

RIO GRANDE VALLEY COLLEGE



S T U D E N T C A T A L O G
2018-2019

Rio Grande Valley College
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Welcome

Dear Student,

Welcome to **Rio Grande Valley College** and thank you for selecting us to assist you in obtaining your desired educational training. You are now entering into a field experience that will hopefully provide you with the opportunity for a successful future in the nursing and allied health field profession.

At **Rio Grande Valley College**, our prime objective is to offer training that prepares students to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to further assist you in becoming a successful professional in your desired field of work.

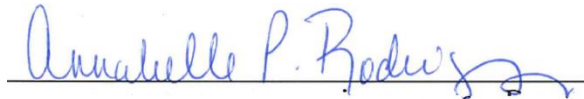
Our prime vocational objective is to train and produce graduates sufficiently knowledgeable to seek and find employment in the health industry. The successful student should be able to function effectively in one of the many specialty areas such as: Vocational Nursing, Pharmacy Technician, Medical Assistant and Medical Billing & Coding Specialist.

The training at **Rio Grande Valley College** encompasses the spectrum of training in nursing and allied health. Our instructors create a learning environment designed to maximize the student's preparation and opportunity for success in one of today's most exciting career fields---the medical health industry.

Rio Grande Valley College is committed to the personal, intellectual and professional growth of its students, faculty and staff. As the premiere college, our goal is to inspire and empower a diverse population with a lifelong passion for learning, the knowledge to succeed and to serve the community. The degree of your success will depend on the effort you are willing to apply during the entire course of your training.

It is a pleasure to have you join us at **Rio Grande Valley College**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Annabelle P. Rodriguez". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Dr. Annabelle P. Rodriguez,
CEO/School Director

HISTORY

Rio Grande Valley College (RGV College), formerly RGV Careers An Institute for Higher Learning, was established in June 2008 with the purpose of providing a unique education to the Rio Grande Valley community in the health care environment, now Rio Grande Valley College. The medical field is vastly growing in the Rio Grande Valley, therefore creating more opportunities for individuals to establish themselves in a health care profession. Rio Grande Valley College provides affordable training that will enable a person to enter the work force and contribute to the community.

APPROVALS/AFFILIATIONS

Rio Grande Valley College is approved and regulated by the Texas Workforce Commission Career Schools and Colleges 101 East 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78778-0001. The Vocational Nursing Program is approved by the Texas Board of Nursing 333 Guadalupe Suite 3-460, Austin TX 78701-3944.

Rio Grande Valley College has a Certificate of Authorization to operate degree programs from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) 1200 E. Anderson Lane, Austin TX 78752.

Rio Grande Valley College is eligible to train eligible veterans for GI Bill, Chapters 30, 31, 33, 35, 1606, and 1607. Veterans or their family who they think they me eligible for benefits should contact the local Veterans Administration office or call 1-888-442-4551. Students receiving V.A. benefits must adhere to the V.A. satisfactory progress standards. For more information please visit the schools V.A certifying official.

Other affiliations and approvals include the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services, Regulatory Services Division, Nurse Aide Training (NATCEP), and the National Center for Competency Testing.

ACCREDITATION

Rio Grande Valley College is **institutionally** accredited by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES) located at 7777 Leesburg Pike Suite 314 N, Falls Church, Virginia 22043, Tel. (703)917-9503 Fax (703)917-4109.

Rio Grande Valley College is approved by the US Department of Education and is eligible to participate in Federal Student Aid Programs.

MISSION, PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

“Rio Grande Valley College is committed to the personal, intellectual and professional growth of its students, faculty and staff. As the premiere college, our goal is to inspire and empower a diverse population with a lifelong passion for learning, the knowledge to succeed and to serve the community.”

Rio Grande Valley College makes the learning experience platinum and provides the stepping stones to lead the students in the right direction.

Rio Grande Valley College is an institution that provides a successful environment for its employees and its students. By maintaining strong growth as a provider of high quality professional medical educational programs and services to our students, we strive to consistently be perceived as a professional, trustworthy, and a leader in vocational medical careers education. Rio Grande Valley College will offer the innovative vocational education clients need to reach their desired vocational medical careers and personal financial goals.

RGV College realizes that the Rio Grande Valley, although predominately Hispanic, is, however, diverse and will not discriminate against other races, creeds, sexual orientation, disability or gender. All who attend are encouraged to strive for a higher education to achieve their optimal potential as a person. The instructional methods are created to enhance each student’s thinking abilities. When applicable, all programs will implement active student participation, group discussions, homework, laboratory work, simulations, demonstrations, interview training strategies, guest speakers and lectures. The instructors will emphasis: work ethics, accountability, professionalism and self-development.

Rio Grande Valley College is supportive of its students and promotes positive self-esteem, self- image and provides services to students in guiding them to be successful academically, vocationally and personally.

To provide the finest education possible, Rio Grande Valley College has hired experienced faculty and staff. They are passionate, dedicated, and eager to work together to assist in students meet their career goals.

Rio Grande Valley College not only assists students in reaching their educational goals but prepares them for other aspects of life. Faculty and staff will prepare them to successfully participate in society by equipping them with knowledge necessary to succeed in a competitive job market, and by encouraging them to become involved in professional organizations that will promote their learning and professional skills. Rio Grande Valley College also provides assistance to eligible graduates in obtaining employment during the duration of the program. Advisory sessions, classes and workshops will be provided to teach and guide them through the process of securing and maintaining employment.

Facilities and Equipment

Rio Grande Valley College is located at 5419 N. Cage Boulevard, Pharr, Texas 78577. The complex where the institute resides is owned by APRL Investment, LLC. The location of the school is a prime location off of expressway 281 north that can be easily accessed from expressway 83 which runs east and west through the Lower Rio Grande Valley and Edinburg, Texas. Being in this particular complex makes Rio Grande Valley College in close proximity of the medical district in the southern part of the McAllen area; which holds most of the doctor's offices (general and specialists), three hospitals, two surgery centers, and Driscoll Children's Center. The Institute is also near a variety of venues that will be essential to the faculty and students. Supply stores, grocery stores, gas stations, shopping complexes and banks are minutes away. Also, several restaurants are in close proximity for students and staff to get breakfast, lunch, or dinner.

The square footage of the school is approximately 42,000 square feet. The 42,000 square foot building includes:

- A library, which is the heart of the school, measures at approximately 2000 sq. ft. and includes three study rooms equipped with smart TVs for student use that is about 135 sq. ft. each.
- A 1,716 sq. ft. student lounge is also centrally located for student use and is fully equipped with refrigerators, microwaves and beverage/snack dispensing machines.
- Over 10,000 sq. ft. of classrooms, which are fully equipped with smart TVs and tables that have electrical outlets and USB ports. This includes an auditorium-style classroom measuring over 2000 sq. ft. and will sit approximately 70 students.
- A 678 sq. ft. computer lab is available to all students and is fully equipped with approximately 40 personal computers.
- The administrative offices are approximately 5,223 sq. ft. and are located on the north and west side of the building.
- The simulation lab measures 1,716 sq. ft. and is fully equipped with equipment comparable to the hospital setting, pharmacies and physician's office.
- WiFi (access points) & LAN access ability is available throughout the facility.

Ownership

Rio Grande Valley College is owned by Annabelle P. Rodriguez and Roel Landa.

Staff and Faculty Listing

A listing of Rio Grande Valley College Staff and Faculty is included as an addendum to the School Catalog.

Tuition and Fees

A Schedule of tuitions, books, supplies, and fees for all programs is available as an addendum to this School Catalog.

School Calendar

RGV College program start date calendar is included as an addendum to this catalog. The scheduled program starts are subject to change at the school's discretion.

School Holidays and Vacations

A copy of scheduled vacations and holidays is included as a supplement to the school catalog.

Hours of Operation

Campus doors open at 7:30 am Monday thru Friday. Closing times for Monday, Tuesday and Thursdays is 9:30 pm and Wednesday and Friday 5:30 pm. Administrative office hours are Monday to Friday 8:30 am to 5:30 pm. Saturday schedule is 7:30 am to 5:00 pm, administrative hours are 9:00 am – 1:00 pm.

ADMISSION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Admission requirements

The Admissions Policy is used to define the enrollment requirements for individuals who wish to enroll at RGV College as a regular student.

Any individual wanting to enroll at RGV College must meet the following criteria:

- 1) Be at least 17 years of age, under age 18 requires parental permission. Age will be verified with individual's ID, if no ID is available then a Birth Certificate will be required;
- 2) Have a High School Diploma or High School Transcript showing a graduation date; or
- 3) Possess a recognized equivalent of a High School Diploma such as a home-schooled certificate by the state where the student resided during their home schooling or a General Education Diploma (GED). Texas law exempts home school students from compulsory age requirements; or
- 4) Individuals who completed High School outside the United States are responsible for providing the school with an English translation of the High School transcript and certification that is equivalent to a High School Diploma.
- 5) Student must complete the required admissions documents, sign the Enrollment Agreement (must be signed by a parent, if under the age 18), and submit the necessary fees.

In addition to the admissions criteria listed above, students interested in the **Pharmacy Technician** program must:

- Must be registered with the Texas State Board of Pharmacy as a Pharmacy Technician Trainee and must have and pass a criminal background check, including fingerprints prior to externship.
- Completion of an online application, including payment of a non-refundable fee of \$53.00; and
- Fingerprint session including a non-refundable fee of approximately \$45.00.

In addition to the admission criteria listed above, students interested in the **Vocational Nursing** program will be considered for acceptance into the program on the basis of the following:

- Pre-entrance test score of 54.0% for the ATI Test of Essential Academic Skills (Scores below 54.0% will be evaluated on a case by case basis)
- Student slots available for the enrollment period
- An Interview
- Must have and pass a criminal background check, including fingerprinting

Applicants applying for the **Nurse Aide** program are required to:

- ◆ Be at least 17 years of age, under age 18 requires parental permissions. Age will be verified with individual's ID, if no ID is available then a Birth Certificate will be required.; and
- ◆ Present proof of minimum of 8th grade education (high school diploma or GED certificate) and
- ◆ Cannot be listed as unemployable on the Employee Misconduct Registry (EMR); and
- ◆ Have not been convicted of a criminal offense as listed in Texas Health and Safety Code 250.006.

Individuals applying for the **Emergency Medical Technology Program-Basic** (Program not approved or regulated by TWC/CSC) course of study are required to:

- ◆ Be at least 17 years of age, under age 18 requires parental permissions. Age will be verified with individual's ID, if no ID is available then a Birth Certificate will be required.; and
- ◆ Present proof of secondary education (High School Diploma or General Equivalency Diploma)

Additional requirements

Students in the Pharmacy Technician and Vocational Nursing Programs will be required to undergo criminal background checks which include fingerprinting. This process must be completed in order to be eligible for placement into an externship site, clinical or fieldwork rotation or take a professional licensing, certification, or registration exams. Students are responsible for inquiring with the appropriate agencies about current requirements prior to enrolling in the program of their choice. Students who have prior felony convictions or serious misdemeanors may not be able to complete the clinical or fieldwork portion of the program, which is a requirement for graduation from the program.

Additionally, students who have prior felony convictions or serious misdemeanors may be denied the opportunity to take professional licensing, certification, or registration exams, or may be denied a license or certification to practice in some states even if the exam is taken and successfully completed.

Admissions Procedure

Prior to admission, a representative in the admissions department will meet with prospective student for an interview. The interview will elaborate on course description, the career opportunities, and physical demands of the job, the school and State Board requirements. An explanation on attendance and academic requirements will be given to the prospective student and how those requirements can affect the student's satisfactory performance requirements. The prospective student will be informed that attendance hours may be withheld for non-payment of tuition. The admissions representative will give the prospective student a tour of the school facilities. Any questions from the prospective student will be answered truthfully, promptly and in sufficient detail to eliminate confusion.

If the prospective student is a returning student they must meet the following additional criteria:

- Tuition charges will be prorated for the remainder of instruction hours needed to complete the course as offered by the school.
- Remaining tuition charges for the course along with enrollment fees will be charged accordingly.
- Any and all previous tuition balance must be tenured before being allowed to re-enroll and/or complete remainder of required hours.

Applicants with Disabilities

Rio Grande Valley College complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and is wheelchair accessible. If enrolled under training with a government agency, institution district, and/or other entity, students must meet the admission requirements set out in the Enrollment Agreement and/or applicable state licensing or certification requirements. The facility is equipped with ramps access from the parking lot, extra wide hallways and doors, A.D.A. required door handles and a restroom to accommodate disabled students.

Credit for Previous Education, Training or Experience Policy

Enrollment is available for students wishing to enroll with Rio Grande Valley College after they have withdrawn or graduated from other schools in and out of state. Rio Grande Valley College does not recruit students already attending or admitted to other schools offering similar programs of study. Rio Grande Valley College will review any and all previous education, training and/or experience as part of the

school's policy regarding the granting of credits for previous education. Approval of transfer of credits will be at the discretion of the School Director. Credit is limited to no more than 50% of the total program and certain classes may not be eligible for credit.

Note: All hours attempted will count toward Title IV, HEA funding 150% quantitative requirements not just the hours that were accepted as transfer hours.

Notice to Veterans Students

Veteran's students must provide official academic transcripts from all post-secondary institutions and/or college prior to being enrolled.

Transfer Students

All transfer hours are counted as both attempted and completed hours for the purpose of determining when the allowable maximum time frame has been exhausted.

Transfer Policy

Coursework completed at Rio Grande Valley College may not transferable to other institutions. Acceptance of coursework is determined by the receiving institution. RGV College strongly recommends that students inquire with the receiving institution regarding their transferability policy.

Applicants for Single Courses

Single courses are available for applicants who are not entering into a program of study. Interested applicants must complete the following procedures:

- Meet with an Admissions Representative for an informational interview, which includes a campus tour.
- Complete an Enrollment Agreement (must be signed by a parent or guardian if the applicant is under 18 years of age).

Students enrolled in single courses are not eligible to receive Title IV funds. Transferability of credit for these courses is determined by the School Director. RGV College cannot guarantee that credits earned will transfer.

Statement for Non-Discrimination

Rio Grande Valley College is an equal opportunity employer and follows the same policies in accepting applications from potential students. The school does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, creed, origin, sexual orientation, disability or marital status.

Equal Opportunities Statement

Rio Grande Valley College admits students of any race, color, sex, and national or ethnic origin. Rio Grande Valley College does not discriminate in any way with respect to: employment of faculty and staff, student rights or privileges, admission policies, awarding of scholarships or other financial assistance, educational policies, use of the school's facilities, or any other regular or extracurricular activity.

FINANCIAL AID POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Prior to enrolling at Rio Grande Valley College, all students are encouraged to explore the availability of financial aid assistance. Financial aid assistance is available to prospective students wishing to enroll in eligible programs. Rio Grande Valley College is an accredited institution and is eligible to offer various types of financial assistance. Financial assistance is a combination of federal grants and loans which are an investment towards your education and are there to assist students in paying for their educational expenses.

Rio Grande Valley College will assist students in developing financial plans to pay for their education through a combination of student/family contributions, financial aid, if eligible and payment plans. Eligibility for financial assistance is determined by a one-to-one interview with the Financial Aid Office Staff.

During the interview, prospective students are directed to the resource center to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) through the www.fafsa.ed.gov website. Additional documentation related the verification of eligibility may be required by the financial aid office. It is the responsibility of the prospective student to provide the required documentation to the financial aid office in a timely manner, failure to do so may affect your eligibility.

Citizenship and Residency Requirements

Except as provided in paragraphs (b) and (c) of section 668 of Title 34-Education, to be eligible to receive Title IV, HEA program assistance, and a student must:

- Be a citizen or national of the United States or
- Provide evidence from the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service that he or she- is a permanent resident of the united states or
- Is in the United States for other than a temporary purpose with the intention of becoming a citizen or permanent resident
- Be a citizen of the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, or the Republic of Palau is eligible to receive funds under Federal Pell Grant programs.

Students must be enrolled as regular students in an eligible program in order to participate in title IV. Upon receipt of all the required documents and in good order, the prospective student is eligible to enroll in the school. When all admissions criteria and requirements are met, the prospective student is given the date of the next class and appropriate dress code for the first day of class.

Federal Student Aid Programs

Rio Grande Valley College is approved for the following federal grant and loan programs:

Federal Pell Grant – Grants are awarded on the basis of financial aid need and do not have to be repaid.

Federal Direct Subsidized Loan – Loans from this program are awarded to students with financial need. This loan is subsidized because the federal government pays the interest while the student is in school and during the grace period (the first six months after leaving-school or dropping to less than half time enrollment status).

Federal Unsubsidized Loan – The unsubsidized loan is not based on financial need and is available to all eligible student, regardless of income. This loan is unsubsidized because the student is responsible for paying all interest due. There is not federal interest subsidy for the loan. Interest accrues immediately upon disbursement. Borrowers may elect to pay accrued interest on a monthly or quarterly basis or have it added back to the principal balance in a process called capitalization.

Federal Parent Plus Loans- A parent may borrow up to the annual cost of education minus any estimated financial aid received by the student. The application approval process includes a standard credit analysis for all parent borrowers. The repayment period for the parent borrowers begins on the day the loan is fully disbursed. The first payment of principal and interest is due within 60 days after the final loan disbursement is made.

In order to determine eligibility for Title IV Funds, students must:

- Comply with our Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy included in the school catalog.
- Not be in default on any loans made under any Title IV, HEA Loan program.
- Must not have obtained loan amounts that exceed annual or aggregate loan limits under any Title IV, HEA Loan program.
- Not liable for any grant overpayment.
- Be enrolled at least halftime to receive assistance from the Direct Loan Program. (The Pell Grant program does not require half time enrollment, but the student' enrollment status does affect the amount of Pell a student may receive.)
- For Title IV purposes, students who have successfully completed 225 clock hours that are applicable to a degree or certificate offered by our school. These credits and hours are not Title IV eligible and the remaining program hours must be prorated if the program is a certificate program offered in hours and may also affect a credit hour program with a proration. Although, all prior education will be reviewed upon enrollment for each individual student. Credit may be granted at the discretion of the School Director.
- Must provide a photo ID and Social Security card so copy can be taken.
- Must make financial arrangements with Financial Aid Office in regards to FAFSA application, scholarships and/or cash payment plan prior to enrolling.

Tuition Payment Arrangements

In addition to financial aid assistance, students may be required to sign an Institutional Promissory Note. The terms of the institutional promissory note become due on the 1st and 15th of each month depending on the first day of class. Failure to make on-time monthly payments may result in the following sanctions:

- 1) Late fee of \$35.00 will be assessed (within five (5) business days of due date);
- 2) Denial to attend the externship/preceptorship which are required for the successful completion of the program;
- 3) Termination from the program.

Please notify the Business Office before your monthly payment due date if you are unable to make payments to avoid a late fee. Postponement of a monthly payment is at the discretion of the Business Office and will only be granted under special circumstances.

Rio Grande Valley College accepts payment by the following methods: Check, Cashier's Check, non-international Money Orders, Visa, MasterCard, and Discover Cards.

Selective Services Registration

To be eligible to receive title IV, HEA program funds, a male student who is subject to registration with the Selective Service must register with the Selective Service (a male student does not have to register with the Selective Service if the student is below the age of 18 or was born before January 1, 1960).

CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY

Cancellation Policy

A full refund will be made to any student who cancels the enrollment contract within 72 hours (until midnight of the third day excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays) after the enrollment contract is signed. A full refund will also be made to any student who cancels enrollment within the student's first three scheduled class days, except that the school may retain not more than \$100 in any administrative fees charged, as well as items of extra expense that are necessary for the portion of the program attended and stated separately on the enrollment agreement.

Refund Policy

1. Refund computations will be based on scheduled course time of class attendance through the last date of attendance. Leaves of absence, suspensions and school holidays will not be counted as part of the scheduled class attendance.
2. The effective date of termination for refund purposes will be the earliest of the following:
 - (a) The last day of attendance, if the student is terminated by the school;
 - (b) The date of receipt of written notice from the student; or
 - (c) Ten school days following the last date of attendance.
3. If tuition and fees are collected in advance of entrance, and if after expiration of the 72 hour cancellation privilege the student does not enter school, not more than \$100 in nonrefundable administrative fees shall be retained by the school for the entire residence program or synchronous distance education course.
4. If a student enters a residence or synchronous distance education program and withdraws or is otherwise terminated after the cancellation period, the school or college may retain not more than \$100 in any administrative fees charged for the entire program. The minimum refund of the remaining tuition and fees portion of the course or program for which the student has been charged after the effective date of termination bears to the total number of hours in the portion of the course or program for which the student has been charged, except that a student may not collect a refund if the student has completed 75 percent or more of the total number of hours in the portion of the program for which the student has been charged on the effective date of termination.¹
5. Refunds for items of extra expense to the student, such as books, tools, or other supplies are to be handled separately from refund of tuition and other academic fees. The student will not be required to purchase instructional supplies, books and tools until such time as these materials are required. Once these materials are purchased, no refund will be made. For full refunds, the school can withhold costs for these types of items from the refund as long as they were necessary for the portion of the program attended and separately stated in the enrollment agreement. Any such items not required for the portion of the program attended must be included in the refund.
6. A student who withdraws for a reason unrelated to the student's academic status after the 75 percent completion mark and requests a grade at the time of withdrawal shall be given a grade of "incomplete" and permitted to re-enroll in the course or program during the 12-month period following the date the student withdrew without payment of additional tuition for that portion of the course or program.
7. A full refund of all tuition and fees is due and refundable in each of the following cases:
 - (a) An enrollee is not accepted by the school;
 - (b) If the course of instruction is discontinued by the school and this prevents the student from completing the course; or
 - (c) If the student's enrollment was procured as a result of any misrepresentation in advertising, promotional materials of the school, or representations by the owner or representatives of the school.

A full or partial refund may also be due in other circumstances of program deficiencies or violations of requirements for career schools and colleges.
8. **REFUND POLICY FOR STUDENTS CALLED TO ACTIVE MILITARY SERVICE.**

A student of the school or college who withdraws from the school or college as a result of the student being called to active duty in a military service of the United States or the Texas National Guard may elect one of the following options for each program in which the student is enrolled:

 - (a) if tuition and fees are collected in advance of the withdrawal, a pro rata refund of any tuition, fees, or other charges paid by the student for the program and a cancellation of any unpaid tuition, fees, or other charges owed by the student for the portion of the program the student does not complete following withdrawal;
 - (b) a grade of incomplete with the designation "withdrawn-military" for the courses in the program, other than courses for which the student has previously received a grade on the student's transcript, and the right to re-enroll in the program, or a substantially equivalent program if that program is no longer available, not later than the first anniversary of the date the student is discharged from active military duty without payment of additional tuition, fees, or other charges for the program other than any previously unpaid balance of the original tuition, fees, and charges for books for the program; or
 - (c) the assignment of an appropriate final grade or credit for the courses in the program, but only if the instructor or instructors of the program determine that the student has:
 - (1) satisfactorily completed at least 90 percent of the required coursework for the program; and
 - (2) demonstrated sufficient mastery of the program material to receive credit for completing the program.

¹ More simply, the refund is based on the precise number of course time hours the student has paid for, but not yet used, at the point of termination, up to the 75% completion mark, after which no refund is due. Form PS-1040R provides the precise calculation.

9. The payment of refunds will be totally completed such that the refund instrument has been negotiated or credited into the proper account(s), within 60 days after the effective date of termination.

Under Texas Education Code, Section 132.061 (11) (f) a student who is obligated a full refund of tuition and fees, the school shall record a grade of “incomplete” during the portion of a course or program for which the student is not eligible to collect a refund if a student requests a grade at the time of withdrawal for an appropriate reason unrelated to the students’ academic status. A student who receives a grade of incomplete may re-enroll in the course or program during the 12-month period following the date the student withdraws and complete those incomplete subjects without payment of additional tuition for that portion of the course or program. (Title 40, Texas Administrative Code, Section 807.171-175).

RETURN OF TITLE IV (R2T4) POLICY

When a student applies for financial aid, a statement is signed that the funds will be used for educational purposes only. Therefore, if a student withdraws before completing the program, a portion of the funds received may have to be returned. The School will calculate the amount of tuition to be returned to the Title IV, HEA Federal fund programs according to the policies listed below.

This policy applies to students who **withdraw officially, unofficially or fail to return from a leave of absence or are dismissed from enrollment** at the School. It is separate and distinct from the School refund policy. (Refer to the institutional refund policy)

The calculated amount of the Return of Title IV, HEA (R2T4) funds that are required to be returned for the students affected by this policy, are determined according to the following definitions and procedures as prescribed by regulations.

The amount of Title IV, HEA aid earned is based on the amount of time a student spent in academic attendance, and the total aid received; it has no relationship to student’s incurred institutional charges. Because these requirements deal only with Title IV, HEA funds, the order of return of **unearned** funds do not include funds from sources other than the Title IV, HEA programs.

Title IV, HEA funds are awarded to the student under the assumption that he/she will attend school for the entire period for which the aid is awarded. When student withdraws, he/she may no longer be eligible for the full amount of Title IV, HEA funds that were originally scheduled to be received. Therefore, the amount of Federal funds earned must be determined. If the amount disbursed is greater than the amount earned, unearned funds must be returned.

The Payment Period for Clock Hour Schools is one-half of the academic year or program length (whichever is less).

The Date of Determination is the date that the institution determines is the withdrawal date. For schools that are required to take attendance, the date of determination is no longer than 14 days after the Last Date of Attendance. The Date of Determination starts the clock for timely refunds of Title IV funds, within 45 days after the “Date of Determination”.

The Withdrawal Date for schools required to take attendance is the Last Date of Attendance (LDA). The institution has 45 days from the date that the institution determines that the student withdrew to return all unearned funds for which it is responsible. The school is required to notify the student if they owe a repayment via written notice.

The school must advise the student or parent that they have 14 calendar days from the date that the school sent the notification to accept a post withdraw disbursement. If a response is not received from the student or parent within the allowed time frame or the student declines the funds, the school will return any earned funds that the school is holding to the Title IV, HEA programs.

Post-withdraw disbursements will occur within 90 days of the date that the student withdrew.

WITHDRAWAL POLICY

“Official” Voluntary Withdrawal

A student is considered to be “Officially” withdrawn on the date the student notifies the Financial Aid Director or School Director in writing of their intent to withdraw. The date of determination for return and refund purposes will be the earliest of the following for official withdrawals:

1. Date student provided official notification of intent to withdraw, in writing, or
2. The date the student began with withdrawal from the School’s records.

A student will be permitted to rescind his notification in writing and continue the program, if so chosen. However, if the student subsequently drops, the student’s withdrawal date is the original date of notification of intent to withdraw.

Upon receipt of the withdrawal information the School will complete the follow:

1. Determine the student's last date of attendance as of the last recorded date of academic attendance on the school's attendance records, and
2. Perform two calculations
 - a. The student's ledger card and attendance records are reviewed to determine the calculation of Return of Title IV, HEA funds for which the school is responsible. Returns made to the Federal Funds Account are calculated using the Department's Return of Title IV, HEA Funds Worksheets, scheduled attendance and are based upon the payment period.
 - b. Calculate the school's refund requirement (see school refund calculation).
3. The student's grade record will be updated to reflect his/her final grade.
4. The school will return the amount for any unearned portion of the Title IV, HEA funds for which the school is responsible within 45 days of the date the official notice was provided.
5. If applicable, the School will provide the student with a letter explaining the Title IV, HEA requirements. To include,
 - a. The amount of Title IV, HEA assistance the student has earned. This amount is based upon the length of time the student was enrolled in the program based on scheduled attendance and the amount of funds the student received.
 - b. Any returns that will be made for the Federal program on the student's behalf as a result of exiting the program. If a student's scheduled attendance is more than 60% of the payment period, he/she is considered to have earned 100% of the Federal funds received for the payment period. In this case, no funds need to be returned to the Federal funds.
 - c. Advise the student of the amount of unearned Federal funds and tuition and fees that the student must return, if applicable.
6. Supply the student with ledger card record noting outstanding balance due to the school and the available methods of payment. A copy of the completed worksheet, check, letter and final ledger card will be kept in the student's file.

In the event a student decides to rescind his or her official notification to withdraw, the student must provide a signed and dated written statement indicating he/she is continuing his or her program of study, and intends to complete the payment period. Title IV, HEA assistance will continue as originally planned. If the student subsequently fails to attend or ceases attendance without completing the payment period, the student's withdrawal date is the original date of notification of intent to withdraw.

Unofficial Withdrawal

Any student that does not provided official notification of his or her intent to withdraw and is absent for more than 14 consecutive calendar days, fails to maintain satisfactory academic progress, fails to comply with the school's attendance and/or conduct policy, does not meet financial obligations to the school, or violates conditions mentioned in the school contractual agreement, will be subject to termination and considered to have unofficially withdrawn.

Within two weeks of the student's last date of academic attendance, the following procedures will take place.

1. The education office will make three attempts to notify the student regarding his/her enrollment status.
2. Determine and record the student's last date of attendance as the last recorded date of academic attendance on the attendance record.
3. The student's withdrawal date is determined as the date the day after 14 consecutive calendar days of absence.
4. Notify the student in writing of their failure to contact the school and attendance status resulting in the current termination of enrollment.
5. The School calculates the amount of Federal funds that student has earned, and, if any, the amount of Federal funds for which the school is responsible.
6. Calculate the school's refund requirement (see school refund calculation).
7. The School's Controller will return the Federal fund programs any unearned portion of Title IV funds for which the school is responsible within 45 days of the date the withdrawal determination was made, and record on student's ledger card.
8. If applicable, the School will provide the student with a refund letter explaining the Title IV requirements:
 - a. The amount of Title IV aid the student has earned based upon the length of time the student was enrolled and scheduled to attendance in the program and the amount of aid the student received.
 - b. Advise the student in writing of the amount of earned Title IV, HEA aid and tuition and fees that he/she must return, if applicable.
9. Supply the student with final student ledger card showing outstanding balance due the school and available methods of repayment.
10. A copy of the completed worksheet, check, letter, and final ledger cards will be kept in the student's file.

Withdrawal before the 60% Point

The institution must perform a R2T4 to determine the amount of earned aid through the 60% point in each payment period. The institution will use the Department of Education prorata schedule to determine the amount of the R2T4 funds the student has earned at the time of withdrawal.

Withdrawal after the 60% Point

After the 60% point in the payment period, a student has earned 100% of the Title IV, HEA funds he or she was scheduled to receive during this period. The institution must still perform a R2T4 to determine the amount of aid that the student has earned.

The School measures progress in clock hours, and uses the payment period for the period of calculation.

The Calculation Formula

Determine the amount of Title IV, HEA aid that was disbursed plus Title IV, HEA aid that could have been disbursed. Calculate the percentage of Title IV, HEA aid earned:

- a) Divide the number of clock hours scheduled to be completed (from the first day of class until the last date in of attendance) in the payment period as of the last date of attendance in the payment period by the total clock hours in the payment period.

HOURS SCHEDULED TO COMPLETE

TOTAL HOURS IN PERIOD - % EARNED

(Rounded to one significant digit to the right of the decimal point, ex. .4493 = 44.9%)

- b) If this percentage is greater than 60%, the student earns 100%.

- c) If this percent is less than or equal to 60%, proceeds with calculation.

Percentage earned from (multiplied by) Total aid disbursed, or could have been disbursed = AMOUNT STUDENT EARNED.

Subtract the Title IV aid earned from the total disbursed = AMOUNT TO BE RETURNED.

100% minus percent earned = UNEARNED PERCENT

Unearned percent (multiplied by) total institutional charges for the period = AMOUNT DUE FROM THE SCHOOL.

If the percent of Title IV aid disbursed is greater than the percent unearned (multiplies by) institutional charges for the period, the amount disbursed will be used in place of the percent unearned.

If the percent unearned (multiplied by) institutional charges for the period are less than the amount due from the school, the student must return or repay on-half of the remaining unearned Federal Pell Grant.

Student is not required to return the overpayment if this amount is equal to or less than 50% of the total grant assistance that was disbursed and/or could have been disbursed. The student is also not required to return an overpayment if the amount is \$50.00 or less. The School will issue a grant overpayment notice to student within 30 days from the date the school's determination that student withdrew, giving student 45 days of either:

1. Repay the overpayment in full to NAME OF SCHOOL

OR

2. Sign a repayment agreement with the U.S. Department of education.

Order of Return of Funds

The School is authorized to return any excess funds after applying them to current outstanding Cost of Attendance (COA) charges.

A copy of the Institutional R2T4 work sheets performed on your behalf is available through the office upon student request.

In accordance with Federal regulations, when Title IV, HEA financial aid is involved, the calculated amount on the R2T4 "Funds" is allocated in the following order:

- Unsubsidized Direct Stafford Loans (other than PLUS loans)
- Subsidized Direct Stafford Loans
- Direct PLUS Loans
- Federal Pell Grants for which a Return is required (PELL)
- Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)
- Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant for which a Return is required
- Other Title IV assistance
- State Tuition Assistance Grants (if applicable)
- Private and institutional aid
- The Student

Earned Aid

Title IV, HEA aid is earned in a prorated manner on a per diem basis (clock hours) up to the 60% point in the semester, Title IV, HEA aid is viewed as 100% earned after that point in time. A copy of the worksheet used for this calculation can be requested from the financial aid director.

Post-Withdrawal Disbursements

If you did not receive all of the funds that you have earned, you may be due a post-withdrawal disbursement. The School may use a portion or all of your post-withdrawal disbursement for tuition and fees (as contracted with the School). For all other school charges, the School needs your permission to use the post-withdrawal disbursement. If you do not give permission, you will be offered the funds. However, it may be in your best interest to allow the school to keep the funds to reduce your debt at the school.

The post-withdrawal disbursement must be applied to outstanding institutional charges before being paid directly to the student.

Institution Responsibilities

The School's responsibilities in regards to Title IV, HEA funds follow:

- Providing students information with information in this policy;
- Identifying students who are affected by this policy and completing the return of Title IV funds calculation for those students;

- Returning any Title IV, HEA funds due to the correct Title IV programs.

The institution is not always required to return all of the excess funds; there are situations once the R2T4 calculations have been completed in which the student must return the unearned aid.

Overpayment of Title IV, HEA Funds

Any amount of unearned grant funds that a student must return is called an overpayment. The amount of grant overpayment that you must repay is half of the grant funds you received. You must make arrangements with the School or Department of Education to return the amount of unearned grant funds.

Student Responsibilities in regards to return of Title IV, HEA funds

- Returning to the Title IV, HEA programs any funds that were disbursed to the student in which the student was determined to be ineligible for via the R2T4 calculation.
- Any notification of withdraw should be in writing and addressed to the appropriate institutional official.
- A Student may rescind his or her notification of intent to withdraw. Submissions of intent to rescind a withdraw notice must be filed in writing.
- Either these notification, to withdraw or rescind to withdraw must be made to the official records/registration personnel at your school.

Refund vs. Return of Title IV

The requirements for the Title IV, HEA program funds when you withdraw are separate from any refund policy that the school may have to return to you due to a cash credit balance. Therefore, you may still owe funds to the school to cover unpaid institutional charges. The School may also charge you for any Title IV, HEA program funds that they were required to return on your behalf.

If you do not already know what the School refund policy is, you may ask your Schools Financial Aid Office for a copy.

Return of Title IV questions?

If you have questions regarding Title IV, HEA program funds after visiting with your financial aid director, you may call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FEDAID (800-433-3243). TTY users may call 800-730-8913. Information is also available on student aid on the web www.studentaid.ed.gov

***This policy is subject to change at any time, and without prior notice.**

Conditions for Termination

Students who fail to maintain at least 70% for Allied-Health Program and 78% for Vocational Nursing Program grade average by the end of the third quarter of the course will be terminated in all programs. Under Title 40, Texas Administrative Code, Section 807.171-175, students terminated for unsatisfactory progress cannot be readmitted until a minimum of one grading period (a complete 4 week, 80 hour class course) has passed. Students who violate the attendance policy will be terminated. These students may not reenter before the start of the next grading period. To be readmitted after sitting out one complete grading period, the student may with the School Director/Director of Nursing and/or Program Director and reapply through a new enrollment contract. Violation of the institutions *Nursing Student Conduct Policy; Texas Administrative Code, Texas Board of Nursing & Nurse Practice Act*, this violation is applicable to students enrolled in our Vocational Nursing Program.

Re-admittance Policy

Students seeking re-admission at RGV College shall meet all admission and re- admission requirements. The same procedure will apply for potential transfer students. Acceptance shall be considered on a space-available basis. Please allow for ample time for processing of requests. Requests for re-admission may be automatically denied due to withdrawal or termination related to unsafe practice, dishonesty, and/or unethical behavior. Re-admission requests may also be denied due to withdrawal or termination from a program twice, regardless of the reason.

Procedure for Re-Admissions

- 1) The student provides a petition letter in writing for re admission consideration to the Admissions Department. The student shall include reasons for their withdrawal or failure in the program and why they should be considered for re-admission.
- 2) The initial review process may take up to 10 business days. Please allow ample time for review and consideration for re-admission.
- 3) The student's file undergoes an initial review that may include the following: financial review, academic review, attendance, disciplinary action, criminal background check, current immunization, CPR and other required documentation as specified by the school and affiliates.
- 4) If the student is found to be in academic and good professional standing, the re-admission committee will meet to make a decision regarding the student re-admission. The student may be asked to sit before the re-admission committee for a formal interview. The re-admission committee meets on an as needed basis. Please allow for ample time for scheduling, review, consideration for re-acceptance and re-admittance.
- 5) Upon acceptance the following will apply to conditionally accepted students:

- a) Determination of re-start date.
- b) Restart assigned course(s) in their entirety.
- c) No prior earned grades in the assigned course(s) will apply.
- d) Attendance begins from zero hours

Additional re-admission requirements for the Vocational Nursing program please refer to the Vocational Nursing Student Handbook.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

All students are held responsible for regular and punctual attendance. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class or clinical instruction. This attendance policy includes class attendance and clinical/externship. It is essential that students not be absent or tardy during the entire course. Student who are going to be absent are expected to call the school prior to the beginning of their scheduled shift. This is required of students in order to receive his/her certificate of completion and be eligible to take the certification exams. The make-up work, however, will not remove an absence on the student attendance sheet. A copy of the attendance sheet will be placed in each student's file.

Late arrivals will be permitted into class and will be considered a tardy. Continued tardiness may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination from the program. Five (5) tardies will count as one full day absence. Roll call will be taken by the instructor on a daily basis during the morning and afternoon sessions, where applicable. Attendance is recorded by the Registrar's office on a daily basis. Attendance will also be recorded at the clinical site. All records will be filed for safekeeping at the end of each course. The following symbols will be used to record the status of the student attendance for the day: P=Present; T=Tardy; G=Left Early and A=Absent.

The Department of Veterans Affairs will be notified if students using veteran's education benefits fail to attend five (5) consecutive class days or miss 20% of their total program within 30 days of attendance violation.

Leave of Absence

From time to time circumstances might compel students at RGV College to interrupt their studies. These breaks in enrollments are formally recognized as Leave of Absence (LOA). A Leave of Absence is a temporary interruption from school and must be associated with extreme circumstances beyond the student's control. No more than two (2) Leaves of Absence may be granted in a 12-month calendar period and must not exceed 60 calendar days. Leave of Absences must be documented, signed and approved by the School Director on or before beginning such leave and will part of the student's permanent file. A student who fails to return from an approved LOA on or before the scheduled return date will be terminated from the program, making the last date of attendance the effective date of termination for refund purposes.

Clock hours and days taken in the leave of absence will not be included in the student's cumulative attendance percentage calculation. Leave of Absences taken will extend the students scheduled completion date. Courses in progress while on LOA will be required to be repeated or partially completed to be considered completed courses.

Tuition payment must continue to be made during a Leave of Absence period.

Students enrolled in seminars are not eligible to take a Leave of Absence.

Excused Absence

Rio Grande Valley College expects students to attend and participate in all classes. Missed coursework has the potential to disrupt individual and team learning, invalidate assessment of learning outcomes, create unfair advantages, and divert faculty and student resources away from teaching and learning. However, occasionally an absence from coursework will be unavoidable and circumstances beyond our control may happen, therefore an excused absence may be considered with the expectation that the absence meets the excused absence criteria, proper and timely documentation is provided with the Program Director (VN Director of Nurses and/or Asst. Director of Nurses; Assistant Allied-Health Director and/or School Director). Refer to page 56 of the School Catalog for a detailed explanation of the Excused Absence Policy which outlines the excused absence criteria and procedures.

Make-up Work

RGV College recognizes that there are a variety of legitimate circumstances under which students will miss coursework and that accommodations for makeup work will be made. Make up work will only be granted with the approval of the School Director and/or Director of Nursing. The following rules apply to the make-up work in accordance to Texas Workforce Commission §807.244:

- a) No more than 5% of the total course time hours for a course may be made up;
- b) Make-up work shall:
 - 1) Be supervised by an instructor approved for the course being made up;
 - 2) Require the student to demonstrate substantially the same level of knowledge or competence expected of a student who attended the scheduled class session;
 - 3) Be completed within one week of the end of the grading period during which the absence occurred;
 - 4) Be documented by the school as being completed, recording the date, time, duration of the make-up session and the name of the supervising instructor; and

- 5) Be signed and dated by the student to acknowledge the make-up session.

EXTERNSHIP/CLINICAL POLICIES

The Externship / clinical experiences are an integral part of every program which enables students to work with patients/clients to apply the competencies and practices learned in the classroom. Students participating in externship and clinical experiences work under the supervision of a qualified professional as determined by the institution. Students are evaluated by supervisory personnel and evaluations are placed in the students' permanent records. Externship and clinical guidelines and requirements for each program may be obtained from the Careers Services Coordinator and the Education Department in the VN program.

The following applies to all students who are required to complete externship or clinical experiences:

1. Students are expected to meet all externship/clinical site requirements.
2. Site assignments are determined by the institution. Students may be terminated from the program if they refuse the clinical or externship site assignment.
3. Externship and clinical sites are selected to meet the objectives of the program. Students are required to travel to the clinical site. In many cases, this may require travel that is a greater distance than the student's commute to the campus.
4. Site locations within a specified distance from the campus or from a student's home cannot be guaranteed.
5. The institution reserves the right to re-assign site assignments and locations as needed to ensure that program requirements are met.
6. Students must arrange and pay for their own transportation to and from their assigned clinical or externship experience, including any parking charges at the externship/clinical site.
7. Students should expect the hours and days to vary depending on the host site. Shifts on externship or clinical experience can range up to 12 hours, occurring any hour of the day, afternoon, or evening and any day of the week.
8. If students are going to be absent from their clinical or externship site, they are required to notify their designated supervisor and the Careers Services Coordinator and/or Clinical Coordinator.
9. Students must make up all absences that occur during clinical or externship experiences to ensure that the required hours are completed prior to the end of the scheduled period.
10. Students enrolled in a program that requires an externship are expected to immediately begin that portion of their program, upon successful completion of all classroom requirements.
11. Externship students are encouraged and should be prepared to participate in their externship training on a full-time basis (30-40 hours per week).
12. Students are expected to abide by the institution's Conduct Policy at all times while on externship or clinical, as well as the policies and procedures of the externship/clinical site.

Externship/Clinical Attendance

Attendance for the externship/clinical will be closely monitored by the Career Services Coordinator and/or Clinical Coordinator on a weekly basis. Students must attend the assigned externship site as scheduled. Failure to attend the required minimum hours may be grounds for termination from the program.

Students are required to complete all externship/clinical hours; any time missed during the externship period must be made up. A student will not be allowed to graduate from the program unless they have completed all the required externship hours and complies with the submission of externship paperwork to the Career Services Coordinator and/or Clinical Coordinator.

Students are expected to begin their externship immediately following their classroom training and must begin within 10 business days following assignment to an externship site or the student may be terminated from the program. If you are absent 10 consecutive days from the externship site, you will be terminated. Externship sites will be assigned and coordinated by the Career Services Coordinator. RGV College will be every effort to assign sites in a timely manner, there may be circumstances beyond the institute's control that may hinder this process, such as student's unprofessional behavior, attendance, attitudes causing the students to be dismissed from the site leading to a loss of an externship site.

Refer to *Vocational Nursing Student Handbook* for additional guidelines related to the Vocational Nursing Program.

Timesheets

All students on externship/clinical are required to submit weekly attendance timesheets via fax, email or in person to the Career Services Coordinator. Timesheets must be initialed by the externship site supervisor on a daily basis. Students who fail to submit weekly attendance by fax or email will be required to bring them in person and meet with the Career Services Coordinator. Refer to *Vocational Nursing Student Handbook* for additional guidelines related to the Vocational Nursing Program.

Original timesheets must be submitted at the completion of externship/clinical in order to receive credit for the hours and be considered eligible for program completion.

Externship Schedules

Externship schedules will vary depending on the externship/clinical site business hours. A daily schedule will be provided to students by the Career Services Coordinators and/or Clinical Coordinator.

Termination/Withdrawal from Externship

Students will be terminated from the program if they display unprofessional behavior during their externship/clinical assignments and the unprofessional behavior leads to the re-assignment of externship site by the current externship supervisor's request.

Students will be terminated from the program if the institution loses an externship/clinical site due to unprofessional behavior. In addition, students will not be considered for re-admission.

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS (SAP) POLICY

Satisfactory academic progress (SAP) policy applies to all students enrolled in the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools, Texas Workforce Commission, Career Schools and Colleges and Board of Nursing approved programs whether receiving Federal Title IV, HEA funds, partial funding assistance, or self-pay.

This institution requires its students to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) as established by this institution, in order to continue to matriculate at the school and to continue to be eligible to participate in the Federal Student Aid Programs. These standards apply to all students, regardless of the source of the student's funding, and to all students, regardless of their status (full-time or part-time). All students must comply with the following standards:

1. All students must maintain a cumulative academic average of "C" (70% or better for all Allied Health Programs and 78% or better for the Vocational Nursing Program on all required course work.
2. All students are held responsible for regular and punctual attendance. Vocational Nursing students may not be absent more than 40 clock hours the entire length of the Vocational Nursing program. Allied Health students must be present for 80% of the entire program. For example, a student scheduled to complete a 740 hour program must be present for a total of 592 hours of the entire program.
3. All students must complete the program within one and one-half (1½) times the normal length of time required to complete the program as defined in the enrollment agreement. This time frame will be measured in terms of clock hours attempted.

Regardless of the average level of attendance, students enrolled in the Allied-Health Program and who have more than ten (10) consecutive days absent or students enrolled in the Vocational Nursing Program and who have more than three (3) consecutive days absent will be dismissed or terminated from the program (unofficially withdrawn). This standard shall apply to all students except those on an approved Leave-of-Absence (see LOA policy). Students who expect to be absent 10 or more days are encouraged to request a Leave-of-Absence. In addition to attendance standards relating to Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP), students are also required to adhere to certain other general institutional policies relating to attendance and tardiness. These policies are outlined in the School Catalog.

Qualitative Requirement

The qualitative element used to determine academic progress is a reasonable system of grades as determined by assigned theory study. Theory is evaluated after each unit of study. Students must maintain a cumulative grade average of at least 70 (Allied-Health Programs) and 78 (Vocational Nursing Program) at the end of each progress report period (payment period).

Students must make up missed tests and incomplete assignments. Practical skills performances are counted toward course completion only when considered satisfactory or better and are therefore, not a component of satisfactory progress. If performance does not meet satisfactory academic requirements, it is not counted and the performance must be repeated until a satisfactory level of performance is achieved. For additional guidelines on qualitative requirements for the Vocational Nursing Program, please refer to the Vocational Nursing Student Handbook.

Grading System

Allied-Health Programs

Letter Grade	Percentage	GPA	Letter Grade	Percentage	GPA	Other Codes	Description
A	93-100	4.00	C+	77-79	2.33	W	Withdrawal
A-	90-92	3.67	C	70-76	2.0	I	Incomplete
B+	87-89	3.33	D	60-69	1.0	WM	Withdrawn Military
B-	83-86	3.0	F	0-59	0.0	R	Repeat Courses
B	80-82	2.67	Pass	Externship		TR	Transfer Credits

Vocational Nursing Program

Letter Grade	Percentage	GPA	NOTE:
A	100-92	4.00	May round up to move Letter Grade from "C" to "B", "B" to "A". May NOT round up any grade less than a 78.
B	91-84	3.00	
C	83-78	2.00	
F	77-Below	0	

“W” Withdrawal – A **“W-Withdrawal”** grade will be given to students who withdraw from a course(s) and will not be counted towards their qualitative requirement, but will be counted towards the quantitative requirement.

“I” Incomplete - An **“I-Incomplete”** grade will be given at the discretion of the instructor to students who demonstrate that he/she could not complete the requirements of the course due to circumstances beyond the student’s control and not reasonably foreseeable. Students will have one (1) week from the end of the course to complete the work required for that course(s). Failure to do so will result in a grade of “F” which will be averaged into the GPA and counted towards the qualitative and quantitative requirements.

“WM” Withdrawn Military – Students who are members of the U.S. armed forces and withdraw in the middle of a course, called to active duty, specialized training or as part of a relief effort disaster with little notice. This does NOT pertain to initial active duty training (i.e. basic training). Students must provide a copy of their orders to the School Director or Director of Nursing along with a signed note asking to be withdrawn. A “WM” grade will not be counted towards the qualitative and quantitative requirement.

“R” Repeat Courses – Student who earn a “W”, “I” or “F” on any course(s) in the will be required to repeat those course(s) prior to externship. The failing grade and the passing grade for the course being repeated will be recorded on the student’s academic record. Repeating a course more than once requires approval by the School Director and the student will be responsible for the cost of repeat course(s). The higher grade of the two courses taken will be posted on the student transcript and will be counted toward the qualitative and quantitative requirements.

“TR” Transfer Credits – Credits completed at another institution nationally accredited and recognized by the US Department of Education (USDOE).

The students who have failed to meet the Qualitative standards are placed on **Financial Aid Warning**; if no improvement over the next payment period, the student will be placed on **Academic Suspension**, with a loss of Title IV, HEA funds and they may appeal the decision. Please review the appeal and probation requirements stated in this policy for guidance on the process. The Director of Financial Aid in coordination with the Registrar’s Office monitors qualitative progress.

Quantitative Requirements

All students must complete their educational program within 150% of the length of the program. A leave of absence will extend the student’s contract period, and maximum time frame, by the same number of days in the leave of absence.

All clock hours at the institution and transfer hours must be counted towards the 150% eligibility whether a student received Title IV federal student aid or not in order to graduate within the maximum time frame.

Students must also meet the attendance requirements as outlined in this catalog.

Academic Year Definition

Rio Grande Valley College academic year is defined as, no less than 600 and no more than 900 hours and 26 weeks for Title IV purposes. For Title IV payments the student must meet both clock hours and weeks of instruction as well as complying with all standards for Satisfactory Academic Progress before they can receive federal student aid payments. Programs less than 600 hours, the academic year will be defined by the duration of the program from the start to ending date.

Evaluation Periods

Evaluations are conducted at the end of each payment period to determine if the student has met the minimum requirements. Evaluations are based on the cumulative attendance percentage as of the last day of the evaluation period. The attendance percentage is determined by dividing the total hours accrued by the total number of hours scheduled. An evaluation of the cumulative attendance since the beginning of the course will indicate that, given the same attendance rate, the student will graduate within the maximum time frame allowed.

Examples: For the 1765 clock hour Vocational Nursing course, a student will be evaluated at the increments in which the student is scheduled to reach 450, 900, and 1333 clock hours.

For the 900 clock hour Medical Billing & Coding Specialist courses, a student will be evaluated at the increments at which the student is scheduled to reach 450 clock hours.

For the 740 clock hour Pharmacy Technician course a student will be evaluated at the increments at which the student is scheduled to reach 370 clock hours.

For the 940 clock hour Medical Assistant course a student will be evaluated at the increments at which the student is scheduled to reach 450 clock hours.

In the event a student reaches his/her scheduled graduation date and has hours remaining to complete, the student will receive additional evaluations; either at the time the student is scheduled to reach each additional 375 clock hours, or at the time of actual completion of the remaining hours, whichever occurs first.

Non-credit and Remedial Courses

Noncredit and remedial courses do not apply to this institution. Therefore, these items have no effect upon the school's satisfactory progress standards.

Warning/Development Status/Appeal/Probation

Students who fail to meet minimum requirements attendance and academic requirements for the Allied-Health and Vocational Nursing Programs at the end of a payment period will be placed on **Financial Aid Warning**. Students who meet the minimum attendance and grade requirements are considered to be compliant with the Satisfactory Academic Progress policy.

Minimum Attendance and Academic Requirements:

Allied-Health Programs	Be in attendance 80% of the program length	70% cumulate grade average or 2.0 GPA
Vocational Nursing Program	No more than 40 clock hours absent	78% cumulative grade point average or 2.0 GPA

The school evaluates Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) at the end of each payment period and checks for the following:

- Must maintain a 2.0 grade point average (GPA);
- Attendance, the student must meet half of the scheduled clock hours of instruction for that programs payment period to be eligible for the next payment.
- Weeks of instruction, the student must meet half the weeks of instruction for that programs payment period to be eligible for the next payment.

If a student falls below a 2.0 GPA, or if the student is not completing the required amount of clock hours to keep pace with the requirements for graduation within the 150% time frame, will result in the student being placed on **Financial Aid Warning** for one payment period. A student who is put on a Financial Aid Warning can continue to receive Title IV, HEA funding for the next payment period after they receive the warning status.

If the student is not meeting Satisfactory Academic Progress at the end of the **Financial Aid Warning** period, the student will be placed on **Academic development Status, with a loss of Title IV, HEA funding** and will be required to meet specific criteria of an improvement plan to assist them in regaining SAP and Title IV, HEA eligibility. During this period the students will not be eligible to receive Title IV, HEA funds but he/she may continue on a cash pay basis with an approved payment plan. Arrangements for payment must be approved within 10 school days of notification of development status.

If a student is making SAP at the end of the Financial Aid Warning, they shall be returned to normal SAP status with no loss of Title IV eligibility.

Financial Aid Probation Status

If the Financial Aid Probation Status is granted, the student will regain Title IV, HEA eligibility for the next eligible payment period only. The student must be making SAP at the end of the payment period to regain Title IV, HEA funding for the next payment period.

When a student is placed on Financial Aid Probation status, he or she will be required to do the following:

1. Agree to a written academic plan that specifies how the student will regain SAP. The plan may include but is not limited to mandatory tutoring, scheduled advisement sessions extra course assignments, repeating a course for which the student received a failing grade and/or repeating a course from which the student withdrew.
2. Sign the academic plan (a copy will be kept in the student's file).

A student on Financial Aid Probation because of a successful appeal is eligible for Title IV, HEA funds for ONE payment period only.

Students who regains SAP at the end of the next payment period will have regained full eligibility for Title IV, HEA funding.

The student on financial aid warning, probation or Title IV, HEA funding suspension for a payment period may not receive the Title IV, HEA funding for the subsequent period unless the student make SAP.

Requirements for the Academic Improvement Plan

- ◆ Maintain an attendance percentage that will ensure the student will meet Satisfactory Academic Progress by the next payment period.
- ◆ Maintain an 80% grade point average for Vocational Nursing Program and 75% grade point average for Allied Health Programs. (The higher grade point is required to raise the standard to help the student make up for areas that may have been previous lacking).
- ◆ Attend theory class regularly (student must attend an average of 4 out of the 5 hours required for theory class each week).
- ◆ Complete all required test and projects assigned (test and projects must be completed and turned in when requested).
- ◆ The academic improvement plan will be monitored by the School Director and Director of Nursing.
- ◆ The school will notify the student each month on their academic improvement status during the monthly progress report/advising session. Status of the students report will be written on the progress report form for the student to sign.
- ◆ Students choosing to remain in school while requesting an appeal will be responsible for charges accrued whether or not the appeal is granted.

Appeal Process

A student who losses their financial aid eligibility due to Financial Aid Probation after a Financial Aid Warning has the right to file an appeal regarding their Satisfactory Academic Progress evaluations. A student, who wishes to appeal Academic Probation Status and loss of Title IV eligibility, must submit a written request to the School Director or Director of Nursing within ten (10) business days of being notified that they are in a non-satisfactory progress status.

The student must describe any unusual circumstance(s) that the student believes deserve special consideration. The basis on which a student may file an appeal: death of a relative, an injury, or illness of the student or **other special circumstance**. The student must provide supporting documents and describe in writing the unusual circumstance(s) that the student believes deserve special consideration. The student must provide information as to why they did not make SAP and what has changed that will allow them to make SAP by the next evaluation point.

Once the School Director or Director of Nursing receives the appeal, they will evaluate the appeal and provide a decision within ten (10) business days. The School Director will notify the student in writing of the decision and all decisions are final.

Returning Student from a Leave of Absence or a Withdrawal

All students, who have withdrawn or taken a leave of absence and choose to re-enter into a course, will be placed under the same satisfactory or unsatisfactory progress status prevailing at the time of the prior withdrawal or leave.

Re-establishment of Satisfactory Academic Progress

Students may re-establish satisfactory academic progress by meeting minimum attendance and academic requirements at the next evaluation point.

Reinstatement of Financial Aid

A prior student requesting to be reinstated as an active student, based on whatever reasons or circumstances, should do so in writing to the School Director or Director of Nursing (DON). Supportive documentation and/or information concerning any mitigating circumstances should be noted in the request. The requesting prior student shall be notified of the Reinstatement Review within five (5) days following the decision of the School Director or Director of Nursing (DON). Title IV, HEA funds will be reinstated to qualified students who have received a financial aid probation as a result of a successful appeal or who have re-established satisfactory academic progress by meeting the minimum cumulative attendance and academic requirements at the end of a payment period and are able to complete their program within the maximum time frame.

Reinstatement before 180 days

Students who withdraw prior to completion of the course and wish to re-enroll within six months (180 days) of the original official withdrawal date will return in the same satisfactory academic progress status as at the time of withdrawal.

Students who have been terminated or withdrew from school may re-enroll (if determined eligible) within 180 days and will not incur additional charges, however these students will be responsible to pay any remaining balance from the previous enrollment that cannot be covered with reinstated federal funds.

Students who have been terminated or withdrew from school and re-enroll (if determined eligible), after more than 180 days will pay a \$100 application fee and will be charged for contracted hours at the current tuition rate. All re-enrolling student will be provided the school's re-enrollment policy and will be evaluated by the School Director and/or Director of Nursing for subject placement. Students applying for re-entry or transfer-in from other schools will be required, as a condition of enrollment, to bring delinquent prior student loans to a current status.

Financial Appeal Granted

The student will be placed on a Financial Aid Probation for the payment period should he/she prevails on their appeal. The student will then be eligible for Title IV, HEA funds for that payment period. While on Financial Aid Probation, the student must meet the institutions Satisfactory Academic Progress standards and complete the requirements of the Academic Improvement Plan, which was developed by the

institution to assist the student in regaining their Title IV eligibility. A student on Financial Aid Probation because of a successful appeal is eligible for Title IV, HEA funds for ONE payment period only.

Disclosure of Education Records

Students and parents of minor students have the right to inspect, review, and challenge information contained in their educational records. The parents of tax dependent students are only allowed to access to the proof that their children are attending school for tax purposes, not the remainder of the student's records. Once the student reaches the age of 18, they became a legal adult and must give a written consent for their records to be released, even to their parents. However, a staff member must be present. Educational records are defined as files, materials, and documents, which contain information directly, related to the students and are securely maintained by the school. The school will maintain students' files for three (3) years. Students are not entitled to inspect the financial records of their parents. Before publishing the directory information the school will give the students and the guardians of dependent minor students the chance to deny the authority to publish the directory information. Written consent is required before educational records may be disclosed to third parties with the exception of Accrediting Commissions or Governmental Agencies as authorized by law.

FAMILY EDUCATION RIGHTS AND ACT (FERPA) POLICY

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a Federal law designed to protect the privacy of education records. The Act grants students the right to:

- Inspect and review their education records
- Request a correction to those education records
- Control the disclosure of certain aspects of their education records
- File a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education

What is an Education Record?

As defined by FERPA, an education record is information about a student that is maintained by the institution as part of the educational process. Education records include files, documents, and materials in any medium such as, emails, computer files, computer screens, printouts, tapes, disks, film, and microfilm/microfiche. Education records do NOT include private notes of instructors or staff members (sole possession records), campus police records, medical records, or aggregate (statistical) data that contains no personally identifiable information about any students.

What is Directory Information?

Under the terms of FERPA, the institution is permitted to disclose "Directory Information" without the student's consent. RGV College has established the following as Directory Information:

- The student's name
- School and home addresses
- RGV College email address
- Telephone number
- Program of study
- Dates of attendance
- Full- or part-time status
- Classification
- Degrees, honors, and awards received (including Dean's List) and date granted
- Anticipated graduation date
- Most recent previous educational agency or institution attended
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- For members of athletic teams, weight and height

Information **not** included in the list above is considered confidential and **may not be released to anyone**, including parents of the student, without written consent from the student. RGV College staff may only have access to this information if they have a legitimate need to use it in the fulfillment of their professional responsibilities.

FERPA permits students to inform RGV College that Directory Information is not to be released. A student may restrict the release of Directory Information by submitting the Exclusion of Directory Information Form to the Office of the Registrar. A copy of this form can be requested at the Registrar's Office.

If the student restricts the release of Directory Information, a privacy warning message will display on the Institution's student information system, and class rosters that are emailed to faculty will have the word "INVOKED" under the "PRIVACY" heading.

No information can be released on that student without written consent of that student. The institution will respond to inquiries regarding students who have requested exclusion of Directory Information as follows:

“We have no information to release on that individual. Please contact the person directly.”

To whom and under what conditions can RGV College disclose non-directory, personally identifiable information without the written consent of the student?

- School officials with legitimate educational interests (i.e., need to know to fulfill their professional responsibilities)
- A person or company with whom the University has officially contracted
- A person serving on the Board of Trustees
- Officials of another school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll
- In the event of a health or safety emergency, to appropriate persons as required to protect the safety of students

Can parents have access to children’s education records?

At the postsecondary level, parents have no inherent right to inspect the education records of their sons or daughters. RGV College policy requires that students provide written authorization in order for parents to access their education records. With appropriate documentation, the institution may disclose education records to parents of students who are claimed as dependents for federal income tax purposes without the student’s written authorization.

What are some specific examples of FERPA violations?

- Publicly posting grades by student name or any part of the RGV College ID number without the student’s written permission
- Leaving graded tests or papers in a stack for students to pick up by sorting through the papers of all students
- Circulating a printed class roster with names and any part of the RGV College ID, SSN, or grades as an attendance sheet
- Discussing the student’s progress or records with anyone other than the student (including parents) without the student’s written consent, with the exception of University officials who have a legitimate educational interest in order to fulfill their professional responsibilities
- Sending a letter of recommendation that includes information from a student’s record, such as grades, GPA, or course attendance, without explicit written permission of the student to release that information
- Sending a letter of recommendation for a student employee, graduate assistant, or teaching assistant that provides details about that student’s employment (i.e., wages, dates of employment) without written permission of the student
- Providing lists of students enrolled in class to a third party for any commercial purpose
- Providing student schedules or assisting anyone other than institution employees in finding a student on campus
- Permitting unauthorized use of any information in the files maintained, stored, or processed by the office in which you are employed. This includes copies of permission, registration, or add/drop forms
- Releasing confidential student information to another student, institution organization, or outside entities
- Distributing a student’s transcripts. Transcript requests must be submitted to the Registrar’s Office
- Leaving reports or computer screens with student information in view of others or leaving your terminal unattended
- Allowing another person to access student records because you permit him or her to use your access code
- Inappropriately disposing of paperwork containing confidential student information (i.e.ID number, GPA or grades) by placing it in the trash or recycle bin, rather than shredding the information
- Giving out Directory Information if the student has submitted the Exclusion of Directory Information Form (i.e., has a privacy warning message displayed on the institution’s student information system).

Any knowledge of a violation must be immediately reported to a supervisor.

What are the responsibilities as an RGV College employee?

As an employee of RGV College, you may have access to student records. Their confidentiality, use, and release are governed by FERPA. You have a responsibility to protect all education records in your possession. These include records relating to students who have business with your department, any documents from the Registrar’s Office, computer printouts in your office, name lists, and official course or grade rosters. Your job places you in a position of trust and you are an integral part in ensuring that student information is handled properly. In general, all student information must be treated as confidential. Even public or Directory Information is subject to restriction on an individual basis.

What happens if the institution does not comply with FERPA?

The Department of Education may issue a notice to cease the practice complained of and ultimately could withhold student aid funding. Depending on the type of record and the nature of the disclosure, other penalties could be imposed.

Where can I find out more information about FERPA?

<https://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html?src=mn>

CONDUCT POLICIES

Student Conduct Policy

Students are expected to conduct themselves with acceptable behavior and appearance, as defined in this catalog and by consultation of the School Director. Those who do not conduct themselves in this manner may be subject to disciplinary action, up to, and including termination. Violation of the civil law will be reported to the appropriate authorities.

Conduct Violations on campus that may result in disciplinary action or termination include, but are not limited to:

- Use of cell phones or beepers in class.
- False alarms or threats
- Destruction or damage of personal or school property;
- Disruption or obstruction of instruction, classroom activity, research, administrative activity, or other school activity on campus (this includes, tardiness, talking in class, making noise, etc.)
- Reckless driving or parking violations on campus;
- Cheating or stealing;
- Soliciting or other commercial activities without the school's permission.

The following constitutes immediate termination:

- Unlawful possession, use, distribution, or attempted unlawful possession, or distribution, or under the influence, of drugs and/or alcohol. Students will be issued substance abuse prevention policy that they must read and sign. This policy is considered agreed upon; as released to students through the school catalog, by the students signing the "Receipt of Enrollment Policies" indicating that a catalog was received and thus acknowledge this policy.
- Hazing of students or initiation that is dangerous, harmful, or degrading;
- Forceful or illegal entry into any area of the school property.
- Disobedience or insubordination to faculty or staff.
- Fighting or abusive behavior towards others
- Possessions of firearms, fireworks, explosives, or any other weapons.
- Illegal activities or other actions deemed inappropriate by the School Director
- Sexual Harassment (See Policy on Sexual Harassment)

NOTE: Students terminated for Conduct Violations will not be able to return.

Dress Code

Complete uniforms are to be worn at all times unless otherwise instructed.

1) Hair

- a) No "bling" hair accessories or hair extensions may be used.
- b) Hair shall be kept out of face, Male students shall keep beards away from the neckline and mustaches clean and neatly trimmed or clean shaven. Beards and mustaches shall not be longer than 1 inch. If a clinical site deems the student unable to pass N95 mask test, then the student will be sent home, hours deducted and shall not return to school/clinical until the beard meets their criteria.
- c) Hair must be clean, well groomed, above the collar and away from the face to be in compliance with Infection Control standards. Hair barrettes, bands should be of color compatible to the hair color or same color of the assigned uniform. Ribbons, scarves, colored barrettes and alligator clips are not acceptable.
- d) When hair is worn up, it must be in a braid, bun, ponytail or French twist. All loose hair must be restrained, including pony tails (men/women), and bangs will be worn above the eye brows, hair must not touch the collar. Male students must keep beards away from the neckline and mustaches clean and neatly trimmed, or be clean-shaven.
- e) Hair color – No unnatural distracting dye colors: Example: bright reds, blues, pinks, greens, purples, orange, white and/or stripes etc.

2) Jewelry

- a) Only a minimum amount of jewelry should be worn. This provides safe, comfortable, and sanitary conditions for the patient and the care provider. The student may wear:
- b) Pierced earrings, one earring per ear lobe of small studs. No other body jewelry allowed.
- c) Rings, one plain band only – **NO STONES**, no grooves or carvings and/or no other designs.
- d) One wrist watch with a second hand. **NO SMART WATCHES ALLOWED.**
- e) No necklaces or bracelets allowed.

3) Tattoos

- a) If tattoos are visible, they must be covered while in the classroom and/or clinical setting.

4) Fingernails

- a) Nails may be freshly polished, if desired, **WITH pale or neutral POLISH**, and are not to exceed the tips of the fingers in length. Artificial fingernails are not allowed.

5) Hygiene

- a) Good oral hygiene and clean bodies, free of odor are essential. Cosmetics should be applied discretely, No false eyelashes or hair extensions.

6) General Classroom Attire

- a) Uniforms must be worn to class daily.
- b) Name badge must be worn at all times visible at eye level (class & clinical).
- c) While in uniform the student must comply with all areas of the guidelines for professional appearance such as hair, jewelry, etc.

7) Spirit Shirt Days

- a) Friday's are designated as a spirit shirt day for Days students and Saturday's for Hybrid students.
- b) Students may dress ONLY in jeans (not torn and in good repair), and spirit shirt of their choosing (shall have school logo or name). Shoes may be of the students choosing but no greater than 2 inches in height. Students may wear their hair down. All other attire policies apply. Spirits shirts may be purchased from the school. Due to temperature changes, Navy lab coat may be worn. Administration will notify the student's when the school is participating in awareness days or months and if other t-shirts may be worn.

If the student opts not to participate in Spirit Shirt Friday, they shall wear their school uniform. All attire policies apply. If the student is scheduled for clinical or in school clinical, white uniform and all attire policies apply.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the act of taking another person's writing, conversation, song, or even idea and passing it off as your own. This includes information from web pages, books, songs, television shows, email messages, interviews, articles, artworks or any other medium. Whenever you paraphrase, summarize, or take words, phrases, or sentences from another person's work, it is necessary to indicate the source of the information *within your paper* using an internal citation. It is not enough to just list the source in a bibliography at the end of your paper. Failing to properly quote, cite or acknowledge someone else's words or ideas with an internal citation is plagiarism.

Food and Drinks

No food or drinks are allowed in the classrooms, laboratories and any common areas of the building such as hallways or lobbies. All drinking and eating at the school should be done in the student lounge or designated areas. Students who do not adhere to this regulation can be subject to disciplinary action.

Cell Phone and Electronic Items

Electronic items such as cell phones are to be turned off while in the classroom, computer lab, student resource center and hallways. The use of blue tooth and wired earpiece devices are not allowed and must be removed while on campus. The use of cell phones shall be for emergency use only and restricted to the inside and outside student break areas. Tablets and laptops may be used in the classroom for note-taking and educational purposes with instructor approval only.

Unauthorized Recordings Policy

RGV College prohibits unauthorized or secret audio and /or video recording; but not limited to, a conversation, phone calls or meetings with faculty or staff. While some states permit audio recording by one party to a conversation, this policy prohibits such recording without the consent of all parties to the conversation, regardless of the location of each party. Students found in violation of this policy may be terminated from the institution.

Copyright Infringement Policy

Rio Grande Valley College utilizes a variety of textbooks and workbooks for both allied health programs and the vocational nurse program. No part of the textbooks/workbooks shall be reproduced, transmitted, or used in any form or by any means graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including but not limited to photocopying, recording, scanning, digitizing, taping, web distribution, information networks, or information storage and retrieving systems, excepted as permitted under Section 107 or 108 of the 1976 United States Copyright Act, without the prior written permission of the publisher.

Rio Grande Valley College follows an internal policy and has the right to terminate or dismiss any student who violates the copyright policy. This infringement will be reviewed by the institution's administration to determine disciplinary action that will be taken.

Summary of Civil and Criminal Penalties for violation of Federal Copyright Laws

Copyright infringement is the act of exercising, without permission or legal authority, one or more of the exclusive rights granted to the copyright owner under section 106 of the Copyright Act (Title 17 of the United States Code). These rights include the right to reproduce or distribute a copyrighted work. In the file-sharing context, downloading or uploading substantial parts of a copyrighted work without authority constitutes an infringement.

Penalties for copyright infringement include civil and criminal penalties. In general, anyone found liable for civil copyright infringement may be ordered to pay either actual damages or "statutory" damages affixed at not less than

\$750 and not more than \$30,000 per work infringed. For "willful" infringement, a court may award up to \$150,000 per work infringed. A court can, in its discretion, also assess costs and attorneys' fees. For details, see Title 17, United States Code, Sections 504, 505.

Willful copyright infringement can also result in criminal penalties, including imprisonment of up to five years and fines of up to \$250,000 per offense. For more information, please see the Web site of the U.S. Copyright Office at www.copyright.gov, especially their FAQ's at www.copyright.gov/help/faq.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY

In accordance with the requirements of the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 (Public Law 101-226), and the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 (Public Law 101-690), our school provides all students and employees with the following information concerning school policies and the consequences of the manufacture, distribution, possession, or use of illicit drugs or alcohol on an annual basis.

Students and employees are prohibited from the unlawfully manufacturing, distributing, possessing, or using illicit drugs or alcohol while on school property or participating in any school activity. Violation of this policy will subject students or employees to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion or termination from employment. In addition, violation may result in local, state, and and/or federal criminal charges.

Legal sanctions under local, state, and federal laws may include:

- Suspension, revocation, or denial of a driver's license
- Loss of eligibility for federal financial aid or other federal benefits
- Property seizure
- Mandated community service
- Felony conviction that may result in 20-50 years imprisonment at hard labor without benefit of parole
- Monetary fines

In addition to local and state authorities, the federal government have four agencies (the Drug Enforcement Agency, U.S. Customs Services, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the U.S. Coast Guard) engaged in combating illicit drugs. Once should be aware that:

- It is a crime to hold someone else's illicit drugs
- It is a crime to sell fake "dope"
- It is a crime for being in a house where people are using illicit drugs, even if you are not using them
- It is a crime if drugs are in your locker, car, purse, or house which is considered "constructive possession"

Drug abuse, which can affect ones physical and emotional health and social life, is the utilization of natural and/or synthetic chemical substances for non-medical reasons to affect the body and its processes, the mind and nervous system and behavior. Drugs can be highly addictive and injurious to the body. Among the manifestations may be loss of sense of responsibility and coordination, restlessness, irritability, anxiety, paranoia, depression, acting slow-moving, inattentiveness, loos of appetite, sexual indifference, come, convulsions, and death.

There are classic danger signals that could be indicative of drug use. These danger signals include:

- Abrupt changes in mood or attitude
- Continuing slump at work or school
- Continuing resistance to discipline at work or school
- Cannot get along with family or friends
- Unusual temper flare-ups
- Increased borrowing of money
- Heightened secrecy
- A complete new set of friends

Information regarding the effects of commonly abused drugs may be found on the internet at www.nida.nih.gov/DrugsofAbuse.html.

Drug and alcohol abuse education programs are offered by local community agencies. The school will post information about such education programs in the Student Lounge and Resource Area.

While care must be taken to ensure that a person is not wrongly accused of drug use, it is recommended that anyone who notes danger signals in either a student or employee contact the School Director's Office. If it is determined by the School Director that a student or employee is in need of assistance to overcome a drugs problem, he/she may be counseled on the need to seek assistance. The cost of such assistance or treatment will be the responsibility of the student or employee. Records of such counseling will remain confidential.

In certain instances, students and employees may be referred to counseling and/or a substance abuse help center. If such a referral is made, continued enrollment or employment is contingent upon attendance and successful completion of any prescribed counseling or treatment. Students or employees who are seeking treatment for a substance abuse problem may contact the School Director's Office. Confidentiality will be maintained. In addition, students or employees who believe they have a substance abuse problem may find sources of treatment or advice by referring to the section of the local telephone book headed "Drug Abuse & Addiction Information and Treatment."

There are also national organizations that may be contacted for help, such as:

- The Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Hotline 1-800-ALCOHOL (1-800-252-6465)
- National Drug Abuse Helpline 1-866-874-4553
- The National Institute on Drug Abuse Treatment Referral Hotline 1-800-662-HELP (4357) or <http://findtreatment.samhsa.gov/>
- Al-Anon for Families of Alcoholics 1-800-344-2666

Student and employees must notify the School Director, in writing, within five days of being convicted of a criminal drug statute at the school.

Conviction for possession or sale of illegal drugs

A federal or state drug conviction can disqualify a student for FSA funds. The student self-certifies in applying for aid that he/she is eligible. Rio Grande Valley College is not required to confirm this unless there is evidence of conflicting information.

A conviction that was reversed, set aside or removed from the student's record does not render a student ineligible for aid, nor does a conviction that was received when the student was a juvenile, unless he or she was tried as an adult.

The chart below illustrates the period of ineligibility for FSA funds, depending on whether the conviction was for sale or possession and whether the student had previous offenses. (A conviction for the sale of drugs includes conviction for conspiring to sell drugs)

	Possession of illegal drugs	Sale of illegal drugs
1 st offense	1 year from the date of conviction	2 years from the date of conviction
2 nd offense	2 years from the date of conviction	Indefinite period
3+ offenses	Indefinite period	

If a student was convicted of both possessing and selling illegal drugs, and the periods of ineligibility are different, the student will be ineligible for the longer period.

A student regains eligibility the day after the period of ineligibility ends or when he or she successfully completes a qualified drug rehabilitation program. Further drug convictions will make him or her ineligible again.

When a student regains eligibility during the award year the institute may award Pell and/or Loan for the current payment period.

Standards for a qualified drug rehabilitation program

A qualified drug rehabilitation program must include at least 2 unannounced drug tests and must satisfy at least one of the following requirements

- Be qualified to receive funds directly or indirectly from a federal, state or local government program.
- Be qualified to receive payment directly or indirectly from a federally or state-licensed insurance company.
- Be administered or recognized by federal, state or local government agency or court.
- Be administered or recognized by a federally or state-licensed hospital, health clinic or medical doctor.

CAMPUS CRIME AND ANNUAL SECURITY REPORT

The Jeanne Clery Act requires that all institutions of higher education to publish an annual report of security policies and crime statistics. Information contained in this report was also solicited from the local police department for the purpose of identifying crimes that occurred on the city streets and property adjacent to RGV College. The school prepares this report to comply with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Crime Statistics Act (Clery Act). This report is prepared in cooperation with local law enforcement agencies. Nothing in the law shall be construed to permit a school to retaliate, intimidate, threaten, coerce, or otherwise discriminate against any individual with respect to the implementation of the Clery Act.

This report is made available to all employees, current and prospective students on the institute's website www.rgvcollege.edu for a printed copy of this report visit with the Director of Compliance. The annual report is published by October 1st of each year and must contain certain crime statistics for the most recent year reporting period. In addition to the report RGV College reports its crime statistics to the Department of Education, which posts the information to their website at <http://www.ope.ed.gov/security/InstList.aspx>

RGV College policies and procedures have been in force to comply with The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) in compliance with the requirements set forth by The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) of 1994, and its reauthorization in 2000, 2005 and again in 2013.

The Consumer Information is a Guide that provides updates on specific policies. These policies are made available to new employees and to students upon enrolling. Training is provided to current employees on an ongoing, yearly basis. Resources and contact information for organization that provide professional assistance are provided throughout the Consumer Information Guide located in the RGV College website www.rgvcollege.edu.

Our school attempts to provide students and employees with a safe and secure environment in which to study and work. The school is open during posted hours. School facilities are secured during times the school is not open.

The Campus Security Act (Public Law 102-26) requires postsecondary institutions to disclose the number of instances in which certain specific types of crimes have occurred in any building or on any property owned or controlled by this institution which is used for activities related to the educational purpose of the institution and/or any building or property owned or controlled by student organizations recognized by this institution. In compliance with that law, the following reflects this institution's crime statistics for the period between 7/1/2015 and 6/30/2016 (THREE MOST COMPLETED CALENDAR YEARS).

The following criminal offenses, published each year and must be report no later than October 1 of each year, include any crime statistics that occurred ON CAMPUS or PUBLIC PROPERTY during the previous three calendar year periods.

Date updated as of 9/01/2017

Report Distribution Date: October 1, 2017

Criminal Offenses	Total Occurrences		
	2014	2015	2016
Murder/Non-negligent manslaughter	0	0	0
Negligent manslaughter	0	0	0
Rape	0	0	0
Fondling	0	0	0
Incest	0	0	0
Statutory rape	0	0	0
Robbery	1	0	0
Aggravates Assault	0	0	0
Burglary	0	0	0
Motor vehicle theft (does not include theft from a motor vehicle)	0	0	0
Arson	0	0	0
Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (VAWA) Offenses	Total Occurrences		
	2014	2015	2016
Domestic Violence	0	0	0
Dating Violence	0	0	0
Stalking	1	0	1
*On March 7, 2013, President Obama signed the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (VAWA) (Pub. Law 113-4). The HEA defines the new crime categories of domestic violence, dating, violence, and stalking in accordance with section 40002(s) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994.			
Arrests	Total Occurrences		
	2014	2015	2016
Weapons: carrying, possessing, etc.	0	0	0
Drug abuse violations	0	0	0
Liquor law violations	0	0	0
Disciplinary Action (Does not include disciplinary actions that were strictly for school policy violations)	Total Occurrences		
	2014	2015	2016
Weapons: carrying, possessing, etc.	0	0	0
Drug abuse violations	0	0	0
Liquor law violations	0	0	0

Hate Offenses:

The school must report by category of prejudice the following crimes reported to local police agencies or to a campus security authority that manifest evidence that the victim was intentionally selected because of the victim's actual or perceived race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity, or disability, as prescribed by the Hate Crimes Statistics Act (28 U.S.C 534) occurred.

Hate Crime Occurrences	Total by Year			Category of Bias for Crimes Reported in 2016							
	2014	2015	2016	Race	Religion	Sexual Orientation	Gender	Gender Identity	Disability	Ethnicity	National origin
Murder/Non-negligent manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fondling	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Incest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Statutory rape	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aggravates assault	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motor vehicle theft	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Simple assault	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Larceny-theft	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Intimidation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Destruction/damage/vandalism of property	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Contact Information

Office Responsible to provide a copy of the Campus Security information	Belinda Ibarra, Director of Compliance
Campus Safety Officer	Henry Lee, Director of Maintenance
Campus Security Supervisor/Title IX Coordinator	Rene Mendoza, Human Resource

Students and employees should refer to the following person or agency when reporting or seeking help on a criminal incident. Please note that any emergency that requires immediate attention should not be waited upon on to report to the Human Resource Director, Institution’s Official but rather contact the appropriate agency by calling (911).

Rene Mendoza	5419 N. Cage Boulevard, Pharr Tx 78577	956-781-6800
Institutional Official	Address	Phone number

SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY

Policy against Discrimination

In compliance with Title IX, it is the policy of Rio Grande Valley College not to discriminate against any individual with respect to their education, entitlement, programs, scholarships, and other terms, conditions and privileges of student’s educational opportunities because of the person’s race, color, national origin, religion, disability, age or sex.

Policy against Sexual Harassment and Sex Discrimination

Rio Grande Valley College pursuant to the guidelines on sex discrimination issued by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission fully supports the rights and opportunities of all students to seek, obtain and secure the full rights, benefits, and opportunities for their education without subjection to sexual harassment or discrimination of any kind. It is the school’s policy to provide an educational environment free of sexual harassment of any type.

Policy on Sexual Harassment

Sexual Harassment is a violation of Titles VII and IX of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and it is against the policies of the school for any employee, male, female, volunteer worker or any student to sexually harass another student by:

- Making unwelcome sexual advances innuendos or requests for sexual favors or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, a condition of a student’s education, or
- Making submission to or rejection of such conduct the basis for educational decisions affecting the student, or
- Creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational environment by such conduct.

Behavior Which May Constitute Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment does not refer to behavior or occasional compliments of a socially acceptable nature. It refers to behavior that is not welcome that is personally offensive, that fails to respect the rights of others, that lowers morale and/or that, therefore, interferes with

workplace effectiveness. Sexual harassment may take different forms. One specific form is the demand for sexual favors. Other forms of harassment include:

Verbal: A sexual innuendo, suggestive comments, jokes of a sexual nature, sexual propositions, and threats.

Non-Verbal: Sexually suggestive objects or pictures, graphic commentaries, suggestive or insulting sounds, leering, whistling, obscene gestures.

Physical: Unwanted physical contact, including touching, pinching, brushing the body, coerced sexual intercourse, assault.

Sexual harassment may be overt or subtle. Some behavior which is appropriate in a social setting may not be appropriate in the work place. But, whatever form it takes, verbal, non-verbal or physical, sexual harassment is insulting and demanding to the recipient and cannot be tolerated in the workplace. Sexual harassment by any student, employee, faculty member, supervisor or administrative staff, is unacceptable. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken against any employee or student who violates this sexual harassment policy. Persons found to have engaged in sexually harassing conduct will be appropriately sanctioned depending upon the nature of the conduct involved. Such sanctions may include oral reprimands (and a copy of the reprimands filed in the person's personnel file), leave without pay, suspension, and in severe cases, termination.

Both men and women can be victims of sexual harassment from either gender.

Making employment decisions based on sexual favoritism or on the basis of gender is strictly prohibited.

Retaliation against any person making a sexual harassment complaint, assisting, or testifying in a sexual harassment investigation is strictly forbidden and will not be tolerated.

For persons who think they are victims of sexual harassment, the goal should be to establish integrity and documentation. The following steps should be taken:

1. Confront the harasser. Say that the behavior (be specific) makes you uncomfortable. Tell this offender to stop the behavior.
2. Document all incidents, actions and conversations related to the problem. Keep a dated diary.
3. If the offensive behavior persists, speak candidly to your counselor about the problem. If the offender is your counselor, speak to that individual's supervisor.
4. If nothing is done or if the sexual harassment continues, file a complaint in accordance with the paragraph below.

All complaints or claims of sexual harassment will be taken seriously and will be thoroughly investigated. Persons are encouraged to communicate directly with one another about the conduct they find offensive. Some instances of "harassment": may simply result from one person honestly not realizing that his/her remarks or conduct are offensive. In the event that direct communication does not result in a resolution of any inappropriate conduct, the following formal procedures must be followed:

1. Complaints regarding sexual harassment should first be made to the school counselor.
2. Complaints may be made either in writing or orally.
3. Every effort will be made to conduct an investigation into claims of sexual harassment in a manner that will protect the confidentiality of any witness interviewed in connection with sexual harassment claim. However, because of the need to conduct a fair and objective investigation confidentiality cannot be guaranteed.
4. If the complaint involves students only, the school counselor or program supervisor will investigate the matter and follow the due process guidelines.

Upon receipt of any oral or written claim of sexual harassment involving an employee of Rio Grande Valley College the claim will be referred to the Director who will order prompt investigation. The Director will appoint a person to conduct an investigation into any complaint of sexual harassment. The investigator appointed will conduct a prompt and thorough investigation of the complaint and make a written report to the supervisor or director who appraises the alleged harasser(s) of the investigators, the Director will make a determination as to the appropriate sanctions, if any, to be imposed in the case. Both the complaint and the alleged harasser will be promptly advised of this decision.

In the event that the one making the complaint or the alleged harasser disagrees with the Directors decision, that individual may appeal the decision by making a written appeal to the Rio Grande Valley College' Board. The board may:

1. Review the written finding and recommendations of the investigators and affirms the decision of the School Director.
2. Review the written finding and recommendations of the investigators and change or modify the decision of the director or,

3. Direct that additional investigation be conducted, and make a final decision based upon the finding and recommendations resulting from the new or additional investigation. If such a new additional investigation is required, the director may appoint the investigators who conducted the initial investigation or appoint new investigators of his choice.

This policy rescinds and supersedes any previous policies dealing with sexual harassment. In the event any conflicts occur in the provision of this policy with the provisions of any other school policy and/or procedures, the provisions of THIS policy are controlling.

Each staff/faculty shall signify that he/she has read the foregoing policy and that they agree to abide by the policy.

Each student will be provided a copy of this policy and shall signify that they have read the same while a student at Rio Grande Valley College.

It is the policy of Rio Grande Valley College to resolve any such dispute that otherwise cannot be resolved through the use of mediation and/or binding arbitration.

Each employee, including faculty member and student, by their continued involvement as an employee or student, agrees to participate in this process.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Placement Assistance

Job placement assistant is offered without charge to graduate. In most cases students must successfully complete licensure or board certifying examinations before they can be placed. Early leavers will also be assisted in job search efforts. The Placement office will assist students to complete employment applications, write resume, develop job leads, and review interviewing techniques. Rio Grande Valley College does not guarantee employment. The school maintains record of all student placements. Students must cooperate with the school to provide their placement information.

Requirements for Graduation

Minimum requirements for graduation are at least a 70% for the Allied- Health and 78% for Vocational Nursing Program passing grade on examinations and class participation at the end of the course, satisfactory skill performance during the externship and satisfactory attendance as per school requirements.

Student Parking

Parking is provided for all enrolled students. Parking area is directly in front of the school building.

Transcript Request

Official transcript requests must be submitted in writing to the Registrar's Office, please allow five (5) business days. A \$5.00 fee is required for all transcript requests.

Student must have met all obligations to the institution in order to have an official transcript released. The obligations include but are not limited to: financial, academic, attendance and externship/clinical documentation.

Name Change

All name change request must be submitted in writing to the Registrar's Office. Valid documentation for name change request includes: marriage license, social security cards, passport, divorce decree or court order.

Academic Advising

The school staff and faculty welcome the opportunity to assist students in working out solutions to problems impending educational success. School faculty and staff are always available to provide academic counseling when necessary. The institution is committed to helping you achieve educational goals. Students requiring other type of professional counseling will be referred to outside counselors or agencies.

Tutoring Services

Students who need extra assistance because of academic difficulties may arrange for tutoring through their instructor. Study groups are encouraged. In certain situations, the school will make a study period available to students. Course credit is not granted in these cases.

Textbooks, Equipment and Supplies

Textbooks will be issued on the 3rd day of class for most programs or during orientation for students who have met all admission and financial aid requirements. All needed supplies and equipment will be discussed during this time. The institution is not responsible for a student's equipment or personal belongings not issued by the school, either lost or stolen.

Inclement Weather Days

RGV College typically closes only when inclement weather is severe enough to cause local businesses to close. The school may also choose to delay opening rather than close for the entire day. Information on school closings and delayed openings will be available by tuning into Channel 5 Eyewitness News or by accessing www.rgvcollege.edu. Class time lost due to school closing may be made up on the next available non-school day.

Immunization Requirements

All students must provide a copy of their immunization record upon acceptance into our programs which includes a current TB test. For a student who has a positive TB Test, a physician's statement (by chest x-ray) will be required. Refer to Vocational Nursing Student Handbook for additional guidelines related to the immunization requirements.

Student Records

Student permanent educational records and necessary financial records containing student's name, address, telephone number, social security number, date of birth, program of study, start date, completion or withdrawal date, clock hours and grades are maintained securely either on computer or in locked file cabinets for a period of at least three years.

Incarcerated Applicants

A student is considered to be incarcerated if she/he is serving a criminal sentence in a federal, state, or local penitentiary, prison, jail, reformatory, work farm, or similar correctional institution (whether it is operated by the government or a contractor). A student is not considered to be incarcerated if she/he is in a halfway house or home detention or is sentenced to serve only weekends. Our attendance policy specifies that all classes and practical studies are done at the school's physical location; therefor incarcerated students are not eligible for admissions.

English As-A-Second Language

RGV College does not provide English-as-a-Second Language instruction. Students are required to read, write and speak English since classes are taught in English.

Grievance Policy

RGV College aims to ensure that students with a grievance relating to their education can use this procedure which can help to resolve grievances as quickly and as fairly as possible. Each grievance should be submitted in writing

- Step 1.** Students that have a grievance should discuss it informally with their instructor. We hope that the majority of concerns will be resolved this way.
- Step 2.** If the student feels that the matter has not been resolved through the informal discussion, he/she should put the grievance in writing to the School Director or Director of Nursing for the Vocational Nursing Program.
- Step 3.** The School Director or Director of Nursing will respond to written grievance within five (5) days and schedule an appointment to meet with the student to discuss the grievance. The School Director or Director of Nursing will conduct an investigation thereafter to provide the student a full and fair opportunity to present information relevant to the grievance. The School Director or Director of Nursing will render their decision in writing within ten (10) business days after concluding their investigation. The School Director's decision will be final. The student's written complaint along with the School Director's decision will become part of the student's permanent file.

Step 4. If the matter is not resolved to the student's satisfaction, the student may write to:

Texas Workforce Commission, Career Schools and Colleges
101 East 15th Street Room 226T
Austin, Texas 78778-0001
(512) 936-3100
texasworkforce.org/careerschools

or

Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools
7777 Leesburg Pike Suite 314N
Falls Church VA 22043
(703) 917-9503
www.abhes.org

or

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
Office of General Counsel
P.O. Box 12788
Austin, Texas 78711-2788

Complaint must be filed online and uploaded in PDF format by accessing:
<https://www1.theccb.state.tx.us/Apps/CRAFT/Home/Create>

PROGRAM OUTLINES

Medical Assistant

Program Description:

This 33 week – 940clock hour Medical Assistants are trained to perform administrative work, perform certain basic clinical procedures and assist with examinations and lab work. Duties may include answering phones, scheduling appointments, and performing bookkeeping related functions. Students will learn to obtain and record health histories, vital signs, weight and height. In some cases they may test vision, draw blood, and perform basic lab procedures. Graduates receive a certificate of completion for Medical Assistant from Rio Grande Valley College. Graduates of this program may pursue certification by passing national measures and proficiency examination with the National Center for Competency Testing.

Job opportunities may exist with physicians, job opportunities exist in medical offices, outpatient, health maintenance organizations, and public health agencies. This program is represented to lead to multiple job opportunities and is not meant to lead to any particular outcome. While job placement assistance is offered, finding a job is the ultimate responsibility of the student. The institute does not guarantee that any student will be placed in a training related job or at all.

Methods of Delivery: Residential/On-Campus

Program Outline

Subject #	Subject Title	Contact Hours			Total
		Lec	Lab	Ext	
PDMT100	Professional Development with Medical Technology	30	60	00	90
MT100	Medical Terminology	30	00	00	30
AP100	Anatomy and Physiology	30	00	00	30
AP101	Pathophysiology	30	00	00	30
MOS100	Medical Office Administrative Procedures	30	00	00	30
INS100	Medical Insurance 1	30	00	00	30
INS101	Medical Insurance 2	30	00	00	30
EHR100	Electronic Health Records 1 (Front Office)	10	20	00	30
EHR101	Electronic Health Records 2 (Clinical)	10	20	00	30
EHR102	Electronic Health Records 3 (Billing)	20	40	00	60
CB100	Career Basics	10	20	00	30
CLIN100	Clinical Procedures 1: Fundamentals of Clinical MA	20	40	00	60
CLIN101	Clinical Procedures 2: Assisting with Medications	20	40	00	60
CLIN102	Clinical Procedures 3: Assisting with Medical Specialties	20	40	00	60
CLIN103	Clinical Procedures 4: Diagnostic Procedures	20	40	00	60
CLIN104	Clinical Procedures 5: Assisting with Surgery	20	40	00	60
CLIN105	MA Credentialing and Exam Review	30	00	00	30
MA110	Medical Assistant Externship	00	00	190	190
Total Clock Hours		390	360	190	940

Medical Billing and Coding Specialist

Program Description:

This is **30 week – 900 clock hour** Medical Billing and Coding Specialist program will prepare the student to access health information for medical billing and coding. Students will be able to identify diseases, and assign appropriate medical codes to narrative descriptions of health diseases and procedures required for reimbursement, medical research, quality assurance, or risk management. **Graduates receive a certificate of completion for Medical Billing and Coding Specialist from Rio Grande Valley College.** Graduates of this program may pursue certification by passing national measures and proficiency examination with the National Center for Competency Testing.

Employment opportunities may exist in medical offices, outpatient clinics, private billing agencies, consulting firms and home office. This program is represented to lead to multiple job opportunities and is not meant to lead to any particular outcome. While job placement assistance is offered, finding a job is the ultimate responsibility of the student. The institute does not guarantee that any student will be placed in a training related job or at all.

Method of Delivery: Residential/On-Campus

Program Outline

Subject #	Subject Title	Contact Hours			
		Lec	Lab	Ext	Total
PDMT100	Professional Development with Medical Technology	30	60	00	90
MT100	Medical Terminology	30	00	00	30
AP100	Anatomy and Physiology	30	00	00	30
AP101	Pathophysiology	30	00	00	30
MOS100	Medical Office Administrative Procedures	30	00	00	30
INS100	Medical Insurance 1	30	00	00	30
INS101	Medical Insurance 2	30	00	00	30
EHR100	Electronic Health Records 1 (Front Office)	10	20	00	30
EHR101	Electronic Health Records 2 (Clinical)	10	20	00	30
EHR102	Electronic Health Records 3 (Billing)	20	40	00	60
CB100	Career Basics	10	20	00	30
MBC100	Coding & Reimbursement Implementation 1 (ICD-10-CM)	20	40	00	60
MBC101	Coding & Reimbursement Implementation 2 (CPT & HCPCS)	20	40	00	60
MBC102	Coding & Reimbursement Implementation 3 (CPT 4 th Edition)	30	60	00	90
MBC103	MBCS Credentialing and Exam Review	30	00	00	30
MBC110	Medical Billing and Coding Specialist Externship	00	00	240	240
Total Clock Hours		360	300	240	900

Pharmacy Technician

Program Description:

This 27 week – 780 clock hour course trains prospective students in competencies that enable the graduate to successfully pass the National Pharmacy Technician Certification Examination. The Pharmacy Technician will perform skills that include: (a) filling medications, (b) preparation of admixtures of I.V. and sterile compounding of solutions, (c) applying the administrative and technical aspects of administrating a pharmacy, (d) use of terminology and medical abbreviations as they relate to pharmacy, (e) applying dosage forms and routes of administration, (f) using pharmacy calculations, (g) applying pharmacy law, (h) interpretation of medication orders, prescriptions and drug classifications. (i) dealing with purchasing and inventory control (j) applying computer technology and (k) identifying basic anatomic and physiologic systems as they relate to medication interactions. Graduates receive a certificate of completion for Pharmacy Technician from Rio Grande Valley College. All students must pass the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board’s National Certification Examination in order to register as a Pharmacy Technician.

Method of Delivery: Residential

Program Outline

<u>Subject #</u>	<u>Subject Title</u>	<u>Contact Hours</u>			
		<u>Lec</u>	<u>Lab</u>	<u>Ext</u>	<u>Total</u>
PDMT100	Professional Development with Medical Technology	30	60	00	90
MT100	Medical Terminology	30	00	00	30
MOS100	Medical Office Administrative Procedures	30	00	00	30
AP100	Anatomy and Physiology	30	00	00	30
AP101	Pathophysiology	30	00	00	30
CB100	Career Basics	10	20	00	30
PHT101	Orientation to Pharmacy Services	60	00	00	60
PHT102	Pharmaceutical Computer Systems and Applications	30	30	00	60
PHT103	Aseptic Technique, Sterile and Non-Sterile Compounding and Intravenous Syllabus	30	60	00	90
PHT104	Pharmacology for the Pharmacy Technician	60	00	00	60
PHT105	Pharmacy Billing and Quality Assurance	30	00	00	30
PHT106	Pharmacy Technician Clinical Experience	00	00	210	210
PHT107	Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam Review	30	00	00	30
	Total Clock Hours	400	170	210	780

Nurse Aide Program

Program Description:

This program is a five (5) week – 100 clock hour comprehensive nurse aide course that provides the skills and abilities essential to the provision of basic care to homebound patients and residents in hospitals and long term facilities.

Upon completion of this course the students will be able to communicate and interact effectively with patients, patient's family, co-workers, and friends; assist patients in attaining and maintaining maximum functional independence; maintain the rights of the residents, patients, and clients; apply proper body mechanics in bed making, lifting, and turning patients; perform basic First Aid, CPR and take patient vital signs and follow infection control measures.

Upon satisfactory completion of this five (5) week Nurse Aide course, the student will receive a Certificate of Completion and allow the student to take the examination required by the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) to become a part of the Nurse Aide Registry thru Pearson VUE. Graduates of this program may find employment as a Certified Nurse Aide in Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Adult Day Care Centers and Home Health Agencies.

Method of Delivery: Residential

Program Outline

Subject #	Subject Title	Contact Hours			
		Lec	Lab	Ext	Total
NA 101	Intro to Long Term Care	16	00	00	16
NA 102	Personal Care Skills	13	09	00	22
NA 103	Basic Nursing Skills	04	04	00	08
NA 104	Restorative Services	04	00	00	04
NA 105	Mental Health & Social Service Needs	06	00	00	06
NA 106	Social Skills	04	00	00	04
NA 107	Nurse Aide Clinical Experience	00	00	40	40
Total Clock Hours		47	13	40	100

CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION TEST

The Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) has contracted with Pearson VUE, to develop, score and report the results of the NNAAP Examination for the Texas Nurse Aide Registry. The Nurse Aide Competency Evaluation Service (NACES) will be working with Pearson VUE to schedule and administer the examination in the state of Texas. The National Nurse Aide Assessment Program (NNAAP) is an examination program designed to determine minimal competency to become a certified nurse aide in the state of Texas.

There are two (2) parts of the NNAAP Examination process:

- ◆ The Texas Skills Examination. Student MUST pass four (4) out of five (5) skills in the Texas Curriculum for Nurse Aides in Long-Term Care Facilities;
- ◆ The NNAAP Written (or Oral) Examination which consists of seventy (70) multiple-choice questions written and sixty (60) multiple-choice and ten (10) reading comprehension questions.

EXAM RESULTS

The nurse aide evaluator will discuss your Skills Examination results; you will sign the Candidate Performance Summary Sheet and receive a copy. After the Written (or Oral) Examination, the nurse aide evaluator will score your answer sheet and will give you your unofficial preliminary results. After Pearson VUE receives your testing materials, your official result will be mailed within ten (10) business days.

Vocational Nursing

Program Description:

This 51 week – 1765 clock hour Vocational Nursing program will prepare the students with the entry-level competencies in the following areas: Enables the student to apply for presentation of NCLEX examination and obtain a vocational nursing licensure; apply for entry-level vocational nursing positions; assist in the determination of predictable healthcare needs of clients within healthcare setting; encourages lifelong learning and provides a foundation for furthering their education; promotes involvement in both professional and community organization and activities; to accept personal accountability for ethical and competent nursing practice, as well as for continuing professional and personal development; to communicate effectively, orally and in writing; to practice nursing under the direction of a registered nurse, advanced practice nurse, physicians' assistant, physician, podiatrist or dentist. Graduates receive a certificate of completion for Vocational Nursing from Rio Grande Valley College. Please see Vocational Nursing Handbook for details pertaining to this program.

Method of Delivery: Residential

Program Outline

<u>Subject Title</u>	<u>Contact Hours</u>			<u>Total</u>
	<u>Lec</u>	<u>Lab</u>	<u>Clinical</u>	
Anatomy & Physiology I	75	0	0	75
Anatomy & Physiology II	90	0	0	90
Foundations of Nursing	80	0	0	80
Fundamental of Nursing	160	100	64	324
Nutrition	30	0	0	30
Maternal Nursing	75	23	100	198
Pediatric Nursing	75	23	100	198
Medical Surgical Nursing I	100	30	150	280
Medical Surgical Nursing II	100	30	150	280
Pharmacology	140	0	0	140
Preceptorship	0	0	70	70
Total Clock Hours	925	206	634	1765

Emergency Medical Technology Program-Basic

(Program not approved or regulated by TWC/CSC)

Program Description:

This 27 week – 830 clock hour course which trains prospective students in competencies that enable the graduate to successfully pass the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians. The Emergency Medical Technician (Basic) will perform skills that include: (a) a brief overview of the human body, (b) techniques as defined in airway and pulmonary resuscitation for adults and special populations, (c) communication using various methods and proper documentation, (d) use of terminology and medical abbreviations as they relate to the EMT-Basic, (e) evaluating the scene for potential hazards, (f) recognizing the signs and symptoms of allergic reactions, (g) summarize signs of medical/behavioral emergencies. (h) traumatic injuries to the spine and head (i) learning the pre-hospital environment and transferring patients with life threatening illness. Upon successful completion of these courses as required by state regulations, graduates receive a certificate of completion for Emergency Medical Technology Program-Basic from Rio Grande Valley College. All students must pass the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians Examination prior to registration as an Emergency Medical Technician-Basic.

Method of Delivery: Residential

Program Outline

Subject #	Subject Title	Lec	Contact Hours			Total
			Lab	Ext		
EMT100	Preparatory	180	30	00	210	
EMT101	Airway	30	30	00	60	
EMT102	Patient Assessment	20	40	00	60	
EMT103	Medical/Behavioral Emergencies and Obstetrics & Gynecology	30	60	00	90	
EMT104	Trauma	30	60	00	90	
EMT105	Infants & Children	30	30	00	60	
EMT106	Operations	30	30	00	60	
EMT 110	Emergency Medical Technology Externship	00	00	200	200	
	Total Clock Hours	350	280	200	830	

Phlebotomy Technician

Program Description:

This 17 week– 490 clock hour course prepares students for employment possibilities in hospitals, doctors' offices and other health-care facilities. Students will learn all tasks related to phlebotomy. Upon completion of this program students will be able to perform laboratory and phlebotomy skills that include phlebotomy procedures, identify the human body systems and functions, demonstrate knowledge of applicable safety regulations and work within the code of ethics and handle equipment properly. Graduates receive a certificate of completion for Phlebotomy Technician from Rio Grande Valley College.

Method of Delivery: Residential

Program Outline

Subject #	Subject Title	Contact Hours			
		Lec	Lab	Ext	Total
MT100	Medical Terminology	30	00	00	30
AP100	Anatomy & Physiology	30	00	00	30
AP101	Pathophysiology	30	00	00	30
CB100	Careers Basics	30	00	00	30
PLB 100	Intro to Phlebotomy	30	00	00	30
PLB 101	Infection Control & Safety	30	00	00	30
PLB 102	Venipuncture Collection	30	60	00	90
PLB 103	Arterial Blood & Non Blood Collection	30	60	00	90
PLB 104	Phlebotomy Review	30	00	00	30
PLB 105	Phlebotomy Clinical Experience	00	00	100	100
	Total Clock Hours	270	120	100	490

SUBJECT DESCRIPTIONS

PHARMACY TECHNICIAN

PHT 101 Orientation to Pharmacy Services

LEC 60/LAB 00/EXT 00/TL 60

This course will introduce the role of the pharmacy technician in the delivery of patient care. Knowledge of automated medication delivery systems is emphasized; knowledge of processing prescription/medication orders and available resources to reduce medication errors in the health delivery process. The student will also follow established procedures for the purchase of pharmaceuticals, equipment, and supplies, and to control inventory according to an established plan that details the handling of their receipt, storage, removal, and documentation. Students will know the legal requirements to secure inventory and drug diversion topics will be reviewed. The student will learn how to prepare compounded and non-compounded products for distribution, and understand the legal implications and requirements for delegation of specific duties by a pharmacist to a pharmacy technician. In addition to preparation, the student will safely retrieve from inventory, profile, calculate, and measure. Course content prepares the graduate to compound nonsterile products, and to accurately calculate ingredient amounts utilizing accepted compounding techniques. Quality assurance is emphasized, as are federal and state laws and regulations controlling the preparation of nonsterile products. The student will also learn how to distribute medications according to federal and state laws and regulations, utilizing current methods in various practice settings. [Prerequisite: PDMT100, MT100, AP100, AP101, MOS101]

PHT 102 Pharmaceutical Computer Systems and Applications

LEC 30/LAB 30/EXT 00/TL 60

This subject will allow the student to gather patient information to assist the pharmacist in conducting Drug Utilization Evaluation and Medication Therapy Management. The student will learn how to use various forms of technology used in the practice of pharmacy today for storing, accessing and recording pharmacy data. Course content prepares the graduate to receive and screen prescriptions or medication orders, and understand the legal implications and requirements for completeness, authenticity, demonstrate the skills to carry out tasks delegated to pharmacy technicians by pharmacists. Students will also learn specific interviewing techniques that help to identify a patient's need for counseling by the pharmacist. [Prerequisite: PHT101, Orientation to Pharmacy Services]

PHT 103 Aseptic Techniques, Sterile and Non-Sterile Compounding and Intravenous

LEC 60/LAB 30/EXT 00/TL 90

During this course, the student will learn how to compound sterile products. Sterility procedures are emphasized, as are incompatibilities and how to handle them. Quality assurance standards are applied to pharmacy practices, and the student is prepared to practice in accordance with the federal and state laws and regulations that govern sterile product preparation. Students will learn how to compound hazardous drugs according to federal state laws and regulations. Quality assurance and safety standards and practices are applied to their preparation as well as procedures for maintaining pharmacy equipment and facilities. Also emphasized are methods for proper handling of hazardous wastes and sharps, and the application of concepts for effective infection control. Students are also prepared to calibrate and troubleshoot commonly used pharmacy equipment and devices. [Prerequisite: PHT 102, Pharmaceutical Computer Systems and Applications]

PHT 104 Pharmacology for the Pharmacy Technician

LEC 60/LAB 00/EXT 00/TL 60

This course prepares the student to understand the therapeutic use of prescription and nonprescription medications for prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of diseases affecting each of the following physiologic systems of the human body: Nervous, Endocrine, Skeletal Muscular, Cardiovascular, Respiratory, Gastrointestinal Genitourinary, Reproductive, Immune Special Senses, Dermatologic, Hematologic and specialized areas, as applicable. The student will also learn how to assist the pharmacist in preparing, storing and distributing investigational drug products. Students are prepared to follow established protocols for recording the preparation and distribution of these products, as well as protocols for investigational drug product storage. [Prerequisite: PHT 103, Aseptic Technique, Sterile and Non-Sterile Compounding and Intravenous]

PHT 105 Pharmaceutical Billing and Quality Assurance

LEC 30/LAB 00/EXT 00/TL 30

During this course, the student will verify third-party coverage, delineation between taxable and nontaxable items and apply methods to assure that the medication-use system utilized by the pharmacy is safe. Emphasized are various technologies that have been proven effective for medication safety assurance. Graduates are also prepared to identify and report errors. Course content prepares the graduate to bill and collect payments for pharmacy goods and services. [Prerequisite: PHT 104, Pharmacology for the Pharmacy Technician]

PHT 106 Pharmacy Technician Clinical Experience

LEC 00/LAB 00/EXT 210/TL 210

During this portion of the program students will successfully complete theory and laboratory. The students will be assigned to a pharmacy for 180 clock hours to work under the supervision of a registered pharmacist. The student's duties will be counting medication, pouring of soluble medications, entering prescription drug order information into computers, selecting proper containers, affixing auxiliary labels, drug product pre-packing, mixing sterile I.V. solutions, and proper use of medication for pharmacist review. Applications of O.S.H.A. rules and regulations will be demonstrated by the student. [Prerequisites: PHT 100 through PHT 105]

PHT107 Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam Review

LEC 30/LAB 00/EXT 00/TL 30

Upon completion of this course, the student will apply all material learned thru the duration of the program and demonstrates mastery of the subjects covered by sitting in a review and mastering a competency test to pass the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board exam.

MEDICAL ASSISTANT / MEDICAL BILLING AND CODING SPECIALIST

MT100 Medical Terminology

LEC 30/LAB 00/EXT 00/TL 30

During this portion of the program, students will learn how to apply and understand basic medical terminology, abbreviations and symbols. They will learn: 1) Suffixes, Prefixes, Root Words and Combining Forms 2.) How to build medical terminology using suffixes prefixes, root words and combining forms. [Prerequisite: None]

AP100 Anatomy and Physiology

LEC 30/LAB 00/EXT 00/TL 30

During this portion of the program students will learn the basic working knowledge of the human body systems and identify the basic functions using audio and visual presentations. [Prerequisite: MT 100 Medical Terminology]

AP101 Pathophysiology

LEC 30/LAB 00/EXT 00/TL 30

Students of this subject will learn the structural hierarchy of the body, anatomical locations, and the major body systems, common pathology, diseases associated with each of the body systems and the diagnostic and treatment modalities for each. [Prerequisite: MT100 Medical Terminology and AP100 Anatomy & Physiology]

MOS100 Medical Office Administrative Procedures

LEC 30/LAB 00/EXT 00/TL 30

Upon completion of this subject, students will be able to apply medical office skills such as: filing, indexing, appointment scheduling, telephone techniques, office machines, customer service and business transactions. [Prerequisites: MT100]

PDMT100 Professional Development with Medical Technology

LEC 30/LAB 60/EXT 00/TL90

Upon completion of this course, students will be introduced to the legal system and learn to differentiate between law and ethics. Students will also learn oral and written communication and basic writing skills that will give them the practice in writing e-mails, messages, memos, and professional letters. Students will also be able to identify the barriers of oral communication and how to better respond to others who may be affected by a wide spectrum of physical and/or emotional states in the workplace. Students will learn the basic use of keys, numbers, and symbols of keyboarding. The student will also learn basic computer concepts and features of Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Outlook applications and integrate data between the applications by completing lab assignments. [Prerequisite: None]

INS100 Medical Insurance 1

LEC 30/LAB 00/EXT 00/TL30

Upon completion of this course, student will learn the medical insurance industry, legal issues surrounding insurance claims processing and are emerged into insurance industry basics learning about the different types of insurance coverage, plan options, and an examination of the insurance policy itself. Students also learn how to perform basic coding and are introduced to their first insurance form. [Prerequisites: MT100, AP100, MOS100 and ML100]

INS101 Medical Insurance 2

LEC 30/LAB 00/EXT 00/TL 30

Upon completion of this course, the student will learn the importance of reimbursement policies and health care plans for government/state, BC/BS, TRICARE, CHAMPVA, Medicare and Medicaid. [Prerequisites: INS100]

EHR100 Electronic Health Records 1 (Front Office)

LEC 10/LAB 20/EXT 00/TL 30

Upon completion of this course, student will learn to use practice management software which incorporates meaningful use in today's electronic health records. Through its use, the student will enhance their working knowledge to fully understand how electronic health records are used in today's physician's offices in the reception area. [Prerequisites: MT100, AP100, AP101, INS100, INS101 & COM100]

EHR101 Electronic Health Records 2 (Clinical)

LEC 10/LAB 20/EXT 00/TL 30

Upon completion of this course, the student will learn the practice management software which incorporates meaningful use in today's electronic health records. Through its use, the student will be able to input patient clinical data as it is used in electronic health records in today's physician's offices in the clinical department. [Prerequisites: MT 100, AP100, AP101, COM100, MOS100, PHT100, EHR100]

EHR102 Electronic Health Records 3 (Billing)

LEC 20/LAB 20/EXT 00/TL 60

Upon completion of this course, student will learn how to electronically enter patient transactions in the practice management software as it relates to meaningful use in today's electronic health records. The student will learn how to enter, edit and delete charges, payments and other financial information on the patient ledger. They will also learn how to electronically submit clean, corrected and appealed claims. [Prerequisite: EHR100]

CB100 Career Basics

LEC 10/LAB 20/EXT 00/TL 30

Upon completion of this course, the student will learn techniques for successful job seeking efforts in the health care industry. Students will learn different types of effective resume writing and cover letters. Additionally, students will learn interviewing techniques and negotiating tips. [Prerequisite: None]

CLIN100 Clinical Procedures 1: Fundamentals of Clinical Medical Assisting

LEC 20/LAB 40/EXT 00/TL 60

Upon completion of this subject, students will be able to apply the role of a Medical Assistant in relation to working as a health care provider, the knowledge of ethical considerations and standards as applied in the lab. They will learn the concepts of disease transmission and the

body's response to infection to form the basis for understanding the importance of first line defense in preventing disease. Students will also learn to gather information from patients about their health status and measurements of vital signs and assist with the very basic physical examinations. [Prerequisite: MT100 Medical Terminology]

CLIN101 Clinical Procedures 2: Assisting with Medications

LEC 20/LAB 40/EXT 00/TL 60

The student will learn the fundamental principles of pharmacology including brand and trade names of medications with common prescribed medications as well as its indications of use. Students will also learn how to calculate using basic math to get the correct dosages as prescribed by a physician and administer medications either through injections, by mouth, or topically. Students will learn about cultures and diagnostic procedures used with the different types of specialties. Students will learn to prepare for and assist with specialty examinations. [Prerequisite: MT100 Medical Terminology and CLIN 100 Clinical Procedures 1: Fundamentals of Clinical Medical Assisting]

CLIN102 Clinical Procedures 3: Assisting with Medical Specialties

LEC 20/LAB 40/EXT 00/TL 60

During this portion of the program, students will learn the basic concepts of using an electrocardiograph to collect an accurate reading to determine a diagnosis of heart disease. Students will be able to perform patient assessment and patient care according to specialties. [Prerequisite: MT100 Medical Terminology]

CLIN103 Clinical Procedures 4: Diagnostic Procedures

LEC 20/LAB 40/EXT 00/TL 60

Students will learn the different types of blood cells and their function as well as collecting capillary blood. Students will also assist with the collection of bodily fluids such as stool, urine, sputum and collect venous blood samples using various techniques. [Prerequisite: MT100 Medical Terminology and CLIN100 Clinical Procedures 1: Fundamentals of Clinical Medical Assisting]

CLIN104 Clinical Procedures 5: Assisting with Surgery

LEC 20/LAB 40/EXT 00/TL 60

Upon completion of this program, student will learn to prepare the patients and the sterile field to assist the physician for surgeries. Student will also learn the surgical supplies and instruments for different types of situations the physician may require. Students will be able to perform patient assessment, recognize and respond to life-threatening emergencies and perform CPR. Students will be educating patients, including nutrition and health promotion. [Prerequisite: CLIN100 Clinical Procedures 1: Fundamentals of Clinical Medical Assisting]

CLIN105 MA Credentialing and Exam Review

LEC 30/LAB 00/EXT 00/TL 30

Upon completion of this course, the student will apply all material learned thru the duration of the program and demonstrates mastery of the subjects covered by sitting in a review and mastering a competency test to pass a national certification exam. [Prerequisite: MT100 Medical Terminology, AP100 Anatomy and Physiology, AP101 Pathophysiology, MOS100 Medical Office Administrative Procedures, INS100 Medical Insurance 1, INS101 Medical Insurance 2, CLIN100-CLIN104]

MA110 Medical Assistant Externship

LEC 00/LAB 00/EXT 00/TL 190

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to apply the academic skills and training learned in the classroom setting in a real-life work environment related to their field of study under the direct supervision of an outside accredited affiliate site. [Prerequisite: CLIN100-104]

MBC100 Coding and Reimbursement Implementation 1 (ICD-10-CM)

LEC 20/LAB 40/EXT 00/TL 60

Upon completion of this course, the student will learn to apply rules, guidelines and principles used in ICD-10CM coding descriptive diagnosis in relation to coding manual symbols. During this portion of the program, students will demonstrate an entry-level understanding of implementation on coding diagnoses using ICD-10 CM. [Prerequisite: MT100, AP100-101, PHT100, INS100-101]

MBC101 Coding & Reimbursement Implementation 2 (CPT & HCPCS)

LEC 20/LAB 40/EXT 00/TL 60

Upon completion of this course, the student will learn to apply the CPT and HCPCS level II National Procedural Coding process as implemented in the medical office. Students will be able to translate narrative documentation to numerical language for maximum reimbursement. Students will also be able to translate narrative documentation to numerical language for the Evaluation and Management Section for maximum reimbursement. [Prerequisite: MBC100]

MBC102 CODING & REIMBURSEMENT IMPLEMENTATION 3 (CPT-4 Edition)

LEC 30/LAB 60/EXT 00/TL 90

Upon completions of this course, students will learn to apply the CPT coding process as implemented in the medical office for the additional 5 major sections. Students will be able to translate narrative documentation to numerical language for Anesthesia, Surgery, Radiology, Pathology & Laboratory and Medicine for maximum reimbursement. Students will also learn the principles of pharmacology and apply pharmacy as it relates to medical coding and billing. [Prerequisite: MBC101]

MBC103 MBCS Credentialing and Exam Review

LEC 30/LAB 00/EXT 00/TL 30

Upon completion of this course, the student will apply all material learned thru the duration of the program and demonstrates mastery of the subjects covered by sitting in a review and mastering a competency test to pass a national certification exam. [Prerequisite: MBC100-MBC103]

MBC110 Medical Billing & Coding Specialist Externship

LEC 00/LAB 00/EXT 240/TL 240

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to apply the academic skills and training learned in the classroom setting in a real-life work environment related to their field of study under the direct supervision of an outside accredited affiliate site. [Prerequisite: MBC100-MBC103]

PHLEBOTOMY TECHNICIAN PROGRAM

PLB 100 Introduction to Phlebotomy

LEC 30/LAB 00/EXT 00/TL 30

This subject introduces students to the routine and safety related to blood collection. Upon completion of this subject students will be able to apply the role of a phlebotomist in relation to working as a health care provider, the knowledge of ethical considerations and standards as applied in the lab. [Prerequisite: None]

PLB 101 Infection Control & Safety

LEC 30/LAB 00/EXT 00/TL 30

During the portion of the program students will understand the importance of laboratory safety. The students will understand OSHA regulations and fire safety procedures which include compliance to OSHA rules for laboratory operation and phlebotomy personnel. Students will demonstrate proficiency in subjects such as category specifics, isolations, scope of universal precautions, (MSDS) purpose, CLIA and fire safety. In the area of maintaining a safe working environment, the students will apply the standards which provide for a clean and germ free working area. Students will identify how various infections such as nosocomial and autogenously are spread and prevented which include the different routes of disease transmission. Students will also be able to identify the different isolation wards in a hospital. [Prerequisite: PLB 100 Introduction to Phlebotomy]

PLB 102 Venipuncture Collection

LEC 30/LAB 60/EXT 00/TL 90

During this portion of the program, students will demonstrate how to use a syringe, the vacutainer system, lancets for finger sticks, the butterfly system and angles of venipuncture. The students will be able to position the patient correctly and select the appropriate venipuncture site. The students will perform a safe and effective venipuncture, assess a failed venipuncture, identify specimens, and prioritize specimen collection. They will learn how to: 1) administer injections with precautions, 2) identify laboratory equipment, and 3) the maintenance skills for all equipment used. [Prerequisite: PLB 101, Infection Control & Safety]

PLB 103 Arterial Blood & Non Blood Collection

LEC 30/LAB 60/EXT 00/TL 90

Upon completion of this subject students will be able to: 1) do procedural urinalysis, 2) use microscopic techniques to analyze urine and other bodily fluid samples, 3) determine the cell types in normal and infected urine 4) complete a test report describing these procedures 5) demonstrate the collection of specimens and perform a chemical analysis including testing for glucose and hematuria 6) learn the basics of arterial blood composition and the reasons arterial blood may be collected including specialized equipment, site selection, testing of collateral circulation, and radial artery puncture.[Prerequisite: PLB 102 Venipuncture Collection]

PLB 104 Phlebotomy Exam Review

LEC 30/LAB 00/EXT 00/TL 30

Upon completion of this course, the student will apply all material learned thru the duration of the program and demonstrates mastery of the subjects covered by sitting in a review and mastering a competency test to pass the National Certified Phlebotomy Technician (NCPT). [Prerequisite: PLB 100 Phlebotomy Ethics – PLB 103 Arterial Blood & Non Blood Collection]

PLB 105 Phlebotomy Clinical Experience

LEC 00/LAB 00/EXT 00/TL 100

During the portion of this program, students will put into practice the skills they have gained in the previous subjects. Students will be placed in a clinical setting such as a doctor's office, laboratory and/or hospital to perform venipuncture and other non-blood collection and demonstrate interaction with patients. [Prerequisite: PLB 100 Phlebotomy Ethics – PLB 103 Arterial Blood & Non Blood Collection]

NURSE AIDE PROGRAM

NA 101 Introduction to Long Term Care

LEC 16/LAB 00/EXT 00/TL 16

Student will demonstrate skills in long term-care areas such as: safety/emergency situations, infection control, residents rights and independence, ethical and legal aspects of nursing care, observations and communication to meet basic human needs. [Prerequisite: None]

NA 102 Personal Care Skills

LEC 13/LAB 09/EXT 00/TL 22

Students will learn how to apply proper body mechanics to prevent injury to self and elderly. Students will assist patients with bathing, skin care, grooming, hygiene, and demonstrate bed making, comfort measures for patients, early morning patient-care and bedtime care. They will show the basics of patient care relative to the integumentary system. All facets of patient care will include home and nursing facility environments. [Prerequisite: NA 101, Introduction to Long Term Care]

NA 103 Basic Nursing Skills

LEC 04/LAB 04/EXT 00/TL 08

Students will demonstrate skills in the nutritional needs and diet modifications for the patient along with adequate hydration and good knowledge of elimination process. They will record patient's fluid intake and output and the procedures in collecting and testing fluid specimens, and show understanding of the urinary system. Students will describe the gastrointestinal system and common disorders. They will describe body temperature, pulse rate, and blood pressure. They will demonstrate measuring height and weight, admission of patient,

transfer and discharge of residents of homecare agencies and nursing facilities. Students will show how to maintain a specific condition and learn how to help the patient's family cope with the dying or death of their loved one. [Prerequisite: NA 102, Personal Care Skills]

NA 104 Restorative Services

LEC 04/LAB 00/EXT 00/TL 04

Students will learn how to promote and maintain restoration of the elderly in the hospital, nursing home or in their residence. [Prerequisite: NA 103, Basic Nursing Skills]

NA 105 Mental Health and Social Needs

LEC 06/LAB 00/EXT 00/TL 06

Students will learn the basic psychosocial needs of the elderly, specific behavior problems found in the elderly. E.g., short-term memory, poor hearing and eyesight, as it relates to aging and how to assist with impairments. [Prerequisite: NA 104, Restorative Services]

NA106 Social Skills

LEC 04/LAB 00/EXT 00/TL 04

Students will learn how to promote a positive workplace environment by applying the five main approaches in resolving conflicts with co-workers, supervisors and residents. They are as follow: identify the problem, realize there is a solution, exchange viewpoints, create and agree in the resolution. Students will also be able to describe different technology programs used with resident care, discuss the benefits of suing technology in nursing home, discuss, give examples and role play inappropriate uses of social media in the workplace; describe ways that social media can benefit healthcare; and discuss consequences of inappropriate use of social media. [Prerequisite: NA 105 Mental Health and Social Needs]

VOCATIONAL NURSING

Anatomy and Physiology I

LEC 75/LAB 00/CLIN 00/TL 75

This course is a two-part course in human anatomy and physiology that is designed to give a clear understanding of the normal body as a basis for understanding variations from the normal and to provide a basis for understanding disease processes encountered in nursing. The course demonstrates a transition from the simple to complex as related to concepts and systems. Prerequisite: None

Anatomy and Physiology II

LEC 90/LAB 00/CLIN 00/TL 90

This course is a two-part course in human anatomy and physiology that is designed to give a clear understanding of the normal body as a basis for understanding variations from the normal and to provide a basis for understanding disease processes encountered in nursing. The course demonstrates a transition from the simple to complex as related to concepts and systems. Prerequisite: Anatomy and Physiology II

Foundations of Nursing

LEC 80/LAB 00/CLIN 00/TL 80

This course is designed to introduce the beginning vocational nursing student to concepts that form a foundation for the practice of nursing. Suggestions related to improving study skills will be included. Concepts that will enable the student to have a better understanding of themselves, the nursing professional and their roles as a member of the health care team will be presented. In addition, an introduction to topics related to broad concepts of patient care will be explored. Prerequisite: None

Fundamentals of Nursing

LEC 160/LAB 100/CLIN 64/TL 324

This course is designed to provide the vocational nursing student with both theoretical knowledge and practical experience related to the performance of those skills necessary for patient care. Skills are taught in a progression of the simple to the complex. Time is provided for the student to practice and perform a return demonstration of the learned skills in the laboratory. Prerequisite: Foundations of Nursing

Nutrition

LEC 30/LAB 00/CLIN 00/TL 30

This course introduces the student to the principles of normal nutrition in health, including essential nutrients and dietary planning or maintaining a proper nutritional state. Principles of therapeutic nutrition are also introduced. Prerequisite: None

Pharmacology

LEC 140/LAB 00/CLIN 00/TL 140

A general course which gives an introduction to drug classification and provides a foundation for specific drug therapy, including nursing implications. This course includes a review of basic mathematics, weight systems, and calculation of dosages. Prerequisite: None

Maternal Nursing

LEC 75/LAB 23/CLIN 100/TL 198

This course is designed to introduce the student to the basic concepts and care related to the obstetrical client and the newborn. The comparison of present-day concepts, issues and trends related to maternal childcare as compared to those of the past are included. The holistic needs of the obstetrical client, including cultural consideration, will be emphasized related goals and nursing interventions with the indicated rationale of each. Client education will be included where indicated. The needs of the obstetrical client and newborn will be discussed during the Antepartum, Intrapartum, and Postpartum periods. Contraceptive methods and family planning will be presented as it relates to postpartum teaching. Characteristics and care of the newborn will focus on assessment, goals, nursing interventions with rationales and the evaluation of the normal newborn. Prerequisite: Foundations of Nursing, Fundamentals of Nursing, and Anatomy and Physiology I-II

Pediatric Nursing

LEC 75/LAB 23/EXT 100/TL 198

This course is designed to introduce the student to the basic concepts and care related to the pediatric client. The primary focus will be on caring for the growing child and family from infancy through adolescence. The course will be structured by age groups. The discussion of each age group will include an overview of growth and development, medical and surgical conditions and child health issues. Special consideration regarding pediatric procedures and end-of-life issues will be discussed. Prerequisite: Foundations of Nursing, Fundamentals of Nursing, Anatomy & Physiology I & II and Nutrition

Medical Surgical Nursing I

LEC 100/LAB 30/CLIN 150/TL 280

This course is designed to give the student a basic understanding of the concepts of Medical Surgical nursing including the definition and etiology of diseases/disorders, methods of diagnosis, signs and symptoms, treatment and nursing care including aspects of pharmacology and nutrition. Emphasis is placed on the nursing process. The course is organized by functioning systems. The course is arranged so that the presentation of systems moves from simple to complex. Mental Health will be a part of Medical Surgical I. Prerequisite: Foundations of Nursing, Fundamentals of Nursing, and Anatomy and Physiology I-II

Medical Surgical Nursing II

LEC 100/LAB 30/CLIN 150/TL 280

This course is designed to give the student a basic understanding of the concepts of Medical Surgical nursing including the definition and etiology of diseases/disorders, methods of diagnosis, signs and symptoms, treatment and nursing care including aspects of pharmacology and nutrition. Emphasis is placed on the nursing process. The course is organized by functioning systems. The course is arranged so that the presentation of systems moves from simple to complex. Mental Health will be a part of Medical Surgical II. Prerequisite: Medical Surgical Nursing I.

Preceptorship

LEC 00/LAB 00/CLIN 70/TL 70

This course is designed to give the student a basic clinical experience in a healthcare setting under the supervision of a licensed, professional Registered Nurse/Licensed Vocational Nurse. The student will be able to incorporate the knowledge obtained during the didactic part of the vocational nursing program and the clinical rotation experience to a higher level of patient care. The preceptorship program will enable the student to incorporate his/her critical thinking skills and clinical skills in the care of different disease processes utilizing the nursing process for the holistic approach to the care of a diverse population of patients in different hospital settings. Prerequisite: Successful completion of all Vocational Nursing Courses

****Please see the Vocational Nursing Student Handbook for details pertaining to additional policies and procedures***

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN – BASIC**EMT100 Preparatory**

LEC 180/LAB 30/EXT 00/TL 210

Upon completion of this course, students will familiarize themselves to the introductory aspects of emergency medical care. Topics covered include the Emergency Medical Services system, roles and responsibilities of the EMT-Basic, quality improvement, and medical direction. The EMT-Basic will also cover the emotional aspects of emergency care, stress management, introduction to Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD), scene safety, body substance isolation (BSI), personal protection equipment (PPE), and safety precautions that can be taken prior to performing the role of an EMT-Basic. The student will explore the scope of practice, ethical responsibilities, advance directives, consent, refusals, abandonment, negligence, duty to act, confidentiality, and special situations such as organ donors and crime scenes. Medical/legal and ethical issues are vital elements of the EMT-Basic's daily life. This course will also enhance the EMT -Basic's knowledge of the human body. A brief overview of body systems, anatomy, physiology and topographic anatomy will be given in this session. Teaches assessing and recording of a patient's vital signs and a SAMPLE history. The EMT-Basic will be knowledgeable of body mechanics, lifting and carrying techniques, principles of moving patients, and an overview of equipment. Practical skills of lifting and moving will also be developed during this lesson. [Prerequisite: CPR Certification (BLS)]

EMT101 Airway

LEC 30/LAB 30/EXT 00/TL 60

Upon completion of this course, students will learn the airway anatomy and physiology, how to maintain an open airway, pulmonary resuscitation, variations for infants and children and patients with laryngectomies, the use of airways, suction equipment, oxygen equipment and delivery systems, and resuscitation devices will be discussed in this lesson. The EMT-Basic will be provided with supervised practice to develop the psychomotor skills of airway care, the use of airways, suction equipment, oxygen equipment and delivery systems, and resuscitation devices will be included in this lesson. [Prerequisite: EMT100, Preparatory]

EMT102 Patient Assessment

LEC 20/LAB 40/EXT 00/TL 60

Upon completion of this course, students will gain the ability to evaluate a scene for potential hazards, determine, by the number of patients if additional help is necessary, and evaluate mechanism of injury or nature of illness. The student will also be provided the knowledge and skills to properly perform the initial assessment. In this session, the student will learn about forming a general impression, determining responsiveness, assessment of the airway, breathing and circulation. Students will also discuss how to determine priorities of patient care. The EMT-Basic will describe and demonstrate the method of assessing patients' traumatic injuries. The student will use a rapid approach to the trauma patient which will be the focus of this lesson. The student will describe and demonstrate the method of assessing patients with medical complaints or signs and symptoms. This lesson will also serve as an introduction to the care of the medical patient and will teach the knowledge and skills required to continue the assessment and treatment of the patient. This course stresses the importance of trending,

recording changes in the patient's condition, and reassessment of interventions to assure appropriate care; it also discusses the components of a communication system, radio communications, and communication with medical direction, verbal communication, interpersonal communication, and quality improvement. The EMT-Basic will understand the components of the written report, special considerations regarding patient refusal, the legal implications of the report, and special reporting situations; reports are an important aspect of prehospital care. This skill will be integrated into all student practices. The student will integrate the knowledge and skills learned thus far to assure that the student has the knowledge and skills of assessment necessary to continue with the management of patients with medical complaints and traumatic injuries. The instructor will conduct a written and skills evaluation to determine the student's level of achievement of the cognitive, psychomotor and affective objectives from this module of instruction. [Prerequisite: EMT 101, Airway]

EMT103 Medical/Behavioral Emergencies and Obstetrics & Gynecology

LEC 30/LAB 60/EXT 00/TL 90

Upon completion of this course, students will have a basic knowledge of pharmacology, providing a foundation for the administration of medications given by the EMT-Basic and those used to assist a patient with self-administration; reviews components of the lesson on respiratory anatomy and physiology and will also provide instruction on assessment of respiratory difficulty and emergency medical care of respiratory problems, and the administration of prescribed inhalers. The student will review the cardiovascular system, an introduction to the signs and symptoms of cardiovascular disease, administration of a patient's prescribed nitroglycerin, and use of the automated external defibrillator. The EMT-Basic will review the signs and symptoms of altered level of consciousness, the emergency medical care of a patient with signs and symptoms of altered mental status and a history of diabetes, and the administration of oral glucose. The student will recognize the signs and symptoms of an allergic reaction, and will learn to assist the patient with a prescribed epinephrine auto-injector. The student will also learn to recognize the signs and symptoms of poisoning and overdose; information on the administration of activated charcoal is also included in this section. This course covers recognizing the signs and symptoms of heat and cold exposure, as well as the emergency medical care of these conditions. Information on aquatic emergencies and bites and stings will also be included in this lesson. The student's awareness will be enhanced with behavioral emergencies and the management of the disturbed patient; restraining the combative patient will also be taught in this lesson. The student will learn anatomical and physiological changes that occur during pregnancy, demonstrate normal and abnormal deliveries, summarize signs and symptoms of common gynecological emergencies, and neonatal resuscitation. He/she will draw on the knowledge and skills learned thus far in this practical lab. Students will be given the opportunity to assess and treat a variety of patients with various medical complaints [Prerequisite: EMT102 Patient Assessment]

EMT104 Trauma

LEC 30/LAB 60/EXT 00/TL 90

Upon completion of this course, the EMT-Basic student will assess and review the cardiovascular system, describe the care of the patient with internal and external bleeding, signs and symptoms of shock (hypo perfusion), and the emergency medical care of shock (hypo perfusion). The student will continue with the information taught in Bleeding and Shock, discussing the anatomy of the skin and the management of soft tissue injuries and the management of burns. Techniques of dressing and bandaging wounds will also be taught in this lesson. Reviews of the musculoskeletal system before recognition of signs and symptoms of a painful, swollen, deformed extremity and splinting are taught in this section. The student will also review the anatomy of the nervous system and the skeletal system; injuries to the spine and head, including mechanism of injury, signs and symptoms of injury, and assessment. Emergency medical care, including the use of cervical immobilization devices and short and long back boards will also be discussed and demonstrated by the instructor and students. Other topics include helmet removal and infant and child considerations. The student will be provided with practice of the assessment and management of patients with traumatic injuries. [Prerequisite: EMT103 Medical/Behavioral Emergencies and Obstetrics & Gynecology]

EMT105 Infants and Children

LEC 30/LAB 30/EXT 00/TL 60

Upon completion of this course, the student will be presented with information concerning the developmental and anatomical developmental and anatomical differences in infants and children, discuss common medical and trauma situations, and also covered are infants children dependent on special technology; dealing with an ill or injured infant or child patient has always been a challenge for EMS providers. The student will be provided with the opportunity to interact with infants and children, and to practice the knowledge and skills learned thus far concerning this special population. [Prerequisite: EMT104, Trauma]

EMT106 Operations

LEC 30/LAB 30/EXT 00/TL 60

Upon completion of this course, students will be presented an overview of the knowledge needed to function in the prehospital environment. Topics covered include responding to a call, emergency vehicle operations, transferring patients, and the phases of an ambulance call. The EMT-Basic student will be provided with an overview of rescue operations. The topics covered include roles and responsibilities at a crash scene, equipment, gaining access, and removing the patient. This course will provide the EMT-Basic student with information on hazardous materials, incident management systems, mass casualty situations, and basic triage. [Prerequisite: EMT105, Infants and Children]

EMT 110 Emergency Medical Technology Externship

LEC 00/LAB 00/EXT 200/TL 200

During this portion of the program students will have successfully completed theory and laboratory. The students will be assigned to a ambulance and pre-hospital setting to work 200 hours under the supervision of a registered nurse or a licensed vocational nurse. The student's duties will be to act in uncommon circumstances; comprehend stress levels and ensure his/her well-being; understand common medical and legal conventions; adhere to all regulatory agencies and also comply with the protection of the emergent sick and injured. [Prerequisite: EMT100-105]

TRUE AND CORRECT STATEMENT

I certify that the information contained in this student catalog is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: Annabelle P. Rodriguez
Dr. Annabelle P. Rodriguez, School Director

INSERTS

OBSERVED HOLIDAYS

Classes and lectures will be adjusted to accommodate the holidays that fall on a class day. (Monday thru Friday).

New Year's Day.....	01/01/18
Spring Break All Students	3/12/18 thru 3/16/18
Good Friday.....	03/30/18
Memorial Day.....	05/28/18
Independence Day.....	07/04/18
Labor Day.....	09/03/18
Thanksgiving Day.....	11/22/18
Christmas Holiday All Students	12/23/18 thru 01/04/19

New Year's Day.....	01/01/19
Spring Break All Students	3/11/19 thru 3/15/19
Good Friday.....	04/19/19
Memorial Day.....	05/27/19
Independence Day.....	07/04/19
Labor Day.....	09/02/19
Thanksgiving Day.....	11/28-29/19
Christmas Holiday All Students	12/23/19 thru 01/03/20

New Year's Day.....	01/01/20
Spring Break All Students	3/9/20 thru 3/13/20
Good Friday.....	04/10/20
Memorial Day.....	05/25/20
Labor Day.....	09/07/20
Thanksgiving Day.....	11/26-26/20
Christmas Holiday All Students	12/21/20 thru 1/1/21

TUITION AND FEES

Nurse Aide Program

100 Clock Hours/Five (5) Weeks

Tuition	\$ 1,100.00
Registration Fee	100.00
Total Cost	<u>\$ 1,200.00</u>

Medical Assistant

940 Clock Hours/7 Months

Tuition	\$ 15,450.00
Registration Fee	100.00
Total Cost	<u>\$15,550.00</u>

Medical Billing & Coding Specialist

900 Clock Hours/7 Months

Tuition	\$ 15,400.00
Registration Fee	100.00
Total Cost	<u>\$15,500.00</u>

Pharmacy Technician

780 Clock Hours/6 Months

Tuition	\$ 16,200.00
Registration Fee	100.00
Total Cost	<u>\$ 16,300.00</u>

Phlebotomy Technician Program

490 Clock Hours

Tuition	\$ 2,725.00
Registration Fee	100.00
Textbooks	75.00
Supplies	<u>100.00</u>
Total Cost	<u>\$ 3,000.00</u>

Vocational Nursing

1765 Clock Hours

Tuition	\$27,400.00
Registration Fee	100.00
Total Cost	<u>\$27,500.00</u>

Emergency Medical Technician Program – Basic

(Program not approved or regulated by TWC-CSC)

Tuition	\$ 14,129.00
Registration Fee	<u>100.00</u>
Total Cost	<u>14,229.00</u>

ICD-10CM Implementation (Seminar)

60 Clock Hours

Tuition (textbooks and supplies included)	\$ 1,100.00
Registration Fee	<u>100.00</u>
Total Cost	<u>\$ 1,200.00</u>

Textbook Cost and Supplies Included in Tuition

DAILY CLASS SCHEDULE

Medical Assistant / Day Schedule

940 Clock Hours/33 Weeks /8 Months (Approximate)

Medical Billing & Coding Specialist / Day Schedule

900 Clock Hours/30 Weeks/7 Months (Approximate)

Pharmacy Technician Program / Day Schedule

780 Clock Hours / 27 Weeks/7 Months (Approximate)

Phlebotomy Technician Program / Day Schedule

490 Clock Hours / 17 Weeks/6 Months (Approximate)

Emergency Medical Technician Program/Day Schedule

(Program not approved or regulated by TWC -CSC)

830 Clock Hours/27 Weeks/6 Months Approximately

Monday thru Friday	
8:30 am – 9:20 am	1 st Period
9:20 am – 9:30 am	Break
9:30 am – 10:20 am	2 nd Period
10:20 am – 10:30 am	Break
10:30 am – 11:20 am	3 rd Period
11:20 am – 11:30 am	Break
11:30 am – 12:20 pm	4 th Period
12:20 pm – 12:40 pm	Lunch Break
12:40 pm – 1:30 pm	5 th Period
1:30 pm – 1:40 pm	Break
1:40 pm – 2:30 pm	6 th Period

Nurse Aide Program / Day Schedule

100 Clock Hours/5 Weeks (Approximate)

Monday thru Friday	
8:30 am – 9:20 am	1 st Period
9:20 am – 9:30 am	Break
9:30 am – 10:20 am	2 nd Period
10:20 am – 10:30 am	Break
10:30 am – 11:20 am	3 rd Period
11:20 am – 11:30 am	Break
11:30 am – 12:20 pm	4 th Period
12:20 pm – 12:40 pm	Lunch Break

Vocational Nursing Program / Day Schedule

1765 Clock Hours/51 Weeks/13 Months (Approximate)

Monday thru Friday	
8:30 am – 9:20 am	1 st Period
9:20 am – 9:30 am	Break
9:30 am – 10:20 am	2 nd Period
10:20 am – 10:30 am	Break
10:30 am – 11:20 am	3 rd Period
11:20 am – 11:30 am	Break
11:30 am – 12:20 pm	4 th Period
12:20 pm – 1:20 pm	Lunch Break
1:20 pm – 2:10 pm	5 th Period
2:10 pm – 2:20 pm	Break
2:20 pm – 3:10 pm	6 th Period
3:10 pm – 3:20 pm	Break
3:20 pm – 4:10 pm	7 th Period

EVENING/WEEKEND SCHEDULE

Medical Assistant / 11 Months (Approximate)

Medical Billing & Coding Specialist / 11 Months (Approximate)

Pharmacy Technician / 9 Months (Approximate)

Vocational Nursing Program /81 Weeks/19 Months (Approximate)

Nurse Aide Program / 5 Weeks

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday	
5:30 pm – 6:20 pm	1 st Period
6:20 pm – 6:30 pm	Break
6:30 pm – 7:20 pm	2 nd Period
7:20 pm – 7:30 pm	Break
7:30 pm – 8:20 pm	3 rd Period
8:20 pm – 8:30 pm	Break
8:30 pm – 9:20 pm	4 th Period

Saturday	
8:00 am – 8:50 am	1 st Period
8:50 am – 9:00 am	Break
9:00 am – 9:50 am	2 nd Period
9:50 am – 10:00 am	Break
10:00 am – 10:50 am	3 rd Period
10:50 am – 11:00 am	Break
11:00 am – 11:50 am	4 th Period
11:50 am – 12:50 pm	Lunch Break
12:50 pm – 1:40 pm	5 th Period
1:40 pm – 1:50 pm	Break
1:50 pm – 2:40 pm	6 th Period
2:40 pm – 2:50 pm	Break
2:50 pm – 3:40 pm	7 th Period
3:40 pm – 3:50 pm	Break
3:50 pm – 4:40 pm	8 th Period

2018-2019 START DATE SCHEDULE

Medical Assistant

940 Clk. Hrs. – Approximately 33 weeks/ 8 Months

Medical Billing and Coding Specialist

900 Clk. Hrs. – Approximately 30 weeks / 7 Months

National Certification: National Center for Competency Testing (NCCT)

Pharmacy Technician

780 Clock Hours – 27 weeks / 6 months

License Type: State License/Registration

CLASS SCHEDULE: Monday thru Friday 8:30 am – 2:30 pm

Allied-Health Start Dates	Pharmacy Externship Start Date	MA/MBCS Externship Start Date	Pharmacy Graduation Date	MBCS Graduation Date	MA Graduation Date
11/29/2016	N/A	6/29/2017	N/A	08/04/17	08/11/17
01/03/2017	N/A	7/21/2017	N/A	08/25/17	09/01/17
03/07/2017	N/A	9/25/2017	N/A	10/27/17	11/03/17
06/08/2017	11/06/2017	01/04/2018	01/03/2018	02/07/2018	02/14/2018
07/21/2017	01/04/2018	02/15/2018	02/14/2018	03/28/2018	04/05/2018
08/11/2017	01/25/2018	03/08/2018	03/07/2018	04/19/2018	04/26/2018
09/01/2017	02/15/2018	04/06/2018	04/05/2018	05/10/2018	05/17/2018
10/16/2017	04/06/2018	05/18/2018	05/17/2018	06/22/2018	06/29/2018
11/06/2017	04/27/2018	06/11/2018	06/08/2018	07/13/2018	07/23/2018
11/29/2017	05/18/2018	07/02/2018	06/29/2018	08/03/2018	08/13/2018
1/4/2018	06/11/2018	07/24/2018	07/24/2018	08/27/2018	9/06/2018
2/15/2018	07/24/2018	09/05/2018	09/04/2018	10/09/2018	10/18/2018
4/6/2018	09/05/2018	10/17/2018	10/16/2018	11/20/2018	12/03/2018
5/18/2018	10/17/2018	11/30/2018	11/29/2018	1/17/2019	1/28/2019
7/2/2018	11/30/2018	01/28/2019	01/18/2019	3/04/2019	3/20/2019
8/14/2018	01/28/2019	03/18/2019	03/08/2019	4/22/2019	5/01/2019
9/26/2018	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
11/7/2018	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
1/7/2019	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

2018-2019 START DATE SCHEDULE

Vocational Nursing

Day Schedule: Monday – Friday - 8:30 am – 4:30 pm / 51 weeks / 13 mos.

Evening-Weekend Schedule: M T Th 5:30 PM – 9:30 PM and Saturday 8:00 am – 5:00 PM 81 weeks / 19 mos.

License Type: State Licensure

START DATE	END DATE
December 12, 2016 (DAY)	1/5/2018
February 13, 2017 (DAY)	2/28/18
April 17, 2017 (Hybrid)	11/17/18
April 17, 2017 (DAY)	5/4/18
July 10, 2017 (DAY)	7/31/18
July 17, 2017 (Hybrid)	4/5/19
October 16, 2017 (DAY)	November 9, 2018
December 4, 2017 (DAY)	January 18, 2019
February 19, 2018 (DAY)	March 15 2019
February 5, 2018 (Hybrid)	October 13, 2019
April 2, 2018 (DAY)	April 24, 2019 (estimated)
June 11, 2018 (DAY)	July 5, 2019 (estimated)
August 20, 2018 (DAY)	September 11, 2019
August 27, 2018 (Hybrid)	May 17, 2020
October 1, 2018 (DAY)	October 23, 2019
November 19, 2018 (DAY)	TBD
January 28, 2019 (DAY)	TBD
February 25, 2019 (DAY)	TBD

2018-2019 START DATE SCHEDULE

Nurse Aide Program

Certification Type: Texas Nurse Aide Registry as a Certified Nurse Aide

DAY SCHEDULE Monday – Friday - 8:30 am – 12:30 pm / 5 weeks		EVENING/WEEKEND SCHEDULE Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 5:30 PM – 9:30 PM & Saturday 8:00 am – 5:00 PM / 5 weeks	
START DATE	END DATE	START DATE	END DATE
July 17, 2017	August 18, 2017		
August 21, 2017	September 25, 2017		
September 26, 2017	October 30, 2017		
November 1, 2017	December 7, 2017		
December 11, 2017	January 16, 2018		
January 18, 2018	February 21, 2018	January 18, 2018	February 20, 2018
February 23, 2018	March 29, 2018	February 26, 2018	March 31, 2018
April 2, 2018	May 4, 2018	April 3, 2018	May 7, 2018
May 8, 2018	June 12, 2018	May 10, 2018	June 14, 2018
June 14, 2018	July 19, 2018	June 18, 2018	July 21, 2018
July 23, 2018	August 24, 2018	July 24, 2018	August 27, 2018
August 28, 2018	October 2, 2018	August 30, 2018	October 4, 2018
October 4, 2018	November 7, 2018	October 8, 2018	November 10, 2018
November 9, 2018	December 14, 2018	November 13, 2018	December 18, 2018
December 18, 2018	January 23, 2019	December 20, 2018	January 26, 2019
January 25, 2019	February 28, 2019	January 28, 2019	March 2, 2019

OBSERVED HOLIDAYS

Holiday	Dates	In-Service Days (Classes are held 1/2 a day)
Spring Break	March 13, 2017 – March 17, 2017	
Good Friday	April 14, 2017	April 13, 2017
Memorial Day	May 29, 2017	May 26, 2017
Labor Day	July 4, 2017	July 3, 2017
Labor Day	September 4, 2017	September 1, 2017
Thanksgiving Day	November 23, 2017	
Christmas Holidays	December 18, 2017 thru January 1, 2018 *	
Spring Break	March 12, 2018 thru March 16, 2018 *	
Good Friday	March 30, 2018	March 29, 2018
Memorial Day	May 28, 2018	May 25, 2018
Independence Day	July 4, 2018	July 3, 2018
Labor Day	September 3, 2018	August 31, 2018
Thanksgiving Day	November 22 & 23, 2018	November 23, 2018
Christmas Holidays	December 23, 2018 thru January 5, 2019 *	
*Observed Holidays applicable to all programs, except the Nurse Aide Program		



EXCUSED ABSENCE POLICY

I. POLICY STATEMENT

Rio Grande Valley College expects students to attend and participate in all classes, all introductory and advanced practice experiences, and complete all exams and assessments as scheduled (together defined as “coursework”). Missed coursework has the potential to disrupt individual and team learning, invalidate assessment of learning outcomes, create unfair advantages, and divert faculty and student resources away from teaching and learning. However, occasionally an absence from coursework will be unavoidable. This policy sets out the circumstances when an absence will be considered excused along with the expectations for timely communication and makeup of missed coursework with the Program Director (VN Director of Nurses and/or Asst. Director of Nurses; Assistant Allied-Health Director and/or School Director).

II. PURPOSE

- To minimize student absence from classes, practical experiences, exams, and major assessments
- To define clearly what types of absences will be excused and the number of hours allowed.
- To create student expectations for timely communication, presentation of evidence, and follow-up on missed coursework
- To empower the student, team, and faculty to collaborate efficiently to address missed coursework in a timely manner
- To avoid placing students at a disadvantage when unavoidable excused absences occur
- To encourage consistency in how faculty allow makeup of missed coursework, rotations, or assessments
- To meet required lecture and clinical hours as noted on the course outlined and required for graduation

III. SCOPE/COVERAGE

The policy applies to all students enrolled at Rio Grande Valley College.

IV. PROCEDURE

a. Approval of Absence

Students should seek approval for an absence from the Program Director well in advance of the absence if possible, by completing the Excused Absence Request Form that will be reviewed by the Program Director and determined if excused or unexcused on a case by cases basis. In the case of emergency absence students should complete and submit the Excused Absence Request Form within **1 business day** of returning to campus after the absence. Timely and professional communication with the course instructor, and others affected by the absence, will help limit the adverse impact of the absence on their own learning and that of their peers. Regardless of whether an absence is excused or unexcused, students are expected to demonstrate professionalism and to follow procedure when requesting an absence.

b. Duration of Absence

A student may request no more than **one academic day of excused absences per course level for Vocational Nursing and per course for Allied-Health Programs**; all absences shall not exceed **(21 clock hours for the Vocational Nursing Program and no more than 10% for the enrollment period in the Allied-Health Programs)**. Absences exceeding the allowable excused absence hours may require a student to request a Leave of Absence or Withdrawal. Students must contact the Registrar’s Office if any one absence period exceeds the allowable number of hours to discuss these options. Students will be invited to meet with the Program Director in cases where a number of separate absences have reached the cumulative maximum.

c. Type of Excused Absence

A student may request an excused absence, from the Program Director, only for reasons listed below:

- Emergency medical (self or immediate family), ER visits or hospitalization (requiring immediate care- life or death situations). A full medical/surgical release must follow the medical excuse. The medical/surgical release must include no limitations to fulfill the coursework requirements of the program (classroom, skills and clinical).
- Military duty (Provide copy of military orders)
- Immigration & Naturalization
- Jury Duty-Federal Only (Provide a copy of Jury Duty notice)
- Legal (by subpoena; personal legal issues may not be excused)



- Bereavement (first degree relative)
- Involvement in traffic accident documented by law enforcement report
- Professional Leave (meet with program director)
- Other circumstances of an extreme, unanticipated and compelling nature (as determined by Program Director).

d. Makeup Allowances

Students are responsible for contacting the course instructor to arrange makeup of coursework; otherwise they will receive a score of zero. A student seeking an excused absence should complete the Excused Absence Request Form and seek the Program Director's signature for each course the student was absent **within 1 business day** upon return to courses or campus. The form must then be given to the Program Director, who will approve or deny the absence request. The Program Director will notify the student and course instructor of the outcome of the absence request.

If an absence is excused, students will be allowed to make up missed coursework or missed assessments. The nature and type of makeup, makeup time, date, format, duration, and grading is at the sole discretion of the Program Director and will make following distinction between 'high' and 'low' stakes assessments/coursework, and professional leave:

- A student who is absent for a 'high stakes' exam or other such activity considered high stakes, provided the absence has been excused, will be required and allowed to make up.
- If a student is absent for a 'low stakes' assessment the Course Instructor may choose to drop the missed coursework from the grade book or provide a makeup opportunity
- A student requesting an absence to attend a professional meeting must demonstrate they are in good academic standing. Requests for professional leave must be submitted at least **10 business days in advance of the professional conference attendance**. If attendance coincides with a high stakes exam it is highly likely that the absence will be denied.

e. High Stakes Absences

A High Stakes Absence is defined when a student misses ANY of the following: a clinical rotation or part thereof, an exam, delivering a presentation, project, poster, participation in any course activity listed on the course Calendar that is part of the course syllabus, any course activity specifically designated High Stakes in the course syllabus, or any missed coursework worth 5% or more of the overall course grade.

This category of absence will be held to the highest standard for documentation and communication. A student requesting to receive an excused High Stakes Absence must satisfy the following criteria:

- Nature: The nature of the absence is listed under the 'May Request' list above. Note: the Program Director can choose to exclude excusing Professional Leave for High Stakes Absences, please contact the Program Director in advance.
- Urgent and Necessary: The nature of the absence must demand immediate attention by the student to avoid significant harm or loss. Note: Staying home or scheduling a medical visit for a routine cold, flu, nausea, migraine, dental visit, physical, annual exam or other nonemergency illness generally does not satisfy this criterion.
- Unavoidable: Students must demonstrate that the absence could not be anticipated and cannot be avoided by way of rescheduling to avoid the High Stakes Absence. Students must also demonstrate they returned to courses as early as possible and safe.
- Timely Communication: The student reaches out in writing (typically by email) directly to the Course Instructor/Program Director as soon as it is possible and safe to do so, providing preliminary details of the nature and urgency of the absence. Where possible, this is done in advance of the absence. (See VN Student Handbook policy-*Attendance Standards*)



- **Well-Documented:** A fully completed Excused Absence Request Form must be submitted to the Program Director. The student must provide sufficient written documentation demonstrating in detail the above criteria, prior to the student returning to any course or to campus. The student must respond to requests by the Program Director for additional documentation in a timely manner and no later than 24 hours following each request made by the Program Director.

Makeup coursework for a High Stakes Absence: As any missed assessments or exams may be compromised by the delay in assessment, it is recommended (but not required) that the Course Instructor add to or replace the original assessment with a one-on-one oral and/or written exam. The student should notify the Course Instructor immediately upon their return to campus, even if full documentation of the High Stakes Absence is pending, and be prepared to complete the makeup coursework at any time as designated by the Course Instructor/Program Director.

f. Low Stakes Absences

A Low Stakes Absence is defined when a student misses assignments not designated within the High Stakes Absence, typically these will include quizzes or in-house coursework without a significant assessment due. The Low Stakes Absence category does not apply to courses that include a clinical rotation.

Makeup coursework for Low Stakes Absence: The Course Instructor may choose to drop the missed coursework from the grade book or allow for makeup at the Course Instructor's discretion, without penalty to the student within 72 hours of absence. It is the responsibility of the student to reach out to their team for copies of missed materials.

g. Professional Leave

Rio Grande Valley College supports the learning and professional development opportunities professional conferences can provide students; thus the college has a policy to allow student participation and attendance. Only students in good academic standing may submit an excused absence request to attend a professional conference. A range of criteria will be used to determine whether a student is in good academic standing, for example: GPA should be 3.0 or higher; there must be no academic alerts in the current course.

Course Instructor/Program Director and students have the option to request review of the absence by the Registrar's Office.

Associated Forms:

Excused Absence Request Form
Leave of Absence Form
Withdrawal Form

CORPORATE OFFICERS

Dr. Annabelle P. Rodriguez, CEO/School Director
Ed. D University of Texas Pan-American
M. Ed. University of Texas Pan-American
B.A. University of Texas Pan-American

Roel Landa, Director of Finance
B.A. University of Texas Pan-American

FACULTY

Vocational Nursing Program

Amalia Mata, RN – VN Instructor, University of Texas Pan American
Jose Saul Enriquez, BSN, RN – VN Instructor, Texas A & M University
Leo Mejia, BS Biology – VN Instructor, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
Dalia DeLuna, LVN – VN Instructor
Kent Yang, LVN – VN Instructor, Rio Grande Valley College
Christopher Coleman, LVN – VN Instructor, St. Michael's Academy
Damaris Fabela, RN – VN Instructor, South Texas College
Kathryn Edwards, RN, VN Instructor, Northwestern University
Maggie Cagle, LVN – Clinical Coordinator/Instructor, Texas Southmost College
Maria G. Valladares, LVN – VN Instructor, South Texas College
Martina Leal, RN – VN Instructor
Mary Williams, LVN – Assistant Director of Nursing, South Texas College
Michael Ortega, LVN – VN Instructor, Rio Grande Valley College
Ruben Peña, MSN, RN – Interim Director of Nursing, University of Texas Brownsville
Yolanda Hernandez, RN – VN Instructor, South Texas College

Allied-Health Program

Aracely Peña, RN – Nurse Aide Program Director/Asst. Allied Health Director, UTRGV
Jorge Estrada, MA Instructor, South Texas Vo Tech
Leonel Mejia, BS Biology – MA-MBCS Instructor, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
Leonor Perez, LVN – Nurse Aide Instructor, University of Texas Brownsville
Ludivina Rivera, AAS – MBCS Instructor, South Texas College
Magdalena Rodriguez, LVN – Nurse Aide Instructor, St. Michael's School of Nursing
Maria Lara, RMA – MA Instructor, San Antonio College of Medical & Dental Assistants
Patricia Amador, RMA – MA-MBCS Instructor, San Antonio College of Medical & Dental Assts.
Rudolfo Perez, AAS – Pharmacy Technician Instructor, South Texas College

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Adan Vela, Financial Aid Advisor
Alexandra Vela, Receptionist
Alice Garza, Admissions Representative
Belinda Ibarra, Director of Compliance
DeAnn Martinez, Receptionist
Esmeralda Oropesa, Financial Aid Officer
Jeanette Rios, Financial Aid Advisor
Joaquin A. Lozano, Admissions Representative
Laura Cisneros, Director of Admissions
Lorenzo Galvan, Receptionist
Myrna Medina, Registrar
Nylda Araujo, Admissions Representative
Rosemary Cruz, Financial Aid Advisor
Sebastian Admissions Representative

Edward Martinez, Custodian
Julie Flores, Student Accounts Clerk
Hervin Antonio, Vocational Nursing Administrative Asst.
Henry Lee, Director of Maintenance and Security
Adriana Briseño, Assistant Director of Finance
Gilbert Vaiz, Information Technology
Lydia, Hernandez, Custodian
Lisann McAlpine, Community Outreach Specialist
Karina Luna, Community Outreach Specialist
Joanna Salinas, Director of Business Affairs
Daniel Lopez, Career Services Coordinator
Rene Mendoza, Human Resource Director
Mauricio Martinez, Custodian
Erica Katz, VN/HR Administrative Assistant