NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION SESSION

TRINITY RIVER EAST CAMPUS

TARRANT COUNTY COLLEGE DISTRICT
AGENDA FOR NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION SESSION

1. Introduction & Requirements for Patient Safety & Welfare
2. Application Period/Seats Available/Cost of Program
3. Competitiveness/Stats/Selection Notification
4. Eligibility and Prerequisite Courses
5. Length of Program
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INTRODUCTION TO NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECHNOLOGY

Associate of Applied Science Degree in Nuclear Medicine Technology

Introduction
The Tarrant County College Associate of Applied Sciences Degree in Nuclear Medicine Technology teaches the use of gamma rays to image many parts of the human body for diagnosing and treating medical problems.

Career Opportunities
Nuclear Medicine employment is expected to grow faster than average. Federal projections estimate a 17% increase in demand in 2019.
Most technologists work in hospitals but are also in demand at physicians’ offices, diagnostic imaging centers and urgent care centers.

Program Content
Studies combine general education and on-campus NMT courses with actual clinical experience at a hospital or clinic.
In addition, studies cover areas such as:
- Nuclear medicine and radiation physics
- Radiation biology
- Radiopharmacy and pharmacology
- Radiation safety and protection
- Diagnostic and therapeutic nuclear medicine procedures
- Positron Emission Tomography (PET)
- Computed Tomography (CT)
This 2-year Program will seek accreditation by the Joint Review Committee on Education Programs in Nuclear Medicine Technology (JRCNMT). Graduates are eligible to sit for the NMTCB and ARRT Nuclear Medicine Exams as well as applying for MRT certification by the Texas Medical Board.

Starting Salaries
The American Society of Nuclear Medicine Technologists reports that the average starting salary for a technologist in the DFW area is estimated to be $70,000-$75,000 per year (salary.com).
PATIENT SAFETY AND WELFARE
ALL APPLICANTS MUST HAVE:

• Visual Acuity (with corrective lenses, if needed) to identify cyanosis, absence of respiratory movement in patients, adverse skin reactions to treatments, read physicians orders, read very fine print on medication containers, visualize displays on monitors and other equipment, and evaluate images for diagnostic quality.

• Hearing ability (with auditory aids, if needed) to understand the normal speaking voice without viewing the speaker’s face; hear and monitor alarms, emergency signals, call bells from patients, equipment timers and alarms; and take/hear blood pressures.

• Physical ability to stand for prolonged periods of time, perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation, transfer patients and objects of 50 lbs. or more, perform treatment procedures with two hands, push patients and pieces of equipment from room to room and/or maneuver in limited spaces. Health insurance is also required for clinical sites.

• The ability to communicate effectively in verbal and written form by speaking clearly and succinctly when explaining treatment procedures to patients, family members, medical staff and when describing patient conditions/reactions and implementing health techniques. Write legibly and correctly in patient’s records for legal documentation.

• Sufficient manual dexterity to use aseptic and sterile technique, prepare needles, syringes, contrast media, and manipulate film, cassettes and equipment.

• The ability to function safely under stressful situations involving patient care; to adapt to the ever-changing environment inherent in clinical situations involving patient care, and to exercise independent judgment and discretion in the performance of assigned responsibilities.
APPLICATION PERIOD

November 1st through June 1st
For Fall Admission
Online Application (Print and Fill Out)

You can bring the application to an advisor for review
OR
Mail it in:

Attention: NUCMED APPLICATION
245 E. Belknap Street
Fort Worth, Texas 76102
How many seats per application period?

- The TCCD Nuclear Medicine Technology program currently accepts up to 12 students per application period. Those selected will begin classes in the SPRING semester. An estimated number of applicants for this program is projected for 20-35 per year.

Program Cost

- Approximately $5,000!
- TCCD $63/SCH

This includes uniforms, books, tuition and other miscellaneous costs.
How does this compare to other local A.A.S. Nuclear Medicine Technology programs?

- Amarillo College $108/SCH
- Houston Community College $164/SCH
When Will I Be Notified?

3-4 Weeks after the application deadline, the top 20 candidates are invited to a mandatory information meeting.

Selection Into Program

Acceptance Notification of selected 12 applicants are sent within 10 days after the information meeting.

Alternates

The remaining applicants (that attended the information session) are designated as alternates.

It is important to remember that selection is based on how each applicant compares with others in the applicant pool for this program.

Applicants with higher GPA’s, Hesi A2 scores and science grades... Will be the most competitive.

The selection committee notifies all candidates by mail of their admission status (accepted, alternate, not accepted or incomplete). It is the responsibility of the applicant to make sure the correct mailing address has been provided.
## ELIGIBILITY

**Must have a TCCD ID Number**

- To be eligible to apply for the Nuclear Medicine Technology program, the student must first be a current TCCD student. This means that the student has a TCCD student ID number and has already applied and been accepted to the college.

- Individuals that have not applied to the college may follow this link: [Apply For Admission](#) to begin the process.

**Transcript Evaluation**

- ALL official transcripts from a college or university other than TCCD, must be received and evaluated by TCCD at the time of Application to the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program.

- First, submit your transcripts to the Transcript Office or your local Registrars office.

- This process can take up to two months, please keep this in mind.

- Also remember to include an official transcript with your application IF your evaluation has not yet been completed.

**TSI Requirements**

- Meet TCCD’s Texas Success Initiative (TSI) requirements. For additional information on TSI requirements, Please visit: [TSI Requirements](#)
### ELIGIBILITY CONTINUED

#### Prerequisite Science Courses
- The courses below, or equivalents, must have been completed within 5 years from time of application.
- BIOL 2401
- BIOL 2402
- CHEM 1405 or 1406
- MATH 1314

**Special note:** BIOL 2401 & 2402 courses must have been completed within 5 years from time of application.

- Please note that you must have a C or higher for these grades to be considered.

- Please ALSO note that SCIT COURSES are not accepted replacements for the BIOL courses. We will not allow any exceptions.

#### Immunizations/Screenings
- Please be aware that the TAC (Texas Administrative Code) and DFW Hospital Council Standards require that all students in health-related programs complete certain immunizations. These MUST be submitted with your application. They are currently as follows:
  - HEPATITIS A&B
  - MMR
  - TDAP
  - Varicella
  - Influenza
  - TB Skin Test

*Some of these immunizations take up to 6 months to complete (Hep A & B), it is best to get started NOW, or you cannot apply for the program.

#### Other Requirements
- Once accepted into the program, you will be required to complete a drug screen, keep CPR current (American Heart Association certified BLS for Healthcare Providers), and a criminal background check. If you have any criminal charges, you need to email me to discuss what you must do in order to find out whether or not you can apply for the program. Felony’s, Assault, Domestic Violence and Drug Charges automatically bar you from eligibility.

- You will also need to renew your TB annually and Flu seasonally.
PREREQUISITE COURSE REQUIRED/RECOMMENDED
ALL NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECHNOLOGY AND GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES MUST BE PASSED WITH A MINIMUM GRADE OF C

- The below bold courses, or approved equivalents, must have been completed within 5 years from the time of deadline. There are absolutely NO exceptions. Must have a C or higher.
  - BIOL 2401 (Anatomy and Physiology I)
  - BIOL 2402 (Anatomy and Physiology II)
  - MATH 1314 (College Algebra)
  - CHEM 1405 or 1406 Introductory Chemistry Can be taken within the first semester
    We will accept any CHEM with lab (4Hour)

- Please note that the 2 sciences and the Math listed above, HESI A2 exam, immunizations and all TSI Requirements must be completed prior to application

- The following general education courses must be completed prior to graduation with a C or higher. These course can be taken before admission into the program.
  - ENGL 1301 (English Composition I)
  - One Creative Arts/Language, Philosophy or Culture elective (3 hour course)
  - One Social/Behavioral Science Elective (3 hour course)
NEW PROGRAM CHANGES
ALL APPLICANTS MUST NOW HAVE A MINIMUM 2.5 GPA TO BE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY

Not only will there be a minimum GPA of 2.5; you will also be required to take the HESI A2 test prior to application.

What does the HESI A2 test cover:

**Math**: Basic math skills; a 50 item exam that focuses on math skills needed for health care fields, including basic addition, subtraction, multiplication, fractions, decimals, ratio and proportion, household measures, and general math facts that are useful. Personal calculators are not permitted during this part of the test although there is a basic function calculator available within the test.

**Reading Comprehension**: A 47 item exam that includes reading scenarios that are health related. Provides reading scenarios in order to measure reading comprehension, including: identifying the main idea, finding meaning of words in context, passage comprehension, making logical inferences, etc.

**Vocabulary & General Knowledge**: A 50 item exam that contains vocabulary terms that are commonly used in both general English speaking settings and in health care fields.

**Grammar**: A 50 item exam that contains basic grammar including: parts of speech, important terms and their uses in grammar, and commonly occurring grammatical errors.

**Other Information**

Please check the following link for more HESI A2 Information (registration, cost, test dates): https://www.tccd.edu/admission/testing-centers/hesi-a2/

Results of test will be available immediately after completion … the test is 4.5 hours long, most people finish in 2 hours.
Course & Clinical Hours

- Program courses and labs *usually* (not always) meet weekdays between 8am and 4pm.
- Clinical hours vary between 6:00am and 4:30pm
- **This is a Full-Time Program**
- Students need to be able to commit to a full-time schedule for FIVE semester (2 YEARS) consecutively. Part-time or evening learning options are not available at this time. During your first semester, you will have a schedule of 3 days per week. The time commitment will increase each semester thereafter.
NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

Coursework in the First Fall Semester
SCIT 1320 Physics for Allied Health
NMTT 1301 Introduction to Nuclear Medicine
CHEM 1405 (if needed)

Coursework in the First Spring Semester
NMTT 2301 Radiochemistry and Radiopharmacy
NMTT 2209 Nuclear Medicine Methodology 1
NMTT 1267 Nuclear Medicine Practicum 1
Coursework in the First Summer Semester
NMTT 1309 Nuclear Medicine Instrumentation
NMTT 1313 Nuclear Medicine Physics
NMTT 1267 Nuclear Medicine Practicum 2

Coursework in the Second Fall Semester
NMTT 2313 Nuclear Medicine Methodology 2
NMTT 2333 PET and Fusion Technology
NMTT 2366 Nuclear Medicine Practicum 3

Coursework in the Second Spring Semester
NMTT 2235 Nuclear Medicine Seminar
NMTT 2467 Nuclear Medicine Practicum 4
FAQ

If you have any questions, please contact:

TR.HealthCareAdvising@tccd.edu

Program Director
tonya.pigulski@tccd.edu
817-515-2401

Administrative Assistant
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PLEASE PAY ATTENTION!

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