El Paso Community College Syllabus Part II Official Course Description

SUBJECT AREA	Dental Hygiene
COURSE RUBRIC AND NUMBER	DHYG 1235
COURSE TITLE	Pharmacology for the Dental Hygienist
COURSE CREDIT HOURS	22:0CreditLecLab

I. Catalog Description

Studies the classification of drugs and their uses, actions, interactions, side effects, contraindications with emphasis on dental applications. A grade of "C" or better is required in this course to take the next course. **Prerequisites: DHYG 1103 and DHYG 1201 and DHYG 1219 and DHYG 1239 and DHYG 1304 and DHYG 1431. Corequisites: BIOL 2420 or BIOL 2421 and DHYG 1211 and DHYG 1261 and DHYG 2201.** (2:0).

II. Course Objectives

- A. Unit I. Information, Sources, and Regulatory Agencies
 - 1. Define the term "drug" as used in medical treatment.
 - 2. Give four reasons why knowledge about drugs is important in the practice of dentistry.
 - 3. Describe the difference between over-the-counter (OTC) and prescription drugs.
 - 4. Define and differentiate between the chemical, generic, and trade names for drugs.
 - 5. Tell when a pharmacist may substitute a drug from one company with a similar product from another company.
 - 6. Utilize the <u>Physician's Desk Reference for Prescription Drugs</u>, <u>Physician's Desk</u> <u>Reference for Non-prescription Drugs</u> and computer programs found on the clinic computer in the Dental Hygiene Clinic, room A-110I, to determine if a medication that the patient might be taking will influence the dental treatment.
 - 7. Describe the functions of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA).
 - 8. Describe what is considered a controlled substance, whether the controlled substance can be legally dispensed, and how the DEA controls those substances it considers do have some medical value.
 - 9. Name and define the three classes of drugs that the DEA controls and at least two examples of each class.
 - 10. Determine the possible indications and contradindications when treating a dental hygiene patient who is taking medications.
 - a. Drug misuse
 - b. Drug abuse
 - c. Abstinence syndrome
 - d. Physical dependence
 - e. Psychological dependence
 - f. Tolerance
 - g. Cross-tolerance
 - e. Additive effects

B. Units II - IV. <u>Basic Pharmacologic Principles</u>

- 1. Name three general methods of classifying drugs.
- 2. Explain what is meant by the therapeutic effect of a drug.
- 3. Define the following terms as they pertain to the therapeutic effects of a drug: potency, efficacy, and the dose-effect or dose response curve.
- 4. Explain what is meant by drug action at the receptor sites and name three types of substances that act on these receptors.
- 5. Name four types of drug activities that can occur at the receptor sites.
- 6. Explain what is meant by the "route of entry" of a drug.
- 7. Describe the difference between the enteral and parenteral methods of administering drugs and name three parenteral methods for drug administration.
- 8. Name one advantage and two disadvantages to administering drugs by mouth.
- 9. Name two advantages and two disadvantages to administering drugs intravenously (<u>IV</u>).
- 10. Trace the passage of a drug from administration to elimination using the following terms: absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion.
- 11. Name three membranes that a drug must cross during absorption and distribution.
- 12. Name two ways that drugs cross membranes and name five factors of the membrane that effect this transport.
- 13. Describe how drug solubility, drug ionization, and lipid solubility effect drug transport.
- 14. Describe what is meant by drug absorption and name two factors that effect this absorption.
- 15. Describe what is meant by the distribution of a drug and name three factors that influence this distribution.
- 16. Locate the main place in the body where drugs are detoxified and explain why this process is called biotransformation.
- 17. Explain what is meant by the "first pass effect" of drugs when a drug is administered through the digestive tract.
- 18. Explain what is meant by drug excretion or elimination and name the main body site and two secondary body sites where drug elimination may take place.
- 19. Name ten factors that can alter the effects of drugs on patients.
- 20. Define what is meant by an "adverse drug reaction".
- 21. Name five predictable, dose related adverse drug reactions.
- 22. Name and describe two non-predictable, non-dose related adverse drug reactions.
- 23. Name the two body systems that are most effected by an allergic response and describe the effects of the allergic reaction on these body systems.
- 23. Name six different clinical signs of allergic responses to drugs.
- 25. Describe what happens in the body during an anaphylactic shock and then name the drug of choice for emergency treatment plus the two drugs that can be used in follow-up treatment.
- 26. Explain what is meant by a drug interaction, and then name three types of drug interactions.
- 27. Explain what a toxicologic evaluation of a drug is and then define the following terms as they pertain to a toxicologic evaluation: ED 50, LD 50, and therapeutic Index (TI).
- 28. Interpret a prescription that has been given to a patient.
- 29. Interpret the Latin abbreviations given in the lecture notes.
- C. Unit V: <u>Autonomic Nervous System & Drugs Affecting This System</u>
 - 1. Review the anatomy of the nervous system with special emphasis on the autonomic nervous system.
 - 2. Review five functions of the parasympathetic nervous system.
 - 3. Review five functions of the sympathetic nervous system.
 - 4. Describe a neurotransmitter, using the following terms; synapse, function and receptor site.
 - 5. Name the neurotransmitter for the skeletal muscle and a drug that mimics this activity and another that blocks it.
 - 6. Name the neurotransmitter for the pre-ganglionic synapse for both the parasympathetic

nervous system (PANS) and the sympathetic nervous system (SANS) and name a drug that mimics this activity.

- 7. Name the neurotransmitter that acts at the end organs for the PANS system and name a drug the mimics this activity and one that blocks it.
- 8. Name the neurotransmitter that acts at the end organs for the SANS systems and name a drug that mimics this activity and another drug that blocks it.
- 9. Name a parasympathetic and a sympathetic neurotransmitter that function between synapses in the brain.
- 10. Explain what is meant by the following terms:
 - a. Cholinergic
 - b. Anticholinergic
 - c. Adrenergic
 - d. Antiadrenergic
- 11. Describe the effects of cholinergic and anticholinergic drugs on the cardiovascular and digestive systems.
- 12. Describe the effects of adrenergic and antiadrenergic drugs on the cardiovascular, gastrointestinal, respiratory systems and also their effects on carbohydrate metabolism.
- 13. Identify the drugs used in dentistry that act on the autonomic nervous system and describe for what conditions they are used.
- D. Unit VI: Drugs Affecting the Cardiovascular System
 - 1. Review the anatomy, physiology and pathology of the cardiovascular system.
 - 2. Review the symptoms of right and left-sided congestive heart failure and then name drug of choice used for treating these conditions.
 - 3. Name the class of drugs that digitalis belongs to.
 - 4. Describe the actions, side effects, and drug interactions that occur during digitalis therapy.
 - 5. List three problems that may occur when providing dental treatment to a patient with congestive heart failure.
 - 6. Review the conditions that can lead to congestive heart failure.
 - 7. Review the physiology of blood pressure control.
 - 8. Describe the alpha and beta activities of epinephrine and the effects these activities have on the heart, vascular system, and respiratory tract.
 - 9. Review the pathology of hypertension.
 - 10. Name the various types of drugs used to treat hypertension, their rationale for use the side effects from using these drugs, and drug interactions with other drugs.
 - 11. Name five considerations that should be taken when providing dental treatment for a person taking drugs for hypertension.
 - 12. Describe what antihyperlipedemic drugs are used to control.
 - 13. Describe the actions and side effects of drugs used to treat arrhythmias.
 - 14. Describe the dental considerations and drug interactions on a patient taking drugs for arrhythmias.
 - 15. Review the physiology of the formation of blood clots, emboli, and thrombosis; and the symptoms of myocardial infarction or strokes.
 - 16. List the most common type of drugs a patient might be taking if they have suffered from a myocardial infarction (heart attack) or a stroke.
 - 17. Name the antagonist for dicumerol.
 - 18. Describe angina, name drugs most commonly used to treat this condition and the mode of action of these drugs.
 - 19. Explain what considerations that must be taken when providing dental care for a person with a history of angina.
 - 20. Describe what shock is and treatment for it.
 - 21. Name three groups of drugs that must be used with caution when treating a patient with cardiovascular diseases.

- E. Unit VII: <u>Adrenocorticosteroids</u>
 - 1. Review the functions of the endocrine system.
 - 2. Review the effects of glucocorticosteriods and mineral corticosteroids on the body.
 - 3. Name five indications for steroid therapy.
 - 4. Name six complications that can occur during dental treatment on a patient on steroid therapy.
 - 5. Explain how the "rule of two's" is applied to dental patients that are on steroid therapy.
 - 6. Describe the dental indications for steroid therapy
 - 7. Describe the effects of the sex hormones on oral tissues.
 - 8. Describe the implications for dental treatment for patients that have hyper or hypo-active thyroid conditions.
 - 9. Explain the effects excess parathormone can have on oral tissues.
 - 10. Describe the effect calcitonin has on Ca++ plasma balance.
 - 11. Describe dental treatment considerations for patients with conditions being treated by endocrine drugs such as insulin.
 - 12. Describe how Orinase and other oral antihyperglycemic drugs are utilized in the treatment of some diabetics.
 - 13. Review the effects of insulin on carbohydrate metabolism in the normal patient and when too little or too much insulin is available.
- F. Unit VIII IX: Anticonvulsant and Psychotherapeutic Drugs
 - 1. Identify the two drugs most commonly used in the treatment of epilepsy.
 - 2. Describe the effects of anti-epileptic drugs on the oral tissue and how these effects can modify dental treatment.
 - 3. Identify drugs that are commonly used in dental treatment that are contraindicated in patients on therapy for epilepsy.
 - 4. Identify the drug most frequently used to treat convulsions caused by drug overdose.
 - 5. Give the group name for drugs used to treat psychosis and identify three groups of drugs that are additive to the effects of psychotic drugs.
 - 6. Identify the drugs commonly prescribed for the different psychiatric disorders and describe their pharmacologic effects.
 - 7. Describe how drugs used to treat psychiatric disorders may effect dental treatment.
 - 8. Name the group of drugs that amphetamines belong to and name three uses for such drugs and five adverse effects.
 - 9. Describe the activity of xanthines; name three members of this group of drugs; name three effects of this group of drugs and how their use may effect dental treatment.
 - 10. Discuss what <u>Ritalin</u> is used for.
- G. Unit X XI: Pain Control- Local and General Anesthetic
 - 1. Describe the difference between a local and a general anesthetic.
 - 2. Explain the mechanism of action of local anesthetics.
 - 2. Name the three different types of local anesthesia.
 - 4. Name the two general chemical classifications of local anesthetics and explain why it is advantageous to have two such chemical groupings.
 - 5. Explain what the terms hydrophilic & lipophilic mean.
 - 6. Describe the role the hydrophilic and ends of a local anesthetic play in producing local anesthesia.
 - 7. Describe the interaction of tissue pH and the amino base portion of a local anesthetic play in determining the effectiveness of a local anesthetic.
 - 8. Name four general properties of ester local anesthetics and four general properties of amide local anesthetics.
 - 9. Give the generic and most common trade names for four ester-type local anesthetics.
 - 10. Name the main therapeutic use of cocaine and list three disadvantages to using this drug.
 - 11. Give the generic and most common trade names for three amide-type local anesthetics.
 - 12. Describe the routes of entry for Lidocaine; it's allergenic potential, and explain why a vasoconstrictor is added to the injectable form.
 - 13. Explain why mepivacaine can be used with or without a vasoconstrictor and name a

cardiovascular condition where it would normally be used without a vasoconstrictor. Describe the local anesthetic Bupivacaine as to indications for use, need of a

vasoconstrictor, potency and toxicity.

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- 15. Name two reasons vasoconstrictors are added to local anesthetics
- 16. Name the three most common types of adverse reactions to local anesthetics.
- 17. Name the two components in local anesthetics that cause most toxic reactions.
- 18. Describe the symptoms of the toxic reactions to vasoconstrictors in local anesthetics and explain why this type of reaction occurs.
- 19. Describe the CNS, respiratory & cardiovascular toxic response to an overdose of a local anesthetic and describe the treatment for each of these toxic responses.
- 20. Compare xylocaine and the other amides as to safety of use on pregnant women.
- 21. Name two main methods of administering general anesthesia in the dental office.
- 22. Describe how the body responds when a general anesthetic is administered using the four stages and three planes in this description.
- 23. Describe the use of nitrous oxide in dentistry, including a description of the: effects on the patient, method of delivery, advantages, disadvantages, safety precautions, possible toxic effects on members of the dental team, and contraindications for use on the patient. 5.3
- 24. Name the most common IV sedation analgesics used in dentistry and name advantages and disadvantages of their use.

H. Unit XII - XIII: Pain Control- Analgesics

- 1. Define what is meant by "pain" and name four different types of pain.
- 2. Name the three components of pain and using the three components describe how the pain impulse is initiated, transmitted to the CNS, and interpreted by the CNS.
- 3. Describe the difference between reception of pain and the reaction or response to pain and tell which one is constant and which one varies from person to person.
- 4. Describe how wide the response to the pain impulse can be and name five factors that can affect this response.
- 5. Define the following terms: anesthetic, analgesic, antipyretic, anti-inflammatory, nonopioid analgesics, and narcotic or opioid analgesics.
- 6. Name three neural autacoids associated with the pain sensation and describe the effect these neural autacoids have on the pain response.
- 7. Describe the effect that narcotics have on the pain center.
- 8. Name five other CNS centers besides the ones associated with pain that narcotic analgesics can affect.
- 9. Classify narcotics by their effect on the various CNS centers.
- 10. Describe what is meant by the terms "opioid" and "opiate".
- 11. Name the type of pain that narcotics are used to control.
- 12. Name five advantages and five disadvantages for using narcotics to control pain.
- 13. Name five narcotics commonly used to control pain.
- 14. Name two other uses for narcotics besides their use as analgesics.
- 15. Explain why methadone is used in the treatment of narcotic addiction.
- 16. Name four other groups of CNS depressants that should be used with caution while taking narcotics.
- 17. Name two effects that an overdose on narcotics can have on the individual and name the drug of choice for the treatment of an overdose.
- 18. Describe methods utilized to control dental pain on a patient who is addicted to narcotics but who is trying to control their addiction.
- 19. Describe seven methods of detecting a narcotic addict who might be using dental treatment as a method to obtain narcotics.
- 20. Describe the type of pain normally controlled by peripheral acting analgesics and name four general characteristics of this group of analgesics.
- 21. Name the three general groups of peripheral acting analgesics.
- 22. Name five general activities of the analgesic Acetaminophen and one precaution when prescribing this drug.
- 23. Name two trade names for acetaminophen.
- 24. Define what is meant by the term non-steroidal, anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID).

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- 25. Compare the drug activities and side effects of aspirin and NSAIDs.
- 26. Compare the side effects and toxicity of aspirin, NSAIDs and Acetaminophen.
- 27. Give three advantages to using combinations of peripheral and centrally acting analgesics and name three such combinations of drugs.
- I. Unit XIV: <u>Treatment of Oral Lesions</u>
 - 1. Know the diagnostic differences between HSV type I and ANUG.
 - 2. Know treatment for both HSV and ANUG.
 - 3. Give 2 forms of infection with HSV-1.
 - 4. Know the causes of candidiasis, its diagnosis and treatment.
 - 5. Know treatment and causes of angular cheilitis.
 - 6. Know causes, treatment and associated factors for osteitis.
 - 7. Know the causes, location and treatment for aphthous ulcers.
 - 8. Know the cause, appearance, treatment and potential of lichen planus.
 - 9. Know the appearance of benign migratory glossitis.
 - 10. Know the causes of glossodynia.
 - 11. Know the drugs that cause xerostomia, lichenoid, drug eruption, gingival enlargement and hyperpigmentation.
- J. Unit XV XVI: <u>Chemotherapeutic Therapy</u>
 - 1. Explain what is meant by a chemotherapeutic agent; tell where the two main groups of chemotherapeutic agents originate and give the general name for each group.
 - 2. Describe what is meant by selective toxicity and partial or selective toxicity when referring to chemotherapeutic agents.
 - 3. Explain the relationship between the therapeutic index (TI) and selective toxicity when describing the activities of chemotherapeutic agents.
 - 4. Name six different ways chemotherapeutic agents can have a therapeutic effect on infectious agents.
 - 5. Name three types of antiviral agents that are used in the treatment of viral diseases and name three groups of agents used in the treatment of HIV infection.
 - 6. Explain what meant by broad and narrow spectrum when referring to the spectrum of activity of antibiotics.
 - 7. Compare and contrast the bactericidal and bacteriostatic effects of antibiotics and explain how these characteristics effect the choice of agents used in treatment of infections.
 - 8. Explain what is meant by the following terms: inherent & acquired resistance; and culture and sensitivity testing.
 - 9. Describe what is the difference between prescribing antibiotics for therapeutic and prophylactic treatment.
 - 10. Define the following terms and describe how these factors affect antibiotic usage: superinfection; hypersensitivity and cross allergies; drug interactions; and the effect of antibiotics on commensals.
 - 11. Describe considerations that must be made when prescribing chemotherapeutic agents for pregnant woman.
 - 12. Compare and contrast the advantages and disadvantage to oral, parenteral, and topical methods of administering antibiotics.
 - 13. Describe penicillin as to: mode of action, allergic reactions, toxic reactions, and affect it has on the normal oral biota.
 - 14. Explain why penicillin is the drug of choice for most oral infections.
 - 15. Name the four basic types of penicillin and when they are indicated, and give an example of each type.
 - 16. Name five medical conditions where antibiotic premedication is indicated before invasive dental treatment is performed.
 - 17. Describe the standard regimen for prophylactic antibiotic premedication for dental treatment of patients with certain medical conditions.
 - 18. Name the prophylactic antibiotic of choice for premedication for dental treatment when

the patient is allergic to penicillin.

- 19. Describe the mode of action, bacterial spectrum, indications for use, & toxic reactions for: erythromycin, tetracycline, bacitracin, and nystatin.
- 20. Name the antibiotics most commonly utilized in the treatment of Tuberculosis and explain why it is necessary to utilize more than one antibiotic.
- K. Unit XVII: <u>Autocoids and Antihistamines</u>
 - 1. List 5 different autocoids.
 - 2. List the pharmacologic effects of histamine and whether they are H1 or H2 effects.
 - 3. List 3 H2 antagonists and tell what they are used for.
 - 4. Know pharmacologic effects of the H1 antagonists.
 - 5. Know the physiology of and symptoms of anaphylaxis. Know the treatment.
 - 6. Know the CNS, Anticholinergic, Anti-emetic and local anesthetic effects of H1 Antagonists.
 - 7. Know the variety of uses for H1 antagonists.
 - 8. List 3 nonsedating antihistamines used to treat allergies OTC.
 - 9. Know the dental implications of prostaglandins and thromboxanes.

L. Unit XVIII: <u>Antianxiety Drugs</u>

- 1. Describe what is meant by an anti-anxiety drug.
- 2. Name seven traits anti-anxiety drugs have in common.
- 3. Describe what effects increasing the dose of an anti-anxiety drugs has on patients.
- 4. Name the two major classes of anti-anxiety drugs.
- 5. List four characteristics of sedative/hypnotic drugs.
- 6. Name four types of anti-anxiety drugs.
- 7. Describe, in general terms, the therapeutic effects, general characteristics, and cause of death from an overdose of barbiturates.
- 8. Describe the therapeutic uses and trade name for the barbiturates, phenobarbital and pentobarbital.
- 9. Describe what is meant by redistribution of a drug and the role this plays in the action of thiopental.
- 10. Name a skeletal relaxant and state main use of skeletal relaxants in dental treatment.
- 11. Explain why the antihistamines Benadryl and promethazine can be used as sedative/hypnotics.
- 12. Name what group of minor tranquilizers are used as sedative/hypnotics and give three examples from this group.
- 13. Compare <u>Valium</u> to barbiturates for safety.
- 14. Describe what is meant by the amnestic response of <u>Valium</u>.
- 15. Name four disadvantages and four anti-cholinergic effects of the Benzodiazepines.
- 16. Explain why <u>Xanax</u> should not be used for periods of more than two weeks.
- 17. Name two dental uses for antianxiety drugs and four side effects the patient will experience while taking these medications.

L. Unit XIX: Hormones

- 1. List the 7 endocrine glands and their function.
- Know which glands are controlled by the pituitary, how it's done and what hormones (precursors) originate in which parts of the pituitary. List symptoms of pituitary hypo and hyper function.
- 3. Differentiate between the signs and symptoms of hypo and hyper thyroidism.
- 4. Give 2 uses for the vasopressins.
- 5. Know the dental effects of hypothyroidism and hyperthyroidism.
- 6. Know meds used to treat thyroid conditions.
- 8. Know both types of diabetes mellitus, age of onset, pathophysiology and treatment.
- 7. Learn to recognize the causes and treatment of hypoglycemic reactions.
- 8. Know the oral hypoglycemics (Brand names).

- 9. List the side effects of birth control pills.
- 10. List 4 drugs with which they interact and characterize the interaction.
- 11. Know management of the dental patient taking oral contraceptives.
- 12. What effects do androgens have on the developing organism.
- M. Unit XX: <u>Antineoplastic Agents</u>
 - 1. Discuss the 3 modalities for cancer treatment. Are they sometimes used in combination?
 - 2. Which cancers show the least activity with antineoplastic agents.
 - 3. Discuss the mechanism of action of antineoplastic agents.
 - 4. Which 2 classifications are used for antineoplastic agents.
 - 5. Discuss the oral effects of antineoplastic agents, and oral care of a patient taking antineoplastic agents.
- N. Unit XXI: <u>Respiratory and Gastrointestinal Drugs</u>
 - 1. Discuss the respiratory diseases Asthma, Status Asthmaticus and COPD and their treatment.
 - 2. Discuss the groups of drugs used and treat pulmonary disorders and their mechanisms of action.
 - 3. Discuss agents used for upper respiratory infections.
 - 4. Discuss the familiar gastrointestinal disorders.
 - 5. Discuss the drugs used to treat gastrointestinal disorders.
 - 6. Give four types of laxatives. Which is safest.
 - 7. Know your antidiarrheals. Emetics and antiemetics.
 - 8. Discuss treatment of inflammatory bowel dz. Unit XXII:
- O. Unit XXII Pregnancy and Breast Feeding
 - 1. Discuss the trimesters with respect to safe dental treatment.
 - 2. Know the FDA pregnancy categories.
 - 3. Discuss the effect on the fetus of the most commonly used dental drugs.
 - 4. Discuss the methods of minimizing emergencies in the dental office and the treatment of an emergency in the dental office.
- P. Drug-related Emergencies
 - 1. Discuss hypoglycemia its treatment and the treatment of respiratory emergencies.
 - 2. Discuss the signs, symptoms and treatment of cardiovascular emergencies.
 - 3. Discuss the signs, symptoms and treatment of extrapyramidal reactions, and adrenal insufficiency thyroid storm and malignant hyperthermia.
 - 4. Be able to diagnose and treat drug related emergencies (i.e., local anesthetic and opioid).
- Q. XXIII Drug Interactions and Drug Abuse
 - 1. Define a drug interaction.
 - 2. Discuss situation to be encountered in practice.
 - 3. Know the 2 methods of interaction.
 - 4. Know the groupings of drug interactions.
 - 5. Be familiar with the more common interactions for Aspirin, NSAID's. Opioids, Antiinfectives, epinephrine, and the "Red Flag Drugs" (see Table 25-8).
 - 6. For Drug abuse see objective A, item #12.

III. THECB Learning Outcomes (WECM)

- 1. Differentiate the classification of drugs.
- 2. Identify the uses, actions, and contraindications of drugs; and recognize systemic and oral manifestations associated with their use.

IV. Evaluation

A. Examinations

A total of five (5) examinations will be given during the semester. Each one will be comprehensive. The Final will be a comprehensive examination. Each exam will represent 1/5 of grade. There will be no make-up exams for a missed exam.

B. Grading Scale

A = 93 - 100 B = 83 - 92 C = 75 - 82F = 74 and below

In the event a grade is borderline, class attendance and participation will be considered in the final computation. <u>NOTE TO THE STUDENTS</u>: A grade of "C" or better is required in order to meet the standards for Dental Hygiene.

V. Disability Statement (Americans with Disabilities Act [ADA])

EPCC offers a variety of services to persons with documented sensory, mental, physical, or temporary disabling conditions to promote success in classes. If you have a disability and believe you may need services, you are encouraged to contact the Center for Students with Disabilities to discuss your needs with a counselor. All discussions and documentation are kept confidential. Offices located: VV Rm C-112 (831-2426); TM Rm 1400 (831-5808); RG Rm B-201 (831-4198); NWC Rm M-54 (831-8815); and MDP Rm A-125 (831-7024).

VI. 6 Drop Rule

Students who began attending Texas public institutions of higher education for the first time during the Fall 2007 semester or later are subject to a 6-Drop limit for all undergraduate classes. Developmental, ESL, Dual Credit and Early College High School classes are exempt from this rule. All students should consult with their instructor before dropping a class. Academic assistance is available. Students are encouraged to see Counseling Services if dropping because exemptions may apply. Refer to the EPCC catalog and website for additional information.