

# SIGNALS

THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE

FALL 2005

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## Need money for college expenses?

The Thomas Edison State College Foundation is pleased to announce the establishment of seven scholarship programs to assist students with the financial costs of obtaining their education.

These new funding resources are general scholarship award programs available to the entire undergraduate student

population. "We are very pleased to be in the position to make these funds available to our students," said Susan C. Davenport, vice provost for Learner Services and chair of the scholarship committee. "Adult students often find their financial resources are stretched quite thin. It is our goal to provide these resources to students of high potential who wouldn't have the means to attend college without financial assistance."

Scholarship award amounts vary from several hundred dollars to a maximum equivalent to a year's Comprehensive Tuition Fee (\$3,780). Students can learn more about individual scholarship programs, access an online scholarship application and learn application deadlines and award dates by visiting <http://www.tesc.edu/financialaid/scholarships>. Students may apply for more than one scholarship program simultaneously.

Applicants must note the following: Thomas Edison State College scholarship recipients must maintain a 3.0 grade point average based on credits completed at Thomas Edison State College and must complete a minimum of 12 Thomas Edison State College credits each academic year to be eligible to apply for a scholarship renewal. Incompletes, withdrawals, and failed classes do not count as completed credits and students must successfully complete 66 percent of courses attempted. Students must complete a scholarship renewal application each year to be considered for additional funds.

Applicants are required to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) located at [www.fafsa.ed.gov/index.htm](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/index.htm). Funds received must be applied to textbooks, fees or tuition toward any credit-earning option offered at Thomas Edison State College. ■

### SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

The following scholarship programs have been instituted at Thomas Edison State College. Visit [www.tesc.edu](http://www.tesc.edu) for scholarship criteria and application deadline information.

The Donna and Richard Gillespie Endowed Scholarship

The Norma L. Horton Endowed Scholarship

The Lorraine R. Matusak Endowed Scholarship

The Julia Cadiz Negrón Endowed Scholarship

The Rummel Foundation Endowed Scholarship

The Edith and Oscar Smilak Memorial Scholarship

Wachovia Scholarship

### COURSE NEWS

#### COURSES AVAILABLE FOR THE 2005-2006 ACADEMIC YEAR

Note: a complete guide to all courses may be found in the *Undergraduate Registration Bulletin*.

The following online courses were available as of March 2005

ENG-393-OL One Writer's Vision: Jane Austen

LIT-331-OL African Encounters

SOC-387-OL Modern Sociological Foundations

SOC-417-OL Contemporary Sociological Theory

The following online courses were available as of July 2005

AJ-303-OL White Collar Crime

AJ-381-OL Victimology and Criminal Behavior

AJ-484-OL Public Policy, Crime and Criminal Justice

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The following online course was available as of September 2005

SOS-492 Research Methods in Social Sciences

The Following Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) courses were available as of July 2005

AOJ-103-PA Criminology

AOJ-131-PA Introduction to Security

BUS-212-PA Records Management

BUS-421-PA Business Policy

CAP-113-PA PC Application Spreadsheets

CAP-302-PA Computer Networking Systems

CAP-350-PA Web Page Development

CDS-210-PA Introduction to Early Childhood Education

COM-226-PA Video Production I

COS-101-PA Introduction to Computers

COS-919-PA Visual BASIC

COS 283-PA UNIX

ELE-141-PA Electrical Wiring

ELT-201-PA Electrical Devices

ENG-243-PA Writing Poetry

HRM-366-PA Training Administration

JOU-280-PA Public Relations Writing and Editing

JOU-300-PA Advanced Journalism

LIS-101-PA Introduction to Library Resources

MAN-331-PA Human Resources Management

MUS-143-PA Applied Music II

MUS-168-PA Guitar I

MUS-225-PA Applied Music III

MUS-260-PA Intermediate Piano I

MUS-261-PA Intermediate Piano II

MUS-360-PA Advanced Piano I

MUS-372-PA Form and Analysis I

PHY-271-PA Nuclear Physics

PSY-334-PA Psychology of Sport

PYT-301-PA Coaching Softball

PHY-396-PA Coaching Theory and Techniques

PYT-397-PA Sports Officiating

REE-321-PA Real Estate Marketing

REL-229-PA Principles of Christian Faith

SES-174-PA PowerPoint

SES-179-PA Microsoft Word for Windows

SPA-301-PA Advanced Spanish I

SPA-302-PA Advanced Spanish II

SPA-327-PA Advanced Conversation I

SPA-378-PA Advanced Translation I

SPA-380-PA Business Spanish I

SPA-411-PA Creative Writing in Spanish

SPA-470-PA Interpretation

The following NEW e-Pack® courses are in development and will be available soon. For the exact semester when these courses will be available, please visit [www.tesc.edu/catalog](http://www.tesc.edu/catalog)

PSY-361-EP Organizational Behavior\*

SOC-210-EP Marriage and the Family

PSY-331-EP Introduction to Counseling

\*In the 2005-2006 Undergraduate Registration Bulletin, this course is listed as PSY-361-EP Organizational Behavior. However, students will need to sign up for MAN-311-EP and it will be automatically credited to them as PSY-361-EP if it is appropriate for their degree program.

The following new TECEP® examinations are in development and will be available between July and October 2005. For the exact semester when these examinations will be available, please visit [www.tesc.edu/catalog](http://www.tesc.edu/catalog)

SOC-210-TE Marriage and the Family

PSY-331-TE Introduction to Counseling

Courses Currently Being Revised

MAT-115-GS/OL This course is currently under revision and expected to be offered again in October.

## The School of Professional and Continuing Studies Announces Offerings

The School of Professional and Continuing Studies now offers professional certificate programs in the following areas:

- > Project Management
- > Video Game Design and Development
- > Information Technology
- > Business Management
- > Medical Coding
- > Risk Management
- > Paralegal Studies (coming in 2006)
- > Gerontology with an Emphasis on Senior Health and Fitness (coming in 2006)

Whether you're interested in developing new career skills, or building on the ones you already have, Thomas Edison State College's School of Professional and Continuing Studies can provide you with the necessary training to enhance your career or prepare for a new one.

If you or anyone you know is interested in obtaining more information on our certificate programs, noncredit courses or professional training, contact the College at: (888) 442-8372 or visit [www.tesc.edu](http://www.tesc.edu). ■



## ANNOUNCEMENTS Post Master's Nurse Educator Certificate Available

An online Post Master's Nurse Educator Certificate program will be offered by the School of Nursing beginning in October 2005. The 12-15 credit program is designed for experienced RNs with a graduate-level nursing degree in a clinical area who want to teach in health care settings and schools of nursing. RNs with a nonclinical graduate degree will be considered on a case-by-case basis pending documentation of an area of clinical expertise. The program will offer open admissions, options for credit earning and a self-paced schedule. It will also offer the unique opportunity to choose a teaching practicum in an online setting, in an on-ground setting, or both. The student's choice of one or both practicums will determine the total number of credits for the certificate. The 12 week courses will be offered in October, January, April and July. For additional information and/or an application packet, e-mail [info@tesc.edu](mailto:info@tesc.edu) or call the Office of Admissions toll free at (888) 442-8372.

## ILA® Service Discontinued

Effective July 1, 2005, Thomas Edison State College discontinued the Individual Learner's Account (ILA®) service. Thomas Edison State College will accept ACE credit recommendations or other college credits for placement (banking) on a college transcript through its Credit Banking service. To access this service, complete the Nondegree Services Application at [www.tesc.edu/students/support/pdf/NondegreeServiceApp.pdf](http://www.tesc.edu/students/support/pdf/NondegreeServiceApp.pdf) or call the Office of Admissions toll free at (888) 442-8372 for more information and/or to request a copy of the application.

## PLA Course Length Changed

Beginning with the July 2005 semester, all Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) courses are now 12 weeks in length. The change applies to both Standard and Individualized PLA courses. Previously 16 weeks in length, the new 12-week schedule is established to make these courses consistent with all other online course offerings. For more information on PLA course registrations visit the PLA Process page at [www.tesc.edu/prospective/undergraduate/credit/regpla.php](http://www.tesc.edu/prospective/undergraduate/credit/regpla.php).

## MAPS Degree Nomenclature Changed

Effective July 1, 2005, the Master of Arts in Professional Studies (MAPS) degree was renamed the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS).

This change is a result of careful consideration by College officials. According to Dr. Lois Richardson, dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, the new name better reflects the curricula inherent in the degree program and is more familiar in higher education.

"We felt that we needed to call this degree what it truly is – a liberal arts degree," said Richardson. "Thomas Edison State College is proud to be the first institution to offer the MALS degree completely online for students in the United States and abroad."

There will be no change in the curriculum. Contact the Graduate School at (609) 984-1168 for more information. ■

## Have a Quick Question?

Get a Quick Answer Through Live Chat

If you are an enrolled student with a quick question about an academic advisement issue, you will want to take advantage of the new Live Chat feature offered by the College.

Advisement Live Chat allows enrolled students to discuss any general academic questions with an academic advisor and to get answers on the spot. This new Web utility is for basic questions only. Students with detailed program planning concerns should schedule a consultation session with their academic advisor.

"Thomas Edison State College has a long history of utilizing technology to enhance student services. The Live Chat application is another fine example of this commitment," said Drew W. Hopkins, Chief Information Officer at Thomas Edison State College. "The College will continue to deploy appropriate technology which will empower its students during their tenure at the College."

Easily accessible via the Thomas Edison State College home page at [www.tesc.edu](http://www.tesc.edu), the new Live Chat feature supports real-time dialog via the Internet through secure, one-on-one sessions with college counselors.

"This new chat feature provides another opportunity for the College to stay connected with its students," said Dr. Garry M. Keel, assistant director for Learner Services. "We're very happy to offer a new way for our students to be in touch with our academic advising team."

Users may elect to have a transcript of the chat session sent directly to them via e-mail. Users need Internet access with connection of 54K or higher and must temporarily disable any pop-up software installed on their computer. First-time visitors will be prompted to download the Avaya ActiveX software, free of charge.

Advisement Live Chat sessions are held weekdays from noon - 2 p.m. EST, ideal for those who want quick answers during their lunch hour. ■

## TECEP® offers the ultimate flexibility in credit completion. Is it right for you?

At first glance, the idea of being responsible for completion of a college-level course without class interaction, mentor advice and periodic assessments may seem disconcerting. But on closer examination, you may find that Thomas Edison State College's Thomas Edison State College Examination Program (TECEP®) method of course completion is ideal if you're a highly independent learner who has the ability to study in a non structured environment. What may make it even more appealing is that there are few time constraints and no written assignments along the way.

The College currently offers more than 60 examinations that will allow you to earn credits without taking formal college courses. TECEP® examinations are especially well suited if you're the type of student who would benefit from demonstrating college-level knowledge already gained through work, personal

interests or independent study.

This means you'll be free-range, but definitely not rudderless. Each examination has its own online test description that includes an outline of test topics, textbooks and sample questions. Using the test description as a guide, you can study at your own pace, and register to take the final examination when you feel you are ready. To be successful on a TECEP® examination, you'll need specific knowledge of the subject matter and reasonably good test-taking skills. It's also important to note that even with a strong background in an area, it's not likely that you will be able to simply take and pass the examination. You will need to read one or more of the suggested textbooks listed in the test description to build a sufficient knowledge base. Success on the examinations requires planning and preparation.

If you register for a TECEP® test and plans change, as happens with busy adults, the test can be rescheduled for another date. An additional bonus is the fact that the examinations are scored on a pass/fail basis only. This eliminates the concern over a score, as results will not be calculated into your GPA. Whether you receive the minimum passing score, or a score of 100, you will earn the same 3 credits. Better yet, failures are not entered on your transcript, only successes. These features, as well as the lack of assignments, make the TECEP® program an excellent choice for students who want ultimate credit-earning flexibility as they work toward their degree.

To find out more, visit the College's Web site at: [www.tesc.edu](http://www.tesc.edu). Under the "Current Students" menu heading, choose "TECEP® Examinations" from the dropdown menu. ■

## Accelerate Your Path To a Degree With e-Pack®

Using the same type of final examination assessment as TECEP®, e-Pack® courses employ a series of Web-based self-assessments to help students master course material. The method is highly desirable for independent distance learners who desire the structure of a semester-based course, but don't want the burden of written assignments, and do not require mentor guidance.

The course is structured around single textbook and online diagnostic quizzes that prepare you for a comprehensive paper-and-pencil final examination. Credit is awarded when you earn a passing grade on the proctored final examination. While the e-Pack® course

is based on the 12-week semester structure, you may choose to schedule the comprehensive examination before the end of the semester. This allows you to work rapidly and earn credit in less time.

These diagnostic quizzes, which may be taken in any order, are delivered via the Web and accessible 24 hours a day. They are scored immediately, and you'll receive feedback on incorrect responses during the same session. In this way, you will be guided to topics that require further study. The quizzes may be taken multiple times until mastered, since they do not contribute to the course grade. Your progress through each quiz is automatically tracked and may be viewed online at any time.

Much like TECEP® students, those who've tackled e-Pack® courses report that the courses require a measure of self-discipline.

"I signed up for two e-Pack® courses 18 months into my program," said student Derk R. Mattocks. "The short burst of quizzing at my own pace thoroughly prepared me for my final exams. The e-Pack® courses also stimulated and satisfied my inquiring mind. Feedback was specific. Resources were user-friendly and plentiful—altogether a formula for success."

To find out more about e-Pack® courses, visit: <http://www.tesc.edu/prospective/undergraduate/credit>. ■

## Thomas Edison State College Honor Society of Nursing Founded

The School of Nursing is pleased to announce that the Thomas Edison State College Honor Society of Nursing has been established with intent to become a chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing.

Sigma Theta Tau was founded in 1922 with the purpose to create a global community of nurses who lead in using scholarship, knowledge and technology to improve the health of the world's people.

The first induction ceremony for the Thomas Edison State College Honor Society of Nursing will be held in conjunction with the 2005 Commencement ceremony on Oct. 8, 2005. Dr. Susan McMullen O'Brien, dean of the School of Nursing, will officiate during the induction ceremony.

The purpose of the society is to recognize superior academic achievement and the development of leadership qualities; to foster high professional standards; to

encourage creative work; and to strengthen commitment to the ideals and purposes of the nursing profession.

Criteria for membership in the Thomas Edison State College Honor Society of Nursing for undergraduate students are as follows: the student must have



completed one-half of the nursing curriculum (i.e. five of eight upper division nursing requirements); have at least a 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 grading scale; rank in the top 35 percent of the graduating class (defined as students who are enrolled in or have completed the final two upper division nursing

requirements and have no more than 9 credits remaining in general education requirements); and meet the expectation of academic integrity.

Graduates of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree program may apply for membership in the society under the student criteria (listed above) during the first year and may apply under the nurse leader criteria at any time. Criteria for membership as a nurse leader are as follows: candidates must be registered nurses, legally recognized to practice in their country; must have earned a minimum of a baccalaureate degree in any field and have demonstrated outstanding achievement in nursing.

Students and alumni who would like more information regarding the society or who would like to apply for membership may e-mail the School of Nursing at [nursing@tesc.edu](mailto:nursing@tesc.edu). ■

## TECEP® During Wartime

“I enjoyed using this alternative process immensely. I have almost a decade of advanced work experience and a class would have been way too elementary for me. Taking the TECEP® allowed me to show my proficiency in the topics with one quick visit to a testing center.

I highly recommend this method of earning credit for the appropriate student. It frees up time for other classes and allows you to earn more credits per semester.

Due to my position in the Army, I needed to obtain my degree on a timeline and TECEP® allowed me to make that timeline. During the process, I was traveling back and forth between the U.S. and Iraq. It would have been impossible for me to attend classes in-person. Thanks for having such a great program that is flexible enough to accommodate a soldier during wartime!

Lt. Eric Petrevich  
2nd 102nd Armor BN  
BSHS '05



Photo: Bill Adams, Express-Times, Easton, Pa.

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# Calendar

	Oct. 2005 Semester	Nov. 2005 Semester	Dec. 2005 Semester
Registration Dates	Aug. 13 - Sept. 2, 2005	Sept. 10 - 30, 2005	Oct. 8 - Oct. 28, 2005
Late Registration	Sept. 3 - 9, 2005	Oct. 1 - 7, 2005	Oct. 29 - Nov. 4, 2005
Course Transfer Period	Aug. 13 - Sept. 9, 2005	Sept. 10 - Oct. 7, 2005	Oct. 8 - Nov. 4, 2005
Start Date	Sept. 26, 2005	Oct. 24, 2005	Dec. 1, 2005
Proctor Request Forms Due	Sept. 26 - Sept. 30	Oct. 24 - Oct. 28	Dec. 1 - Dec. 9
Final exam week for 12-week term	Dec. 12 - 17, 2005	Jan. 9 - 14, 2006	Feb. 20 - 25, 2006
End of 12-week term	Dec. 17, 2005	Jan. 14, 2006	Feb. 25, 2006
Midterm Exam week for 16-week term	Nov. 14 - 19, 2005	Dec. 12 - 17, 2005	Jan. 23 - 28, 2006
Final exam week for 16-week term	Jan. 9 - 14 2006	Feb. 6 - 11, 2006	March 20 - 25, 2006
End of 16-week term	Jan. 14, 2006	Feb. 11, 2006	March 25, 2006

Note: The College will be closed for winter break from Dec. 23, 2005, to Jan. 2, 2006. Only iTESC (Web) registrations will be accepted. No course confirmations will be mailed during this time.