

Spring 2017

SIGNALS

S T U D E N T N E W S L E T T E R



THOMAS EDISON
STATE UNIVERSITY

Exams, Portfolios and Open Courses

LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE UNIQUE AND COST EFFECTIVE WAYS TO EARN CREDIT

By Todd Siben, Asst. Dir., Portfolio Assessment and Stephen Phillips, Asst. Dir., Assessment Strategies

As a Thomas Edison State University student, you are probably already familiar with online courses. There's a syllabus, a textbook, discussion boards with fellow students, written assignments and interaction with a mentor throughout. Once you complete the course successfully, you earn 3 credits toward your degree.

But what you may not know is that online courses are only one method of earning credit.

Let's say you need to satisfy a civic engagement general education course requirement in your bachelor's degree program. There are certainly courses that

you can take or transfer on that would fulfill that requirement; however, if you already have some knowledge and experience in that area, or if you're good at studying independently, the University has some unique and cost-effective options:

Credit-by-Exam: This method of earning credit is ideal for students who have some prior knowledge on a topic and can demonstrate that knowledge in a comprehensive final exam. If you pass the exam, you earn 3 or more credits. The College Board's College-Level Examination Program (CLEP®) features more than 30 exams in a variety of subjects using this method of earning credit. For example, you could fulfill your civic engagement general education course requirement by taking the CLEP® exam for American Government (POS-110).

The University also has its own comprehensive final exams, called the Thomas Edison Credit-by-Examination Program or TECEP® exams. The cost to you is two hours of your time and less than \$120. In this example, you could take the Comparative Politics (POS-282) TECEP® exam to complete your civic engagement general education course requirement.



(from left) Stephen Phillips and Todd Siben

Portfolio Assessment: Are you someone who already has a lot of knowledge in this or another area, but you don't prefer to take exams? Another option to consider is portfolio assessment. Portfolio assessment gives you an opportunity to demonstrate your prior knowledge and experience in the context of a college course. Using this method of earning credit, you're responsible for compiling evidence of your knowledge (work products, essays, letters of recommendation, etc.) that prove that you understand the material being covered in a particular course. You also need to write a narrative that references your evidence and explains why it's applicable to the course you're challenging. In the case of your civic engagement course requirement: have you run for office; served as a guest political lecturer; or been blogger about elections and candidates? Have you worked in a polling center or participated in organizing a fundraising event? Experiences like these, combined with some knowledge or study can lead to credit. Check our Portfolio Database by visiting www2.tesu.edu/plasearch.php to see if any of the courses listed there match your expertise.

Open Courses: What if you don't have the experience or the college-level knowledge necessary for prior learning assessment, but you are still looking for an alternative to a traditional online course? Maybe you would prefer a course that not only gave you complete flexibility in completing assignments and assessments at your own pace, but was also low or no cost? The University has teamed up with Saylor Academy, a nonprofit educational foundation offering free, self-paced courses online, to offer students an affordable pathway to credit. Students simply log-in to the Saylor Academy website and begin learning. Once you have completed one of the

25 Saylor courses that have been evaluated for credit by TESU, you can take the appropriate TECEP® exam to earn credit.

The University has committed to using open educational resources to provide affordable pathways to degrees. One example is the Open Course Option for the University's Associate in Science in Business Administration (ASBA) degree program. This option combines CLEP, TECEP®, portfolio and open courses to dramatically reduce your tuition cost.

If you would like more information on open courses, you can contact Stephen Phillips, assistant director in the Center for the Assessment of Learning at sphillips@tesu.edu. He searches the world of open courses looking for opportunities to couple or connect free courses to the University's cost-effective programs, exams and portfolio opportunities. Nearly all course requirements in every undergraduate degree program can be completed by an open course, exam or a portfolio.

To learn more, visit www.tesu.edu, choose "Degree Completion" from the main menu and "Earning Credit for What You Already Know" from the dropdown. ■

Thomas Edison State University Celebrates 30 Years of Online Course Delivery

A SO-CALLED "FAD" THAT CONTINUES TO REDEFINE DEGREE COMPLETION



Drew Hopkins, chief information officer, Thomas Edison State University

Challenge Grant awarded by the N.J. Board of Higher Education in 1986 under the Kean administration. The three-year grant helped create a network that enabled Thomas Edison students to access courses and services via a dial-up computer conferencing system.

Fittingly, the first course offered was "The Adult Years: Continuity and Change," and 15 students were enrolled. By 1991, Guided Study on CALL courses, as they were renamed, became available to the general population of students.

"It felt like an adventure completing those first courses and ultimately achieving the dream that my family and I shared," said James Valle, a retired senior investigator for the state of New Jersey and decorated military veteran who served on former President Bill Clinton's overseas security detail. "Thomas Edison State was the starting place that gave me the opportunity to complete a degree while I worked and provided for my family. The software was designed so that even those



Hopkins during the launch of the first online courses.

The U.S. Stock Market was heading toward a plunge, the Iran-Contra affair dominated the headlines and *Platoon* won an Academy Award for Best Picture in 1987. And in March of that year, New Jersey's only institution dedicated exclusively for adults launched its first online course.

In March of this year, Thomas Edison State University celebrated the 30th anniversary of its Computer Assisted Lifelong Learning (CALL) Network, an innovation that enabled students to take courses and access college services via a dial-up computer network.

"Other institutions believed the CALL Network to be a fad rather than a long-term alternative to brick-and-mortar course delivery methods," recalled Drew Hopkins, chief information officer at Thomas Edison State University who facilitated the 1987 launch of the institution's first network-assisted courses. "The foundation for the internet was still in its infancy, so in order to provide access to CALL from anywhere in the country, we had to contract with a vendor to provide dial-up access points that provided network connectivity across the U.S. Over the course of the project's development, it was apparent that we were creating our destiny. There were certainly sceptics, but I knew from the very start that we were blazing a new road for higher education."

Development of this new type of course delivery was supported by a \$1.8 million

"OVER THE COURSE OF THE PROJECT'S DEVELOPMENT, IT WAS APPARENT THAT WE WERE CREATING OUR DESTINY. THERE WERE CERTAINLY SCEPTICS, BUT I KNEW FROM THE VERY START THAT WE WERE BLAZING A NEW ROAD FOR HIGHER EDUCATION."

Drew Hopkins

with little or no technical proficiency could use it. It gave me a comfort level with computer systems and software that I took with me after I completed my associate and bachelor's degrees in human services." Valle continued his academic journey to earn a master's degree in criminal justice from New Jersey City University. "It's been a wonderful ride. I will always treasure the smiles and happiness I shared with my wife, daughter and parents at my 1990 graduation ceremony," he said.

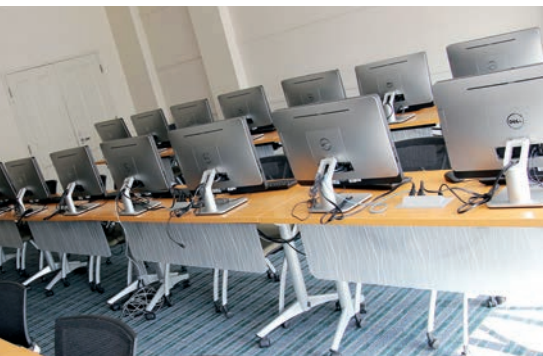
By 1995, the increasing ubiquity of personal computers and internet use fueled distance learning opportunities along with the Institution's expanding course offerings. Today, thousands of adults, from active duty military service members to registered nurses and busy parents, who cannot sacrifice time away from their professional and personal responsibilities, depend on the University's online courses and exams to advance their education.

There's little doubt of the widespread acceptance of online courses today. According to a recent survey performed by the Babson Survey Research Group, *Online Report Card: Tracking Online Education in the United States*, 28 percent of postsecondary students in the U.S. now take at least one distance education course. What's more, this population of nearly 6 million students is now growing by an average of 217,275 students per year.

The University has awarded 56,460 degrees to more than 50,000 graduates since it began providing flexible, high-quality, collegiate learning opportunities for self-directed adults in 1972. ■

New Online Testing Option on Campus

ONSITE, ONLINE TESTING EXPANDS STUDENTS' OPTIONS



The University's New Testing Facility

The Office of Test Administration (OTA) is introducing an online testing option for students who utilize the University's testing center in Trenton, N.J.

"Traditionally, students who came to the University's testing center on West State Street,

were limited to paper exams only," said Maureen Woodruff, director of the OTA at the University. "Those students either didn't have a computer that met the requirements of our Online Proctor System (OPS) or they preferred having a proctor in the room with them. To expand testing options for students, our office has installed software at workstations in our testing facility that will allow students to complete exams online while a proctor is physically present and available to assist if any issues arise."

This option provides students who live in the geographical area and prefer to take exams on the University campus more choices for completing online (OL), Guided Study (GS) and e-Pack® (EP) or TECEP® (TE) examinations. The University will continue to offer a pen and paper option for all exams.

For more information, contact the Office of Test Administration at testing@tesu.edu or call (609) 984-1181, ext. 2240. ■

COURSE NEWS

Note: A complete listing of all undergraduate and graduate courses and their availability may be found on our website at www.tesu.edu/courses.

NEW UNDERGRADUATE ONLINE COURSES:

HCM-308 *Healthcare Legal and Ethical Considerations*

CYB-120 *Introduction to Cybersecurity*

ITS-130 *Database Fundamentals*

ITS-140 *Introduction to Networking*

ITS-150 *Introduction to Programming*

ITS-160 *Fundamentals of Modern Operating Systems*

NEW GRADUATE ONLINE COURSES:

DTM-532 *Data Warehouse Design*

DTM-533 *Data Analytics*

The Challenge Ahead

MANY MILITARY MEMBERS WORRY ABOUT THEIR FUTURE – BUT NOT IN THE WAYS YOU MIGHT THINK

One of the last things on the mind of a U.S. soldier should be the competitiveness of the job market. But concern surrounding this, and the transition to civilian life, can often rival homesickness or an upcoming deployment.

This transition is very much on the mind of Bachelor of Science in Applied Science and Technology (BSAST) degree student Emily Dauer.

"I know the job market is extremely competitive. Having a specialized bachelor's degree in aviation will set me apart from my peers both in and outside of the military," said Spc. Dauer, a U.S. Army specialist in air traffic control, focusing on the areas of ground control approach and radar.

Dauer said that she's been fortunate to travel around the U.S. and to Germany, Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan and, most recently, South Korea, in her capacity. A family history of military service has served as her inspiration. "My great-grandfather served in World War II, and my godfather is currently serving," she said.

She said that she searched for a college with an aviation management program that she could

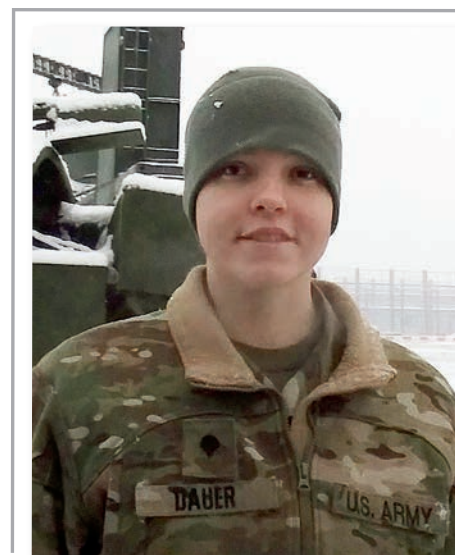
balance with her military responsibilities before discovering Thomas Edison State University (TESU).

"I looked at a number of schools before choosing TESU. Very few institutions offered as flexible an aviation management program. The University stood out as 'military friendly' as well as having my associate and bachelor's degree programs of choice. The mentors are always available to assist us and are very understanding of any situations that may arise among military students. It is great to be in a virtual classroom environment and connect with others from around the world."

Dauer said her course work is already enhancing her military career.

"Although my degree is still a work in progress, it is already setting me apart from my peers. It has opened opportunities for acceptance into my choice of military schools where I will further my education and promotions. When it is time for me to separate, my degrees will help me remain in the aviation industry," she noted.

She now plans on completing her BSAST degree in Aviation Management program and earning



Emily Dauer, BSAST student

a master's degree in aerospace management with a focus in safety. "Overall, my goal is to learn every management facet of the aviation industry," she noted. "I recommend TESU to any soldier looking to further their education."

Dauer's home is in Colorado with her husband, Daniel, also a military service member and the couple's three dogs. ■



University Partnership Offers Four-Year Pathway to BSN

PROGRAM PREPARES NURSING STUDENTS FOR GRADUATE-LEVEL STUDY

Mercer County Community College (MCCC) and Thomas Edison State University have created a dual enrollment nursing program that enables students to complete a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree in four years.

The program will allow graduates of MCCC's Nursing Education Program to transfer and apply up to 90 credits to the online RN-BSN program at Thomas Edison State University.

"This partnership provides students the opportunity to earn a BSN degree in an efficient and cost-effective manner," said Dr. Filomela Marshall, dean of the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing at Thomas Edison State University. "Our collaboration provides a seamless pathway into our RN-BSN program for students in Mercer's nursing program."

The program will provide a pipeline of baccalaureate-prepared nurses to deliver healthcare services to underserved populations in Trenton, Mercer County and throughout central New Jersey.

"This exciting new agreement with Thomas Edison State University is all about creating choices for students," said Dr. Jianping Wang, president of MCCC. "By offering more choices and enabling students to study close to home, more students will complete their education and we create more opportunities for students from a variety of backgrounds and learning styles while allowing them to continue to meet family and work obligations."

Eligible students in the dual enrollment program will be granted provisional acceptance to the RN-BSN program at Thomas Edison State University and full acceptance once they complete the associate in science degree from MCCC and pass the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN).

As they complete the BSN degree, students will be prepared to further advance their education and pursue a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) and eventually a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP). ■



(from left) Dr. Jianping Wang, president of Mercer County Community College (MCCC), Mercer County Executive Brian Hughes and Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State University, at the signing ceremony celebrating the new partnership between MCCC and the University.

Discover the Convenience of Online Testing

NO TESTING CENTERS OR TRAVELLING TO PROCTORS NECESSARY

By Jacquelyn Rossetter, Associate Director of Test Administration, and Dr. Elizabeth Gehrig, Senior Assessment Development Specialist



(from left) Dr. Elizabeth Gehrig and Jacquelyn Rossetter

Like many students at Thomas Edison State University, Elyse Abschutz was looking to develop her skills and advance her career.

"This meant completing my Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree in general management by taking online courses while balancing my responsibilities as an import coordinator for a children's clothing distributor," she noted.

She found online proctoring to be an attractive option for taking her

exams since it enabled her to schedule an online exam at any time from the comfort of her own home. However, doing so meant she would be observed by an online proctor and she was not sure she was comfortable with the idea. "I thought it would be creepy," she explains, citing a common concern among students new to online testing.

Fellow students assured her that, once she had taken her first online exam, it would be no big deal. "Looking back, I was surprised about how right they were," she said.

When using the online proctoring option, there are extra steps students should expect to take. The process requires logging in with the online proctoring service, following a few on-screen prompts to verify your identity and taking additional security measures before beginning the exam. At any time during the exam, students can communicate with the proctor using an online chat feature. At the conclusion of the exam, the proctor will ensure that students successfully submit their work.

It is recommended that students test their computer's capabilities before their exam to make sure they meet the system requirements of the online proctoring platform. Students are also urged to set aside enough time for the exam. For instance, if you have an appointment at 5 p.m., it is not recommended that you begin your exam at 3 p.m. In addition, make sure you know your Moodle password, especially if you are testing on a computer that is different than the one you customarily use. With this advice in mind, you will be able to focus on what is important: taking and passing your exam.

These days, when fellow students ask Abschutz for her advice about online testing, she tells them that the convenience far outweighs the initial awkwardness. "The best part is, I don't even have to leave my house and travel to a testing center," she said. "After all, passing exams and completing course work are the keys to earning a degree and using those new skills to improving our careers and lives," she said. ■

Meet a Mentor: Harry “Chip” DiCorcia

BUILDING A FUTURE FOR STUDENTS ON A FOUNDATION OF EXPERIENCE

Before becoming a University mentor, Harry “Chip” DiCorcia was a Thomas Edison student – an experience that cemented the foundation for his current role.

“Taking courses at Thomas Edison gave me a great advantage in understanding what is expected of the students,” DiCorcia explained. “I pass along the lessons learned from the great mentors I had; whether it’s in the way I provide feedback, guidance or encouragement in the students’ work or studies. The goal is to assist students in succeeding.”

DiCorcia mentors online courses in the Administration of Justice area of study, specifically White Collar Crime (AOJ-303) and Forensic Science (AOJ-280). He has also been called upon to evaluate portfolios regarding law enforcement-related prior learning assessment courses. Last spring, working with the Office for Assessment of Professional and Workplace Learning (OAWPL), DiCorcia participated in a program review assessment for the Juvenile Corrections Commission Academy at Sea Girt in Sea Girt, N.J.

His credentials for all these roles are above reproach. DiCorcia began his career as a special officer with the Point Pleasant Beach Police Department (N.J.) in 1982 and, after graduating from the Ocean County Police Academy, he became a full-time officer. He advanced through a succession of ranks, from detective to detective sergeant and detective lieutenant before becoming a patrol commander in 2005, and retiring in 2010.

“I spent my 28-year career in law enforcement working with some of the greatest officers in the field,” said DiCorcia. “I had the privilege of being part of the Monmouth-Ocean County Intelligence Bureau, and I was able to teach at the Police Academy and with the Ocean County Prosecutor’s Office Law Enforcement Advance Detective School. I also had the

opportunity to attend many specialized schools hosted by the New Jersey State Police, FBI and the Prosecutor’s Office, which assisted me in my career and service to my community and department.”

In fact, it was because several fellow members of DiCorcia’s law enforcement community were pursuing degrees at the Thomas Edison that he became a student. He earned his Associate in



Mentor Harry “Chip” DiCorcia

Science in Public and Social Services (now an Associate in Arts in Human Services) in 2003 and a Bachelor of Science in Human Services degree in Administration of Justice in 2006. He went on to earn a master’s degree in public administration from Fairleigh Dickinson University in Teaneck, N.J., in 2007. DiCorcia also served as a student representative to Thomas Edison’s Board of Trustees from 2002 to 2004.

“Being selected as a student representative to the Board of Trustees gave me insight to the missions and goals of the institution and, having been a student, I had a good foundation for what was expected as a mentor.”

Since his retirement from the police force, DiCorcia has worked at Ocean County College in Toms River, N.J., as an associate adjunct of criminal justice and homeland security. He also works as a substitute teacher at Point Pleasant Beach High School.

In his spare time, DiCorcia is a member of the Descendants of World War II Rangers, and has traveled to Normandy, France and England, and to many reunions across the country. “This incredible group keeps the history of the U.S. Army Rangers thriving,” he noted. He is also a member of Durand Lodge #179 of Free and Accepted Masons, currently serving as a Grand Lodge officer. During Hurricane Sandy, he and his wife facilitated a community assistance center, based out of Durand Lodge. Over the months that followed, they had more than 1,000 volunteers register to help and assist more than 600 homeowners in the clean-up and recovery process.

DiCorcia, who resides in Point Pleasant Beach, has lived there his entire life. “I’ve been married to my wonderful wife, Maura, for 35 years. I am very fortunate that she has always encouraged and supported me in my educational pursuits and in my career. We have three daughters: Corinne (32), Kathryn (30) and Seton (26). All of whom continued on to earn college degrees, and two have achieved their master’s degrees.” ■



Ask a Nurse

AN INTERVIEW WITH STUDENT MARIA GAGLIARDI, RN-BSN

Maria Gagliardi, RN, a clinical nurse at Kennedy Health in New Jersey and student in the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program in the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing, is the recent recipient of a Kennedy Nursing Scholarship Award. The program awards up to \$8,000 to RNs aspiring to earn a graduate degree in the field. Gagliardi talked about what the achievement means to her and shared her perspective as a nurse professional furthering her education.

Q It must have been affirming professionally to know that fellow nurse leaders and clinical staff who took part in selecting the award recipients, hold you in such high regard. Tell us about that and your work at Kennedy Health.

GAGLIARDI: I am a staff nurse at the Kennedy Surgical Center at the Washington Township, N.J., campus. I have worked for Kennedy for three years and, in that short time, they have provided me with a way to pursue my education that others I've worked for have not. I'm humbled that my Kennedy peers selected me as the recipient of the Health Leadership scholarship as I feel recognized for accomplishing quality nursing care and being rewarded for it. I'm also honored that Kennedy has chosen me to fulfill my dream of earning my master's degree and to pursue a career that I only imagined I'd ever have.

Q What aspects of nursing practice do you enjoy the most?

GAGLIARDI: What I truly love about nursing is the personal reward I get from my patients. I feel honored every day to give the best care and make a difference in someone's life. I enjoy the physical contact of nursing, the interaction with family members and the teaching aspect. I take great pleasure in being able to relay information to families that will have a positive impact on their lives. I also enjoy being a patient advocate, working autonomously and having an influence on nursing practice and my patients.

Q What motivated you to become an RN?

GAGLIARDI: My father was in a serious car accident just as I was just entering college and still unsure of what degree to pursue. As my family rushed to his bedside in the emergency room, I was overwhelmed by the care and concern of his nurses. It was through that journey of visiting him in the hospital every day for a month that I decided what my path would be. I wanted to become a nurse so I could have the same positive impact on people.



Maria Gagliardi and her sons (from left to right) Dominic, Stephen and Vincent.

"I ENJOY BEING THAT PATIENT ADVOCATE, WORKING AUTONOMOUSLY AND HAVING AN INFLUENCE ON NURSING PRACTICE AND MY PATIENTS."

Maria Gagliardi, RN-BSN

Q Tell us the ways that Kennedy Health's educational partnership with TESU helps in your educational pursuit.

GAGLIARDI: I've taken advantage of the tuition reimbursement program at Kennedy in my master's degree pursuit and enrolled in courses at the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing. The reimbursement we receive is an allotted amount that covers a generous portion of my tuition. The scholarship funds I've been awarded will cover the balance. I've always been a big proponent of furthering your education and believe that you are never too old to go back to school. Attending school at the graduate level allows you to focus on an area of specialty and it certainly makes it more rewarding. I feel as if my knowledge base in nursing has expanded and I've improved my critical-thinking skills as well as enhanced my interpersonal skills. I can utilize nursing theories that I have learned in my courses into my own practice. Kennedy encourages all of its employees to achieve a higher level of education and they have made earning a nursing degree more feasible for many by offering scholarships, tuition assistance and professional guidance.

Q Do you find that TESU's online programs and course structure work with your busy schedule?

GAGLIARDI: The reason that I chose TESU was because of the flexibility of the program and being able to respond to online discussions with other RNs. I work different shifts and would not survive a regimented class meeting schedule. The online model is much more accommodating and has allowed me to log into my courses early mornings and

late evenings while I worked full time and cared for my three boys. It also gives me the opportunity to complete my assignments at any time and from

just about anywhere.

Earning my degree has been a challenge for me in unexpected ways. I started my journey with the support of my husband and three sons. One day my life was turned upside down when my husband died unexpectedly. With two sons in college and a third in high school, I strongly considered abandoning my dream of attaining my degree. With the strong support from my co-workers and family, I decided to continue to pursue my master's degree. My days are difficult at times, but I know this is something that I personally want to achieve. I am proud to say that my oldest son, Stephen, is graduating from Boston University with a business degree this year, my middle son, Dominic, is a junior in the University of Delaware's business program and my third son, Vincent, is graduating high school and will attend the University of Delaware next year. In spite of our setbacks, I am going to achieve my goal. I want to make my sons proud and serve as a strong role model. I look forward to one day walking across the stage at Commencement to receive my diploma. If it wasn't for all of the support I've received, I never would have achieved this. ■

Supercharge Your Next Advising Expressline Phone Call

By Sherwood Brown and Joshua Hoftiezer, Senior Academic Program Advisors



Sherwood Brown

Your time is valuable. When you're looking for a quick answer to a quick question about your degree requirements, you want to make the best use of what little time you have. That's why you should add this TESU phone number to your contacts right now: (609) 984-1141. That's OK, we'll wait.

When the time comes to ask a general question about your degree, get advice on which course you should enroll in next or which courses apply to your degree program, you'll have the number to the Advising Expressline right at your fingertips. An Advising Expressline call is a direct, informal way to speak with an advisor on topics you feel will take less than 10 minutes to cover. Those topics can include course selection, exam options, registration questions or deadline dates for graduation.



Joshua Hoftiezer

The following are some do's and don'ts that will help you get the most out of your Advising Expressline call:

DO have your University ID number ready. Having your 7-digit University ID number ready for the academic advisor will maximize your time. This helps them to pull up your student record quickly and eliminate searching multiple records to locate yours. **DON'T expect that a program-specific advisor will be available for calls to the Advising Expressline.** Unlike more formalized advising appointments, there is no guarantee that an advisor will be available to answer questions specific to your area of study. If you need to speak with an advisor who specializes in your degree program or area of study, schedule either an in-person or a formal advising phone appointment. You can do this by visiting www.tesu.edu/advising and selecting "Advising Appointment"

from left menu to view your options. **DO plan to be concise.** The Advising Expressline is intended for three- to five-minute conversations. If you have a list of questions and need more time with an advisor, it's best to schedule a 30-minute advising appointment or two appointment slots back-to-back for a 60-minute session. **DON'T call while driving.** Choose a space that is quiet and free from distraction since there is a good chance that you will need to focus on your Academic Evaluation or take notes during your call. If you're driving, dividing your attention between the road and an academic advisor may result in missing pertinent parts of the discussion...or worse.

CALL THE ADVISING EXPRESSLINE IF:

You have general questions about your area of study requirements, credit earning options or free elective course options.

You want to discuss the general education course requirements in your degree program.

You need clarification on academic policies (i.e., GPA or residency requirements).

You need assistance in interpreting your Academic Evaluation, determining how many credits you need to graduate or would like suggestions on the first course(s) to take.

MAKE AN ADVISING APPOINTMENT IF:

You are considering changing your area of study or are moving credits between degree programs.

You need to discuss course options or receive approval for courses not taken through TESU that you are transferring.

You have specific questions about your GPA or want to discuss options for improving your academic standing.

You anticipate taking multiple courses or are planning an entire degree program and want to review your options in conjunction with your Academic Evaluation.

For more information on the Office of Academic Advising's resources, visit the *Advisement Program Planning Handbook* on the University's website. The Advising Expressline can be reached by calling (609) 984-1141, and advisors are available to take your calls from Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., ET. ■

University Named to College Choice 2017 List

Three of Thomas Edison State University's bachelor's degree programs in engineering technology have been named to College Choice's 2017 Most Affordable Online Bachelor's in Engineering Degrees' list.



The University's bachelor degree programs in Electronic Systems Engineering Technology and Nuclear Energy Engineering Technology – both accredited by the Engineering Technology Accreditation Commission of ABET – and Nuclear Engineering Technology were named among the top 20 institutions included in the 2017 affordability rankings by College Choice.

"We are pleased to have been recognized by College Choice as having three of the most affordable online bachelor's degrees in engineering," said Dr. Richard Coe, assistant dean, School of Applied Science and Technology at the University. "The University's commitment to affordable, high-quality, accessible online education has been further validated through our acknowledgement by College Choice."

View the complete rankings at: <http://www.collegechoice.net/rankings/cheapest-online-engineering-degrees/>.

College Choice has also ranked the University's bachelor's program in business administration as one of its 2017 Most Affordable Online Bachelor's programs. In 2016, College Choice recognized the University's programs in accounting, computer science, human resources, management, nuclear engineering and medical sonography degrees. ■

Academic Calendar

| | May 2017 | June 2017 | July 2017 |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Registration Dates | March 24 –April 15, 2017 | April 21 – May 20, 2017 | May 19 – June 17, 2017* |
| Late Registration | April 16 – 20, 2017 | May 21 – 25, 2017 | June 18 – 22, 2017 |
| Course Transfer Period | May 5, 2017 | June 9, 2017 | July 7, 2017 |
| Term Start Date | May 1, 2017 | June 5, 2017 | July 3, 2017 |
| Midterm Exam Week ** | June 12 – 18, 2017 | July 17 – 23 , 2017 | Aug. 14 – 20, 2017 |
| Final Exam Week** | July 17 – 23, 2017 | Aug. 21 – 27, 2017 | Sept. 18 – 24 , 2017 |
| Term Ends | July 23, 2017 | Aug. 27, 2017 | Sept. 24, 2017 |

* Term start date applies to both graduate and undergraduate courses.

** Certain courses have midterm examinations or online proctored midterm and final examinations; please refer to your course materials for details.

SPRING 2017

111 W. STATE ST. • TRENTON, NJ 08608

SIGNALS THOMAS EDISON STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT NEWSLETTER



NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TRENTON, NJ
PERMIT NO. 112