

## Comprehensive Program Review Report

**Institution:** Middle Georgia State University

**Academic Program Name:** B.S. in Respiratory Therapy Completion/Bridge program (RETH)

**CIP Code:** 510908

**College or School:**

**Department:** Department of Respiratory Therapy

**Date of Last Internal Review:** October 2014

**Outcome of Previous Program Review (brief narrative statement):** N / A

**Current Date:** 3/11/2020

**Provost Response:** *Provide a summary related to the program productivity, viability, and quality. If this is the initial review of the program address how the program is/is not meeting the enrollment and credit hour projects contained in the original program proposal. Include a statement of plans for action based on the overall categorical summation contained in the next section.*

The enrollment rate for the B.S. in Respiratory Therapy Completion/Bridge program has been uneven over the last 5 years, but has generally increased since Fall 2015. The graduation rate has declined 5.06% overall in the last five years, but has maintained to average around 10 graduates each year.

The department has assessed these areas and have started making recommendations for expansion in to other avenues to increase enrollment and graduation rates. The department recently transitioned the B.S. in Respiratory Therapy Completion/Bridge program's major coursework to fully online. This transition will allow students outside the local region area the opportunity to enroll for degree advancement. While the department currently already has three articulation agreements in place with technical colleges, they are focusing on the development of more articulation agreements with other regional AS and AAS programs. The program is also seeking CoARC accreditation.

The B.S. in Respiratory Therapy Completion/Bridge program continues to move forward in developing a program that is set to meet the regional and national needs of respiratory therapists. This program continues to be a stable, productive and viable program here at MGA.

### Categorical Summation

Check any of the following to categorically describe action(s) the institution will take concerning this program.

Program MEETS Institution's Criteria

Program is critical to the institutional mission and will be retained.

Program is critical to the institutional mission and is growing or a high demand field and thus will be enhanced.

Program PARTIALLY MEETS Institution's Criteria and will be re-evaluated in \_\_\_\_\_.

Program DOES NOT MEET Institution's Criteria

Program will be placed on a monitoring status.

Program will undergo substantive curricular revisions.

Program will be deactivated.

Program will be voluntarily terminated.

Other (identify/add text):

Provost or VPAA Signature: Dr. Michael Gibbons on behalf of the Provost, Dr. Jon Anderson

Date: 3/11/2020

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Gibbons", followed by the date "3/11/2020".

## Comprehensive Program Review Report

**Academic Program Name: Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Therapy Completion/  
Bridge Program**

**College or School: School of Health & Natural Sciences**

**Department: Respiratory Therapy**

**Date of Last Internal Review: 10/2014**

**Outcome of Previous Program Review (brief narrative statement, if applicable):**

The outcome of the comprehensive program review in 2014 was a recommendation by the IRB committee and the Provost to maintain the program as it stands.

**Current Date: 3/4/2020**

**Executive Summary:** *Provide a summary related to the program productivity, viability, and quality. If this is the initial review of the program address how the program is/is not meeting the enrollment and credit hour projects contained in the original program proposal. Include a statement of plans for action based on the overall categorical summation contained in the next section.*

The Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Therapy Completion/ Bridge Program continues to be a stable, productive, and viable program. Enrollment remains steady at a 5.25% 5-year growth since Fall of 2015. The number of graduates that matriculate through the program has also remained stable with an average of more than 10 students per year.

Future plans to increase enrollment and to meet the regional and national need of respiratory therapists that possess the baccalaureate degree is underway with active recruitment using social media, websites, and other recruitment efforts at regional, statewide, and national conferences centered around respiratory care.

### Categorical Summation

Check any of the following to categorically describe action(s) the institution will take concerning this program.

Program MEETS Institution's Criteria

- Program is critical to the institutional mission and will be retained.
- Program is critical to the institutional mission and is growing or a high demand field and thus will be enhanced.

Program DOES NOT MEET Institution's Criteria

- Program will be placed on a monitoring status.
- Program will undergo substantive curricular revisions.
- Program will be deactivated.
- Program will be voluntarily terminated.
- Other (identify/add text):

Academic Dean Signature:

Dean of Graduate Studies Signature (when applicable):

Date:

3/5/2020



**Comprehensive Program Review**

**FY 2019 – 2020**

**Institution:** Middle Georgia State University

**Academic Program:** Bachelor of Science Respiratory Therapy Completion/Bridge Program (RETH)

**College or School:** School of Health and Natural Sciences

**Department:** Department of Respiratory Therapy

**CIP Code:** 510908

**Date of Last Internal Review:** October 2014

**Faculty Completing Report:** Teri Miller, MEd, RRT, CPFT, Department Chair

**Current Date:** February 11, 2020

**5 Year Enrollment by Campus and Graduation Trends**

**Enrollment for Major RETH (Respiratory Therapy Completion)**

Campus	Fall 2015	Fall 2016	Fall 2017	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	5 YR Growth
Macon	18	9	25	27	17	-1.42%
Cochran	2	0	0	0	0	-100%
Warner Robins	1	1	0	0	0	-100%
Dublin	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Eastman	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Online	1	2	1	11	10	77.83%
Off Campus	0	0	0	0	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>5.25%</b>

**Enrollment for RETI (Respiratory Therapy Indicated)**

Fall 2015 – 43

Fall 2016 - 22

Fall 2017 - 21

**Graduates**

AY 2015	AY 2016	AY 2017	AY 2018	AY 2019	5 YR Growth
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16	8	12	7	13	-5.06%
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## Introduction

In 2006, the Associate of Science in Respiratory Therapy entry-level degree program Advisory Committee, made up of regional stakeholders, requested the department consider expanding course work to offer a Bachelor of Science degree. Also, during the program accreditation site visit in 2006, the lead site visitor advocated for such a program. The degree proposal was researched, developed, proposed and approved by the Board of Regents (BoR) for initiation in 2008 following support of the Task Force on Health Profession Education at the BoR. The Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Therapy degree completion program was instituted in the fall semester of 2008, at what was then Macon State College.

## Structure and Concentration

The BS completion program was developed to meet the needs of the working Registered Respiratory Therapists (RRT) which had graduated with an AS or associate of AAS from a regionally accredited respiratory therapy program. The structure of the curriculum focuses on the specialty areas of respiratory therapy in which additional certifications are available through the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC), as well as focusing on research, education and leadership in respiratory therapy. The curriculum is designed to expand the therapists' knowledge base, explore evidenced based best practices in respiratory care and instill a thirst for professional advancement in students.

## Accreditation Requirements

The Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) only recently began offering voluntary accreditation for degree advancement/completion programs. Every entry-level respiratory therapy degree programs in the U.S. is accredited by CoARC and meets a common standard matrix for curriculum content for RT training; thereby, allowing any graduate of these programs to sit for credentialing exams to demonstrate a common competency. Students admitted to the BS Completion/Bridge program have completed such a program and are credentialed with the advanced credential of "RRT". The BS completion/bridge degree is awarded by the institution. Credit by Validation applies to graduates of these programs who have earned the RRT credential, and completed all BS Completion program coursework. The RRT credential allows 21 credit hours to apply towards lower division courses in the degree. It is the goal in the coming year to begin pursuit of CoARC accreditation for this program in order to recruit nationally for students and be recognized by CoARC as a supported program.

## Campus Locations and Method(s) of Delivery

The respiratory program and faculty are located on the Macon campus of Middle Georgia State University. The majority of the courses were once delivered partially online; however, with the recent development of MGA Direct, MGA's online system, this program recently transitioned its major coursework to fully online through MGA Direct with 8 week course structure. This will

allow students outside of our local region to enroll for degree advancement. All RESP courses are offered once per year during the same semester in order to optimize student plan of study scheduling. Brightspace/Desire 2 Learn (D2L) is the current learning management system utilized for the coursework. Face to face advisement, as well as virtual advising is offered with faculty.

### Program Purpose and Mission

The mission of the Department of Respiratory Therapy is to provide a quality education that prepares competent respiratory care professionals to serve a diverse health care community. The program aligns its mission with the school and institution by:

- Attracting and retaining students into our affordable, convenient and challenging degree program and graduates students in a timely manner.
- Offering a curriculum that supports the needs of the health care industry.
- Producing competent graduates prepared to meet the needs of the healthcare community.
- Developing and maintaining strong ties with alumni, the respiratory therapy professional community, and the healthcare industry
- Collaborating with the profession, the university, and the community in professional development.
- Effectively and efficiently managing the resources of the institution.

### Program Goals

- Attract and retain students into our affordable, convenient, and challenging degree program offerings and graduate them in a timely manner. (Assessed by MGSC and CoARC Attrition Measures)
- Offer a curriculum that supports the needs of the health care industry (Assessed through advisory committee and employer surveys).
- Produce competent graduates prepared to meet the needs of the healthcare community. (Assessed by Graduate and Employer Survey Measures)

### Strategic Initiatives within the Profession

Currently the profession of Respiratory Therapy is at a crossroads, one in which the profession is strategically evaluating its role in healthcare and assessing how the Respiratory Therapist may continue to be a vital caregiver as changes in healthcare increasingly impact this role. One of the recommendations that came from this study is that the profession begins transition toward bachelor-level entry programs and the development of AS to BS completion/bridge programs, as well as developing articulation agreements with technical colleges. Currently the majority of Respiratory Therapy programs nationally (and in Georgia) are offered at the associate of science

or associate of applied science level. The focus is now increasingly on increasing the development of BS entry, BS completion, and graduate degree programs nationally in order to meet training demand and professional preparation needs. MGA's program, with its recent online platform, is well-positioned to grow its BS completion program, and has demonstrated growth since its inception. Information regarding the strategic planning initiative for the profession can be found at <https://www.aarc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/issue-paper-entry-to-respiratory-therapy-practice-2030.pdf> ; [https://www.aarc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/issuepaper\\_tripartite.pdf](https://www.aarc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/issuepaper_tripartite.pdf) .

### Viability

With a five year average of greater than 10 graduates per year, sustained enrollment growth over time and approximately 27 students currently enrolled in major coursework with more being admitted weekly, the Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Therapy Completion/Bridge program continues to have strong community support and growth. As a faculty, we are working diligently to attract, retain, and progress respiratory therapists through the program. The program is one of three within Georgia, unique in design and delivery. We continue to attract students from across the state, many of which are from the Atlanta area. The availability of the program also allows AS graduates a means in which to advance their degrees while also working. The potential growth of the BS completion program is demonstrated by the current trajectory it is on. With the AARC's and CoARC's pursuit of Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Therapy degrees being the future entry-level and with employers seeking more advanced degrees for its workforce, it is anticipated that more therapists will return to advance their degrees. Surveying of graduates and community stakeholders are areas for development as we seek CoARC accreditation. We currently have three articulation agreements in place with technical colleges and more focus on the development of articulation agreements with other regional AS and AAS programs could improve recruitment as well. The program seeks to advance its marketing nationally, as current enrollment numbers for the BS completion program are not limited by accreditation, do meet a regional and national need, and have growth potential for the institution.

## IERB Comprehensive Program Review Rubric and Evaluation

**Date Reviewed: 2/28/2020**

**Program Reviewed: BS Respiratory Therapy**

**Contextual Notes:** Summarize any demographic or environmental factors described in the introduction that might significantly impact assessment of the program

Enrollment and graduation is uneven throughout the years, but generally increasing. Expansion to other avenues is a great plus.

Area of Focus	Exemplary Area	Satisfactory Area	Area of Concern	No Evidence	Notes
<b>Enrollment</b>	<i>This program has significantly positive enrollment trends and robust credit hour production</i>	<i>This program has stable or moderately positive enrollment trends and healthy credit hour production</i>	<i>This program has negative enrollment trends and weak credit hour production</i>		Fluctuating enrollment trends, though positive overall
<b>Graduation Trends</b> USG benchmark:  <b>Bachelor's Degrees:</b> 10 graduates/year  <b>Graduate, Associate's or Certificates:</b> 5 graduates/year  <small>Programs falling under these benchmarks are designated as "low performing"</small>	<i>Three year rolling average greatly exceeds USG minimum benchmark for degrees conferred</i>	<i>Three year rolling average meets or exceeds USG minimum benchmark for degrees conferred</i>	<i>Three year rolling average does not meet USG minimum benchmark for degrees conferred; the program is "low performing" by USG definition</i>		Fluctuating graduation, but 3 year average is over 10.

## IERB Comprehensive Program Review Rubric and Evaluation

### Program Strengths of Note:

- The program transitioned to fully online 8 weeks courses for students outside of local region.
- There is strong community support for the program.
- Articulation agreements with regional AS and AAS programs are positive.
- It is a great goal to pursue CoARC accreditation.

### Areas of Concern:

- Macon enrollment dropped significantly from 27 in 2018 to 17 in 2019 (37%). It did something similar from fall 2016 to 2017. Is there a reason why?

### Other Comments:

- The BS completion program is poised for growth.