

CHAPTER 3

ACADEMIC POLICIES

REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION

Implementation of specific admission policies is the responsibility of the administration and faculty of the institution. East Central Community College ascribes to an “open admissions” policy consistent with all appertaining laws. The College embraces the philosophy that students be provided the opportunities for learning experiences, e.g. developmental courses, counseling, tutorial assistance, etc., that will help the individual students succeed in achieving their educational goals. Further, the College utilizes relevant diagnostic instruments to determine the strengths and needs of students in order to assist them in the selection of the most appropriate program options. There are no programs at East Central Community College designed for transfer to senior institutions that require a minimum ACT score for admission.

East Central Community College is committed to excellent post-secondary education opportunities. East Central does not exclude from participation in, deny the benefits of, or otherwise discriminate against any person in any program or activity of the College on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, and age or disability. This is in compliance with Title VI of Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX, Educational Amendments of 1972 of the Higher Education Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended and the American with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA).

ACADEMIC AND TECHNICAL STUDENTS

To be admitted as a full-time student to an academic or technical program, an applicant must meet one of the following criteria:

The completion of no more than one unit less than the minimum acceptable high school units as prescribed by law; or

1. A General Educational Development (GED) certificate; or
2. A High School Diploma; or
3. A Mississippi Occupational Diploma; or
4. An official transcript from an accredited college or university.

Before admission can be granted, the following must be on file in the Office of Admissions, Records, and Research:

1. An official college application which may be completed by using the form provided in the back of the catalog or online at the East Central Community College Web Page <http://www.eccc.edu>
2. One of the following criteria:
 - An official high school transcript (regular high school diploma or the Occupational Diploma) with a recorded graduation date and official school signature. OR
 - A transfer student must submit an official transcript from an accredited college, preferably the last college attended. OR
 - Individuals who have obtained the minimum acceptable high school units must submit an official high school transcript. OR
 - An official General Educational Development (GED) transcript with a passing score.
3. Official scores on the American College Test (ACT), applicants 23 years of age and over are exempt from the ACT requirement except for certain specialized curricula.

Admission as an East Central Community College student does not guarantee admission to a specific program of study. Some programs have additional requirements for entry.

Students applying for admission to healthcare education programs must meet the same admission requirements as academic and technical students. Healthcare education programs have additional requirements for entry into each program. For specific admission criteria refer to program admission requirements.

LEGAL RESIDENT STATUS

East Central Community College observes the following definitions with regard to residential status of applicants and students as interpreted from laws engaged by the Mississippi Legislature. The College's district includes the following supporting counties: Newton, Leake, Neshoba, Scott, and Winston.

1. **General Rule for Adults.** The residence of an adult is the domicile, i.e., the place where the person physically resides with the intention of remaining or returning to if temporarily absent. MCA 37-103-13.
2. **General Rule for Persons under 21.** The residence of a person under 21 is that of the father, mother or general guardian (guardian appointed by a Miss. court). However, if custody has been granted to one parent, then the residency is that of the custodial parent. If both parents are deceased, residency is that of the last surviving parent unless the person under 21 lives with a general guardian (guardian appointed by a Miss. court). MCA 37-103-7 effective July 1, 2005. If both parents move out of Mississippi, a minor is immediately classified as a nonresident. MCA 37-103-11.
3. **When Residency Is Established.** A student may not be admitted as a resident unless residency is in Mississippi prior to admission. MCA 37-103-3. A person entering the state to enter an educational institution is considered a nonresident and remains a nonresident even if adopted by a Mississippi resident or registers to vote or owns land. MCA 37-103-5. See exception in MCA 37-103-25(2) which provides that if a nonresident (1) was born in Mississippi but relocated outside Mississippi as a minor in their father or mother's care, (2) is a veteran of the Armed Forces, and (3) is domiciled in Mississippi no later than six months after separation from service for the purpose of enrolling in a CC/IHL, then such person shall pay resident tuition and fees.
4. **Special Rule for Married Persons.** A married person may claim the residency of their spouse or independent status under MCA 37-103-15. MCA37-103-13.
5. **Special Rule for Children of Faculty and Staff.** Children of parents who are members of the faculty or staff of a CC/IHL may be considered a resident for the purpose of attending that institution. MCA 37-103-9.
6. **Special MPACT Rule.** An MPACT beneficiary is considered a resident. MCA 37-155-5(d)(iii); MS AG Op., Patterson (Oct. 11, 1996).
7. **Special Military Provisions.**
 - a. **Active Duty in Mississippi and Mississippi National Guard.** Members of the Armed Forces on extended active duty in Mississippi and members of the Mississippi National Guard may be classified as residents. Resident status of those not residents of Mississippi per MCA 37-103-13 shall terminate upon reassignment for duty in the continental U. S. outside Mississippi. MCA 37-103-17. See MCA 37-103-21 for proof requirements.
 - b. **Status of Spouse and Children of Military Personnel on Extended Active Duty.** Resident status of a spouse or child of a member of the Armed Forces on extended active duty shall be that of the military spouse or parent during the time that the spouse or parent is stationed in Mississippi. Resident status continues if the military spouse or parent is reassigned from Mississippi to an overseas area (excepting training assignments en route from Mississippi). Resident status of a minor child terminates upon reassignment of the military parent for duty in the continental U. S. outside Mississippi. However, children who attain residency under this section and who begin and complete their senior year in high school in Mississippi and

- who enroll full-time in a CC/IHL for the fall after their graduation from high school maintain status as long as they remain enrolled in good standing (summer school is not required). MCA 37-103-19(1).
- c. Spouse or Child of a Member of the Armed Forces Who Dies or Is Killed. A spouse or child of a member of the Armed Forces who dies or is killed is entitled to pay resident tuition if the spouse or child becomes a resident of Mississippi within 180 days of the date of death. MCA 37-103-19(2).
 - d. Spouse or Child of a Member of the Armed Forces Stationed Outside Mississippi. If a spouse or child of a member of the Armed Forces stationed outside Mississippi establishes residency in Mississippi and registers with a CC/IHL, the CC/IHL will permit the spouse or child to pay resident fees and tuition regardless of the length of time that the spouse or child has resided in Mississippi. MCA 37-103-19(3).
 - e. Effect of Continuous Enrollment. If a member of the Armed Forces or their spouse or child is entitled to pay resident tuition and fees under MCA 37-101-19 while enrolled in a degree or certificate program, they may continue to pay resident tuition and fees in subsequent terms while continuously enrolled in the same degree or certificate program. (Student may withdraw or not enroll for one semester with medical documentation without losing status and no summer term is required. In addition, student's status remains unchanged even if they are no longer a member of the Armed Forces or the child or spouse of a member of the Armed Forces). MCA 37-101-19(4).
8. **Aliens**. Section 37-103-23 states that all aliens are classified as nonresidents. However, this section was declared unconstitutional in *Jagnadan v. Giles*, 379 F. Supp. 1178 (N.D. Miss. 1974), affirmed in part on other grounds 538 F.2d 1166 (5th Cir. 1976). No statutory provision addressing aliens and residency for tuition purposes is currently in effect. Accordingly, aliens should be treated in the same manner as other persons attempting to prove resident status for the purpose of determining tuition and fees charged by CC/IHL's.
- a. Immigrants Distinguished from Nonimmigrants. Under the Immigration and Nationality Act, aliens are classified as (1) "immigrants", i.e., persons seeking to be permanent residents, and (2) "nonimmigrants", i.e. persons seeking admission to the U. S. for a limited time, usually for a limited purpose.
 - b. Immigrants, Permanent Residents or "Green Card" Holders. Generally speaking, most persons having immigrant or permanent resident status ("green card" holders) have the ability to establish a domicile in Mississippi and to qualify as Mississippi residents.
 - c. Nonimmigrant Visa Holders. Most persons holding nonimmigrant visas, including F-1 student visas, will not be able to demonstrate the requirements for a Mississippi domicile because their visas are temporary in nature and U. S. approval of their visas may have required a determination that the persons intended to return to their country of origin after the purpose of their visas is concluded. This being the case, the person's domicile would remain in their country of origin. In addition, Section 37-103-5 provides that a person entering Mississippi to attend an educational institution is and remains a nonresident for tuition purposes. See 3 above. However, there may be instances in which nonimmigrants can establish residency in Mississippi due to special provisions or special circumstances. For example, in *Toll v. Moreno*, 458 U. S. 1, 102 S. Ct. 2977, 73 L.Ed. 2d 563 (1982), the United States Supreme Court concluded that, while Congress precluded many aliens in nonimmigrant categories from establishing domicile in the United States, it allowed G-4 aliens to establish domicile in the U. S.
9. **Miscellaneous Provisions**. Any student willfully presenting false evidence of residency is deemed guilty of a misdemeanor. MCA 37-103-27. Law is not to be construed as requiring the admission of nonresidents. MCA 37-103-29.

MISSISSIPPI VIRTUAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The Mississippi Virtual Community College is a cooperative of Mississippi's 15 community college districts and the Mississippi State Board for Community and Junior Colleges. Its mission is to provide educational opportunities to constituencies who live within the various community and junior college districts in Mississippi and to others beyond those boundaries.

Through MSVCC, students may take courses from community & junior colleges anywhere in Mississippi while getting support services from a local college. To take a course from a *remote* (provider) college, a student enrolls at a *local* (host) community or junior college. The host college supports the student with a full slate of student services including advisement and counseling, financial aid, and learning resources. The host college receives the student's tuition and fees. The host college awards credit for the course. The *remote* (provider) college provides the course instruction. Assignments, tests, and grades are administered by one of its instructors.

For this instructional service, the provider college receives the state's reimbursement for the enrollment.

This cooperative makes it possible for MSVCC colleges to leverage their distance learning resources – including faculty, course, support services, and technology – to benefit students throughout Mississippi and beyond.

For a list of courses offered through MSVCC, please see the web site at <http://msvcc.blackboard.com>.

HEALTH CARE EDUCATION STUDENTS

Students applying for any Health Care Education Program must meet all General Admission Requirements of the College. In addition to the general admission requirements, each program has specific requirements for admission. All Health Care Education Program applications must be submitted to the Office of Health Care Education by May 1st of each year, except LPN to ADN Bridge Program whose deadline is November 15th of each year and Surgical Technology whose deadline is September 15th of each year.

Post acceptance requirements for students selected for admission into any Healthcare Education Program are: ECCC Health Examination form (completed prior to the beginning of class), immunizations against measles, mumps, rubella (MMR, two immunizations), or rubella titer, Hepatitis B vaccine, or signed declination statement, TB skin test (2 step TB test required if not tested in previous year) and American Heart Association Healthcare Provider Course (completed in June, July or August of year of admission).

All healthcare education students are required to submit to a criminal background check according to Mississippi law prior to any clinical experience. If the person has ever been convicted of a felony, or pleaded guilty to, or pleaded no contest to a felony of possession or sale of drugs, murder, manslaughter, armed robbery, rape, sexual battery, sex offence listed in Section 45-33-23 (f), child abuse, grand larceny, burglary, gratification of lust or aggravated assault, felonious abuse and/or battery of a vulnerable adult they may not be eligible to attend clinical experience, thus forfeiting their slot in the program.

Students enrolled in any healthcare education program must submit to random drug screening at any time during the program.

Students enrolled in any healthcare education program must carry professional liability insurance provided through the college.

The student is responsible for all expenses incurred with drug screening, liability insurance and criminal background check. These fees are attached as a lab fee to the student's account in the college business office.

Transportation costs to and from clinical sites will be at the student's expense.

An application to any of the healthcare education programs may be obtained from the Office of Healthcare Education or via the internet at www.eccc.edu.

ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING PROGRAM

The Associate Degree Nursing Program is designed to provide educational opportunities for qualified students desiring a career in nursing. The curriculum includes a balance of general education, nursing theory, and laboratory and clinical experiences. Graduates receive an Associate of Applied Science Degree (AAS) and those that meet the requirements of the State Board of Nursing are eligible to write the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN®). The State Board of Nursing may deny any application for licensure due to, but not limited to conviction of a felony, commission of fraud or deceit in the application process, or addiction to alcohol or other drugs. The Associate Degree Nursing Program is accredited by the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning of Mississippi and the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission.

All information pertaining to the Associate Degree Nursing Program may be found in this college catalog or by contacting NLNAC, 61 Broadway, New York, NY 10016 or by telephone at 1-800-669-9656.

Admission Procedures

In order to be considered for admission into the ADN program, all admission requirements must be completed and submitted by May 1. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed for admission. All applications are evaluated on a competitive basis. Meeting the admission criteria does not guarantee admission into the program.

Admission Requirements

1. The student must apply for regular admission and be accepted by the College.
2. The student must apply to the Associate Degree Nursing Program.
3. The student must have an ACT composite score of 18 and at least a 2.0 grade point average. Students with less than the ACT composite score of 18 must have completed anatomy and physiology I and II in addition to four other semester hours in the required ADN curriculum with a grade of "C" or better. Students with less than the ACT composite score of 18 are required to have an overall grade point average of 2.5.
4. All students are required to complete Anatomy & Physiology I (BIO 2514) and Anatomy & Physiology II (BIO 2524) prior to taking the first nursing course. An applicant may be accepted into the ADN program prior to completing these courses, but these courses must be completed in the summer prior to beginning nursing classes in the fall.

The number of students admitted into the program will vary according to resources available. Qualified applicants will be given priority based on academic records. Students admitted to any nursing courses must adhere to the current catalog policies, Warrior Handbook, and the ADN Student Handbook.

Acceptance Criteria

To be considered for acceptance into the ADN program, the applicant's file must be complete in the Admissions Office and the Office of Healthcare Education. The student is responsible for ensuring that the data in the file is correct and by the application deadline.

Qualified applicants will be considered by the admissions committee on a competitive basis using the following criteria:

1. Grade point average based on required ADN curriculum courses or high school GPA. A minimum grade of "C" is required on each ADN curriculum course.
2. ACT composite score.
3. Required sciences completed.
4. Associate in Applied Science Degree or Higher Degrees completed

Acceptance into the program is once a year. Within ten days following written notification of the applicant's admission status the signed acceptance/declination form must be returned to the Office of Healthcare Education.

PROMOTION POLICIES:

In addition to the college probation and suspension policy, a grade point average of 2.00 in each nursing curriculum course is required. A student enrolled in nursing is required to be full-time (12 semester hours). A student must maintain a "C" or better average in each nursing course and pass all critical skills. Students are eligible to repeat one nursing course and the program of study must be completed within four years of first admission. The nursing faculty reserves the right to retain and admit only those students who demonstrate evidence of performing safe acts of nursing.

LPN TO ADN BRIDGE PROGRAM FOR ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING

Application deadline for the LPN to ADN Bridge Program is November 15 each year. To be considered for acceptance into the LPN to ADN Bridge program, the applicant's file must be complete in the Admissions Office and the Office of Healthcare Education. The student is responsible for ensuring that the data in the file is correct and by the application deadline.

Qualified applicants will be considered by the admissions committee on a competitive basis using the following criteria:

1. The student must have an ACT composite score of 18 and at least a 2.0 grade point average. Students with less than the ACT composite score of 18 must have completed Anatomy and Physiology I and II with an additional four semester hours in the required ADN curriculum with a grade of "C" or better. Students with less than the ACT composite score of 18 are required to have an overall grade point average of 2.5.
2. Grade point average based on required courses for ADN curriculum or high school GPA. A minimum grade of "C" is required on each ADN curriculum course.
3. ACT composite score.
4. Completion of prerequisite courses: Anatomy and Physiology I and II, English Composition I, and Human Growth and Development.
5. Associate in Arts Degree or Higher Degrees completed.
6. Hold a current unrestricted license to practice as a licensed practical nurse in Mississippi.
7. Have one-year clinical work experience within the last five years; documentation from employer(s) must be submitted with application.
9. Score 80% or higher on dosage calculation test given prior to admission.

Meeting the admission criteria does not guarantee admission into the program. The number of students admitted into the program will vary according to resources available.

The post acceptance requirements are the same as the two-year ADN program.

Acceptance into the program is once a year in January. Within ten days following written notification of the applicant's admission status the signed acceptance/declination form must be returned to the Office of Healthcare Education.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT) BASIC

Students applying must have a high school diploma or GED. All applicants must be 18 years of age. All applicants must have a minimum ACT score of 16 or minimum TABE (Level A most recent edition) score of 10. Submit an application to the Office of Healthcare Education. Once all requirements are met, the student is enrolled in EMT 1116. Students in the EMT Basic course are required to have all post acceptance requirements for students selected for admission into any Healthcare Education Program.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT) - PARAMEDIC

All applicants are considered on a competitive basis. Meeting the minimum admission requirements does not guarantee admission into the program. Applicants are evaluated on ACT score, academic course work, GPA, and health care work experience. All applicants:

1. Must be eighteen (18) years of age or older;
2. Must hold Mississippi EMT-Basic Certification;
3. Must have a high school diploma or GED;
4. Must submit an enhanced ACT score of 16 or higher;
5. Completed BIO 2514-Anatomy and Physiology I with a grade of "C" or better;

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR PRACTICAL NURSING

All applicants are considered on a competitive basis. Meeting the minimum admission requirements does not guarantee admission into the program. Applicants are evaluated on ACT score, academic course work, GPA, PAX-PN, and health care work experience. All applicants:

1. Must be eighteen (18) years of age or older;
2. Must have a high school diploma or GED;
3. Must take the NLN Pre-Admission Examination-PN (at student's expense) and have a minimum score of 40th percentile;
4. Must have a TABE (Level A most recent edition) score of 12 required math and reading level or equivalent; or an ACT composite score of 16 with a 12 in math and reading, or 12 composite if taken before October 1989, with a 12 in math and reading.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY

All applicants are considered on a competitive basis. Meeting the minimum admission requirements does not guarantee admission into the program. Applicants are evaluated on ACT score, academic course work, and GPA. Completed Healthcare Education Program application must be submitted to the Office of Healthcare Education by September 15 for spring admission. All applicants:

1. Must be eighteen (18) years of age or older;
2. Must have a high school diploma or GED;
3. Must have a TABE (Level A most recent edition) score of 12 required math and reading level or equivalent; or an ACT composite score of 16 with a 12 in math and reading, or 12 composite if taken before October 1989, with a 12 in math and reading;
4. Applicants must be recommended by the Surgical Technology Committee.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

Students desiring to attend East Central Community College after having attended another regionally accredited college must meet the same requirements as entering freshmen. Students with records indicating unsatisfactory standing may be accepted on probation if individual cases indicate a reasonable chance of success in the program selected. If a student is accepted on probation, he/she must make satisfactory progress at the completion of one semester or he/she will be suspended for one semester.

TRANSFER CREDITS

Acceptable credits transferred by students are reproduced on the students' permanent records at East Central Community College. This action signifies that the credits are judged valid. Only those courses that average "C" or better will be entered on the record and applied toward graduation when the transferred average is less than "C." This will be completed by the end of the first semester in which the student is enrolled.

Coursework transferred or accepted for credit must represent collegiate coursework relevant to the degree, with course content and level of instruction resulting in student competencies at least equivalent to those of students enrolled in the institution's own undergraduate degree programs.

CAREER STUDENTS

To be admitted as a full-time student to a career program: welding or carpentry and cabinet-making, an applicant must:

1. Be of legal working age (18) before program completion;
2. Complete a federally approved ability-to-benefit test;
3. Have an official application and a transcript from the last school attended on file in the Office of Admissions, Records, and Research;
4. Complete an interview with the career counselor or with an instructor in the program of choice.

To be admitted to the cosmetology program, an applicant must:

1. Be a high school graduate or the equivalent.
2. The student must make a 14 (composite in English and math) on the ACT or score 8th grade equivalent or above as measured by the TABE Standardized Test administered by East Central Community College personnel;
3. Upon notification of the above requirements being met, the applicant will have a personal interview by the Cosmetology Admissions Committee.
4. The applicant must be recommended for admission by the Cosmetology Admissions Committee.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International students with acceptable scholastic records and proven English proficiency will be considered for full-time admission as freshmen or as transfer students. Freshman applicants must be graduates of recognized secondary schools comparable in level to the American high school.

Transfer applicants are considered on the basis of secondary school records and records of postsecondary study (college, technical school). Factors considered in making the admission decision are grades earned, subjects to be taken, ability to carry a full course of studies, satisfactory scores on the East Central Community College placement tests, proof of financial responsibility, and proof of health insurance.

Applicants, both freshmen and transfer, whose native language is not English are required to submit a score of at least 61 on the IBT or 173 on the computer-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and must have a score on the ACT.

The following materials must be in the Office of Admissions, Records and Research at least 60 days before the beginning of the semester in which admission is desired:

1. An application for admission form.
2. A certified copy of all high school and/or college transcripts of previous credits earned.
3. Information showing sufficient financial support.
4. Proof of health insurance.
5. A copy of Form I20.

Fees

1. In addition to the regular tuition and fees paid by in-state students, international students will be assessed out-of-state fees payable at registration. See general information in Chapter 4.
2. Dormitory facilities will be available each semester only after in district and in-state students have been housed.

PART-TIME STUDENTS

Part-time students must meet the same admission requirements as do full-time students.

SPECIAL ADMISSION

In conformity with Section 37-29-1, Mississippi Code of 1972 as amended in 1998, East Central Community College will admit students who have not completed the requirements for regular admission to the College but who meet the enrollment criteria specified in either policy 4.1.6.1 or 4.1.6.2.

DUAL ENROLLMENT

Students may be granted part-time admission status at East Central Community College while concurrently enrolled in high school if they meet the following admission requirements:

1. Have completed a minimum of fourteen (14) core high school units (Students who do not have fourteen (14) core high school units but who have a composite score of thirty (30) on the ACT Assessment may be considered for enrollment),
2. Have a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale for high school work completed, and
3. Have the unconditional recommendation of their high school principal or guidance counselor.

EARLY ENROLLMENT

Students may be admitted as regular students at East Central Community College if they meet the following admission requirements:

1. Have completed a minimum of fourteen (14) core high school units,
2. Have a minimum composite score of twenty-six (26) on the ACT Assessment,
3. Have a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale for high school work completed, and
4. Have the unconditional recommendation of their high school principal or guidance counselor that said enrollment is in the best educational interest of the student.

The credit earned at East Central Community College by students admitted under the Early Enrollment Policy will be available for transfer or for meeting the requirements for graduation from the College after the student has successfully completed one (1) full semester of course work.

CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS

To participate in non-credit (CEU) programs or courses, a student should complete an application form and be of sufficient maturity for the course desired. (Ten hours of instruction are equal to one CEU.) NOTE: No transcript, certificate, test scores, or anything in addition to a completed application is required.

ENGLISH AND MATHEMATICS PLACEMENT

Placement in mathematics and English courses will be based upon ACT scores in the subject areas and/or assessments. (See Course Description)

Competency in the areas of English and mathematics will be determined based upon skills demonstrated in the combined criteria enumerated above.

Any student enrolled for nine or more credit hours must enroll in the appropriate English course sequence, Beginning English and Reading Comprehension (Remedial Course), Intermediate English, English Composition I, and/or English Composition II during the earliest consecutive semesters of such enrollment.

Any student enrolled for nine or more credit hours must enroll in the recommended mathematics course: Beginning Algebra (Remedial Course), Intermediate Algebra, or College Algebra upon enrollment and continue in the appropriate mathematics course sequence during consecutive semesters of such enrollment.

ACT WAIVER FOR ADULTS

Students who have been out of high school for five or more years, or those who are 23 years of age or older will have the ACT requirement waived except for those who wish to enroll in specialized programs.

BENEFITS FOR VETERANS

East Central Community College is an approved institution for providing education training for veterans. The Director of Admissions, Records, and Research serves as Veterans Advisor and offers assistance in handling matters pertaining to veterans at the College.

SELECTIVE SERVICE

Information and assistance in handling matters concerning Selective Service for students are available in the office of the Director of Admissions, Records, and Research.

NATIONAL GUARD, VETERANS PREVIOUS EDUCATION, SERVICE MEMBERS OPPORTUNITY COLLEGES; EVALUATION, CREDIT, AND TRANSFER

The College maintains a written record of the previous education and training of each veteran enrolled and appropriate credit is given. When the training period has been shortened proportionately as a result of previous education and training, the veteran or eligible person and VA are so notified.

East Central Community College is a participant in the Mississippi National Guard Higher Education Program. Credit earned in the armed forces is evaluated based upon the recommendations of the American Council on Education. The College is also a member of Service-members Opportunity Colleges (SOC). Seven semester hours of credit can be established on a veteran's record when a copy of the DD214 is presented to the Director of Admissions, Records, and Research. These hours include:

- A. 4 semester hours of Physical Education
- B. 3 semester hours of Personal and Community Health

No credit is granted by East Central Community College on the General Education Development Test. No credit is established by the College for experiential learning but credit is accepted when transcribed by another accredited college.

EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE SCHOOL STANDARDS OF PROGRESS AS REQUIRED BY VA REGULATIONS 14253 [D]

1. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS:

The College records and accounts pertaining to veterans and eligible persons are readily identifiable and available for examination by authorized representatives of the Government.

2. ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS:

Proof that entrance requirements to East Central Community College have been met prior to enrollment are a part of the veteran's and eligible person's permanent record. They also include the grade in each subject per semester, record of withdrawals, and the number of absences from any subject. These records are maintained in the Office of the Director of Admissions, Records, and Research.

3. PREVIOUS EDUCATION AND TRAINING RECORDS:

The school maintains permanent records showing previous education and training. Enrollment certificates submitted to VA reflect proper credit for previous education and training according to the policies of the College.

4. PROGRESS RECORDS:

In the academic and technical program, the school records show grades of A, B, C, D, F, W (withdrawal, no grade), I (incomplete grade which is temporary and is changed to a grade of A, B, C, D, or F on completion and is used in the overall grade point average of the student).

The State Veterans Affairs Approving Agency requires that "I" grades be considered as F's in computing grade point averages. This procedure is followed in all reports to the Veterans Administration concerning the student's status. Course changing is not allowed after the first two weeks of classes. Any time a student quits a course without officially withdrawing, a final grade of "F" will be recorded.

The VA will be promptly notified when a veteran or other eligible person drawing VA benefits changes his course load from full-time to part-time or reduces his part-time load.

Veterans who are attending East Central Community College in the Academic and Technical programs must pass a certain number of hours each semester, the same as regular students, to remain in good standing. Students must pass nine semester hours and earn 18 quality points to remain in good standing. Quality points are assigned per semester hour the following way: A-4 quality points; B-3 quality points; C-2 quality points; D-1 quality point; and F-0 quality points.

For the Veterans and other eligible persons, East Central Community College will apply the probation and suspension policies as listed in this catalog.

5. ATTENDANCE RECORDS:

East Central Community College maintains schedule and permanent record cards. The last date of attendance is reflected when one drops a course. The number of absences in any particular course is placed on the final Grade Report and also in the teachers' grade book which is turned in at the end of the term and is filed for records and is available in the Director of Admissions, Records, and Research's office. An individual is allowed absences per semester equal to twice the times a class meets per week in addition to any official absences representing the College. This policy is given in detail elsewhere in this publication.

SOPHOMORE STATUS

Before a student can be classified as a sophomore, he/she must have earned a minimum of 28 hours or its equivalent from an approved college.

TESTING SERVICE

East Central Community College is a fully participating institution in the American College Testing Program and administers the test on all nationally scheduled testing dates. The ACT test is also administered on a residual basis upon request.

East Central also administers and utilizes the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) in its Special Populations and Adult Basic Education program. The Accu-placer is used to determine eligibility in the Ability to Benefit for financial aid. Further, the General Educational Development Test (GED) is administered on a monthly basis.

SCHOOL TERMS AND PERIODS

East Central operates on the semester system. There are two regular semesters which begin in August and in January. During the summer, there is an eight (8) week summer

session divided into two four-week terms, a ten-week evening session, and a three-week intersession. The College also offers courses at other times to meet the needs of students.

Lecture periods meet a minimum of 50 minutes. Laboratory periods are equivalent to two lecture periods. Semester hours of credit are granted on the number of lecture and/or laboratory periods the class meets per week for one regular semester. A semester hour of credit is equal to 750 minutes of instruction.

Classes are also offered off-campus at various locations throughout the five county district.

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES

East Central Community College provides reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities through Disability Support Services (DSS). DSS verifies eligibility for accommodations and works with eligible students who have self-identified and provided current documentation.

Students should contact Dr. Lavinia Sparkman, ADA Coordinator at 601-635-6202 or, Mr. Joe Killens, Vice President for Student Services at 601-635-6375 to establish a plan for reasonable accommodations and services.

RECORDS FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT OF 1974

East Central Community College is in compliance with provisions granted under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974.

Under this law, students enrolled in any educational institution receiving federal funds are given certain rights concerning school records.

The following rights are accorded to students under this act:

1. Students are entitled to have access to school records upon request.
2. Request for access to records concerning academic grades, transcripts and absences should be filed with the Director of Admissions, Records, and Research. Request for access to records concerning test scores administered by East Central Community College counselors, financial aid, and other personal data should be filed with the Vice President for Student Services.
3. Students are entitled to inspect and review the contents of their school records and to challenge the contents if they feel the contents are inaccurate, misleading or inappropriate. If a student wishes to challenge the contents, the Director of Admissions, Records, and Research or Vice President for Student Services will provide a written copy of procedures to be followed.
4. Before any school records will be released to third parties (colleges, potential etc.) who have requested copies of school records, the school must have the students' written consent.
5. Upon receipt of a subpoena or judicial order requiring the Director of Admissions, Records, and Research and/or Vice President for Student Services to supply a student's records, the requested action will be taken.
6. Whenever a student seeks to enroll in another institution outside this district, the student must approve transfer of the record.
7. The law allows "directory information" about students to be made public without specific permission. Students are entitled, however, to request the deletion of certain information from school directories. Any request for deletion of directory information must be made within fourteen calendar days from the date of registration. Forms for requesting the deletion of information may be secured from the Office of the Director of Admissions, Records, and Research. The following items are considered directory information:

- Name
- Degrees and Awards Received

- Address
- Phone
- Dates of Attendance
- Major Program
- Height/Weight of Athletes
- E-Mail Address
- Enrollment Status
- Date and Place of Birth
- Photograph
- Grade Level
- Participation in Officially Recognized Activities and Sports

GRADING SYSTEM

- | | |
|------------|------------------------------------|
| A - 92-100 | F - Failure |
| B - 83-91 | W - Withdrawal |
| C - 74-82 | AU - Registered for Audit |
| D - 65-73 | I - Incomplete, but can be made up |

A progress report is made to all day students at mid-term of each semester.

INCOMPLETE GRADES

A grade of "I" (incomplete) may be submitted in lieu of a final grade when the student, because of illness, death in the student's immediate family, or similar circumstances beyond the student's control, is unable to complete the course work or to take final examinations. The student must have in writing, an approval by the Director of Admissions, Records, and Research before the student can complete this course work.

An "incomplete" on final semester grades must be removed by completing the required work by the end of the first six weeks of the next semester or a grade of "F" will be recorded by the Director of Admissions, Records, and Research. The individual student has the responsibility of making the necessary arrangements with the instructor concerned.

APPEAL PROCEDURES FOR GRADES

See Student Complaint Procedures.

HONORS AND QUALITY POINTS

HONORS – Special recognition is given those students doing outstanding work in their academic subjects at the end of each grading period and at graduation. The honors are based on quality point averages.

<u>HONORS</u>	<u>Required Quality Point Average</u>
President's List	4.00
Dean's List	3.50
Honorable Mention	3.00

QUALITY POINTS – Quality points are based on the grade and number of hours credit for each course and are computed as follows:

<u>GRADES</u>	<u>Quality Points</u>
A.....	4 for each semester hour
B.....	3 for each semester hour
C.....	2 for each semester hour
D.....	1 for each semester hour
F.....	0 for each semester hour

The last grade in each course attempted will be counted for quality point purposes.

HONORS PROGRAM

The purpose of the Honors Program at East Central Community College is to provide enriched educational experiences for the academically talented students. Specially designed

honors classes are offered to stimulate the honor student's spirit of inquiry and to provide opportunities for more in-depth study in several subject areas.

An Honors Council chaired by the Director of the Honors Program has been established. It is the responsibility of the council to coordinate the honors courses and to promote an atmosphere of intellectual stimulation and camaraderie among the academically talented students.

The Honors Program provides students the opportunity for independent projects and research, for greater intellectual challenge, and for association with others of similar abilities and interest.

HONORS PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

In order to enroll in the Honors Program a student should have a superior ACT score, a superior grade point average, and an invitation from the honors faculty. Courses are scheduled so that a student may participate in all honors courses or in any combination of courses. Courses offered include: Elementary Functions, Honors English Composition I, Honors English Composition II, Honors English Literature I, and Honors English Literature II.

Students with a Math ACT score of 25 and a score of 30 or above on a math assessment administered by the East Central Community College math faculty are eligible to enroll in Elementary Functions. Students with a 25 composite and a 27 English score on the ACT are eligible to participate in Honors English. Students with a 25 composite and a 25 reading score on the ACT are eligible to participate in Honors American History I.

Students are invited to enroll in Honors English Literature based on grades in previous English courses, ACT scores, and teacher recommendation.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT/CREDIT BY EXAMINATION

East Central has two provisions for granting credit by advanced placement of students and one provision for granting credit by examination.

Provisions for Advanced Placement in Vocational-Technical Instruction

East Central Community College will grant credit for selected courses in certain Applied Science and Certificate programs under the following conditions:

1. Applicant for credit meets all college admissions requirements and is a registered full-time student in good standing in one of ECCC's career-technical or certificate programs, and
2. Applicant has maintained at least a "B" average in the high school course for which articulated credit is requested, and
3. Applicant has on file a written recommendation from the high school instructor and vocational director, and
4. Applicant has successfully completed two units in high school in the approved area with an A or B average, and applicant has passed a competency exam administered by East Central Community College with a grade of "85" or higher, and
5. College credit will be held in escrow until the student has completed the prescribed courses in a specific program. The credits will be included on the student's official college transcript with the designation of "satisfactory" and counted toward the appropriate degree or certificate. Following provisions of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, these courses will be identified as advanced standing in the articulated area and identified on the college transcript as such.

Each articulation agreement will be updated as the curriculum is revised.

It is understood that should a student intending to receive credit under this agreement fail to make satisfactory progress in the next higher sequential course, the student may transfer back to the beginning level course.

It is further understood that a high school graduate may exercise this privilege no later than the beginning of the third year following graduation.

THERE WILL BE NO CHARGE FOR ADVANCED STANDING CREDIT.

Advanced Placement Examination

Students who make a score of three (3) or higher on the Advanced Placement (AP) test will be given credit for the course at East Central. Generally an AP score of three (3) will result in awarding three (3) semester hours credit in the subject area. More than three (3) semester hours credit may be awarded for AP scores of four (4) or five (5) when approved by the appropriate division chairs working in conjunction with departmental faculty and the Vice President for Instruction. Academic credit established through AP will not carry a letter grade and will not be included in calculating the quality point average.

College Level Examination Program (CLEP)

East Central Community College welcomes students from a wide variety of backgrounds and learning experiences. Some students come to ECCC with a firm grounding in a number of disciplines. ECCC recognizes and honors their prior learning by accepting College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) tests, which measure a student's mastery of college-level, introductory course content in a wide range of subjects. Students meeting the credit-granting score in any of the tests listed below will be granted course credit and a grade of "Z" will be entered on their transcript.

Students may earn CLEP credit at ECCC only in courses taught at ECCC. The maximum number of CLEP credits that may be earned is 45 semester hours per student.

Students who transfer to ECCC after earning CLEP credit through another institution must submit official copies of their scores to the Director of Admissions, Records, and Research. The scores will be evaluated and credit granted following the same scale as for other ECCC students.

ACADEMIC PROBATION AND SUSPENSION

A student who fails to pass nine semester hours and to earn 18 quality points during a regular semester will be placed on probation until the academic record meets this minimum standard. If the minimum requirements are not met for two consecutive semesters, the student will be suspended for one regular semester. If the suspension occurs at the conclusion of the spring semester, it may be removed by attending summer school and improving the record to the stated minimum. Deviation from this policy will be made only with the approval of the Academic Probation Committee.

The above policy will also apply to all transfer students.

COURSE CHANGE

A fee of \$5 is assessed for a change in schedule after the date a student's schedule is entered.

CHANGING PROGRAM

A student should discuss any proposed changes in his program with his/her advisor. No student will be permitted to register in a new course after the second week of any regular semester.

PROGRAM OF STUDY

A student registering for 12 or more semester hours will be considered a fulltime student and should follow one of the curriculums as outlined.

CLASS ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCES

When a student enrolls in a course, the student assumes the responsibility for attending all class meetings, completing all assignments, and otherwise satisfying the requirements of that course. Realizing that from time to time there may be just cause for absence, the College has established the policy outlined below.

The student should discuss with the instructor the impending absence before it occurs if possible or immediately after his/her return to class if the absence was an emergency. The student is responsible for all work missed regardless of the reason for being absent.

1. Official absences are those incurred when students miss class while officially representing the College. The College sponsor of the group supplies a list to the Director of Admissions, Records, and Research's Office in advance, and instructors are notified from that office before the next meeting of the class following the absence. Official absences will not count in the total number of absences allowed.
2. Unofficial absences occur when students who are not representing the College miss class. Total unofficial absences per class may not exceed two for a class that meets once per week, four for a class that meets twice per week, six for a class that meets three times per week, eight for a class that meets four times per week or ten for a class meeting five times per week. Exceptions to this policy include classes that meet less than a full semester; Mississippi Virtual Community College Classes, Associate Degree Nursing, and some of the Career and Technical classes. The instructor will notify students in these classes of the absentee policy in those particular classes in writing at the beginning of the semester. Tardies, which equal the number of times the class meets per week will constitute an unofficial absence. (Exception: For classes, which meet once per week, three tardies will constitute an unofficial absence.) If a student exceeds these numbers of absences he/she will be cut out of class and will receive an "F" for the course.
3. The student who misses announced tests or class assignments due to unofficial absences must have approval of the instructor to take make-up tests or to complete assignments. Approval will not be granted unless the student presents a valid reason for having been absent.
4. The student has the right to appeal if he or she feels that there were extenuating circumstances for exceeding the allowable number of absences or for being cut out of class and receiving an "F" for the course. The student should meet with the instructor at the next class meeting after missing over the limit allowed. The instructor will explain the appeal process and give the student the choice of withdrawing from the class or appealing to be reinstated. The instructor will counsel with the student and discuss the reasons and excuses. If the instructor does not feel that the student has a chance to succeed in the class, he/she will give the student the opportunity to withdraw. If the student is readmitted, he/she will sign a form stating that they will not be tardy or absent from the class for the remainder of the semester and if they are, they will be dropped with a grade of "F" and will not have the opportunity to appeal again. If the student is denied reentry by the instructor and does not want to withdraw, the student will have the opportunity to appeal to the Absentee Appeals Committee. This committee will include the Vice President for Student Services, the student's instructor, the academic or vocational counselor (depending on classification of student), an administrator-at-large, an instructor-at-large, and an officer of the Student Body Association. A majority vote will be necessary for the student to be reinstated in class. Should the matter not be resolved to the student's satisfaction through the Absentee Appeals Committee, the student has the right to appeal to the President of the College within 24 hours. Such appeals must be made in writing with all reasons for the appeal given. The last step in the appeals process will be the hearing before the President. The Student must continue to attend the class through the entire process.
5. If the student does not return to class within one calendar week after exceeding the maximum number of absences, the student will be removed from the class with a grade of 'F' and will not have the option to appeal to be reinstated. If the student has extenuating circumstances that prevents him/her from returning to class, he/she MUST contact either the instructor or the Vice President of Student Services within the calendar week after exceeding the number of absences allowed.

In rare circumstances when a student cannot contact their instructor or the Vice President of Student Services during the calendar week after exceeding the maximum

number of absences, the student will be required to appeal directly to the Vice President for Student Services. The student must appeal in writing and the only appeal at this point will be an appeal to be reinstated to withdraw from the class. The Vice President of Student Services will discuss the appeal with the instructor and call a meeting of the Absentee Appeal Committee, if necessary. Should the matter not be resolved to the student's satisfaction through the Absentee Appeals Committee, the student has the right to appeal to the President of the College within 24 hours. Such appeals must be made in writing with all reasons for the appeal given. The last step in the appeals process will be the hearing before the President

*If a student is reinstated to be allowed to withdraw, the date of withdrawal will be the date of the last actual cutout.

DROPPING A COURSE

If a student desires to drop a course, the student may do so at any time before the withdrawal deadline with proper approval from their advisor or teacher and a counselor. There is no charge for dropping a course.

Unofficial withdrawal from a course at any time during the semester will result in a grade of F. No student can drop a course within five class days prior to the first day of final examinations.

REPEATING A COURSE

A student may repeat any course taken at East Central Community College that is recorded on his/her transcript. The last grade earned in any repeated course will be the grade used for determining credit and the GPA applicable to graduation. The prior East Central course grade on the student's transcript will be marked through and will not count for or against the student in ascertaining graduation requirements or GPA.

(NOTE: This policy only pertains to credits earned at East Central Community College.)

EXEMPTION

Any student who has applied and been accepted as a candidate for graduation may be exempt from the final examination of any course in which the student has at least a B average as of the last regular class meeting. Exemption of graduates and types of examinations (unit or comprehensive) are left to the discretion of the instructor.

PRE-REGISTRATION TESTS

The American College Test will be administered to all academic and technical students under age 23 who have not previously taken it. The results will be used in classification. Assessment tests are given in English and Mathematics to students over the age of 23 who have not taken the ACT. Students will be placed in these courses based on ACT scores.

ORIENTATION

All students entering East Central Community College for the first time must participate in the orientation program. This program consists of two parts:

- (1) **Advance registration** is held on five specific dates each summer. On these dates, students are assigned to faculty advisors who help in proper course selection. Handbooks are distributed and Math and English assessments are given to those students that qualify to take them. Students can have their ID made, purchase a car decal, check on their financial aid status, and pay their fees in the business office on these dates. After a student completes the process during one of these five dates, he/she will need to complete the orientation process in one of two ways.
- (2) **Orientation** can either be completed on-line at www.eccc.edu or in person on the first two days of class. The orientation program is designed to acquaint new students with the rules and regulations of the College. All first-time students must participate in an advance registration date and an orientation, whether it is on-line or in person.

MAXIMUM LOAD

Fifteen or sixteen semester hours of academic work are considered a normal load each semester. First semester freshmen are not allowed to register for more than a normal load unless specified in the curriculum. Other students desiring to enroll for 20 or more semester hours must have special permission from an appropriate curriculum advisor and approval by the Vice President for Instruction.

WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL

Any student who leaves the College, except for temporary absences, must secure a withdrawal permit in duplicate from the Academic or Vocational Counselor's office, where he will be instructed as to the proper procedure. This permit, when completed, must be filed with the Director of Admissions, Records and Research and Vice President for Business Operations. Administrative withdrawal may be processed by the Vice President for Student Services or Director of Admissions, Records, and Research.

ACADEMIC FORGIVENESS

East Central Community College students who have not been enrolled in any postsecondary educational programs for a period of four consecutive years may petition the Vice President for Instruction to have their prior credit records removed from consideration for determining qualifications for graduation from East Central Community College.

Any students, who have changed their degree or certificate objective, for example, from an Associate of Arts/Science degree to an Associate of Applied Science degree, or vice-versa, may petition the Vice President for Instruction to apply only for those courses and quality points applicable to their current degree or certificate objectives. A change of major within the same degree or certificate designation does not qualify under this policy.

For students who seek academic forgiveness and whose petitions are approved, the College will utilize only the courses and quality points earned from the time approved for forgiveness in determining the students' eligibility to graduate from East Central. For students who have changed their degree or certificate objectives, the College will utilize only those courses and quality points which apply to the degrees or certificates that they seek to receive.

The College will make notations on the students' records regarding the application of this policy. All courses taken at the College and courses transferred to and accepted by the College will remain on the students' permanent records and no guarantees will be expressed or implied regarding the transferability of the forgiven credits to other postsecondary institutions. The VA does not recognize this policy for students receiving VA benefits.

A student may utilize the provisions of this policy only once.

GRADUATION

ALL STUDENTS EXPECTING TO BECOME CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES OR CERTIFICATES MUST FILE AN APPLICATION WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR INSTRUCTION BY THE ANNOUNCED DEADLINE DATE REQUIREMENTS FOR DEGREES

East Central Community College grants three associate degrees the Associate in Arts, the Associate in Science, and the Associate in Applied Science. Students who plan to transfer to senior institutions should take note that substitution in the specified courses of Categories I and II below may be made with the approval of the Vice President for Instruction in order to meet senior college requirements. A student may transfer back from senior college a maximum of six semester hours to complete graduation requirements at East Central Community College.

- I. To graduate from the College with the degree of Associate in Arts a student must:
 - (1) Earn a minimum of 64 semester hours of credit to include: the 35 semester hours listed in the Academic Core Curriculum, but not more than four semester hours of activity courses (Physical Education, band, choir, varsity sports, etc.);

- (2) Earn an average of two quality points for each semester hour attempted; (When a course is scheduled and rescheduled only the last grade recorded will count for quality point purposes);
 - (3) Complete a minimum of sixteen semester hours at East Central Community College;
 - (4) Earn not more than one-fourth of the work required for graduation by correspondence and/or extension.
- II. To graduate from the College with the degree of Associate in Science a student must:
- (1) Earn a minimum of 64 semester hours of credit to include: the 35 semester hours listed in the Academic Core Curriculum, sixteen or more semester hours of laboratory science, and not more than four semester hours of activity courses (Physical Education, band, choir, varsity sports, etc.);
 - (2) Earn an average of two quality points for each semester hour attempted; (When a course is scheduled and rescheduled, only the last grade recorded will count for quality point purposes);
 - (3) Complete a minimum of sixteen semester hours at East Central Community College;
 - (4) Earn not more than one-fourth of the work required for graduation by correspondence and/or extension.
- III. To graduate from the College with the degree of Associate in Applied Science a student must:
- (1) Earn a minimum of 64 semester hours of credit to include the 18 semester hours listed in the Technical Core Curriculum, all technical courses in the specified program of study as listed in Chapter 5, "Program of Study" in the College Catalog, but not more than four semester hours of activity courses (Physical Education, band, choir, varsity sports, etc.); and enough approved non-technical courses to complete 64 semester hours;
 - (2) Earn an average of two quality points for each semester hour attempted; (when a course is scheduled and rescheduled, only the last grade recorded counts for quality point purposes);
 - (3) Complete a minimum of sixteen semester hours at East Central Community College;
 - (4) Earn not more than one-fourth of the work required for graduation by correspondence and/or extension.
- IV. To graduate from the College with a second associate degree, which must be different from the first, a student must:
- (1) Earn a minimum of 15 additional semester hours of credit with no more than one semester hour of activity credit (physical education, band, choir, or varsity sports);
 - (2) Meet all of the requirements listed for the second degree as enumerated in paragraphs I, II, or III above;
 - (3) Complete all 15 additional semester hours credit at East Central Community College;
 - (4) Secure the approval of the Vice President for Instruction.

REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATES

East Central Community College grants nine months, one year, and eighteen months, certificates.

To graduate from the College with a certificate in a particular program a student must:

- (1) Make a passing grade and average a "C" (2.00 point) on all those courses required in the curriculum. Grades in courses not listed in the curriculum will not be counted in calculating quality point averages.
- (2) Satisfactorily complete a prescribed certificate program as outlined under curriculum.

- (3) Practical nurse students and surgical technology students must maintain a grade of 80 on each course to earn a certificate.

GRADUATION FEE

A \$30.00 graduation fee is charged all students who are tentatively accepted for graduation.

TRANSCRIPTS

It is the policy of this institution to furnish free to each graduate of East Central Community College upon written request one transcript of his or her credits earned here. After the one free transcript, a charge of \$2.00 will be assessed for each additional request for transcript from students currently enrolled at the College and a charge of \$3.00 will be assessed for each additional transcript request from a former student. Correspondence pertaining to this service should be addressed to the Director of Admissions, Records, and Research of the College. The College reserves the right to protect the student's records from outside agencies. Holds will be placed on transcripts for non-payment of fees, board, fines, etc.

HEALTH SERVICES

Medical services are available to students. The campus nurse provides routine medical care and simple medication. The nurse's office is located on the first floor of the Eddie M. Smith Student Union. Office hours are 7:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. during the regular school session. Students who need more specialized care must visit their family physician.

Hospitals in Newton and Union provide emergency medical care for students.

COUNSELING AND GUIDANCE

East Central Community College is wholly committed to providing the service of professionally trained guidance personnel to all of its students. The purpose of the guidance work is to provide professional assistance to the students in deciding academic, career, and personal questions, especially as they involve their college life.

The Vice President for Student Services has overall supervision and coordination of guidance, counseling, extra-curricular activities, and religious development. In addition, two full-time academic counselors, and a full-time career-technical counselor, employed by the College. Also, faculty members serve as academic advisors in their particular area. Advisors are selected from the teaching faculty according to curricula. Faculty members are well qualified to assist the students in their career planning. Each student upon entering selects a course of study with the aid of one of the advisors. Frequently meetings are held, and the students are urged to keep in touch with their Advisor on matters pertaining to their educational or career-technical careers. By careful planning, the students can find and pursue the course of study that will be most helpful in their chosen professions. Each student is thus aided in choosing a vocation for which the student is best suited.

Personal problems should be referred to the Vice President for Student Services or one of the professionally qualified guidance counselors. Students with disabilities should contact the Vice President for Student Services for possible accommodations.

FIREARMS ON CAMPUS

In keeping with the laws of Mississippi, students are not permitted to have rifles, shotguns, or other forms of weapons on campus. Campus residents must make arrangements to store any type of hunting weapons off campus. Possession of any type of weapon will result in Law Enforcement being called and possible expulsion from college

STUDENT IDENTIFICATION CARD

Each full-time student will be issued an identification card during registration at a cost of \$3.00. ID cards must be worn in a visible manner at all times while a student is on campus. The card will be used as an activity card during regular school session. Failure to show or

surrender the identification card when requested by any East Central Community College official will result in disciplinary action. Replacement of a card due to loss or damage will cost \$10.00.

UNSATISFACTORY CONDUCT

Upon enrollment each student is given a Student Handbook in which the rules and regulations governing student conduct are listed in detail.

Violations, which could result in suspension from college, will require that the student appear before the Discipline Committee, while violations that are not cause for suspension will be handled by the appropriate authorities.

ADULT AND CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Adult and Continuing Education Program meets the needs of an increasing number of adult and nontraditional students who wish to earn a degree on a part-time basis, prepare for job advancement or career change, or improve quality of life through personal enrichment and enhancement of knowledge in a specialized field of study. Classes are taught at the Decatur campus of East Central Community College and at several off-campus locations throughout the five-county district.

Present off-campus sites include Carthage, Forest, Louisville, Philadelphia Career/Technical Centers, and the Choctaw Hospitality Institute near Philadelphia. Credit classes may be arranged on-site for business or industry, school districts, medical facilities, government agencies, or in any location where specific educational needs exist.

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION PROGRAM

East Central Community College teaches adult basic education classes in Leake, Neshoba, Newton, Scott, and Winston counties. Classes are available to the general public in literacy training, GED preparation and English as a Second Language. Adult basic education classes are free. Class locations include Forest, Decatur, Carthage, Louisville and Philadelphia. Day and night classes are available.

GED testing is offered at East Central Community College each week that the College is in session. There is a fee for the five-part GED test. The GED diploma is recognized as the equivalent to the high school diploma.

CHILDCARE LABORATORY

The East Central Early Childhood Education Technology program operates a licensed, on-site childcare center for the laboratory training of students majoring in the field. The center operates during the fall and spring semesters. It is open to ECCC employees, students' children, and others. There is a minimum fee. The facility is located on 10th street.

FACILITY ARRANGEMENTS

Facility arrangements are available to professional, fraternal, governmental, or other associations that may require this space and service for seminars, workshops, and annual meetings. Coordinators are available to assist with every detail in the organization and implementation of a successful meeting from banquet arrangements to on-site registration. A calendar of events is maintained in the office of Adult and Continuing Education listing all activities by college and outside agencies.

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, TRAINING PROGRAMS

Conferences, workshops, and training programs assist in solving special problems encountered by businesses, industries, and government agencies. Programs may be offered on-site for the client, at East Central Community College main campus in Decatur, at the Integrated Technologies Training Center in the Choctaw Advanced Tech Parc, at the Productivity Enhancement Lab in Philadelphia, or at any of the College's Workforce Development training locations.

The Small Business Development Center offers workshops throughout the district at locations convenient to the small business community. The topics of these programs are designed to address many aspects of operating and maintaining a small business profitably. Topics may include:

- Starting a small business
- Customer service
- Marketing
- Financial management
- Developing a business plan

CAMPS AND CLINICS

A wide variety of camps and clinics are conducted annually to serve youth during the summer months. The choices include baseball, softball, football, basketball, soccer, tennis, and cheerleading camps. Also included are short courses in manners and etiquette, chemistry, computer, math, creative arts, scrapbooking, cake decorating, jewelry making and art, which are offered through Kids' College. Participants are given the opportunity to explore various fields and to further develop sports or academic skills under the supervision of qualified instructors in a college setting. The philosophy of each particular camp, whether sports or academic, emphasizes a well-balanced, enjoyable learning experience.

TRAVEL PROGRAMS

Travel programs are offered periodically to provide educational and personal enrichment. College faculty has served as directors for trips to such destinations as England, France, Switzerland, Austria, Germany, Australia, and New Zealand. College credit may be earned.

EXTENSION CENTER

Classes may be organized which give credit beyond junior college credit. The college has served as an Extension Center for Mississippi State University and the University of Southern Mississippi at various times in the past.

THE LEARNING SKILLS CENTER

The Learning Skills Center is a tutorial lab for students who need or want supplemental instruction. The Learning Skills Center has two components: a computer aided instruction lab and tutoring by peers, faculty, and community volunteers.

1. Learning Resource Advisory Committee Two students: one sophomore, one freshman, appointed by the SBA; one faculty representative each from the basic skills areas, i.e., English, reading and math; Vice President for Instruction; Vice President for Student Services; Dean of Adult and Continuing Education; Academic Counselor; Career-Technical Counselor; and Learning Skills Center Coordinator.
2. Coordination The Learning Skills Center Coordinator will meet with academic department faculty to coordinate services and determine needs of students. The ongoing process of analyzing job market data will be coordinated with the tech prep career center coordinator and the science and technology instructor to meet the needs of business and industry. Student services will be coordinated with the Vice President for Student Services and the student services staff.
3. Subject Areas Subject areas will be primarily developmental reading, writing, and math. In addition, higher levels of these subjects plus science, social science and other courses as needed will be available through the computer lab and individual tutoring.
4. Referral Students may be referred by faculty, counselors, or themselves.
5. Student Assessment Students will be assessed using a combination of student and faculty interviews, computerized assessment, local English and math placement tests, high school transcripts, and ACT scores. Records are maintained on students who utilize the services of the center.
6. Schedule The Learning Skills Center will be open the following hours:

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CENTER

The mission of the Workforce Development Center staff is to support businesses, industries, individuals, and communities with assessment, training, job placement, consultation, and educational “solutions” designed to improve the economy by enhancing the employability skills of the citizens in the East Central Community College district.

Specialized advanced technical training classes and Industrial Maintenance Technician Apprenticeship programs are available at the Integrated Technologies Training Center in the Choctaw Advanced Tech Parc and at the Productivity Enhancement Lab in Philadelphia. Short-term computer applications training classes are offered at Workforce Development computer labs in each county.

Customized sessions are designed, curricula developed and training facilitators provided to businesses and industries that address workforce improvement, technical skills upgrade, professional skills development, basic skills enhancement and Adult Basic Education. Private counseling, workshops and seminars are available for individuals interested in establishing and growing small businesses.

WORK-BASED LEARNING

The Work-Based Learning program creates an opportunity for technology students which combine school-based education/training through an East Central Community College career-technical program and structured, parallel work site experience in local businesses and industries. The program’s objectives are to better equip students for employment in technical careers and to effectively manage the quality of technology instruction.

Placed in work environments that complement classroom instruction, the Work-Based Learning students master skills and competencies that have been cooperatively outlined by participating businesses, industries and technology instructors. In doing so, Work-Based Learning participants earn competitive wages while learning from skilled, professional mentors.

Work-Based Learning students enter the workforce equipped with proven employability skills and an educational experience designed to enhance future career options. Students receive technical credit and transcript recognition for work site experience.

TECH PREP

East Central Community College, in conjunction with the Mississippi State Department of Education and a consortium formed by local secondary schools, has developed and implemented the Technical Preparation Education Program. The Tech Prep initiative is a response to the challenges that students of today will face in the 21st century. In Mississippi, as in every other state in the nation, the success of new and expanding businesses depends on a technically sophisticated workforce. Tech Prep integrates college prep course work with career and technical applications. This planned sequence of courses begins in junior high school and is articulated to the community college, leading to an associate of applied science degree. Students can also pursue a four-year baccalaureate degree, if so desired. A comprehensive career and guidance program is a major component of Tech Prep to ensure each student is provided with appropriate educational opportunities.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES AND SYSTEMS

East Central Community College seeks to provide computer resources, computer networks, and information technology to the students, faculty, staff, and administration at a level that enhances learning and productivity. The College requires students to demonstrate computer literacy to meet graduation requirements and provides training opportunities for the administration, faculty and staff. It is the responsibility of the users of computers and networks to act in a manner consistent with the rights of all other users.

Electronic information is volatile, easily reproduced, and easily vandalized. Respect for the work and personal expression of others is critical. Further, one should never publish

anything on a computer networks that they are unwilling to have made public. Computer users must never access, use, or edit files of others without the consent of the author.

The College's networks are monitored networks. Security and management considerations require that the networks be open for review and maintenance. A user of the networks can assume that anything stored on the networks is public information and should act accordingly.

The College's computers and networks are for official business and users shall access only those files and data to which they have authorization. Users shall protect her/his personal computer(s) from unauthorized use and safeguard her/his user-IDs and passwords.

Private and/or commercial uses of the College's computers or networks and work conducted for personal gain or profit will not be allowed.

At no time shall a computer user engage in illegal or immoral activities on the College's networks. Examples of these activities include the transmission of defrauding, obscene, threatening, violent, or unlawful materials.

Publication of annoying, harassing, or intimidating messages on the networks will not be allowed.

Using the College or State networks to advocate political positions will not be allowed.

Computer or network users will not attempt to circumvent system security measures, modify the computer system or software, install invasive software such as "worms" or "viruses," or install pirated software on the College's computers or networks.

Users are not allowed to remove hardware, software, manuals, supplies, etc. from the College's computing sites without proper authorization.

Anyone who knowingly violates the principles outlined in this policy will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

DUE PROCESS PROCEDURES FOR STUDENT GRIEVANCES

Grievances by an East Central Community College student arising from compliance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and its amendments, Part H of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and its Amendments, Title IX of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and its amendments,

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and its amendments, the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 and its Amendments, Age Discrimination Act, Vocational Educational Programs Guidelines for Eliminating Discrimination and Denial of Services on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin, Sex and Disability and other non-academic matters should first be presented to the Vice President for Student Services. The only academic matters that may be appealed by a student through due process are those that relate to charges of academic dishonesty and perceived errors in the transmittal of grades.

1. The grievance should be written and should be delivered either in person or by mail to the Vice President for Student Services, East Central Community College, P. O. Box 129, Decatur, MS 39327; telephone (601) 635-2111, ext. 375.
2. Upon receipt of a grievance under the provisions of this policy, the Vice President for Student Services will schedule a hearing before a student-faculty committee within ten (10) days. This committee will be composed of the Vice President for Student Services, the Director of Student Life, the President of the SBA or his/her representative, the Academic or Career-Technical Counselor as appropriate, an academic, technical, or vocational member of the faculty as appropriate, and a student-at-large.

The committee and the grievant may call such witnesses as may be required to investigate the grievance. Further, the grievant may have an advisor present during the hearing. However, the advisor may only consult with the grievant and not speak for the grievant.

3. If the results and/or procedure of the student-faculty committee hearing are deemed unsatisfactory by the grievant, the grievant may appeal in writing within three (3) days to the President of the College who will schedule a hearing within (10) days of the appeal.

4. The decision of the President shall be deemed final with regard to student due process procedures at East Central Community College.

The above four (4) steps shall exhaust full recourse available at the College.

Records of grievances filed under this policy shall be maintained in the Vice President for Student Services' office as stated in policy 5.5.2.21.

Student Complaints

Any student who wishes to make a complaint to East Central Community College about a college program, a service of the college, an employee of the college, or any other aspect of the college should follow the procedures provided in this policy.

The student should first discuss the problem with the faculty member, staff member, or administrator involved prior to initiating formal complaint procedures under this policy. If informal efforts are not productive or appropriate in resolving the complaint, the student should follow the procedures enumerated herein.

Students who wish to complain about academic or non-academic matters should contact the Vice President for Student Services. The complaint must be in writing and either be hand delivered or mailed to the Vice President for Student Services, East Central Community College, P.O. Box 129, Decatur, Mississippi 39327; telephone (601) 635-2111.

All complaints will be handled by the Vice President for Student Services or referred to the appropriate college official for response. College personnel who are not directly involved in the alleged problem will review the facts and make the final determination regarding the complaint. Students have the right to use the due process procedures contained in policy 5.5.2.21.1. for all non-academic matters. The only academic matters that may be appealed by a student through due process are those that relate to charges of academic dishonesty and perceived errors in the transmittal of grades. No adverse action will be taken against a student filing a complaint under the provisions of this policy solely on the basis of the complaint filed.

East Central Community College shall maintain comprehensive records of all complaints received for a period of five years. The records shall contain aggregate data on complaints and specific data on each complaint. Documentation required to support this policy shall be maintained in the Vice President for Student Services' office and will contain the following:

1. The Student Handbook, the College Catalog, and the Policy and Procedures Manual;
2. All letters of complaint and/or appeal;
3. Written determinations of complaints;
4. All materials related to complaint processing and determination; and
5. A log of complaints.

A log of all complaints will include the following information and will be maintained in the Vice President for Student Services' office.

1. A complaint number assigned to each complaint preceded by the last two digits of the calendar year in which the complaint was filed, e.g., 94-001;
2. The date of receipt of the complaint;
3. The name and address of the complainant;
4. The name of the individual (s) assigned to handle the complaint;
5. The dates of response to the complaint;
6. The date of resolution; and,
7. The final disposition of the complaint.

An individual file for each complaint will be maintained in the Vice President for Student Services' office and will include the following information.

1. The initial complaint;
2. All correspondence related to the complaint; and,

3. Written documentation of the final determination with the signatures of the party or parties who submitted the complaint and the representative(s) of the institution who made the final determination.

CHAPTER 4

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

EXPENSES FOR THE 2009-2010 REGULAR SESSION

(ALL FEES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WHEN DEEMED NECESSARY)

	Dormitory Student	Day Student
FIRST SEMESTER		
Matriculation Fee	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00
Technology Fee (Non-Refundable)	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
Registration Fee (Non-Refundable)	\$ 35.00	\$ 35.00
Room Fee	\$ 575.00	
Board (5 day meal plan)	\$ 740.00	
Board (7 day meal plan)	\$ 890.00	
Total First Semester (5 day plan)	\$2075.00	\$ 760.00
Total First Semester (7 day plan)	\$2225.00	\$ 760.00
SECOND SEMESTER		
Matriculation Fee	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00
Technology Fee (Non-Refundable)	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
Registration Fee (Non-Refundable)	\$ 35.00	\$ 35.00
Room Fee	\$ 575.00	
Board (5 day meal plan)	\$ 740.00	
Board (7 day meal plan)	\$ 890.00	
Total Second Semester (5 day)	\$2075.00	\$ 760.00
Total Second Semester (7 day)	\$2225.00	\$ 760.00
Total for Year (5 day meal plan)	\$4150.00	\$ 1520.00
Total for Year (7 day meal plan)	\$4450.00	\$ 1520.00

Out of state and out of country students will pay a \$1,050 out of state fee each semester. For the out of state fee to be waived, the following criteria must be satisfied:

- a) The nonresident student was born in the State of Mississippi but subsequently relocated and resided outside the state as a minor under the care of the minor's father or mother, or both;
- b) The nonresident student is a veteran who served in the Armed Forces of the United States ; and
- c) The nonresident student is domiciled in Mississippi no later than six (6) months after the non-residents student's separation from service, as evidenced by a Report of Separation from Military Service or other military discharge document, for the purpose of enrolling in a state institution of higher learning or a community or junior college.

Cable TV and telephone are available for students who choose to pay the fee to receive these services. Representatives from Mediacom will be on campus during the first week of each semester to take orders for cable TV. Contact should be made directly to Mediacom at 1-800-824-8625 and/or Decatur Telephone Company at 635-2251. Each dormitory student is required to purchase a meal plan. Students who prefer the Deferred Payment Plan may pay their board in the following way:

<u>FIRST SEMESTER (5 day)</u>	<u>FIRST SEMESTER (7day)</u>
1. \$246.00	\$296.00- Upon entrance