

# Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

## Allied Health Program

### Advising Packet

#### Welcome!

I am pleased that you are interested in our College and hope that you plan to explore the possibility of a career in healthcare. Health professions are among the fastest growing occupations, and Wiregrass offers several degree, diploma, and technical certificate health profession programs. I encourage you to seek guidance and learn as much as possible about each of the programs we offer so you can decide which career is best suited for you.

To continue or start the conversation about your future in a health profession, please contact The ARC: An Advising and Retention Center for Students to make an appointment to meet with one of our allied health advisors. Some programs require a competitive admission process, while others have minimum requirements that must be met prior to entrance into the program. Our allied health advisors can help guide you through this process. Also, this information can be found on the program web pages.

We have highly qualified and experienced allied health faculty who are active in our service areas. This continuing partnership allows us to offer the most current information for students and to provide quality hands-on training at medical facilities in the area.

I wish you the best of luck in your educational endeavors and sincerely hope you become one of our very near future Allied Health graduates.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jackie Spriggs". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jackie Spriggs  
Dean of Allied Health

## Allied Health Policies

### Course Expiration Date

All General Education courses will remain good for life, while all other courses – science, occupational, ALHS, etc. – will be good for 10 years (120 months) at time of entry into the allied health program. For some competitive admission programs, there are 1 year expiration dates on program classes taken prior to program acceptance. Please check with the allied health advisors for information on these specific courses.

### Admission Requirements

To progress in any allied health program, students must be unconditionally accepted to Wiregrass Georgia Technical College. All students must be in "good academic standing" with Wiregrass Georgia Technical College by the first day of program classes. Students on academic warning, probation, or suspension cannot be enrolled in classes for a competitive admissions program without approval by the Dean of Allied Health.

### Communication

Communication with allied health faculty and staff will be through your student email account. If you prefer to use an email address other than your Wiregrass student email, you will need to sign into your Wiregrass student email and REDIRECT all email addresses to your preferred email address. In order to receive important school, financial aid, or emergency announcements, it is VERY important that you use your Wiregrass email or REDIRECT your Wiregrass email to your personal email.

### Criminal Background Check and Drug Screen

Wiregrass Georgia Technical College is committed to providing quality training and clinical experiences for students enrolled in the allied health programs offered at the College. It is the goal of the College to provide trained and qualified students for clinical rotations who meet the needs and requirements of participating clinical affiliates. A vital part of this collaboration is to assure students have met the screening requirements to prepare them for clinical rotations at various clinical affiliates who serve our region.

Students enrolled in many of the allied health programs at Wiregrass Georgia Technical College are required to complete drug screening and national criminal background checks as directed by the clinical sites. Students are responsible for all fees associated with the drug and alcohol screening and criminal background reports. The drug screen and background fees are attached to an occupational course and are charged to the student as part of tuition and fees. The cost is approximately \$100.00 and may change without notice. **Information on the procedures to order background and drug screens will be provided to students after the 4th day of class.**

Students enrolled in allied health programs where a clinical site has required drug screens must have the following screening: **10-panel + Oxycodone + Ethanol**. A positive drug screen report may prevent the student from participating in clinical rotations and a grade of W (Withdrawal) or F will be assigned to the course.

Students enrolled in allied health programs where a clinical site has required a national criminal background check must have this completed prior to the beginning of clinical rotations. An unsatisfactory national criminal background check **may** prohibit the student's participation in clinical rotations.

Each clinical site affiliated with the College has the right to refuse student clinical privileges at their facility based on the results of the criminal background check. The inability to resolve denials could prevent the student from participating in clinical rotations and a grade of W (Withdrawal) or F will be assigned to the course. If the student is unable to attend clinical rotations, he/she will be unable to complete the clinical competencies of the course and will not be eligible to continue in the program.

Acceptance in a clinical rotation does not guarantee the student will be eligible to work in field or test for licensure within that field.

A more thorough policy will be provided upon entering a formal program.

### Immunizations Verification

Each clinical site affiliated with the College requires validation of immunizations and certain screening such as a TB test. Students are required to provide proof of completion of all clinical requirements. More information will be provided to the student after the 4<sup>th</sup> day of class.

### CPR

Students accepted into formal programs must provide proof of American Heart Basic Life Support (BLS) for health care providers. This certification can be earned through taking ALHS 1040 Intro to Healthcare. Wiregrass also offers Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers through the Economic Development department. For more information, call 229-333-2122 or 229-468-2074.

### Certification/Licensure Eligibility

Any student with a criminal background including a felony or misdemeanor may be denied privileges to perform clinical rotations in any of the Wiregrass Georgia Technical College's clinical rotation sites. This decision is made by the clinical facilities.

Should the student's clinical rotation be denied by available clinical sites, Wiregrass Georgia Technical College recommends that the student withdraw from the program of study or the student will receive a grade of F for the course.

Any student with a criminal background including a felony or misdemeanor may be delayed or denied taking their certification/licensure examination.

Any student with a criminal background, who is granted the privileges to perform clinical rotations, completes the allied health program, and successfully passes the certification/licensure examination may not be able to gain employment at a healthcare facility. Employment is at the discretion of the hiring facility.

### Program Curricula

The curricula for the programs in the allied health department are continuously changing to keep up with industry needs and standards. We will do our best to update this packet; however, it is

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impossible to keep print materials 100% current with the constant changes. The information on the department website will always be current as we know it: [Program Curriculum](#)

### Repeat Courses

If a student chooses to repeat an already successfully completed course, it is the student's responsibility to confirm with financial aid that the course will be covered OR the student must pay for the course out-of-pocket.

### Competitive Admissions

Competitive admissions for allied health programs requiring separate applications are Dental Hygiene (in cooperation with VSU and after acceptance into VSU), Practical Nursing, Radiologic Technology, and Registered Nursing. The online competitive admissions application, official transcripts, HESI A2 scores (if applicable), and any other required information must be on file with the ARC by the deadline listed on the program application. The grades students want to use for competitive admissions must show in the students' Degree Audit. The students must meet with an ARC advisor prior to submitting the competitive application. HESI A2 scores must be reviewed and entered in DGW Notes by an ARC advisor prior to making application.

Priority application deadlines for acceptance are as follows:

**December 1<sup>st</sup> for Summer Semester entry**

**May 1<sup>st</sup> for Fall Semester entry**

**August 1<sup>st</sup> for Spring Semester entry**

### *Application Process*

Applications submitted on or prior to the deadline will be evaluated for program acceptance. Students wishing to enter these programs must complete the appropriate technical certificate of credit by the beginning of the program; however, applicants that have completed the TCC by the application deadline will have priority. All students will be ranked based on TCC GPA, HESI Exam scores, and any other ranking criteria set at time of application. Incomplete or late applications may be submitted, but will not receive priority in the ranking. See individual program advising sheets for specific information.

**If class capacity remains unfilled for a program, the deadlines and/or other requirements for that program can be extended/modified with the Dean of Allied Health's approval.**

All of the competitive admissions criteria are current as we know them. They may be modified with curriculum revisions. Please see the Advisement and Retention Center for the most current criteria.

### Competitive Admissions Point

See Individual Program Advising Sheets

### Course Attempt

The **highest** course attempt will be calculated in the GPA for competitive admission programs.

## Course Substitution

Courses that fulfill core area requirements, as recognized by TCSG, may be substituted for evaluation for those courses required for program entry during the competitive admission selection process.

## HESI Admission Assessment Exam

Completion of the HESI Admission Assessment Exam (HESI A2), an assessment tool used to evaluate prospective students and their potential for successful program completion, is required for consideration of acceptance into most of the allied health programs (Registered Nursing, Practical Nursing, and Radiologic Technology).

All applicants must complete these designated sections: Math, Reading Comprehension, Vocabulary and General Knowledge and Grammar, Anatomy & Physiology, Learning Profile & Personality Style, and Critical Thinking. Applicants are encouraged to complete an Anatomy and Physiology (or equivalent) course prior to taking the examination. Also, a study guide is available through Elsevier.

Each program utilizes the results of the HESI A2 exam in a way which best meets the needs of the specific program. Please consult with your Academic Advisor, Program Faculty, or the Allied Health Advising Packet for program specific information.

HESI exam scores must meet the following guidelines by application deadline. Applicants have three (3) attempts to complete the HESI A2 Exam within a 2 year (24-month) time frame, with the highest score used for program selection. The scores are valid for two (2) years post examination date. Scores must be valid at the application deadline.

Applicants need to contact Wiregrass Testing Center for cost information and to schedule the HESI Admission Assessment Exam: [HESI Test Information](#)

The HESI A2 Exam must be completed prior to the application deadline: **December 1<sup>st</sup> for Summer Semester, May 1<sup>st</sup> for Fall Semester, and August 1<sup>st</sup> for Spring Semester.**

## Steps To Acceptance into the competitive entry programs

- Be advised EACH semester
- Plan and follow curriculum sequence to correlate with program entry semesters and application deadlines. The TCC must be completed in order to begin the competitive admission program.
- Schedule and take HESI A2 exam **prior to the set deadlines** – pay test fee in the Bookstore, schedule test through the Wiregrass Georgia Technical College Testing Center, prepare for the exam, and bring a picture ID on the day of the exam. Some programs require a minimum HESI score for program acceptance.
- Meet with an ARC advisor to review competitive application and process.
  - Make an appointment at: [Advising Center Appointments](#)
- Submit Online Competitive Admission application to the ARC after taking the HESI A2 and prior to set deadlines. It is the student's responsibility to submit a copy of the HESI A2 exam results and make sure all transfer credit has been received and entered prior to the set deadlines. Incomplete requirements or late applications will only be considered after all other applications have been ranked and evaluated.

