratory Therapist) credential. The high passing score is required for application to the Clinical Simulation Exam (CSE). A therapist must earn the *high* passing score on the TMC and pass the CSE for the RRT (Registered Respiratory Therapist) credential.

CRT = low TMC passing score

RRT = high TMC passing score + CSE passing score

CRC 460 provides an overview of the NBRC exam system and a thorough review of the TMC and CSE exam detailed contents. Since this is a review course, credentialing success relies on a good study habit. The learner should use different resources to complete the assignments and review questions. There will be hundreds of review questions covering a wide range of contents and topics. For this reason, it is crucial to work on the contents and review questions on a consistent basis. Do not wait until the last minute (or day) to work on the review questions. Learning in this review course does not and will not occur overnight. By working on the contents and review questions consistently and diligently, the learner will most likely be successful on the NBRC exams.

Course Objectives

At the end of the semester, the students should be able to:

- List the eligibility requirements for the NBRC credentialing exams
- Describe the three content areas of the TMC and CSE exams
- Differentiate the three cognitive levels of the TMC exam
- Find and describe the TMC and CSE detailed contents
- Construct exam items using the detailed contents and cognitive levels
- Review the detailed topics and content areas
- Participate actively in class discussion and at home

Required Textbook and Learning Resources

1. RT textbooks from previous semesters.
2. nbrc.org / rtxam.com

Course Outline

1. Overview of NBRC the credentialing exams
2. TMC, CSE, (Specialization exams: CPFT, RPFT, NPS, Sleep Disorder and Critical Care)
3. NBRC exam matrices and cognitive levels
 - Current NBRC exam matrices (TMC, CSE)
 - Cognitive levels of the NBRC exams – Recall, Application, Analysis
 - Distribution of exam items in the matrices
4. Clinical Simulation Exam
5. Apply and schedule for the NBRC TMC exam immediately after graduation
6. Course contents and exam questions

Course Contents

Topic
TMC self-assessment exam
TMC cut scores
Clinical Simulation Exam (CSE)
Detailed content outline for TMC
Detailed content outline for CSE
Cognitive levels of the NBRC credentialing exam
Strategies for taking the TMC
1 st TMC Content Area
I. Patient data evaluation and recommendations
Unit test #1 (10%)
2 nd TMC Content Area
II. Troubleshooting and quality control of equipment, and infection control
Unit test #2 (10%)
3 rd TMC Content Area
III. Initiation and Modification of Interventions
Unit test #3 (10%)
IV. Clinical Simulation Examination
CSE information gathering and decision making
CSE scoring method
Strategies for taking the CSE
CSE practice problems
CSE case studies
Unit test #4 (10%)
In-class exercises and quizzes
Final Exam – NBRC Secured Multiple-Choice Examination (must earn $\geq 63\%$ to earn a course grade of “C.”)

Evaluation

(1) Unit tests

Unit test 1 – (Patient data evaluation and recommendations) (10% course grade)

Unit test 2 – (Troubleshooting & Quality Control of Equipment, & Infection Control) (10% course grade)

Unit test 3 – (Initiation and Modification of Interventions) (10% course grade)

Unit test 4 – (Clinical Simulations) (10% course grade)

(2) In-class exercises and quizzes (10% course grade)

No make-up unit tests, in-class exercises, and quizzes are provided. If the unit test is missed due to any reason, the NBRC Secured Multiple-Choice Examination score (see below) will be used to substitute the missing unit test grade.

(3) NBRC Secured Multiple-Choice Examination (must earn $\geq 63\%$ to earn a course grade of “C”)

– A TMC score of $< 63\%$ accounts for 30% of course grade.

– A TMC score of 63% to 67% accounts for 40% of course grade.

– A TMC score of 68% to 72% accounts for 50% of course grade.

– A TMC score of $> 72\%$ accounts for 60% of course grade.

[The *first* NBRC Secured Multiple-Choice Examination is free. The student may elect to re-take the NBRC Secured Multiple-Choice Examination *one time only* at own expenses. This exam must be taken on or before May 1, 2018). The application fees must be paid in advance of the application timeline to the Department of Cardiorespiratory Care at USA because the secured TMC examination is only available to accredited RT programs. The student is solely responsible to meet the application timeline for a timely re-take]

Attendance, tardiness, failure to turn in assignments in a timely manner, and other unacceptable classroom etiquette (eating or drinking, activation of cell phone, pager or similar sound-producing device in class) will be recorded and become part of your student file. These attributes and behaviors will be reported to your future prospective employers as part of the reference request.

Useful Links

rtexam.com

[NBRC](#) (National Board for Respiratory Care)

TMC Exam Content Outline

<https://www.nbrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/TMC-Detailed-Content-Outline-Effective-January-2015.pdf>

CSE Exam Content Outline

<https://www.nbrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/CSE-Detailed-Content-Outline-Effective-January-2015.pdf>

Important Notes

Changes in Course Requirements

- Not all classes progress at the same rate thus course requirements may be modified as circumstances dictate. You will be given written notice if the course requirements need to be changed.

Academic Disruption Policy

- The University of South Alabama's policy regarding Academic Disruption is found in The Lowdown, the student handbook.
<http://www.southalabama.edu/lowdown/academicdisruption.shtml>:

Disruptive academic behavior is defined as individual or group conduct that interrupts or interferes with any educational activity or environment, infringes upon the rights and privileges of others, results in or threatens the destruction of property and/or is otherwise prejudicial to the maintenance of order in an academic environment.

- Students are expected to be cordial, courteous and respectful of faculty members and fellow students.
- Cell phones, pagers, handheld electronic devices, laptops, watches, videotaping and other electronic devices may not be used without permission by the faculty.

Only enrolled students are permitted to be in the classroom. Classroom door may be locked after starting time. Students should prepare and allow ample time for travel and parking on campus. Any academic misconduct or disruption will be reported to the Department Chair or the Dean of Students. You must become familiar with the pertinent information in the current USA Undergraduate and Graduate Bulletin, specifically the university calendar and the academic policies and procedures.

If the student must miss a class due to illness or unforeseen conditions, it is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements for class notes, handouts, and assignments. Feel free to call the faculty for help as early as feasible. Do not wait until the last minute to get help.

Student Academic Conduct Policy

- The University of South Alabama's policy regarding Student Academic Conduct Policy is found in The Lowdown <http://www.southalabama.edu/lowdown/academicconductpolicy.shtml>:
The University of South Alabama is a community of scholars in which the ideals of freedom of inquiry, freedom of thought, freedom of expression, and freedom of the individual are sustained. The University is committed to supporting the exercise of any right guaranteed to individuals by the Constitution and the Code of Alabama and to educating students relative to their responsibilities.
- Describe the penalty that student may incur if they violate these standards in your class.

- Students enrolled in online courses are expected to adhere to the Academic Conduct Policy. In particular, students are expected to complete their own coursework and not provide unauthorized information or materials to another student.
- Policy on plagiarism software.
Students may learn about the meaning of plagiarism and how to avoid it at the following link: <http://www.southalabama.edu/univlib/instruction/plagiarismforstudents.html>.

Students With Disabilities

- In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, students with bona fide disabilities will be afforded reasonable accommodations. The Office of Special Student Services (OSSS) will certify a disability and advise faculty members of reasonable accommodations. If you have a specific disability that qualifies you for academic accommodations, please notify the instructor/professor and provide certification from the Office of Special Student Services. OSSS is located at 5828 Old Shell Road at Jaguar Drive, (251-460-7212).

Additional Requirements and Recommendations

Online Writing Support

- The University of South Alabama provides online writing tutoring services through SMARTHINKING, an online tutoring service. SMARTHINKING is available at <http://services.smarthinking.com>. Students may enter the site by logging on with their Jag number and using the last four digits of the social security number as the password. For log-on problems, technical questions and/or on-campus writing assistance, contact the USA Writing Center at 251-460-6283.
- Information about the University Writing Center and Online Writing Lab can be found online at <http://www.southalabama.edu/writing/>

Testing

- The following course policy is in addition to the overall CRC department policy.
- During testing, books, workbooks, notes, internet access, calculators and other electronic devices are not allowed. Personal computer must be used for online testing only. Students must make prior arrangements to have a personal computer and provide prompt access to the internet in the CRC classroom and laboratory in the Health Professions (HAHN) Building. Exams (tests, quizzes) will be proctored. Tardiness or delay in turning in the exam will each result in a deduction of 10% of your earned test grade. For excused tardy that is documented (e.g., medical appointment, traffic ticket), each minute of tardiness will cause deduction of 1% of your earned test grade. For excused absence that is documented (e.g., jury duty, medical appointment), make-up exam and the exam format are at the discretion of the instructor and it must be taken within 3 days of returning to school.