

"Imagine Possibilities"



# El Centro College

## Specialized Imaging

Diagnostic Medical Sonography  
Echocardiology Technology  
Pediatric Echocardiology Technology \*

---

El Centro College offers Associate Degrees in Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Echocardiology Technology, and Pediatric Echocardiology\* Technology referred to collectively as Specialized Imaging programs. These programs share the same **competitive application and acceptance procedure** via a point system comprised of scores on a personal interview, the HESI A2 test, and the applicant's cumulative grade point average on the Specialized Imaging Core Curriculum.

**Prior to applying to one of the Specialized Imaging Programs, an individual must complete the entire 34-credit-hour Specialized Imaging Core Curriculum** that is comprised of selected general education support courses and five healthcare-related courses providing the student with an introductory knowledge of the theory and application of health care concepts.

Individuals who hold a minimum Associate Degree or Bachelor's Degree in a health-related field (i.e. Radiography, Nursing, Respiratory Care, M.D., etc.) may qualify to apply to the Advanced Training Certificate option of the Specialized Imaging programs. An individual who holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in biology, physics, etc. and who has experience in direct patient care may also potentially qualify as a Certificate applicant but will be evaluated on an individual basis to determine knowledge of pharmacology, anatomy/physiology, and pathophysiology. **Potential certificate applicants should contact the Health Occupations Admissions Office for more information.**

**\* NOTE: The Pediatric Echocardiology Program is tentatively scheduled to begin in June 2009.**

---

### EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

Educational opportunities are offered by the Dallas County Community College District without regard to race, color, age, national origin, religion, sex, disability, or sexual orientation.

---

### **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS TO THE IMAGING PROGRAMS**

Application to one of the Specialized Imaging Programs requires the following steps:

- Application and current admission to a Dallas County Community College District college.
  - Attendance at a Specialized Imaging Program information session.
  - Completion of five designated courses from the Specialized Imaging Core Curriculum with a minimum grade point average of 3.0 or higher
- AND**
- Completion of the remaining Specialized Imaging Core Curriculum courses with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher.
  - Completion of the HESI A<sup>2</sup> test with a minimum score of 70 on each of the required sections (Reading Comprehension, Mathematics, Grammar, and Vocabulary/General Knowledge).
  - Submission of a complete application packet to the Health Occupations Admissions Office by the deadline of December 31, 2008 (for June 2009 application only).

- Revised 08/31/08 -

**A. General Admission Requirements to the College**

Applicants to the Specialized Imaging program must meet college admission requirements in the Dallas County Community College District as outlined in the official college catalog at <http://www.ElCentroCollege.edu>. Applicants must have earned either a high school diploma or General Education Diploma (GED) certificate in addition to complying with Texas Success Initiative (TSI) requirements. Students should consult the college counseling office to determine their TSI status prior to application to a Health Occupations program.

**B. Program Information Sessions**

Potential applicants are required to attend a Specialized Imaging Programs information session where the program, application procedures, and acceptance policies are discussed in detail. Information sessions are held monthly at the El Centro campus; no reservation is necessary to attend. The current schedule is available online at <http://www.ElCentroCollege.edu/Programs/HealthLegalStudies/InfoSess.asp> in the Health Occupations Admissions Office (Room P-101) at the El Centro Center for Allied Health and Nursing located 301 North Market Street, and on our information line at 214-860-2272, menu item 3.

**Potential applicants to the Specialized Imaging programs are strongly encouraged to seek out “shadow” experiences such as visiting the El Centro imaging program classrooms and labs to observe students and the program environment.**

**C. Specialized Imaging Core Curriculum**

In order to apply to the Specialized Imaging Programs, an applicant must:

- Complete the entire 34 credit hour Specialized Imaging Core Curriculum with a minimum cumulative grade point average 3.0 or higher; **AND**
- Complete the **five designated courses** from the Specialized Imaging Core Curriculum with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher.

The complete Specialized Imaging Core Curriculum **including the five designated courses** is listed below:

**SPECIALIZED IMAGING CORE CURRICULUM**

		Lec Hrs	Lab Hrs	Ext Hrs	Cont Hrs	Cr Hrs
<i>SCIT 1407*</i>	<i>Applied Human Anatomy/Physiology I <b>OR</b></i>	3	3	0	96	4
<i>BIOL 2401</i>	<i>Anatomy &amp; Physiology I</i>					
<i>ENGL 1301</i>	<i>Composition I</i>	3	0	0	48	3
<i>SPCH 1311**</i>	<i>Intro to Speech Communications</i>	3	0	0	48	3
<i>HPRS 2201+</i>	<i>Pathophysiology</i>	2	0	0	32	2
<i>HPRS 2300+</i>	<i>Pharmacology for Health Professions</i>	3	0	0	48	3
<i>SCIT 1408*</i>	<i>Applied Human Anatomy/Physiology II <b>OR</b></i>	3	3	0	96	4
<i>BIOL 2402</i>	<i>Anatomy &amp; Physiology I</i>					
<i>MATH 1314++</i>	<i>College Algebra</i>	3	0	0	48	3
<i>PSYC 2301</i>	<i>Intro to Psychology</i>	3	0	0	48	3
<i>HPRS 1204+</i>	<i>Basic Health Professions Skills I</i>	1	4	0	64	2
<i>HPRS 1271+</i>	<i>Basic Health Professions Skills II</i>	1	4	0	64	2
<i>HPRS 2231</i>	<i>General Health Professions Management</i>	1	2	0	48	2
Humanities Elective#		<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>3</u>
<b>TOTAL SPECIALIZED IMAGING CORE CURRICULUM:</b>		<b>29</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>688</b>	<b>34</b>

- \* Science courses (SCIT 1407/SCIT 1408 or BIOL 2401/BIOL 2402) must be completed less than 5 years prior to program application. SCIT 1407/SCIT 1408 are not offered at Richland College of the DCCCD. BIOL 1406 is required prerequisite course for BIOL 2401.
- \*\* Although SPCH 1311 is the preferred course, SPCH 135 – Fundamentals of Public Speaking is also accepted.
- + SCIT1407 or BIOL 2401 is the prerequisite for HPRS 2201 and HPRS 2300; HPRS 1204 is the prerequisite for HPRS 1271.
- ++ MATH 1414 – College Algebra will also be recognized as the math prerequisite course; however, it will be calculated as a three credit hour course for ranking purposes only. The math prerequisite no longer has a 5-year time limit.
- # Humanities elective may be chosen from the list on the official catalog for a general Associate Degree program. **Preferred courses are: ARTS 1301, DRAM 1310, HUMA 1315, MUSI 1306, PHIL 1301, ENGL 2000 or higher level literature, or select foreign language courses worth a minimum of 4 credit hours.**

A minimum grade of “C” is required in each Specialized Imaging Core Curriculum course. The above HPRS courses are offered at the El Centro and Northlake campuses of the DCCCD.

**NOTE: Applicants who have completed prerequisite courses and support courses at colleges and universities other than Dallas County Community Colleges should have their coursework evaluated for transferability at least 3-6 months prior to applying to the Specialized Imaging programs. See Section J – Educational Planning on pages 7-8 of this information packet for instructions.**

#### **D. HESI A<sup>2</sup> Test**

The HESI A<sup>2</sup> test is a timed, computerized test which is usually completed in 3-4 hours. Applicants to the Specialized Imaging programs must earn **a minimum score of 70 or higher on each of the four required sections** (Reading Comprehension, Mathematics, Grammar, and Vocabulary/General Knowledge) in order to submit an application packet. Test scores are valid for two years from the date of testing. **Students must also complete the Learning Styles and Personality Profile sections of the HESI A<sup>2</sup> to submit with their application materials.** NOTE: The Learning Styles and Personality Profile sections are not graded.

Applicants may take the HESI A<sup>2</sup> at any approved testing site including the assessment centers at El Centro, Brookhaven, Mountain View, and Northlake College campuses. The approximate cost of the HESI test at DCCCD campuses is \$25.00. **Applicants are responsible for securing their own testing appointment at the location of their choice.** The procedure for making testing appointments and payment varies among testing sites. A valid photo ID such as a driver license or DCCCD student ID will be required to schedule your testing appointment and to test on your assigned date. **Applicants are responsible for obtaining their score sheets after completing the HESI test and submitting the score sheet with their application materials.**

Students who wish to test at the El Centro College Assessment Center should 1) present the HESI referral form in this information packet to the El Centro cashier’s office to pay the testing fee, and 2) make their testing appointment.

#### HESI A<sup>2</sup> Study Guide and Preparation Course

Prior to attempting the test, it is strongly recommended that applicants purchase the **HESI Admission Assessment study guide** and enroll in the **HESI Prep course**. The study guide (approximate cost \$30.00) is available online at <http://portals2.elsevier.com/portal/portal/hesi/ProductAction> and at various bookstores including the Follett Bookstore at the El Centro and Northlake College campuses. The HESI Prep course offered through the Continuing Education Division at the El Centro campus only. Call 214-860-2147 for dates, times, and registration procedures for the HESI prep course. Please refer to the HESI A2 supplement in this back of this packet for complete information.

### Retesting Procedure

An applicant to the Specialized Imaging programs **may take the HESI A<sup>2</sup> test twice in a calendar year.** If the applicant does not achieve the minimum required score of 70 on all four required sections of the HESI A<sup>2</sup> in their initial testing opportunity, they may retest on the section or sections they did not pass. While waiting to retest, the applicant is encouraged to complete suggested remediation to increase their chances of success on the retest opportunity. The applicant must pay an additional testing fee and make another appointment to test. The applicant must then submit the HESI score sheets from each testing attempt with their application packet.

### ***E. Application Packet Submission for Specialized Imaging Programs – June 2009 selection process***

Application Instruction packets for application to the June 2009 selection process for the Specialized Imaging programs will be available from the Health Occupations Admissions Office in Fall 2008. These application instruction packets contain the appropriate forms and detailed application guidelines for each of the Specialized Imaging programs. The application instruction packet is not to be confused with the information packet that you are currently reading.

After completing the entire Specialized Imaging Core Curriculum and obtaining the Application Instruction packet, the student submits the following materials to the Health Occupations Admissions Office as their application packet:

1. A completed Specialized Imaging program application form and the signed Statement of Student's Responsibility form. (Individuals applying to two or more of the Specialized Imaging programs will designate those programs in a prioritized order on the application form.)
2. An official transcript from ***every college previously attended other than DCCCD colleges. (A DCCCD transcript is no longer required.)***
  - **Separate official transcripts are required from each college attended** although that coursework may be printed on another transcript as transferred coursework.
  - Students who have submitted official transcripts to admissions/registrar offices at El Centro College or other DCCCD campuses **must submit an additional complete set of official transcripts to the Health Occupations Admissions Office with the application packet materials.**
  - Unofficial transcripts, and grade printouts such as Webadvisor, advising reports, e-mails from instructors, and other such documents are not accepted as official transcripts.
  - If a college will only release an official transcript directly to El Centro, **the student must request that the transcript be mailed to the Health Occupations Admissions Office.** Documentation verifying the date the student requested the transcript (such as a copy of a transcript order form) must be included with the rest of their application packet materials.  
  
**The applicant is responsible for ensuring that transcripts sent directly to the Health Occupations Admissions Office are received by the application filing deadline.**
  - Once a complete and valid application packet is submitted during a filing period, additional transcripts cannot be added to the packet for that filing period.
3. A photocopied catalog course description for each course taken outside the Dallas County Community College District which applies to the Specialized Imaging Core Curriculum and for which the student seeks transfer credit.

The course numbers on catalog course descriptions must match those on the transcript. Course descriptions should be marked on the photocopy. **Do not mark or highlight courses on official transcripts.** Course descriptions are not required for courses completed at a DCCCD campus.

4. The original HESI A<sup>2</sup> score sheet(s) indicating achievement of **a minimum score of 70 or higher on each required section** and the applicant's Learning Styles and Personality Profile results.
5. A one-page, hand-written essay on a specific Specialized Imaging program to which the applicant is applying. Guidelines on the subject matter of the essay will be provided in the application packet. NOTE: The essay is not "graded" in the selection process. It is used as the student's introduction to the interview panel. **If a student is applying to more than one of the Specialized Imaging Programs, a separate essay is required for each imaging program to which they are applying.**
6. The completed Physical Examination and Immunizations Record form. See the Addendum in the back of this information packet for specific guidelines. **The Physical Exam and Immunizations Record form is printed in the Application Instruction packet available Fall 2008.**
7. A photocopy of the applicant's current "Healthcare Provider" level CPR card. Please note that the expiration date of the card must not occur before the end of the first semester of potential entry to a Health Occupations program. See item 8 under the General Information section of this information packet.

#### ***Reference Forms***

The Application Instruction packet also includes two waiver forms to authorize release of information and three reference forms. The applicant chooses two individuals to serve as references and provides each with a waiver/release form and a reference form to complete on their behalf. One reference form should be completed by the applicant's current employer, and one reference form should be completed by a recent or current college instructor of the applicant. If the applicant is not currently employed, both reference forms must be completed by current or recent college instructors. Reference forms completed by family members or personal acquaintances are not acceptable. Each reference form is then sent directly to the Health Occupations Admissions Office. **The applicant is not allowed to gather the completed reference forms to personally submit with the rest of their application materials.**

#### ***F. Application Filing Period***

The official filing period for June 2009 selection to the Specialized Imaging programs is:

**September 1 – December 31, 2008**

Application materials including reference forms **must be received in the Health Occupations Admissions Office or postmarked no later than Wednesday, December 31, 2008.** Students who wish to submit their application packets to the Health Occupations Admissions Office ***in person*** must do so **no later than 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 24, 2008.**

#### ***G. Selection for Interview***

After December 31, 2008, application packets will be evaluated and a ranking process will determine which individuals will be granted an interview for each of the Specialized Imaging programs. ***The top 30\* ranked applicants for each program will be granted an interview as the next step in the selection process.*** (\*The number of interviews granted for the program is subject to change at the discretion of the

Health/Legal and Continuing/Workforce Education Division.) Interview appointments are tentatively scheduled on selected Saturdays during February and March. It is possible for an applicant who is applying to both Specialized Imaging programs to be granted an interview for both programs, dependent upon their preliminary rankings.

The ranking process is outlined below:

1. Applicants are listed by grade point average (GPA) on the five designated courses from the Specialized Imaging Core Curriculum courses from highest (4.0) to lowest (3.0) to initially rank applicants. (A minimum 3.0 GPA is required on the five designated Core Curriculum courses for application.)
2. When two or more applicants have the same GPA on the five designated courses, the cumulative GPA on the remaining Core Curriculum courses is listed from highest (4.0) to lowest (2.0) to break the tie.
3. When two or more applicants have the same GPA on the five designated courses and the same cumulative GPA on those remaining Core Curriculum courses, the HESI A2 score on the Reading Comprehension section will be used to break the tie.

The table below illustrates the ranking process for a sample group of applicants for one of the Specialized Imaging Programs:

**EXAMPLE OF RANKING PROCESS FOR INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY**

	GPA on 5 Designated Core Courses	GPA on Remaining Core Courses	HESI A <sup>2</sup> Reading Comprehension Score
Applicant #1	4.00	3.60	81
Applicant #2	3.77	3.75	79
Applicant #3	3.77	3.55	88
Applicant #4	3.54	4.00	95
Applicant #5	3.54	4.00	86
Applicant #6	3.54	4.00	77

If only five interviews were being granted for this Specialized Imaging program, applicants #1 through #5 would be interviewed.

**Selection for an interview is a competitive process. Neither submission of a complete application packet nor successful completion of the Specialized Imaging Core Curriculum is a guarantee that an individual will be granted an interview opportunity for the Specialized Imaging Programs.**

**Individuals who apply to more than one Specialized Imaging Program may not be interviewed for all imaging programs. If granted an interview, an individual is not guaranteed acceptance into a Specialized Imaging Program.**

Applicants who are not granted an interview may improve their ranking for the next filing period by 1) repeating one or more of the five designated Core Curriculum courses to earn a higher GPA (the last grade earned will be the grade of record) or 2) repeating one or more remaining Core Curriculum courses to earn a higher grade point average. The decision to repeat a course successfully completed with a grade of “C” or higher in order to improve an applicant’s competitiveness in the ranking process rests solely with the applicant.

**H. Final Acceptance Process**

Once personal interviews are completed, applicants undergo a final ranking via the weighted point system outlined below (100 maximum points possible) for each Specialized Imaging program:

<u>Ranking Criteria</u>	<u>Sonography</u>	<u>Echocardiology</u>	<u>Pediatric Echocardiology</u>
Personal Interview	50%	50%	50%
Cumulative GPA on Specialized Imaging Core	20%	20%	20%
HESI A <sup>2</sup> *	30%	30%	30%

\* Scores on the four required sections of the HESI are awarded the following points before the total points are weighted (minimum 4 points, maximum 12 points):

90 – 100	3 points
80 – 89	2 points
70 – 79	1 point

Total points for the above items are calculated for each student and a final ranked list of applicants for each program is generated.

**I. Notification of Acceptance**

Individuals who receive an acceptance letter are required to return a confirmation form within a specified timeframe to verify their space in the class. Failure to return the confirmation form by the specified date or failure to attend the scheduled preregistration/orientation seminar for the accepted class will result in forfeiture of their space in that class. **Notification letters are mailed by April 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**NOTE:** Applications submitted during an official filing period are not “held over” to the next year’s official filing period. Students who are not selected for admission to a Specialized Imaging program or students who decline their acceptance must retrieve and resubmit their application packet during the next year’s filing period to be considered for a future admission opportunity.

**J. Educational Planning**

Although the Health Occupations Admissions Office advises potential applicants in regard to program admission requirements, individuals who have not yet applied or been accepted to a Health Occupations program are considered generic students and must follow general advisement and registration procedures in the Dallas County Community College District.

Initial Advisement

Students who are new to the college experience or who need assistance with placement testing, TSI issues, and registration for prerequisite courses must consult an academic advisor in the College Counseling Center. The student who has not completed college coursework may request a general Associate Degree plan from the Counseling Center as a starting point toward application to a Health Occupations program.

Transfer Course Evaluation / Educational Plan

Students presenting coursework completed outside the Dallas County Community College District for transfer toward the Specialized Imaging Core Curriculum should present the following materials to the Health Occupations Admissions Office at El Centro College:

- An Educational Plan request form available in the back of this information packet, at [www.ElCentroCollege.edu/Programs/HealthLegalStudies/HealthOccAdmissions.htm](http://www.ElCentroCollege.edu/Programs/HealthLegalStudies/HealthOccAdmissions.htm), and in the Health Occupations Admissions Office.
- All official college transcripts (a DCCCD transcript is not required)
- A catalog course description taken from that college's catalog for each course to be reviewed for evaluation (course descriptions numbers must match those on the transcript; course descriptions are not necessary for DCCCD courses).

The courses will be evaluated by the Health Occupations Admissions Office and related college faculty and an Educational Plan will be prepared for the student. The Educational Plan is accepted as a "degree plan" for financial aid and VA benefit purposes.

#### Five-Year Time Limit

All science coursework (anatomy and physiology) must have been completed less than five years prior to application to a Health Occupations program. If an individual has **current** experience utilizing their related science knowledge or has completed **advanced courses** in a related science area, the student may petition for a waiver of the time limit through the Health Occupations Admissions Office as a separate review or in conjunction with an educational plan request. **NOTE:** In order for a science course taken outside the DCCCD to be considered for a five-year time limit waiver, the course must first be approved for transferability.

**In addition to an official transcript and a catalog course description for each course to be reviewed,** the following materials must also be submitted:

- Letter from the student indicating 1) the Health Occupation program they intend to enter, and 2) specifically how they are using the science knowledge (employed in a healthcare field, advanced degree, etc.);
- If the student is employed in a healthcare field, a letter from the student's supervisor with duties outlined in specific detail.

If approved, a five-year time limit request is valid only for the current application filing period. In the event that the five-year time limit waiver is denied, the student may pursue credit for SCIT 1407 and/or SCIT 1408 through a departmental exam at the El Centro campus. To determine eligibility to challenge the departmental exams, the student should contact the Arts and Sciences Division at 214-860-2193. The student must be enrolled at the El Centro campus to request the departmental exam. If successful on the exam, the credit is awarded as a letter grade.

#### Coursework Completed Outside the United States

**Transfer consideration for coursework completed at colleges or universities outside the United States is limited to college algebra and science courses (anatomy and physiology).** Science courses must be within the five-year time limit. Presentation of these materials does not guarantee that transfer credit will be granted toward a Health Occupations program. All expenses for the evaluation and translation of foreign transcripts are the student's responsibility. The following materials must be presented to the Health Occupations Admissions Office at El Centro College:

- Official college transcripts with English translation (if applicable);
- Complete evaluation of foreign transcripts from an approved evaluation agency (a list of approved evaluation agencies is available at all DCCCD Registrar Offices or online at <http://www.dcccd.edu/Employees/Departments/Educational+Affairs/Transfer+Services/Unive rsity+Transfer+Guides/Foreign+Credential+Evaluators.htm>)
- Photocopy of the course description or syllabus of the course.

**Special Note Regarding Evaluation of Coursework, Educational Plans, Review of Out of Country Coursework, and Five Year Time Limit Waiver Petitions**

These evaluations are usually completed within 10-14 working days. **During peak times such as registration or after the close of the semester when faculty are unavailable, an evaluation may take as long as 30 days for review. Therefore, it is to the applicant's advantage to request any course evaluation, Educational Plan or five year waiver petition at their earliest convenience prior to application to the program.** *The El Centro College Health Occupations Admissions Office and the Health/Legal and Continuing/Workforce Education Division reserves the right to accept or reject any coursework completed outside the DCCCD presented for transfer evaluation toward Health Occupations programs.*

**Advanced Placement Credit, CLEP, and Credit by Examination**

Advanced Placement ("AP") credit for ENGL 1301 and MATH 1314 is acceptable if the credit appears on a college transcript as ENGL 1301 and MATH 1314 equivalency. AP credit is awarded as "CR" credit in the program degree plan and does not count toward grade point average calculation.

CLEP tests accepted toward the Specialized Imaging Core Curriculum include: college algebra (MATH 1314), general psychology (PSYC 2301), and various courses which meet the humanities elective requirement (foreign languages and literature courses). A student must be enrolled at a DCCCD campus in order to request a CLEP exam at that specific campus. CLEP credit is awarded as "CR" credit and does not count toward grade point average calculation. If unsuccessful on the CLEP exam, the student is not allowed to repeat the CLEP and must enroll in the course to receive credit for that course.

The DCCCD does not offer the CLEP test for ENGL 1301. However, a departmental exam at El Centro College may be available. To determine eligibility for the ENGL 1301 departmental exam, contact the Communications/Math/Developmental Studies Division at 214-860-2247 for more information.

**NOTE: A student may present AP credit, CLEP, or departmental exam test result for only one of the five designated courses of the Specialized Imaging Core Curriculum.**

**Program guidelines are subject to change. Information for June 2009 application will be published in September 2008. Students are advised to obtain the latest program information from the Health Occupations Admissions Office or the printable information packet on the website below.**

**<http://www.elcentrocollege.edu/Programs/HealthLegalStudies/packets/default.asp>**

**Visit the web pages below for the Specialized Imaging Programs at:**

**[www.ElCentroCollege.edu/Sonography](http://www.ElCentroCollege.edu/Sonography)**

**[www.ElCentroCollege.edu/Echocardiology](http://www.ElCentroCollege.edu/Echocardiology)**

**Health Occupations webpage: [www.ElCentroCollege.edu/HealthCareers](http://www.ElCentroCollege.edu/HealthCareers)**

**Health Occupations Admissions Office webpage: [www.ElCentroCollege.edu/HealthOccAdmissions](http://www.ElCentroCollege.edu/HealthOccAdmissions)**

**ESTIMATED EXPENSES FOR THE SPECIALIZED IMAGING CORE CURRICULUM \***

---

	<u>Dallas County Resident</u>	<u>Out of County Texas Resident</u>	<u>Out of State/ Country Resident</u>
Tuition (34 credit hours)	\$ 1,394.00	\$ 2,584.00	\$ 4,114.00
Textbooks, Lab Manuals	1,485.00	1,485.00	1,485.00
Professional Liability Insurance	18.13	18.13	18.13
HESI A <sup>2</sup> Test	25.00	25.00	25.00
Physical Exam and Immunizations**	225.00	225.00	225.00
CPR Certification**	<u>65.00</u>	<u>65.00</u>	<u>65.00</u>
Total	\$ 3,212.13	\$ 4,402.13	\$ 5,932.13

\* Tuition reflects increase effective Spring 2009 semester. Tuition and other fees are subject to change. Please refer to current course schedule for tuition table. See Accounting Office for Tuition Payment Plan option.

\*\* Physical Exam/Immunizations and CPR certification is required prior to application to a Specialized Imaging Program.

**The additional cost of tuition, textbooks, and fees for each of the Specialized Imaging Programs is estimated below:**

Diagnostic Medical Sonography	Dallas Resident	\$ 3,668.26
	Out of County Texas Resident	\$ 4,998.26
	Out of State/Country Resident	\$ 6,708.26
Echocardiology Technology	Dallas Resident	\$ 2,041.13
	Out of County Texas Resident	\$ 3,302.13
	Out of State/Country Resident	\$ 4,922.13
Pediatric Echocardiology Technology	Dallas Resident	\$ 2,041.13
	Out of County Texas Resident	\$ 3,302.13
	Out of State/Country Resident	\$ 4,922.13

NOTE: Students who are accepted to a Specialized Imaging Program who reside in Collin or Tarrant Counties may qualify for the "Dallas Resident" tuition rate.

This cost does not reflect the cost of parking at El Centro College or area hospital clinical sites. All fees are subject to change. Please refer to the current course schedule for tuition table.

## **CURRICULUM OVERVIEW – DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY**

The Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program prepares the student to function as a medical sonographer. The diagnostic medical sonographer performs sonography examinations using high frequency sound waves to visualize soft tissue structures including the gallbladder, kidneys, pregnant uterus, and other organs as requested by the physician. This program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) in cooperation with the Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography. Graduates of the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program are eligible to write designated RDMS registry exams.

	Lec Hrs	Lab Hrs	Ext Hrs	Cont Hrs	Cr Hrs
<b><u>Coursework Required Prior to Program Admission</u></b>					
Specialized Imaging Core Curriculum	29	16	0	688	34
<b><u>Semester I – Summer (9 weeks)</u></b>					
DMSO 2343 Adv. Ultrasound Principles/Instrumentation	2	2	0	64	3
<b><u>Semester II - Fall</u></b>					
DMSO 1351 Sonographic Sectional Anatomy/	3	0	0	48	3
DMSO 1366 Practicum-Diagnostic Medical Sonography	0	0	24	384	3
DMSO 1405 Sonography of Abdominopelvic Cavity	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>4</u>
	6	2	24	512	10
<b><u>Semester III – Spring</u></b>					
DMSO 2370 Advanced Ultrasound and Review	3	1	0	64	3
DMSO 2405 Sonography of Obstetrics/Gynecology	3	2	0	80	4
DMSO 2366 Practicum-Diagnostic Medical Sonography	0	0	24	384	3
DMSO 1355 Sonographic Pathophysiology	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>3</u>
	9	3	24	576	13
<b><u>Semester IV – Summer (5 weeks)</u></b>					
DMSO 2253 Sonography of Superficial Structures	2	0	0	32	2
DMSO 2262 Clinical-Diagnostic Medical Sonography	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>176</u>	<u>2</u>
	2	0	11	208	4
<b><u>Semester V – Summer (5 weeks)</u></b>					
DMSO 2263 Clinical-Diagnostic Medical Sonography	0	0	11	176	2
<b><u>Semester VI – Fall</u></b>					
DMSO 2345 Advanced Sonography Practices*	3	0	0	48	3
DMSO 2367 Practicum-Diagnostic Medical Sonography	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>480</u>	<u>3</u>
	3	0	30	528	6
TOTAL PROGRAM HOURS =	52	22	100	2752	72

\* DMSO 2345 – Advanced Sonography Practices is the Capstone experience in the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Associate Degree program.

## **CURRICULUM OVERVIEW – ECHOCARDIOLOGY TECHNOLOGY**

The Echocardiology Technology Program prepares individuals to perform analysis of the heart for diagnosis of heart disease and evaluation of cardiac function by physicians. The curriculum is designed to provide courses which train the echocardiology technician to perform 2-D ultrasound images and Doppler flow analyses of the heart. Echocardiology Technology students enrolled in the program will learn to measure blood flow velocities, calculate data, and use up-to-date ultrasound imaging equipment.

The program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). Graduates of the Echocardiology Technology Program are eligible to sit for either the RCS or RDCS board examinations once all other criteria required by each organization administering the examination are met.

	Lec Hrs	Lab Hrs	Ext Hrs	Cont Hrs	Cr Hrs
<b><u>Coursework Required Prior to Program Admission</u></b>					
Specialized Imaging Core Curriculum	29	16	0	688	34
<b><u>Semester I – Summer (9 weeks)</u></b>					
DMSO 2343 Adv. Ultrasound Principles/Instrumentation	3	0	0	48	3
DSAE 2303 Cardiovascular Concepts	3	0	0	48	3
DSAE 1203 Introduction to Echocardiography Techniques	2	0	0	32	2
DSAE 1260 Clinical – Diagnostic. Medical Sonography/ Sonographer and Ultrasound Technician	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>144</u>	<u>2</u>
	7	2	9	288	10
<b><u>Semester II - Fall</u></b>					
DSAE 2404 Echocardiographic Evaluation of Pathology I	3	3	0	96	4
DSAE 2335 Advanced Echocardiography	3	0	0	48	3
DSAE 2660 Clinical – Diagnostic Medical Sonography/ Sonographer and Ultrasound Technician	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>512</u>	<u>6</u>
	6	3	32	656	13
<b><u>Semester III – Spring</u></b>					
DSAE 2437 Echocardiographic Evaluation of Pathology II	3	3	0	96	4
DMSO 2337 Advanced Ultrasound and Review	3	1	0	64	3
DSAE 2661 Clinical – Diagnostic Medical Sonography/ Sonographer and Ultrasound Technician	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>512</u>	<u>6</u>
	6	4	32	672	13
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM HOURS =</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>2320</b>	<b>70</b>

\* DSAE 2437 – Echocardiographic Evaluation of Pathology II contains the Capstone experience in the Echocardiology Technology Associate Degree program.

## **CURRICULUM OVERVIEW – PEDIATRIC ECHOCARDIOLOGY TECHNOLOGY**

The Pediatric Echocardiology Technology Program prepares individuals to perform analysis of the heart on pediatric patients for diagnosis of congenital heart disease and other cardiovascular disorders. The curriculum is designed to provide courses which train the pediatric echocardiology technician to perform 2-D and 3-D Echo, M-mode and color flow Doppler analyses of the heart in addition to transesophageal studies.

Graduates of the Echocardiology Technology Program are eligible to sit for either the RCS or RDCS board examinations once all other criteria required by each organization administering the examination are met.

	Lec Hrs	Lab Hrs	Ext Hrs	Cont Hrs	Cr Hrs
<b><u>Coursework Required Prior to Program Admission</u></b>					
Specialized Imaging Core Curriculum	29	16	0	688	34
<b><u>Semester I – Summer (9 weeks)</u></b>					
DMSO 2343 Adv. Ultrasound Principles/Instrumentation	3	0	0	48	3
DSAE 2303 Cardiovascular Concepts	3	0	0	48	3
DSPE 1270 Introduction to Pediatric Echo. Techniques	2	0	0	32	2
DSPE 1270 Clinical – Diagnostic. Medical Sonography/ Sonographer and Ultrasound Technician	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>2</u>
	7	2	10	304	10
<b><u>Semester II - Fall</u></b>					
DSPE 2470 Echocardiographic Evaluation of Anomalies I	3	3	0	96	4
DSPE 2371 Advanced Pediatric Echocardiography	3	0	0	48	3
DSPE 2670 Clinical – Diagnostic Medical Sonography/ Sonographer and Ultrasound Technician	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>512</u>	<u>6</u>
	6	3	32	656	13
<b><u>Semester III – Spring</u></b>					
DSPE 2471 Echocardiographic Evaluation of Anomalies II	3	3	0	96	4
DSPE 2370 Advanced Ultrasound and Review	3	1	0	64	3
DSPE 2671 Clinical – Diagnostic Medical Sonography/ Sonographer and Ultrasound Technician	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>512</u>	<u>6</u>
	6	4	32	672	13
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM HOURS =</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>2320</b>	<b>70</b>

\* DSAE 2471 – Echocardiographic Evaluation of Anomalies II contains the Capstone experience in the Pediatric Echocardiology Technology Associate Degree program.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

---

1. Each Specialized Imaging Program accepts 10\* students annually for their June class. Classes in the Specialized Imaging Programs are offered mainly during daytime hours. Many of the Echocardiology Technology and Pediatric Echocardiology Technology program courses are conducted in an online format; however, the program coordinator has the prerogative to require on-campus classroom activities.  
  
\* The El Centro College Health/Legal and Continuing/Workforce Education Division reserve the right to make changes in program enrollment capacity.
2. A Distance Learning opportunity is available for the Echocardiology Technology and Pediatric Echocardiology programs to accommodate a limited number of students in addition to the “on-campus” students. An applicant to these Distance Learning classes must reside a minimum of 100 miles from the El Centro campus and meet the same application requirements as the traditional “on-campus” applicants. For more information, please contact Cathy Carolan, Echocardiology Technology Program Coordinator.
3. The clinical experiences of Specialized Imaging programs require that a student be physically able to care for sick patients. This involves lifting, moving, and transferring patients. Students will be exposed to patients with infectious diseases. Protective and precautionary procedures are employed. The student must be able to stand on his/her feet for two to three hour periods of time and be able to reach across patients while scanning. Students are required to have good spatial perception from a two-dimensional TV monitor including color differences.
4. Students who must be absent from clinical experience due to a physical or mental illness, surgery, or pregnancy will be required to obtain a *written physician release* before returning to the clinical setting. A maximum of two days of clinical experience can be missed in a semester. The student will be dropped from the course if absences exceed the two clinical day limit. Students anticipating surgery or delivery of a baby and who will require a longer recuperation period before a physician release can be obtained are urged to wait to apply to the program.
5. Many of the Specialized Imaging Core Curriculum courses, including selected HPRS courses, are offered online. Students without prior experience with Internet courses should take the Readiness for Education at a Distance Indicator (READI) test to see if they are a good candidate for online learning. Go to <http://ecc.readi.info> and log in as a New User. The current User Name is ECCFall2008 on the pull-down menu and the Password is student.
6. Students are responsible for obtaining their own living accommodations. It is also necessary for students to consider transportation costs to the college, as well as hospitals throughout the Metroplex. Clinical rotations vary among select hospitals. Any parking fees at El Centro College and/or the hospital clinical site is the responsibility of the student.
7. All applicants must comply with the physical examination and immunization requirements and **submit the documentation with application materials** according to the guidelines in the Addendum of this information packet. **Physical examination forms and immunization records become the property of the Health Occupations Admissions Office and will not be returned or photocopied for the student; therefore, the student is instructed to retain a copy of these documents for their personal records.**
8. All applicants must be certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) at the “Healthcare Provider” level as designated by the American Heart Association. **A copy of a current CPR card must be submitted with the application materials.** CPR classes are available through the El Centro College Continuing Education Division, the American Heart Association, American Red Cross, various hospitals, etc.
9. Many hospital clinical sites including Cook-Ft.Worth Children’s Medical Center require students to provide documentation of personal healthcare insurance. Therefore, prospective students are advised to

secure their own coverage. Information on college student policies and rates can be found at <https://www1.dcccd.edu/cat0608/ss/sd/insurance.cfm>.

10. Clinical opportunities may be limited for students without Social Security numbers. If accepted to the program, a student must contact the El Centro College International Center Office (Room CM-60, telephone 214-860-2090) concerning their eligibility to obtain a Social Security number before graduation from the program for future employment opportunities.

11. *Criminal Background Check / Drug Screening*

Effective August 2001 all students enrolled in Health Occupations programs are required by the Dallas/Fort Worth Hospital Council member facilities to undergo a criminal background check and drug testing prior to beginning their clinical experience. This procedure is conducted *after* a student has been accepted to their respective program. Results of these screenings are forwarded to the El Centro College Health/Legal/Distance and Continuing/Workforce Education Division for review and verification that a student is eligible to attend clinical rotation. Students are responsible for all charges incurred (approximately \$84.00) for these screenings.

A clinical agency reserves the right to remove a student from the facility for suspicion of substance use or abuse including alcohol. The clinical agency reserves the right to request that a student submit to a repeat drug screening at the student's expense on the same day that the student is removed from the clinical facility. Failure to comply will result in the student's immediate expulsion from the clinical facility. Further, regardless of testing or testing results, a clinical agency reserves the right to expel a student from their facility.

***NOTE: Should a student who has been accepted to a Health Occupations program be prohibited from attending a clinical rotation experience due to findings of a criminal background check and/or drug screening, the student may be dismissed from the Health Occupations program.***

**DRUG SCREEN:**

The drug screen follows National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) guidelines and screens for ten (10) substances as designated in the Substance Abuse Panel 10 ("SAP 10"). These substances are:

Amphetamines	Methadone
Barbiturates	Methaqualone
Benzodiazepines	Opiates
Cocaine Metabolites	Phencyclidine
Marijuana Metabolites	Propoxyphene

SAP 10 test results which fall outside of any of the acceptable ranges are considered positive test results and are automatically sent for a separate confirmatory test by a Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry (GCMS) method. If these results remain positive, the test results are sent to a Medical Review Officer ("MRO") which will entail an additional cost of \$25.00-75.00 to the student. The MRO will then contact the student to determine if there is a valid prescription for the drug in question. If a valid prescription exists and is verified, the test result will be deemed to the negative and acceptable.

**CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK:**

The criminal background check reviews a person's criminal history seven (7) years previous to the date of program application. The check will include all cities and counties of the person's residency during that time period. The following histories will disqualify an individual from consideration for a clinical rotation:

- Felony convictions;
- Misdemeanor convictions or felony deferred adjudications involving crimes against persons (physical or sexual abuse);

- Misdemeanor convictions related to moral turpitude (prostitution, public lewdness/exposure, etc.);
- Felony deferred adjudications for the sale, possession, distribution, or transfer of narcotics or controlled substances;
- Registered sex offenders.

EXCEPTIONS:

If a licensing/registry body (i.e. Texas Board of Nursing) approves the individual to take the licensing/credentialing exam, the individual may participate in the clinical rotation.

The College may request an exception from the first clinical agency for a student with a felony deferred adjudication and no alternate recourse through a licensing/registry authority is necessary. Following approval from the first clinical agency, the student may progress as stated above.

For more information regarding the criminal background check and drug testing requirements, please contact Dr. LaCheeta McPherson, Executive Dean of Health and Legal Studies at 972-860-5097 or Suriya Sherriff-Edwards, Health and Legal Studies Coordinator at 972-860-5095.

12. Clinical assignments for the Specialized Imaging Programs vary from semester to semester from the list below:

Arlington Memorial Hospital	Methodist Charlton Medical Center
Baylor All Saints Medical Center	Methodist Dallas Medical Center
Baylor Medical Center at Garland	North Tex. Veterans' Affairs Healthcare System
Baylor Medical Center at Grapevine	Northlake OB-GYN
Baylor Medical Center at Irving	North Irving Imaging Center
Baylor University Medical Center	OB-GYN Associates of North Dallas
Center for Vascular Studies	Parkland Memorial Hospital
Charlton Methodist Hospital	Prenatal Diagnosis Center
Children's Medical Center	Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas
Columbia Medical Center of Lewisville	Presbyterian Hospital of Plano
Cook Children's Hospital	Richardson Regional Medical Center
Doctors Hospital	Southwest Vascular
Heart Center for Children (Medical City Dallas)	Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children
Heart Place (Richardson)	Texas Vascular Associates
John Peter Smith Hospital – Antepartum Testing	Trinity Medical Center – Carrollton
Medical Center of Arlington	UTSW University Hospital – St. Paul
Medical City Dallas Hospital	

13. El Centro College students who are enrolled in 6 credit hours or more during a fall or spring semester and 3 credit hours or more during a summer semester are entitled to a free DART train/bus pass for that semester. DART passes are available two weeks after the semester begins. See the Accounting Office for details.
14. Individuals who were first-time college freshman students in Fall 2007 or after are subject to the guidelines of section 51.907 of the Texas Education Code which prohibits a student from dropping more than six (6) college level credit courses during their entire undergraduate career. For more information on the 6 Drop rule, see the official college catalog online at <https://www.1.dcccd.edu/6drop>.
15. Effective Fall 2005, Dallas County Community Colleges will charge a higher tuition rate for courses in which a student registers for the third or more times. The “Third Attempt” policy includes courses taken at any of the Dallas County Community Colleges since the Fall 2002 semester. Developmental courses are not considered in this policy. For more information regarding the DCCC “Third Attempt” policy, please visit the following website: <http://www.dcccd.edu/ThirdCourseAttempt>
16. A student may apply to more than one El Centro College Health Occupations program during a given filing period. However, if the student receives an acceptance letter to a specific program, confirms their intent to enter that

program, and registers for program courses, their application to any other Health Occupations program that may share that filing period will be null and void.

Further, an individual accepted for admission and currently enrolled in an El Centro College Health Occupations program may not apply or be considered for admission selection for another El Centro College Health Occupations program unless their current program of study will complete before the second program curriculum begins. (Exception: An individual may apply to the Medical Laboratory Technology and Biotechnology programs in tandem to complete that dual degree.)

17. Financial Aid

Students should contact the Financial Aid Office for application forms, filing procedures and deadlines. A number of area hospitals offer financial assistance to students pursuing healthcare careers. For a listing of those hospitals with contact information, application procedures, etc., please contact the Dallas/Fort Worth Hospital Council at 972-719-4900 to obtain their “scholarship booklet.” The Health/Legal Studies Office located in Room P-712 at 301 North Market Street also has information regarding scholarships and other financial assistance for health occupations students. Contact Suriya Sherriff-Edwards at 972-860-5095 for more information.

18. Please contact the individuals below for assistance (physical addresses):

Jan Bryant Blend, Program Coordinator  
Diagnostic Medical Sonography  
El Centro College/Paramount  
301 North Market Street  
Dallas, TX 75202  
Telephone: 972-860-5053  
E-Mail: [JBlend@dcccd.edu](mailto:JBlend@dcccd.edu)

Pam Crawford, Clinical Coordinator  
Diagnostic Medical Sonography  
El Centro College/Paramount  
301 North Market Street  
Dallas, TX 75202  
Telephone: 972-860-5055  
Email: [PCrawford@dcccd.edu](mailto:PCrawford@dcccd.edu)

Cathy Carolan, Program Coordinator  
Echocardiology Technology  
El Centro College/Paramount  
301 North Market  
Dallas, TX 75202  
Telephone: 972-860-5052  
E-Mail: [CCarolan@dcccd.edu](mailto:CCarolan@dcccd.edu)

Delia Seaman, Clinical Coordinator  
Echocardiology Technology  
El Centro College/Paramount  
301 North Market Street  
Dallas, TX 75202  
Telephone: 972-860-5054  
Email: [DSeaman@dcccd.edu](mailto:DSeaman@dcccd.edu)

Patsy Strawther, Imaging Admissions  
Health Occupations Admissions Office  
El Centro College/Paramount  
301 North Market Street  
Dallas, TX 75202  
Telephone: 972-860-5003  
Email: [PJonesStrawther@dcccd.edu](mailto:PJonesStrawther@dcccd.edu)

Gary Peschka, Faculty Advisor  
Health/Legal Studies Division  
El Centro College/Paramount  
301 North Market Street  
Dallas, TX 75202  
Telephone: 972-860-5037  
Email: [GPeschka@dcccd.edu](mailto:GPeschka@dcccd.edu)

**The official mailing address for all application materials, transcripts, and correspondence is:**

Patsy Strawther  
Health Occupations – Imaging  
El Centro College/Paramount  
801 Main St.  
Dallas TX 75202-3604

## SPECIALIZED IMAGING PROGRAMS PRELIMINARY CHECKLIST

This checklist is provided to assist you in following the steps to prepare for program application. It is not part of the application packet which is submitted with transcripts, etc.

1.  Obtain Specialized Imaging Program information packet.
2.  Attend a Specialized Imaging Program information session.
3.  Complete a DCCCD application for college admission and consult an academic counselor as needed for TSI counseling, placement testing, etc. and complete any developmental courses as may be prescribed from test scores.
4.  Verify transferability through the Health Occupations Admissions Office of any coursework taken outside the DCCCD that applies to the Specialized Imaging Core Curriculum.
5.  Enroll and complete the following courses which comprise the Specialized Imaging Core Curriculum (*five designated courses are in bold italics*):

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>ENGL 1301</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>HPRS 2300</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>SCIT 1407 or BIOL 2401</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>HPRS 2201</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>SPCH 1311 or SPCH 1315</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> SCIT 1408 or BIOL 2402	<input type="checkbox"/> HPRS 1204
<input type="checkbox"/> PSYC 2301	<input type="checkbox"/> HPRS 1271
<input type="checkbox"/> MATH 1314 or 1414	<input type="checkbox"/> HPRS 2231
<input type="checkbox"/> HPRS 1202	<input type="checkbox"/> Humanities elective _____

A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 is required on the *five designated courses above*.

A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 is required on the entire Specialized Imaging Core Curriculum above.

6.  Complete the HESI A<sup>2</sup>, scoring a minimum of 70% on all required sections of the test **and** completing the Learning Styles and Personality Profile sections of the test.
7.  Obtain a Specialized Imaging Programs Application Instruction packet which will be available in the Health Occupations Admissions Office each Fall semester for the next June class.
8.  Compile application materials according to the guidelines found in the Specialized Imaging Programs Application Instruction packet and submit the completed application materials to the Health Occupations Admissions Office by the designated application filing deadline (December 31, 2008 for June 2009 application).
9. Application packets are evaluated and a list of qualified applicants is generated.
10. The top 30 ranked applicants are scheduled for a program interview during the months of February and March each year.
11. Final ranking is completed and notification letters are mailed by April 1.

**MAILING ADDRESS:**  
Patsy Strawther, Imaging  
Health Occupations Admissions  
El Centro College/Paramount  
801 Main Street  
Dallas, TX 75202-3604

**PHYSICAL ADDRESS:**  
Patsy Strawther, Imaging  
Health Occupations Admissions – Rm P-101  
El Centro College/Paramount  
301 North Market Street  
Dallas TX 75202

- Revised 08/31/08 -

## ADDENDUM - PHYSICAL EXAMINATION AND IMMUNIZATION RECORDS

In order to comply with the Texas Administrative Code (Title 25 Health Services, Rules 97.61-97.72) regarding immunization records for students enrolled in health-related program, the following guidelines are now in force for applicants to El Centro College Health Occupations programs. Health Occupations program applicants must present the following documentation with their application materials:

### I. Physical Examination and Immunization Record Form

A physical examination and immunization record form is included with each program information packet. The completed physical form verified by a physician or nurse practitioner will document:

- the applicant's physical examination results which must be dated less than nine (9) months prior to the applicant's anticipated entry to the health occupations program; and,
- dates of all required immunizations and/or date of a positive titer result for each.

NOTE: If immunization records have been recorded on separate documentation such as a hospital printout, health department card, office call invoice, etc., a clear photocopy of that documentation may be attached to the Physical Examination and Immunization Record form.

#### A. Physical Examination

The physical examination form must be completed by a physician or nurse practitioner and documents the applicant's medical history, health questionnaire, and results of a general physical examination.

#### B. Tuberculosis Screening

An intradermal PPD (Mantoux) "skin" test is required for all applicants. The PPD must be current within nine (9) months of the applicant's anticipated entry into a health occupations program. When accepted to a health occupations program, a student must repeat the PPD every twelve (12) months for the duration of his/her enrollment in the program.

If the PPD indicates a positive reaction, documentation must indicate the induration of the test site and the applicant must also obtain a chest x-ray verifying the absence of active disease. Chest x-rays are valid for two (2) years. Individuals with a history of tuberculosis or positive PPD results should obtain a chest x-ray rather than the PPD.

#### C. Immunizations

An applicant must have completed the immunizations indicated below according to the indicated guidelines and schedules. Documentation of a titer (blood test) *with specific lab values* verifying immunity or seropositivity is also acceptable for Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella and Hepatitis B.

1. Measles – Two (2) doses of measles vaccine is required either in a separate injection or in combination with mumps and rubella ("MMR"). Both measles immunizations must have been received after January 1, 1968. Individuals who were born prior to 01/01/57 are exempt from the measles immunization requirements.
2. Mumps – One (1) dose of mumps vaccine is required either in a separate injection or in combination with measles and rubella ("MMR"). Individuals who were born prior to 01/01/57 are exempt from the mumps immunization requirement.
3. Rubella – One (1) dose of rubella vaccine is required either in a separate injection or in combination with measles and mumps ("MMR"). Individuals born prior to 01/01/57 ***are not*** exempt from the rubella immunization requirement.
4. Tetanus/diphtheria – One (1) dose of T/d is required within the past ten (10) years.
5. Varicella (chickenpox) – Two (2) doses of varicella vaccine are required. However, if one dose was received before the age of 13, only one dose is required. A titer (blood test) is also accepted if the results indicate the presence of varicella antibodies. Individuals who have a history of varicella disease may present a ***notarized statement*** written statement signed by his/her parent, guardian, physician, or school nurse as verification of varicella immunity.

6. Hepatitis B series – Three (3) doses of Hepatitis B vaccine are required per the timetable below:

Initial dose  
2<sup>nd</sup> dose one month after the initial dose  
3<sup>rd</sup> dose five months after the second dose

If an applicant fails to adhere to the above schedule, the series must be restarted with the first dose.

**NOTE: If an individual has received the first two Hepatitis B injections with the third and final injection scheduled after an application filing deadline, the individual may submit their application materials, including the physical exam form and all other immunizations provided the third injection is completed on schedule with documentation forwarded immediately to the Health Occupations Admissions Office.**

## II. Exceptions

Exceptions from meeting certain immunizations requirements are allowed for such circumstances as medical conditions (i.e. pregnancy), religious beliefs, etc. Applicants must present documentation as indicated below. Requests for exceptions are reviewed on an individual basis.

### A. Medical Exceptions

The applicant must present a statement signed by their physician with personal knowledge of the applicant's medical history. The statement must indicate in detail that a specific vaccine poses a significant health risk to the individual. If the statement requests exemption from the Hepatitis B series, the applicant must also complete a separate waiver form (available in the El Centro College Health Occupations Admissions Office) to accompany the physician's statement.

Unless the statement specifies that a lifelong condition exists, the exemption is valid for one year only from the date of the signed statement. The signed statement must be submitted with the applicant's Physical Examination and Immunization Record form.

### B. Exceptions Based on Religious Belief/Reasons of Conscience

The applicant must obtain an Exclusion Affidavit from the Texas Department of State Health Services by submitting a written request and including the applicant's full name and date of birth. The written request must be mailed to the following agency:

Texas Department of State Health Services  
Bureau of Immunization and Pharmacy Support  
1100 West 49<sup>th</sup> Street  
Austin Texas 78756

The affidavit form will be mailed to the applicant who must complete and sign the form which must include the basis for the exception. The affidavit will be valid for a two-year period. The signed affidavit must be submitted with the applicant's Physical Examination and Immunization Record form.

## III. El Centro College Health Center Services

The El Centro College Health Center offers the PPD tuberculosis screening and many of the required immunizations at a reduced cost. Please call 214-860-2113 to make an appointment for immunizations. Chest x-rays and physical exams are not provided at the El Centro College Health Center.

***Applicants are responsible for retaining a photocopy of all physical exam and immunization documentation for their personal records. Once this documentation is submitted and an applicant is accepted to a Health Occupations program, the documentation will not be returned to nor photocopied for the applicant.***

# HESI A<sup>2</sup> Admissions Assessment Exam

There are five (5) basic questions that come to mind when students ask about the A<sup>2</sup> exam; who, what, when, where and why?

◆ **WHO** takes the A<sup>2</sup> exam?

New students that are applying to the following program:

- Associate Degree Nursing (including Distance Learning)
- LVN to RN Advanced Placement “Bridge”
- Allied Health Programs:
  - Diagnostic Medical Sonography
  - Echocardiology Technology
  - Invasive Cardiovascular Technology
  - Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)
  - Radiologic Technology
  - Vocational Nursing



◆ **WHAT** is the A<sup>2</sup> exam?

The A<sup>2</sup> exam is a standardized test to assess basic academic skills students will need to succeed in selected Health Occupation Programs.

Students will be tested over the following five (5) categories:

- ✓ Grammar
- ✓ Reading
- ✓ Vocabulary/General Knowledge
- ✓ Math
- ✓ Anatomy and Physiology (not required for the Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Echocardiology or Radiologic Technology programs)

◆ **WHEN** can a student take the A<sup>2</sup> exam?

A student can take the A<sup>2</sup> exam once a testing referral has been obtained.

Note: Students are strongly encouraged to complete the following courses before taking the A<sup>2</sup>:

- English Composition I (ENGL 1301)
- College Algebra (MATH 1314)
- Anatomy & Physiology I (SCIT 1407 or BIOL 2401)

◆ **WHERE** can I go to take the A<sup>2</sup> exam?

A student may take the A<sup>2</sup> at any testing site including the Assessment Centers at El Centro, Northlake, Brookhaven, and Mountain View Colleges.

◆ **WHY** is the test required?

Based on research findings, a student’s HESI A<sup>2</sup> test scores suggest their basic skill proficiency and may be a more accurate indicator of their potential classroom success in a Health Occupations program.

Please see the next page for frequently asked questions regarding the HESI A<sup>2</sup> exam.



## Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the HESI A<sup>2</sup> Exam

**Question:** I'm currently not a student of the Dallas County Community College District. Will this keep me from taking the A<sup>2</sup> exam at El Centro College?

**Answer:** If you plan to take the HESI test at a DCCCD campus, you should make application to a DCCCD college before making your appointment.

**Question:** When will the A<sup>2</sup> exam be offered?

**Answer:** Test dates and times vary among testing sites. Dates and times available at the El Centro campus are found at <http://www.elcentrocollege.edu/studentervices/AssessmentCenter/default.asp>.

**Question:** Will a student need a referral to take the A<sup>2</sup> exam? What will I need to bring with me in order to get the referral?

**Answer:** This procedure varies among testing sites. To obtain a referral and to test, you usually must present a current DCCCD student I.D. **or** other picture I.D. such as a driver license.

**Question:** Where can I obtain a referral form?

**Answer:** The referral to test at El Centro is found in this information packet. Check with other testing sites for referral forms.

**Question:** Will there be a study guide available for the A<sup>2</sup> exam?

**Answer:** Yes, the study guide is called, "Admission Assessment Study Guide" by HESI and the cost is \$25. This study guide can be ordered from the HESI website <http://www.hesitest.com> or obtained from the Follett Bookstores at the El Centro and Northlake campuses. If obtained at the bookstore the price is subject to change.

**Question:** What score must I earn to pass the test?

**Answer:** Each program has established a minimum passing score for their particular program. Please refer to the specific Health Occupations information packet.

**Question:** Is the A<sup>2</sup> exam a timed test and will the scores be available once the test is over?

**Answer:** Yes. Generally students take 3-4 hours to complete all five (5) sections of the A<sup>2</sup> test. Once the test is complete students will receive a computerized print out of their test scores. Students are responsible for obtaining their own score sheet(s).

**Question:** Will there be an expiration date on the A<sup>2</sup> scores?

**Answer:** Yes, the A<sup>2</sup> test scores will only be valid for two (2) years from the initial test date.

**Question:** If a student doesn't pass all sections of the A<sup>2</sup> exam can they retest?

**Answer:** Yes, please refer to the specific Health Occupations information packet for retesting guidelines for that program. The cost will be \$25 for the initial test and \$25 for each retest.

**Question:** Does the student have to retake the entire test or only the sections they didn't pass?

**Answer:** Please refer to the specific Health Occupations information packet for retesting guidelines for that program. The cost will be \$25 for the initial test and \$25 for each retest.

**EL CENTRO COLLEGE  
CENTER FOR ALLIED HEALTH AND NURSING  
HEALTH OCCUPATIONS EDUCATIONAL/DEGREE PLAN REQUEST**

***PLEASE PRINT***

Student ID Number/Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name First Name Maiden/Other

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address Apt.

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone Cell/Other Business Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address

I am requesting an educational/degree plan for the \_\_\_\_\_ program.

**I understand that I must attach official transcripts from all the colleges and universities I have attended (list below) along with *catalog course descriptions for courses completed outside the Dallas County Community College District* which apply to the above program curriculum and for which I am requesting transfer credit.**

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_

**I acknowledge that I will be notified via email when my Educational/Degree Plan is ready for pickup.**

**NOTE: PLEASE ALLOW TWO (2) WEEKS FOR EDUCATIONAL/DEGREE PLANS TO BE PROCESSED.  
Official degree plans are only available for students who are enrolled in a Health Occupations program.**

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

=====

**HOAO Use Only** Processed by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: Patsy Jones-Strawther  
Degree Audit Specialist  
Health Occupations Admissions Office  
El Centro College/ Paramount  
801 Main Street  
Dallas TX 75202-3604

Physical Address: El Centro College  
Center for Allied Health and Nursing  
Health Occupations Admissions  
Room P-101  
301 North Market Street  
Dallas TX 75202

"Imagine Possibilities"



# HESI A<sup>2</sup> TEST REFERRAL FORM

Valid only for testing at the El Centro College Assessment Center

## FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY

HESI A<sup>2</sup> testing at the El Centro College Assessment Center is **by appointment** only. The calendar of HESI A<sup>2</sup> testing appointments dates and times for the El Centro College Assessment Center are posted at <http://ElCentroCollege.edu/StudentServices/AssessmentCenter/Calendar.asp> or at the El Centro College Assessment Center (Room A-152). **Verify that appointment slots are available for the day you wish to test BEFORE you pay for the test.**

To schedule your appointment, follow this procedure:

- Take this referral form to the El Centro College Cashiers Office (2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Room A-244) to pay your \$25.00 HESI A<sup>2</sup> test fee and obtain a payment receipt.
- Present the payment receipt, this referral form, and a valid photo ID to the El Centro College Assessment Center (Room A-152) to make your appointment. **Appointment slots may be limited during peak testing times. Do not expect to test the same day that you make your testing appointment.**
- On the day of your testing appointment, you should **arrive at least 15 minutes before** your appointment time. Present your photo ID to the Assessment Center to be seated for your test. **If you arrive after your appointment time, you will be not seated and you will lose your appointment slot.** Your scores will be available immediately following the test.

**POSSESSION OF THIS REFERRAL FORM DOES NOT GUARANTEE YOU HESI A<sup>2</sup> TESTING APPOINTMENT.**

FOR EL CENTRO ASSESSMENT CENTER USE ONLY

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DCCCD ID # \_\_\_\_\_

APPOINTMENT DATE \_\_\_\_\_ APPOINTMENT TIME \_\_\_\_\_

- - - - - CUT HERE - - - - -

**KEEP THIS PORTION AS A REMINDER OF YOUR TESTING APPOINTMENT AT EL CENTRO.**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DCCCD ID # \_\_\_\_\_

MY APPOINTMENT DATE \_\_\_\_\_ MY APPOINTMENT TIME \_\_\_\_\_