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ARE YOU READY FOR A 6-CREDIT COURSE?

by Todd Siben, Assistant Director of Portfolio Assessment, and
Donald S. Cucuzzella, Assistant Director, School of Business and Management

Completion of a 6-credit course can be a welcome leap in your academic journey, but is it survivable? With the right level of commitment and time management, students and alums say, 'yes you can.'

For a number of years, the College has offered 6-credit courses, and it's no surprise that they have been popular with adult learners. Currently, the College has three 6-credit courses, which students can apply to a specific area of study or utilize to satisfy a general education requirement: Global Environmental Change (ENS-314), War and American Society (HIS-356) and Social Psychology (PSY-379).

According to student Robert Turano and alumna Nancy F. Danch, a 6-credit course is more intensive and requires longer study sessions than a typical 3-credit course – but not to a degree that it is unmanageable.

"On the whole, the course was comparable to the 3-credit courses I've taken in terms of deliverables," said Turano, a BA degree program student who manages DeSio Associates, an advertising agency in Lawrenceville, N.J. "The discussion forums, written assignments, midterm and final assignments were similarly structured; however, there was an intensity of subject matter that set the 6-credit course apart."

A LOOK INSIDE A 6-CREDIT COURSE:

Similar in structure to a 3-credit course, the College's 6-credit courses encompass a 12-week term and contain a midterm and a final exam along with written and online discussion board assignments.



Todd Siben, assistant director,
Portfolio Assessment



Donald S. Cucuzzella, assistant
director, School of Business and
Management

Turano said that his 6-credit course, Global Environmental Change, encompassed a broad body of knowledge. He advises those taking the course to plan accordingly.

"Successful completion largely relied on time management," noted Turano, who set aside 60 to 90 minutes each evening for his course work. By keeping a close eye on assignment due dates and managing his pace, he earned an A in the course.

"There were a dozen students enrolled in my course and the discussion forums were active with well-supported postings and vibrant debates," said Turano. "Although I have written many in-depth articles on environmental issues professionally, I found the course highly informative."

The 6-credit courses currently being offered at the College:

> **Global Environmental Change (ENS-314)**

is among the most popular natural science electives, covering the fundamentals of global environmental science including the biosphere, population growth, energy, natural resources, biodiversity and worldwide resources.

> **War and American Society (HIS-356)**

considers the American Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Mexican-American War, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War and their impact on American life. A major emphasis is

COURSE NEWS

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

NEW UNDERGRADUATE ONLINE COURSES:

CHE-121-OL

General Chemistry I with Lab

CHE-122-OL

General Chemistry II with Lab

ELT-306-OL

Solid State Devices and Circuits

FIN-314-OL

Small Business Finance

NUR-342-OL

Advancing Nursing Practice

PHY-115-OL

Physics I with Lab

PHY-116-OL

Physics II with Lab

NEW UNDERGRADUATE TECEP® COURSES:

APS-289-TE

Radiation Safety Officer

NEW GRADUATE NURSING COURSES:

NUR-516-OL

Advanced Health Assessment

NUR-640-OL

Advanced Pathophysiology

Migrating to Moodle?

LEARNER SERVICES CENTER STAFF IS HERE TO HELP

The staff in the College's Learner Support Center (LSC) is happy to be on the front line in responding to students' questions. Look for our recurring "Front & Center" column that will deliver news about program developments that may affect you.

Transitioning to Moodle? You have plenty of company. During the May 2013 term, the College's online courses debuted in the new Moodle learning management system (LMS). In July, all online courses offered at Thomas Edison State College were administered through Moodle.

"During this time, our LSC student affairs specialists are available to ease the transition and assist students with logging into the new portal and navigating the Moodle LMS," said Anna Krum, senior student affairs specialist.

As part of the migration to Moodle, students received a College-sponsored Gmail account that will make it easier to communicate with mentors and fellow students as well as access to Google Apps which contains a suite of programs to assist students with course work,

scheduling and assignments. Students will access Google Apps, along with their Gmail account, Online Student Services, Moodle courses, the Parature Help Desk system, the College bookstore, announcements and alerts – all through the College's new portal, my.tesc.edu, and all with a single sign on.

If you need assistance logging into the College portal and Moodle courses, you are also encouraged to watch the instructional videos on the College's website at www.tesc.edu/current-students/Moodle.cfm.

"Familiarity breeds contentment," said Krum. "Students can be proactive during this transition by logging in early and often to their courses. Moodle is gaining popularity among many institutions of higher education for good reason. The new system is user-friendly, easy



Anna Krum, senior student affairs specialist at Thomas Edison State College.

to navigate and students' course elements are more readily accessible than ever before."

The College plans to optimize its new portal for mobile devices later this year. Over the next two months, the College plans to complete the phased migration of all courses being offered through the new Moodle LMS.

Need assistance or have questions? The LSC student affairs specialists are here to help. A specialist is available at (888) 442-8372, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m., ET; or via email: LSC@tesc.edu. ■

NEW NURSING SIM LAB

ADVANCES IN EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY THAT SAVE LIVES

Nursing students rally around a patient whose blood pressure begins plummeting. It is only a simulation, but it contains all the immediacy of a patient emergency on an actual hospital floor.

The Thomas Edison State College's newly opened Simulation Laboratory (Sim Lab) provides interactive learning to W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing students, teaching them how to respond in scenarios like this.

The state-of-the-art, anatomically correct manikins they rush to stabilize can be programmed to simulate any healthcare emergency or condition. It is an experience that bodes well for nurse educators whose students thrive from simulated patient emergency situations.

"Nursing students cannot be exposed to every situation in a hospital when they go through their real-world clinical experiences," said Dr. Phyllis Marshall, dean of the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing. "In the Sim Lab, however, they will be able to experience a wide variety of scenarios with the manikins, including cardiac disease and cardiac arrest, diabetic reactions, acute respiratory issues and comorbid conditions."

Simulation sessions are scripted with the simulators programmed to exhibit specific symptoms and respond to the actions of the students. This includes exhibiting bodily functions and reactions, verbalizing and having any reaction a nurse can expect when treating a live patient.

The 635 square-foot lab is located on the first floor of the College's Kuser Mansion Carriage House on West State Street in Trenton, N.J., and includes a control room where the simulators are controlled featuring a one-way

glass window so nurse educators can observe students during simulation sessions.

"The new simulation lab gives our students the opportunity to learn how to handle a variety of situations in a controlled, safe environment and develop critical-thinking and decision-making skills required in our profession," said Marshall. ■



Accelerated 2nd Degree BSN program students check vitals in the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing Sim Lab.

Earning Credit for What You Already Know Just Got Easier

PLA-100 AND PLA-200 WILL GET YOU ON COURSE

What is better than earning college credit for what you already know? More options for earning that credit.

Beginning July 1, students at Thomas Edison State College have more options for obtaining credit for what they already know through prior learning assessment (PLA). Under PLA, two new courses have been developed: Introduction to Prior Learning (PLA-100) and Introduction to Portfolio Development (PLA-200). The courses build on the College's flexible method of earning credits for college-level knowledge you may already possess and serve as an effective roadmap in PLA course completion.

Bachelor of Science in Applied Science and Technology degree program alum Robert N. Phipps '13, was given the opportunity to participate in the College's PLA-100 and PLA-200 courses when they were piloted to students last year, and found it an efficient way to earn more than 20 credits toward degree completion.

"Like many TESC students, I was working a full-time job, juggling family obligations, and trying to complete a degree as efficiently as possible," said Phipps, a Motor Operated Valve (MOV) coordinator at Watts Bar Nuclear Plant in Tennessee. "The PLA program gave me the ability to earn credit for seven courses required in my degree program within six months. The PLA-100 and PLA-200 courses help you to organize your experiences and address the course objectives. The courses I received credit for were technical courses I could not have earned credit for via CLEP or DANTES."

According to Marc Singer, vice provost of the Center for the Assessment of Learning at the College, Phipps and many students like him, are examples that college is not the only place where students can acquire college-level knowledge. "The College has several methods for assessing what you know and translating that into college credit. Many adult learners will find that it is likely that they possess college-level knowledge – whether it is through their career, technical training, military training, hobbies or volunteer activities – and can apply that knowledge toward their degree program," he said.

The first step is registering for Introduction to Prior Learning Assessment (PLA-100). PLA-100 introduces you to the various methods of PLA offered by the College, including portfolio development, credit by examination (testing), academic program review, American Council

of Education (ACE) evaluations for college credit and more. Topics encompass college-level learning, individual learning styles and the benefits of PLA. This four-week general education course is worth 1 credit, and it will place you on the road to earning credit for what you already know.

STUDENTS COMPLETING PLA-100 HAVE TWO OPTIONS:

Option 1:

Upon completing PLA-100, most students who find they possess college-level knowledge will then take Introduction to Portfolio Development (PLA-200). The PLA-200 course provides you with the tools and support to complete a PLA portfolio. This is an online eight-week, 2-credit general education course, in which you will:

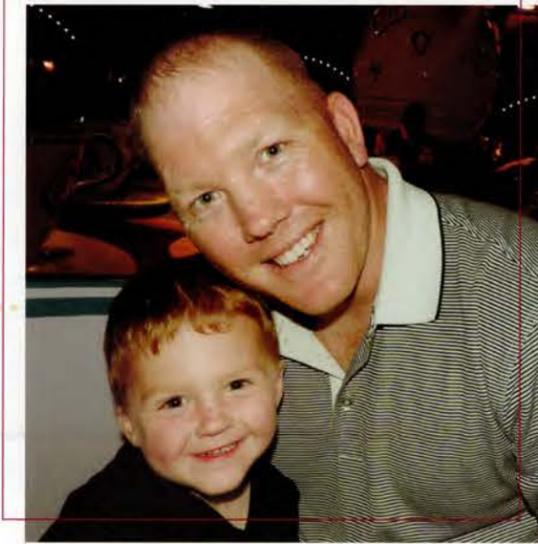
- > identify the potential course-equivalent subjects for which you might earn credit through portfolio assessment; and
- > write, develop and submit a portfolio for assessment in multiple academic subjects for which you have the knowledge

Your portfolio will document your prior learning and requires you to reflect on and discuss your learning experiences and the knowledge you acquired. Your portfolio will also include evidence that you have mastery of the subject matter for which you're attempting to earn credit. "Once you have completed the process, your portfolio is reviewed by a subject matter expert," said Singer. "Successful completion of PLA-100 and PLA-200 could earn you credit for any or all of your college-level prior learning, as long as the credits fit in your degree program."

Best of all, according to Singer, this process allows students who already have college-level knowledge to earn college credits at a reasonable cost. The cost for evaluation of the first 12 credits of your portfolio will be \$350, with a \$200 fee for each additional 6 credits.

Option 2:

Others completing PLA-100 will find that their prior learning may be most efficiently assessed through the College's TECEP® credit-by-exam program, or they may opt for the College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) or the DSST to earn credit; or, earn credit through the College's evaluation of licenses or previous training.



"The PLA program gave me the ability to obtain credit for seven courses required in my degree program inside of a six-month period," said Robert N. Phipps, BSAST '13, pictured above with son, Caleb.

Under this option, students may also pursue a Single-Course Portfolio Assessment. This process also allows you to earn college credit for knowledge you already possess on a course-by-course basis. "This single-course process makes more sense if you plan to earn credit through PLA for one course only," noted Singer. "If you have more prior learning than that, it's a better idea to go through the comprehensive process of PLA-200."

The single course option, which comprises 12 weeks per course, is available to those who have taken PLA-100 or previously completed PLA portfolio assessments for college credit.

"I believe by leveraging your professional experience and training that you are able to obtain course credit in the most efficient and effective way possible," said Phipps. "I highly recommend this path for students that have prior life experiences in the degree area they are pursuing."

Still not sure if PLA is for you? Contact Todd Siben, assistant director of Portfolio Assessment, via email: tsiben@tesc.edu to discuss your options. Additional information about the PLA-100 and PLA-200 courses and prior learning assessment can also be found on the College's website at www.tesc.edu/pla. ■

College's Projects Recommended for State Funding

CAPITAL PROJECTS WILL TRANSFORM TRENTON, N.J., CAMPUS

The College's applications for capital projects at our campus in downtown Trenton have been recommended for funding by New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, including the construction of a new nursing education center.



The College submitted four applications for funding totaling \$16.6 million, including:

NURSING EDUCATION CENTER (\$12.726 million): The 34,700 square foot building will include a new nursing simulation laboratory, lecture halls and conference rooms, and space for our testing center.

KELSEY BUILDING AND TOWNHOUSE UPGRADES (\$1.913 million): This project is for the upgrade and renovation of our landmark Kelsey Building and Townhouse complex.

102-104 WEST STATE STREET IMPROVEMENTS (\$1.4 million): This project is to create the Center for Learning Technology at Thomas Edison State College in the 12,500 square foot building located across the street from our main campus (formerly home of the New Jersey Business and Industry Association).

INSTRUCTIONAL NURSING EQUIPMENT (\$585,000): This project is to purchase instructional equipment for the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing. ■

ARE YOU READY FOR A 6-CREDIT COURSE?

>> (continued from front cover)

placed on the humanities approach, addressing war and American society from historical, literary, artistic and philosophical perspectives. This course holds significant appeal for the College's military population, and many civilian students have reported on the richness of discussion board exchanges as a result.

> Social Psychology (PSY-379)

examines concepts such as perception, cognition and attitudes as they relate to understanding, thinking and evaluating our social world. A primary objective of the course is to analyze interpersonal communication in the context of current events. The course is well-suited for those who have already completed introductory psychology courses and satisfies elective requirements across a number of degree programs.

Danch agrees that 6-credit courses cover a broader scope of material than their 3-credit counterparts. She would know, the 2009 BA degree graduate enrolled in, and aced, all three 6-credit courses that the College offered.

"I definitely devoted more time than I did in my 3-credit courses, but this was understandable. Time management was crucial in balancing my academic, work and personal time. I would work on my reading assignments and

discussion board postings after work each day," said Danch, a business administrator with a Princeton, N.J., real estate development company and a part-time literary consultant. "On weekends I would tackle my written assignments."

Danch also noted that a broader swathe of course content is reflected in the exams.

"In a nutshell, it was more difficult to determine areas of concentration in exam preparation simply because

there was such an extensive amount covered in these courses. However, I would tell students that if they complete all the recommended reading and written assignments, they'll have much more success in answering the questions correctly."

Danch was able to complete 40-credits in two years while working full time and being a single parent due, in part, to the availability of 6-credit courses.

"My favorite was Global Environmental Change because of the wealth of knowledge I took



Nancy F. Danch '09, pictured with dog, Bella

away from the course. All three courses enabled me to accomplish more in less time. Without their availability, it would have taken me much longer to reach my goal of completing my BA degree," she said. "I've had many conversations with my mentors on how much I wished that TESC would offer more of them."

Turano and Danch agree that, while challenging, the College's 6-credit courses are worth the additional effort.

These courses can fit into a variety of degree programs and are an efficient way for students to expedite the completion of their degree requirements.

We do not recommend taking a 6-credit course in your first term and it's advised that you grasp the expectations of a 3-credit course before taking on something more substantial.

Enthusiasts of 6-credit courses will be heartened to hear that the College is investigating adding additional 6-credit courses to its current list of course offerings.

Do you need more guidance in selecting the 6-credit course that may be right for you? An academic advisor can help. Contact the Office of Academic Advisement and arrange for an advising appointment. ■



Robert Turano, BA degree program student

Meet a Mentor: Robert Saldarini

EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY HAS NOT ELIMINATED PERSONAL INTERACTION; ON THE CONTRARY, IT HAS INCREASED IT

According to mentor Robert Saldarini, if you want to keep up with adult learners, be prepared for a sprint. The seasoned educator finds his interactions with online adult students decidedly more spirited than their traditional counterparts.

"Thomas Edison State College students are predominantly high-energy," noted Saldarini. "Unlike the 19-year-old undergraduate who views the college classroom as an obligatory phase, our adult learners view their educational experience as a crucial step in achieving their personal goals."

Those interactions are especially valuable to the School of Business and Management mentor, who has been an enthusiast of online education since its inception. Saldarini was part of the initial wave of educators groomed to handle the College's Blackboard online learning platform and has accompanied learners through every stage since.

as a professor of business and information technology since 1992, and helped to deploy that college's first online courses. He is currently the academic chair of the Accounting, Finance and Business Administration Department at BCC.

Professionally, he has contributed to numerous publications and presented at national conferences on subjects ranging from higher education technology trends and team dynamics to leadership development and ethics in information technology.

His student-centered approach and nimble instructional style caught the attention of his colleagues at BCC who nominated him for a National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) Excellence Award. Winning the award left Saldarini feeling both gratified and humbled.

"Being selected and recognized as the one faculty member to represent your

Those who would never be able to obtain a degree otherwise – a nurse who moves from shift-to-shift, members of our military, a sales representative who travels extensively, a busy parent – all can access their course work without missing a beat.

"Today, the technologies have made mentoring more personalized and engaging as students are no longer simply names on a roster or a face in a lecture hall," said Saldarini.

Since 1991, he has served as a consultant and mentor in the College's undergraduate Managerial Communications (MAN-373), Computer Concepts and Applications (CIS-107) and graduate-level managerial communications and marketing courses. He is also a member of both the School of Business and Management's Curriculum Committee and the MBA Admissions Committee.

Additionally, Saldarini has served Bergen Community College (BCC) in Paramus, N.J.,

institution, especially by a committee of your peers, is one of the highest compliments a member of our community can achieve," noted Saldarini.

Saldarini tells students that their success in online learning centers on time management.

"If someone derails from one of my courses, the culprit is usually lack of time rather than lack of ability," noted Saldarini. "This dilemma comes from two directions for our students: 1.) assumption that an online course will be easier than a face-to-face class; or, 2.) not logging into courses frequently enough. The emails I receive express this quandary in 100 different ways, namely: 'I never thought this class



Robert Saldarini

was going to be so much work with all I have going on,' or, 'Sorry, I missed two assignments, I didn't realize they were due.' For these reasons, I email students soon after deadlines or exams are missed to keep them on pace."

To Saldarini, however, the advantages of online education outweigh the challenges.

"Online education offers the flexibility that allows higher education to be a larger part of our society," he remarked. "Those who would never be able to obtain a degree otherwise – a nurse who moves from shift-to-shift, members of our military, a sales representative who travels extensively, a busy parent – all can access their course work without missing a beat."

In his own academic journey, Saldarini earned a BS in business administration from Montclair State University, N.J., an MBA from Fairleigh Dickinson University, N.J., and his Master of Arts in Liberal Studies degree with a concentration on organizational leadership from Thomas Edison State College.

"The wonderful variety of backgrounds, life and professional experiences of our students bring textbook assignments to life," noted Saldarini. "In my conventional classes, most of the corporate examples come from me; in a TESC course, the most influential examples come from our own students." ■

Mentor

Preparing to Graduate?

by Jennifer Stark, Assistant Director
Academic Records and Registration

HERE ARE SOME TIPS TO MAKE THE PROCESS STRESS-FREE

Stark Notes Our students tell us that completing their degree requirements and finishing their last course or exam is the fulfillment of a lifelong goal. We encourage our students to successfully prepare for this occasion by following these tips:

► **TIP 1: GETTING READY TO GRADUATE? MAKE SURE YOU ARE ACTIVELY ENROLLED.**

In order to be considered for graduation, students must be actively enrolled in the College. You are considered 'enrolled' during the 12 months following the date that you pay your Annual Enrollment Fee. If you are a student among our contract populations, such as military, Corporate Choice® participants, enrolled in the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing program or are enrolled under another specialized program agreement with the College, you are considered 'enrolled' one year from the start date of the most recent course in which you are registered. It is important to keep in mind that being registered for a course does not necessarily mean that you are actively enrolled in the College.

► **TIP 2: MAKE YOUR FINAL ADVISEMENT APPOINTMENT.**

As an enrolled student, you should make a final appointment with your academic advisor to ensure all degree requirements have been met. Instructions on contacting your advisor or making an appointment can be found under the "Current Students" dropdown on www.tesc.edu. Your academic advisor will complete a pregraduation review and direct you on the next steps. If you prefer not to make an advisement appointment, it is still important to review your most recent Academic Program Evaluation to make sure you have completed all necessary degree requirements.

► **TIP 3: BE SURE YOU OFFICIALLY APPLY FOR GRADUATION BY COMPLETING THE REQUEST FOR GRADUATION FORM.**

Once you have confirmed that you have satisfied all your degree requirements, you can complete the *Request for Graduation Form* which can be found in the "Student Forms" dropdown under "Current Students" on www.tesc.edu.

► **TIP 4: FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THE REQUEST FOR GRADUATION DEADLINE DATES.**

When you are ready to apply for graduation, be mindful of the official graduation request deadline. This deadline will also be the deadline for any of your incoming credit(s) to be received by the College, any remaining Thomas Edison State College courses to be completed and any outstanding balances to be paid. It is strongly suggested that you submit the *Request for Graduation Form* and payment while you are still in your last course. You do not have to wait until the course is completed to submit the form.

There are four graduation dates each year, with four corresponding deadlines by which you need to submit your *Request for Graduation Form*:

Deadline for Request for Graduation Form:	For Degree Conferral by the Board of Trustees in:	Commencement Ceremony
July 1	September	Fall 2013
October 1	December	Fall 2014
January 1	March	Fall 2014
April 1	June	Fall 2014

Stark Notes



► **TIP 5: YOU WILL NEED FINAL APPROVAL BY THE COLLEGE'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES.**

When you are certified for graduation, you have done your part by submitting the *Request for Graduation Form*, your academic graduation readiness review has been conducted by College staff and the graduation auditing team has determined that you have satisfied all degree requirements. Your certification will then be forwarded to the College's Board of Trustees.

Once the Board of Trustees meets and confers your degree, you will be an 'official' graduate of Thomas Edison State College. Please note that prior to this, any transcript request fulfilled by the Office of the Registrar will not contain complete degree information. Your degree will only be officially listed after the Board of Trustees meets and confers your degree. Your diploma will then be mailed to you along with supporting documentation, including a final transcript and a letter certifying your degree. You may expect to receive these materials approximately two weeks after the official date of graduation.

► **TIP 6: REMEMBER, 'GRADUATION' AND 'COMMENCEMENT' ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS.**

Some students confuse graduation with commencement, and it is an easy mistake to make. However, there is only one annual Commencement Ceremony for graduates and their families. It is usually scheduled for a Saturday in September at the Sun National Bank Center, in Trenton, N.J.

► **AND, THE MOST IMPORTANT TIP OF ALL: CELEBRATE WITH US!**

The entire College community looks forward to seeing all of its graduates and family members at the Annual Commencement Ceremony, so please consider attending this event. We are very proud to serve, assist and accompany you on your journey as a student at Thomas Edison State College and celebrate your momentous achievement. ■



College Inducts NJCBAA Honor Society Members

The New Jersey Collegiate Business Administration Association inducted three Thomas Edison State College students: Karen Mirro-Drew, Peter Holmes and Lisa Jones (center, left to right) into its statewide honor society on May 3, 2013. Pictured with the students from the School of Business and Management are (from left) Assistant Dean Alicia Malone, Dean Dr. Michael Williams, Administrative Assistant Susan Fischer, Associate Dean Thomas Devine and Assistant Dean Camilla King-Lewis. Honorees represent the top one percent of business students in their respective colleges and universities. ■

Curriculum Changes Ahead for BSN and MSN Students

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING (BSN) AND MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING PROGRAM (MSN)
CURRICULUM CHANGES EFFECTIVE JULY 2013 TERM

As of the July 2013 term, the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing BSN programs were modified to comply with new national accreditation curriculum guidelines standards. General education requirements are also changing for all undergraduate programs at Thomas Edison State College.

The phase-in of the new curriculum will occur over a three-year period, and after the April 2016 term, only courses under the new BSN nursing curriculum will be offered. W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing students who have not completed their current degree requirements by June 30, 2016, will be required to take additional courses under the new curriculum to complete their degree.

Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree students within the Nurse Educator area of specialty will also be affected by several important changes that may impact their degree progression. If you are enrolled in this area of specialty, and have not already done so,

“The changes in our undergraduate and graduate-level curriculum will better prepare nurses for the changing landscape of their profession...”

please contact your graduate program advisor to discuss how these changes will affect your program planning. If you are planning to change your area of study, it is important that you reach out to an academic advisor prior to registering for courses.

“The changes in our undergraduate and graduate-level curriculum will better prepare nurses for the changing landscape of their profession,” said Dr. Phyllis Marshall, dean of the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing at the College. “As patient care, leadership practices and regulatory mandates are becoming increasingly complex, the compo-

nents of the revised curriculum will address these shifting demands while enriching our students' learning experience.”

To find out more about specific changes in your curriculum and how these changes may impact your degree progression, make an advising appointment by visiting www.tesc.edu, selecting the "Current Students" link and choosing "Advisement" from the dropdown. You can also email nursing@tesc.edu for more information if you are a student enrolled in the BSN program or gradnursing@tesc.edu if you are a student enrolled in the MSN program. ■

Turnitin Piloted to Students

MAY TERM ENC-102 ONLINE STUDENTS WERE AMONG FIRST WAVE

Students enrolled in the May 2013 term of English Composition II online (ENC-102-OL) began submitting their written assignments accompanied by a Turnitin originality report. Turnitin, the online plagiarism detection service, is being piloted to these students before being deployed throughout other courses on select written assignments.

Implementation at the College of the widely-used service differs from other institutions' however, in that it places adult learners in control.

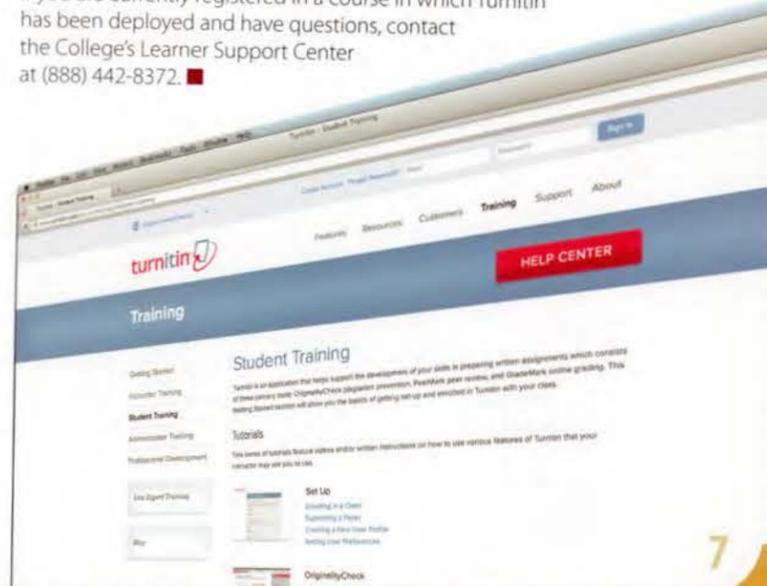
“Rather than students' assignments being uploaded only once into Turnitin as many other colleges and universities mandate, our students are submitting their own assignments to the Turnitin service and resolving any originality issues prior to submitting the final version of their assignment to their mentor,” said Dr. Henry van Zyl, vice provost for Academic Administration and interim dean of the Heavin School of Arts and Sciences.

Turnitin's software compares the student's written assignment against a vast database of online resources, journal articles, other students' papers and texts for originality and generates a report.

Students have two opportunities per assignment to obtain a Turnitin originality report and resolve suspected unoriginal passages or citation errors. The service is completely accessible in their online courses and is free to all enrolled students. According to van Zyl, these initial reports are viewed exclusively by the student. It is only the final report that is uploaded with the student's written assignment for the mentor.

“Use of the service and other companion services such as Smarthinking ensures that our students meet all of the College's learning outcomes, that their written work is above reproach and that they are writing at a high academic standard,” said van Zyl. “It also levels the playing field in that all students are assured that they are submitting original work for grading.”

If you are currently registered in a course in which Turnitin has been deployed and have questions, contact the College's Learner Support Center at (888) 442-8372. ■



Academic Calendar

August 2013

September 2013

October 2013

Registration Dates	June 21 - July 12, 2013	July 26 - Aug. 17, 2013	Aug. 23 - Sept. 14, 2013
Late Registration	July 21 - 25, 2013	Aug. 18 - 22, 2013	Sept. 15 - 19, 2013
Course Transfer Period	June 21 - Aug. 9, 2013	July 26 - Sept. 6, 2013	Aug. 23 - Oct. 4, 2013
Term Start Date	Aug. 5, 2013	Sept. 2, 2013	*Oct. 1, 2013
Midterm Exam Week **	Sept. 16 - 22, 2013	Oct. 14 - 20, 2013	Nov. 11 - 17, 2013
Final Exam Week**	Oct. 21 - 27, 2013	Nov. 18 - 24, 2013	Dec. 16 - 22, 2013
Term Ends	Oct. 27, 2013	Nov. 24, 2013	Dec. 22, 2013

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

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

A New Look for Admissions

Office of Admissions Team is Seeing Burgundy

Office of Admissions staff pictured (front row, from left to right) are Sarah Marshall, Director of Admissions Dave Hoftiezer, BonnieJean Gallagher and Stefanie Hitchner. Pictured on the second row are Andrew Bugdal, Ratna Parasher, Donna Higgins, Vanessa Meredith, Deborah Chianese, Tanisha Cox and Jacqueline Hutchinson; and third row, Denise Weber, Loretta Perkins and Jasmine Bundy. The photo will appear on personalized postcards to prospective students and on the department's Web page.



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