

Please contact the following numbers for counselor's office hours: (915) 831-4636, (915) 831-4036, (915) 831-4155



HEALTH CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION, MATH & SCIENCE
Specialized Admissions Program Information Guide
For
HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCES (AAS-HIMA)
2021-2022 Catalog

PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

Program Coordinator: Jean Garrison, RHIA.
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AAS-HIMA Program Counselor:

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Guadalupe Marshall, Counselor

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PROGRAM MAP

Program Map provides additional information regarding salary projections, employment opportunities, licensure requirements and educational milestones. WEB LINK: <https://www.epcc.edu/Academics/Catalog/program-map?programID=329>

Students qualifying for Specialized Admissions must satisfy all of the following: General Requirements, minimum set TSIA 2 scores, Mandatory courses, and Pre-Program Specifics. Once all requirements are completed, ranking points are derived from the most recent TSIA 2 scores and most recent G.P.A of ranking courses. Applicants who complete all ranking courses may be more competitive for admission into their program of choice.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Applicants for Specialized Admissions must satisfy Minimum Criteria in order to be eligible for ranking. The following is required of all applicants:

- Prior to ranking, the student must submit all previous college/university official transcripts (transliteration of all foreign coursework required).
- Student must have a **High School Diploma or GED**. Submit official transcripts to:
El Paso Community College Admissions Office
P.O. Box 20500, El Paso, Texas 79998
- Student must:
 1. **Be approved to take credit academic courses by EPCC**
 2. Have successfully completed **TSIA 2 Assessment Tests**.
 3. Attend a Health Careers Orientation Session or complete it online at: <https://www.epcc.edu/Admissions/Orientation/community-wide-orientation>
 4. **Submit Specialized Admissions Application** form and pay \$ 10.00 fee.
 5. **A grade of a "C" or better is required** for all academic and specialized courses listed under the degree plan.
 6. **EPCC Cumulative GPA of 2.5 is required.**
- **"Effective Fall 2011, and based on new federal regulations, students are not allowed to repeat previously passed courses more than once."** Students should meet with a counselor to determine how a repeat course (s) would impact his/her academic, prerequisite, specialized admissions or transferability of courses. It is the student's responsibility to check with the Office of Student Financial Services to inquire how a repeat course (s) would impact their financial aid or veteran's assistance.

TEXAS SUCCESS INITIATIVE (TSIA 2) ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

The Texas Success Initiative Assessment 2.0 “**TSIA 2**”, a redesign of the original Texas Success Initiative Assessment “**TSIA 1**”, is part of the Texas Success Initiative enacted by the Texas State Legislature and was designed to assess test takers’ readiness for college-level coursework in the general areas of English language arts and reading (ELAR) and mathematics. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) requires the reporting of developmental progression and outcome of all students engaged in developmental education. After January 11, 2021, all new degree-seeking students are required to take the Texas Success Initiative Assessment 2.0 (TSIA 2).

Refer to EPCC Catalog or see your counselor for more information.

TSIA 2 MINIMUM REQUIRED ASSESSMENT SCORES FOR HIMA

▮ Math 950 or higher

▮ (ELAR) 945 or better

▮ Essay 6

- **TSIA 2 Official Assessment scores are valid for two (2) years with the highest test score used for qualifying and ranking.**
- **Posting of TSIA 2 Assessment scores will take between 24 to 48 hours. Assessment Tests have to be completed at least 48 hours prior to ranking date. Contact a Health Counselor for advice.**

MANDATORY COURSES: (1)

A student must successfully complete mandatory courses prior to ranking. Applicants who do not satisfactorily complete mandatory course work will not qualify for ranking into this program.

▲ HPRS 1206 Essentials of Med. Terminology Minimum Grade C

To qualify for ranking, all mandatory courses must be completed with a minimum of grade “C” or better. Mandatory courses cannot be substituted.

RANKING COURSES: (2)

Ranking courses are within the degree plan in which performance most reliably predicts future ability to successfully complete the program. It is highly recommended to complete all ranking courses prior to ranking to be competitive. Ranking courses cannot be substituted.

▲ BIOL 2404 Anatomy & Physiology (Specialized, Single Semester-Course, Lecture + Lab)

▲ HPRS 1206 Essentials of Medical Terminology

***** NOTE: BIOL 1306 and BIOL 1106 are pre-requisites for BIOL 2404. Students can complete prerequisites by taking these courses or by taking a Biology placement exam prior to ranking.**

▲ **Ranking Courses have to be completed no later than Spring Semester to be eligible for June 1, 2021 ranking.**

PROCESSING OF PRE-PROGRAM SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

It is highly recommended that the applicant completes the Pre-Program Specific Requirements at least three (3) weeks prior to the ranking date. The applicant must complete “Specialized Admissions” requirements for qualifying and ranking. There is a scheduled ranking date for this program. Normal processing may take a few days or a few weeks depending on document type and individual circumstances. If documents have been received but not processed then the student will be coded as ineligible for that ranking.

PRE-PROGRAM SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

Applicants for Specialized Programs must also meet Pre-Program Specific Criteria prior to qualifying for ranking. The following is required of all applicants:

- **Background Check-** Each student must complete a background check prior to enrolling in clinical courses. Background checks are required prior to acceptance into most health programs or courses. Students are responsible for the costs. Currently, the approved vendor for El Paso Community College is American Databank: <http://www.elpasoex.com/>. Only background checks from American Databank are accepted.

You will receive a letter from the Dean of Health Career and Technical Education, Math & Science division to inform you of the status of your background check. The student will not be able to go to the clinical areas/health care facilities until cleared.

*****NOTE:** If a student has not enrolled in a health-related program for one or more semesters, the student must redo the background check at his/her own expense, for further information, please ask a Health Counselor or call the Program Coordinator.

There are two Levels of background checks: **Level I** apply to all students, and includes: (1) Social Security Number Verification. (2) Criminal Search 7 years minimum or up to five criminal searches. (3) Violent Sexual Offender and Predator Registry Search. (4) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) list of Excluded Individuals/Entities. (5) GSA List of Parties Excluded from Federal Programs. (6) U.S. Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), List of Specially Designated Nationals (SDN), and (7) State Exclusion List.

Level II is for students already licensed or certified in any area. **Level II** requires all of the Level 1 elements plus (1) License Verification, (2) Certification Verification, and (3) Employment Verification, including reason for separation and eligibility for re-hire.

A positive criminal history will require proof of the official case disposition for clearance. Generally: Disqualifying criminal offenses include, but are not limited to any felony conviction within the last 10 years or two; or more misdemeanors in crimes against persons, or families, such as homicide, kidnapping, rape, sexual assault, assault, battery, aggravated robbery, theft. Any misdemeanor or felony conviction involving abuse, neglect, or exploitation against a child, vulnerable adult or disabled individual. Felonies or two misdemeanors involving manufacture, importation, delivery, or possession of controlled substances, including felony conviction of DWI or two misdemeanor DWI convictions. Deferred adjudication for any felony is also a disqualifying event for enrolling into any of the Health Programs.

Please note that many professional licensure or certification agencies may have additional requirements. You should reference the requirements for each agency.

Program Orientation. "Admitted students will receive notification of Program Orientation following verified acceptance into the program."

The Health Information Management Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM); 200 East Randolph Street, Suite 5100, Chicago ILL 60601-5800; phone: (312) 235-3255, Fax: (312) 233-0063, web: www.cahiim.org, email: info@cahiim.org.

HIMA AAS DEGREE PROGRAM DEGREE COURSES

In order to complete the requirements for progression and graduation, students enrolled in this program must have a grade of "C" or better in all specialized courses. The term "specialized courses" refers to all courses carrying the prefix of the program in which the student is majoring or the prefix of another health-related discipline.

Check 2021-2022 El Paso Community College Catalog for Prerequisites

Prerequisite Semester

BIOL 2404 Anatomy & Physiology (Specialized, Single-Semester-Course, Lecture + Lab) (C) (MNS)

Prerequisite: Placement at college-level English Language Arts Reading by TSIA 2 or equivalent; OR completion with a "C" or better or concurrent enrollment in the following: INRW 0311 or INRW 0312 or ESOL 0340; and BIOL 1306 and 1106 with a "C" or better or Biology CLEP exam.

HITT 2430 Pathophysiology & Pharmacology **Prerequisite:** BIOL 2404.

HPRS 1206 Essentials of Medical Terminology

First Semester

ENGL 1301 Composition I (C) (HFA) **Prerequisite:** Placement at college-level English Language Arts Reading by TSIA 2 or equivalent; OR completion of INRW 0311 or INRW 0312 or ESOL 0341 with a "C" or better; OR concurrent enrollment in INRW 0311.

HITT 1301 Health Data Content and Structure

HITT 1311 Health Information Systems

HITT 1345 Health Care Delivery Systems

Second Semester

HITT 1260 Clinical-Health Information/Medical Records Technology/Technician I **Prerequisite:** HITT 1301. Co: HITT 1341.

HITT 1341 Coding and Classification Systems **Prerequisite:** HITT 1301.

HITT 1353 Legal and Ethical Aspects of Health Information
Social and Behavioral Sciences Elective¹ (C) (SBS)

Third Semester (Summer)

HITT 1342 Ambulatory Coding **Prerequisite:** HITT 1341.

Core Curriculum Elective²(C)
(HFA/MNS/SBS)

Fourth Semester

- HITT 2260 Clinical-Health Information/Medical Records Technology/Technician II **Prerequisite:** HITT 1260. Co: HITT 2335.
- HITT 2335 Coding and Reimbursement Methodologies **Prerequisite:** HITT 1341 and HITT 1342. Co:HITT 2260.
- HITT 2346 Advanced Medical Coding **Prerequisite:** HITT 1341 and HITT 1342 and HITT2430
- PHIL 2306 Introduction to Ethics (C) (HFA) **Prerequisite:** Placement at college-level English Language Arts Reading by TSIA 2 or equivalent; OR completion with a "C" or better or concurrent enrollment in the following: INRW 0311 or INRW 0312 or ESOL 0340.

Fifth Semester

- HITT 2149 RHIT Competency Review **Co:** HITT 2266.
- HITT 2266 Practicum (or Field Experience) – Health Information/Medical Records Technology Technician I **Co:** HITT 2339 and HITT 2443.
- HITT 2339 Health Information Organization and Supervision **Co:** HITT 2266 and HITT 2443.
- HITT 2443 Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement **Co:** HITT 2266 and HITT 2339.

***Social and Behavioral Sciences Elective** Complete one course from GOVT 2305, 2306, PSYC 2301, 2314, SOCI 1301, 2301.

Core Curriculum Elective: Complete SPCH 1315 or SPCH 1321 (preferred) or one Course from the Core Curriculum, see the Core Curriculum section of the catalog for a listing of courses. All Core Curriculum courses are eligible EXCEPT for courses under the Component Area Option (EDUC 1300 and ENGL 1302). Courses may not be used more than once within the degree plan.

Following completion of the Associate of Applied Science Degree, a multi-disciplinary Enhanced Skills Certificate of Completion in Border Health Issues is available. This program prepares graduates to work as members of a multi-disciplinary team to meet the unique health care needs of the U.S./Mexico border community.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Official Ranking Date: **June 1, 2021.**
- Program Begins-Fall.
- Maximum Students Admitted: **12 Students.**
- Students must have successfully completed all required courses in the degree plan in order to graduate with an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Health Information Technology.
- Community Wide Orientation online at: **Website:** <https://www.epcc.edu/Admissions/Orientation/community-wide-orientation>
- HIPAA online at: **Website:** <https://www.epcc.edu/Academics/Health/hipaa>
- Health Careers Orientation online at: <https://www.epcc.edu/Admissions/Orientation/health-careers-orientation>
- Online additional program-specific and career information: <https://www.epcc.edu/Academics/Health>
- Visit our website: <https://www.epcc.edu/Academics/Health/health-information-management>
- Students who completed articulated or dual credit courses in health in high school should bring this to the attention of the counselor. College credit may still be available.

POST-ACCEPTANCE REQUIREMENTS

Students are responsible for the following requirements AFTER accepting a seat in the Program:

- Must file a degree plan with the designated Health Counselor.
- **Community Wide Orientation** - Conducted online: <https://www.epcc.edu/Admissions/Orientation/community-wide-orientation> (must be renewed every year).
- **CPR** - American Heart Association (AHA) CPR/BLS (only Health Provider training accepted) card from AHA. Military Training Network (AHA recognized) cards will be accepted. Hybrid AHA courses with live skills demonstration will be accepted. CPR card must remain current throughout the course of the program (Certification may not be older than two (2) years).
- **Health Care Insurance** (evidence). Mandatory Healthcare insurance is required for students doing clinicals at healthcare facilities. (A list of approved contracted health insurance companies will be provided for distribution and purchase once available).
- **HIPAA Training** - Conducted online: <https://www.epcc.edu/Academics/Health/hipaa> (must be renewed every year).
- **Immunizations and Titer** – The following must be completed.
 - **POSITIVE TITER required for Hepatitis B vaccination series of three and Titer** (can take 4-6 months to complete). If a student has started the Hepatitis B series by (**June 1**) ranking deadline, he/she may be clear for ranking or registration with the understanding that the series have to be completed in a timely manner prior to starting clinical courses. Documentation of starting the series must be on file.
 - **Tuberculosis (TB) screening required annually. **NOTE: It is highly recommended to complete any and all TB skin testing prior to receiving the MMR and/or Varicella vaccines. MMR or Varicella vaccines could cause a false negative TB skin test result.**

1. **Individuals who previously tested negative, have never tested, or are not sure if previously tested.**

- a. Initial 2 Step TB Skin Test (effective January 1, 2018, for all students/faculty new to health programs).
 - i. Initial TB skin test (TST) administered and read 48-72 hours later.
 - ii. If initial TB skin test is negative, the second TST must be administered no sooner than 7 days and no later than 21 days after administration of the initial TST.
 - iii. If initial TST is positive, DO NOT ADMINISTER the second TST. Individual needs Chest X-ray and annual TB Assessment/Clearance (or equivalent document) from Health Care Provider.

2. **TB Skin Test Positive** (previously). Requires completed Annual TB Assessment/Clearance form.

- **POSITIVE TITER required for each two doses - Measles, Mumps and Rubella Vaccinations (MMR) (completed) and Titer.**
- **POSITIVE TITER required for each two doses - Varicella Vaccination and Titer** (completed).
- **Tetanus/Diphtheria and Pertussis (TDAP)** vaccine (completed, expires after 10 years).
- **Influenza vaccine is required** (done annually).
- **Meningitis or Booster** – (Effective January 1, 2012, a Bacterial Meningitis Vaccination is required for all entering students under the age of 22. The term “entering students” includes new students to EPCC, transfer students, and returning students. Students must provide proof of an initial meningitis immunization or booster to the Admissions and Registration Department at any campus. The meningitis immunization must be administered at least 10 days before the start of the semester and must have been administered within the last five years).

NOTE: If you have had the vaccination at an earlier date, you may start with a Titer, as the result will indicate if you need the vaccine. If you have not had the vaccination and after vaccination is applied, you must wait 4-6 weeks for immunity to show up on the TITER.

Visit Admission and Registration EPCC web page for additional information. **Website:** <https://www.epcc.edu/Admissions/immunization-law>

A tracking system, COMPLIO, will assist students and coordinators alike to be compliant with immunizations, CPR, First Aid, physical, etc. All students participating in health programs must be part of the American Databank, in order to keep their clinical data in compliance and updated.

- **Current Physical Examination** completed by a Physician, Nurse Practitioner or Physician's Assistant licensed in the United States (No older than one year). **Website:** <https://www.epcc.edu/Administration/InstitutionalEffectiveness/PoliciesandProcedures/7.01.03.10.pdf#page=7>
- **Physical Technical Standards Form** (completed). <https://www.epcc.edu/Administration/InstitutionalEffectiveness/PoliciesandProcedures/FB-8.pdf>
- **Professional Practice Insurance** is required for all clinical and selected laboratory courses. This fee is paid during the time of enrollment. Instructor may ask for proof of payment (your registration receipt) on the first day of class.
- **Substance Abuse Screening** will be required for each student enrolling in health career programs with clinical components. For further information, please ask a Health Counselor or call the program coordinator. *****NOTE: Students must re-take and pay for substance abuse test if test was taken three months prior to the first clinical education course.** **Website:** <http://www.elpasoex.com/>
- **Transportation:** Students are responsible for their own transportation to off-campus clinical/learning sites.

OTHER INFORMATION

- CPR and First Aid Courses are available through the **EPCC Continuing Education Division**. Please see the current Continuing Education Course Schedule or call 915-831-4116 for more information.
- Our EPCC Rio Grande Border Health Clinic is located at the Rio Grande Campus. Students can obtain their Immunizations, physical examinations, and other health care services if they so desire. Call Border Health Clinic at: 915- 831-4016 for nursing clinic appointments (immunizations and physical examinations). Call 915-831-4017 for appointments for the dental, medical sonography, or physical therapy clinics.

This document is to be used with EPCC College Catalog, which provides complete information on courses as well as College regulations and procedures. This is for informational purposes only and is not a binding offer or contract between the College and the student. This document was revised September 2020 and is subject to change without prior notice.

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