

Edgecombe Community College

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Fall 2005

Volume 1 Issue 1

CareerFocus™

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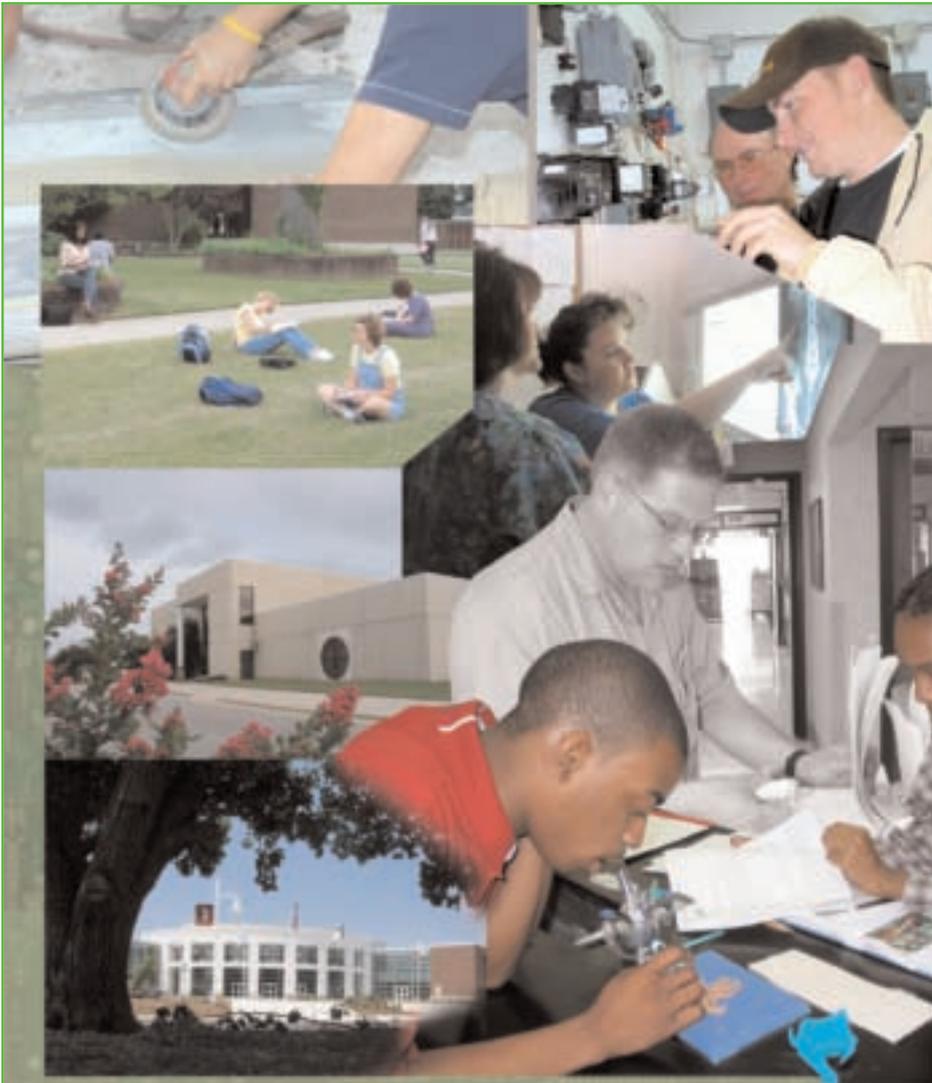
ECC Programs in Health Care

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Edgecombe Community College Academic Calendar

Fall 2005 – Spring 2006

Fall Semester 2005

July 25-28 Fall Registration
 August 17 & 18 Final Registration
 August 19 Classes Begin
 September 5 Labor Day Holiday
 September 6 Classes Resume
 October 10 & 11 Fall Break
 October 12 Classes Resume
 November 23, 24, 25 Thanksgiving Holidays
 November 28 Classes Resume
 December 16 End of Fall Semester

Spring Semester 2006

December 5-9 Spring Registration
 January 4 & 5 Final Registration
 January 6 Classes Begin
 January 16 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
 January 17 Classes Resume
 March 8, 9, 10 Spring Break
 March 13 Classes Resume
 April 14 & 17 Easter Holidays
 April 18 Classes Resume
 May 5 End of Spring Semester

Fall Registration July 25-28
Final Registration August 17 & 18

CareerFocus

Questions about the ECC programs and services described in this publication should be directed to the Student Services Department at (252) 823-5166 ext. 255.

Editor: Mary Tom Bass

Writers: Mary Tom Bass, Marty Heator, David N. Hutto, Diane H. Roberts, Doreen Robideaux, Terry L. Rock

Photography: Stacey Patterson

Cover Photography: Ronald L. Sowers Photography

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Clockwise from bottom center are ECC Allied Health students Jacki Godwin, Practical Nursing; Carol Dunn, Medical Assisting; Quandail Schenall, Health Information Technology; Felecia Dickens, Radiography; Phillip Clay, Respiratory Therapy; Lonnie Perkins, Nursing; and Lecie Manning, Surgical Technology.

6 Myths

by Terry L. Rock

About Edgecombe Community College and a Few Things We Just Threw in to Make This an Absolutely Dynamite Article to Read...

1 Myth

The Name Game:

Call us what you like. At Edgecombe Community College, that can be “ECC,” “The Tech,” or even “The Institute.” You probably hear “ECC” more often than anything else these days. Those who refer to us as “The Tech” have been in Edgecombe County for a spell. Our name was Edgecombe Technical Institute, then Edgecombe Technical College, until 1987, when the N.C. legislature granted us community college status. We’ve been Edgecombe Community College ever since. Those who call us “The Institute” have lived in these parts even longer, MUCH longer. When ECC first opened its doors to students in August 1968, the only building on campus was a former prison building. It’s still part of Tarboro’s eight-building campus (and it would be a great place to run for cover if a tornado ever blows into town). The point here folks, is that you can call us whatever you’d like, ‘cuz as the old saying goes, “names will never hurt us.” You see, we had rather put our reputation on the line than get into a discussion of what you call us. Community colleges are rated as one of the best educational choices nationwide. Ask any of our 5,000-plus graduates how they feel about their Edgecombe Community College experience. They will tell you the plain truth...ECC, The Tech, and even The Institute gave them the best possible education.

2 Myth

A degree from a community college isn’t as good as a university degree.

Now wait a minute. Whoever started this one must have been absent the day they taught common sense. A degree from Edgecombe Community College in many cases is a step directly into the job market. It means a career with responsibilities and chances for promotion and personal growth. Or, a degree from ECC means leaving and attending East Carolina or UNC or N.C. State and graduating with a baccalaureate degree, which can open up a host of possibilities. Remember, attending ECC for two years gives you two years to save money, and that could give you the opportunity to go away to a university without going into debt for the next 10 years. Community colleges want you to go someplace else – after us! That’s the community college difference.

3 Myth

The people who go to a community college are the ones who can’t get in anywhere else.

Wrong! All sorts of people go to community colleges. In fact, we are the first choice of area high school seniors. We continue to draw a large number of high school grads with grade point averages above 3.0. We offer business courses, automotive systems, computer studies, calculus, and most everything else you can imagine. We have better records than a lot of four-year schools on the licensing exam for registered nurses. In fact, *U.S. News and World Report* reported that community college graduates perform better academically than the native university students. See, it’s just not hype!

4 Myth

Community college faculty aren’t the same as faculty in four-year schools.

No, they’re not. All the faculty at Edgecombe Community College teach all the time. You’ll be taught by instructors who will care about you, how you are, and what you learn. Our instructors have master’s and Ph.D. degrees related to what they love to do – teach. You will be in classrooms with 15-20 students. At community colleges, one-on-one doesn’t mean basketball, it means personal attention. We don’t have any lecture halls that seat 500, and we don’t have any graduate assistants, so, yes, we educate you differently than large universities. We offer you faculty who will meet with you before and after class just to make sure you are learning. Instructors who are current and up-to-date with what they are teaching. At Edgecombe Community College, we don’t think you just get as good an education as you get elsewhere, we think you get a better one.

There you have it! All the best information available for you to make the right choice. Forget all the myths!

5 Myth

The courses don't transfer.

Bunk! Our transfer credits transfer. That's what they are designed for, and they're designed in cooperation with the University of North Carolina System. In fact, we have a Comprehensive Articulation Agreement with constituent institutions of the University of North Carolina that will take your associate degree credits from us with no strings attached. If a student graduates from ECC with an Associate in Arts degree or an Associate in Science degree, he or she is guaranteed acceptance to at least one of the 16 constituent institutions in the UNC system. To avoid any costly mistakes, let our professional counselors and academic advisors help you select the best courses and programs.

6 Myth

Community colleges are cheap, so they can't be any good. You get what you pay for.

We prefer to say that we are affordable. Not cheap. Cheap is the toy you talked your mom and dad into buying at the circus. You know the one. The lighted laser wand of energy (it broke before you reached the parking lot). At community colleges, you don't always pay for what you get. ECC is supported with money from three main sources: the state of North Carolina, Edgecombe County, and your tuition. The last one is the smallest. If you paid the full cost of what this quality education is worth, you'd be paying a lot more each year.

10 things you should know about Allied Health careers and programs at Edgecombe Community College

1. ECC provides clinical experience in actual care settings. You practice in your chosen field at beginning levels right away.
2. Starting salaries in health careers are high. For example, nursing salaries start at about \$37,000 a year with full benefits and even sign-on bonuses!
3. Students develop the expected skills in the clinical setting under the supervision of experienced professionals.
4. There are currently more jobs than there are graduates, giving students employment choices.
5. ECC Allied Health programs are quality programs with successful graduates. Employers often state that ECC graduates receive preference in hiring.
6. ECC has simulated work settings so that students can practice in a realistic setting, building confidence when working with people.
7. The education offered at ECC prepares students for growing job opportunities in community-based settings such as home health care, equipment and drug sales, and outpatient clinics.
8. Flexible work hours are available in most health careers, with opportunities to travel as a contract worker who takes on temporary assignments.
9. Health care workers are continually learning and doing new things.
10. ECC's Allied Health programs prepare students for certification and licensure examinations. ECC graduates perform exceedingly well on these exams. **CE**

REMEMBER THE TRUTH...

Edgecombe Community College ensures the difference between success or failure. We will do our best to help you do your best, so upon graduation you are immediately employable or ready for the university of your choice.

Here are some reasons we think going to Edgecombe Community College makes sense...and these aren't myths.

Save some money, and then go to the school of your choice for a four-year bachelor's

degree. Face the fact...it's just too darn expensive to go away for all your education.

Thousands of community college students transfer yearly to the universities of their choice. Remember, a good GPA from Edgecombe Community College is a much better credential than any high school rank or ACT score. Ask any of our Student Services staff and they will tell you...the best indicator of college ability is a successful college record.

Have fun at ECC, too. We have great things to do in your spare time, like clubs and organizations.

Get your hands on amazing technical support equipment, like computers and stuff, and get easier access to it than you will competing with a couple thousand other students.

Leave yourself some options. Half the college students in America change schools before they graduate, and transferring

from one university to another can cost you credits and big bucks. From Edgecombe Community College, you'll be ready to transfer anywhere. **CE**

Fitting College In:

Programs and services make it a little easier

by Marty Heator

Visit any community college in America and count the strollers in the registration line. Then check out the number of students who are obviously going to class straight from work (their hospital scrubs, business suits, or work boots are a dead giveaway). Once you've done that, you can rethink your assumption that you're the only working parent who is thinking about going back to school. You can also rethink your assumption that it can't be done. The fact is, the vast majority of adults who go back to college do so while juggling work and/or family responsibilities. And every year at Edgecombe Community College's graduation ceremony, the cheering husbands, wives, and children of ECC graduates are living proof that it can, indeed, be done.

How do these students do it?

Perseverance, for starters (see related story). But it doesn't hurt that community college programs are specially geared for this type of learner.

Part-timers are welcome

Part-time students are the rule, not the exception, at Edgecombe Community College, where 62 percent of students attend part time. The average class load is nine credit hours, which equates to three classes. The typical part-time ECC student takes four years to complete an associate's degree program. These programs take two years if students are able to attend full time.

We love older students

While 65 percent of ECC students are 28 years old or younger, 35 percent are more than 35 years old, and 20 percent are over 40. Consider your age a bonus – all that life experience will make you a better student. Also, our older students tell us that being with younger students makes them feel more youthful. So kick up your heels!

Take classes when you can

If you have to drop out for one semester or for three years, that's fine. Sometimes life gets in the way. You



"More than half of our students have been out of school for five or more years," says Tommy Anderson, vice president of student services. "They did it, and so can you!"

don't lose credits when you stop, unless you quit in the middle of a semester.

Night school is cool

ECC offers plenty of evening classes, most begin at 5 p.m. or 6 p.m. and end by 10 p.m. The College also holds some classes on Saturday.

Your computer is a gateway to learning

ECC has more than 50 Internet-based courses. You and your instructor may be separated by miles, but you are connected by learning. All the courses in Health Information Technology, one of our Allied Health programs featured in this issue, are offered online.

Credit for life experience

It's possible to get college credit for your previous experiences and learning. Some options involve preparing and collecting documents and other examples that demonstrate your knowledge of a certain subject area,

while others require you to take an exam to show that you know your stuff (often referred to as "testing out" of the course).

Help when you need it

Student Services offers plenty of assistance. Just ask. Available through this office are career counseling, academic advisement, financial aid, veteran's services, services for disabled students, preparatory and tutorial programs, and more.

Start with one phone call

Now it's easier than ever to learn more about ECC. With one phone call, you can get all kinds of basic information...applying for admission, testing, transferring grades, receiving transcripts, and obtaining financial aid. Students taking online courses can register by phone if we have a pre-registration form from their advisor and if they are paying by a credit card. ☐

ECC President is a Lifelong Learner

If you're working, raising a family, and returning to school, look to ECC's president, Dr. Deborah L. Lamm, as a role model.

Dr. Lamm, 48 years old, has been a lifelong student. She holds two graduate degrees – a doctorate from North Carolina State University and a master's degree from East Carolina University. She earned both of these degrees while working full time, attending evening and weekend classes. "I have multi-tasked all of my life," she says.

Her husband, Carnell, also has been a part-time student throughout much of his career. On the staff at Halifax Community College, he is now working on a third master's degree at ECU. The couple has a 20-year-old daughter, Laura Ashley, who is a rising senior at Meredith College.

"We realized just recently that our daughter has never known a time when one of us was not in school," Dr. Lamm explains. "We have always tried to alternate attending school, so that while one of us was working toward a degree, the other was not. Still, it was a challenge to fit it all in."



ECC President Deborah Lamm is a shining example of how an individual can work, have a family life, and continue in school; she received two graduate degrees while working full time and raising a child. Shown above with her are her husband, Carnell, and their daughter, Laura Ashley, during a reception to welcome Dr. Lamm to the College in December 2004.

She says she struggled with missing out on her daughter's school events during the day. "The hardest part for me was feeling guilty for always working. I tended to overcompensate a bit, like by staying up until 2 a.m. decorating cupcakes for Laura Ashley's school parties.

"Remaining dedicated also was tough. I would spend Saturday afternoons reading, writing, and doing research while my family went to the movies. It's stressful, but somehow you make it through." ☐

Respiratory Therapists

Are Critical Members of Health Care Team

by Mary Tom Bass

“Years ago, I was working at Wilson Memorial Hospital,” begins Ralph Webb, department chair and instructor of Respiratory Therapy at Edgecombe Community College.

“A little boy came into the emergency room in a life-threatening asthmatic attack. I knew him and his family from church. We placed him on a ventilator to reduce his work of breathing, but the ventilator was unable to provide a flow of gas capable of meeting his inspiratory demands. Immediately I removed him from the vent and began ventilating him with a manual resuscitator. I manually assisted him on each and every breath he took on transport from Wilson to Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill. He did well, and today he’s a healthy, fine young man.”

Such stories of adrenaline and grit occur often in the lives of respiratory therapists, who work with some of the most critically ill patients, from those in intensive care units to patients with chronic lung conditions.

“We deal with very, very sick people,” Webb says. “The lungs are a vulnerable organ. Think about it: with every breath we pull something in from the outside into our bodies.”

Since 1988, ECC has been training respiratory therapists, teaching students how to make the best decisions concerning diagnostic testing, treatments, and management of patients with heart and lung diseases.

ECC’s program is the only one of its kind in this area. To the north, the closest respiratory therapy program is in Richmond, Virginia; to the east, Pitt Community College; to the south, Fayetteville Tech; and to the west, Durham Tech. Over the years, ECC has trained 125 respiratory therapists. In fall 2003, thanks to clinical rotation expansion opportunities, ECC was able to increase its class size to 15 new students each year.

The two-year program results in an Associate in Applied Science degree. It

is a rigorous curriculum, with students in off-campus clinical settings two to three days a week for four semesters. But the hard work pays off.

“Our students find jobs quickly,” Webb says. “There isn’t a hospital in this area that does not have an opening in respiratory care. Every other day, I get a notice of employment opportunities somewhere in the United States, either by phone or by email.”

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics lists respiratory care as one of the 10 fastest growing careers with a projected need for 46,000 more respiratory therapists by the year 2006. Webb attributes this demand to our country’s aging population and to the fact that many respiratory therapists working in the field are nearing retirement age.

While many graduates work in hospitals, employment opportunities also can be found in doctors’ offices, nursing homes, education, industry, and home care.

First-year student Laurie Strutton was led to the program by fellow students. “I was working in Nash-Rocky Mount Schools as a teacher assistant and substitute teacher. My kids were getting older, and I decided to go back to school. I took a few general courses at ECC and met several Respiratory Therapy students who got me interested in the program. Also, my son has asthma.

“It’s a wonderful program,” she continues. “I’m really glad I’m in it. What we’re learning in the classroom and what we’re practicing in clinical settings is starting to mesh, and I can’t imagine two more caring instructors than Mr. Webb and Mr. King (Instructor Tim King).

Since 2001, respiratory therapy has been a licensed profession. Upon graduation, students are issued a provisional license by the North Carolina Respiratory Care Board for one year, during which time they must pass the Entry-Level Certification examination administered by the National Board for Respiratory Care. Successful completion of the Certification exam enables graduates to then sit for the



Respiratory Therapy Instructor Tim King shows student Tammy Gantt and other rising second-year students proper intubation technique.



Ralph Webb (right), Respiratory Therapy department chair and instructor, explains lung analog (test lung) to student Marvin “Mel” Melrose. Melrose, 61 years old, worked as a structural stress analysis technician at a Rocky Mount plant until his job went overseas to India. His doctor’s nurse suggested a new career in health care, and he believes respiratory care is a good fit for him. “I like the patient contact and interaction,” he says, adding, “I also like going to school with young people; it keeps me sharp!”

(Advanced Practitioner) Registry examination. Graduates have three years to achieve the status of Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) as mandated by the National Board for Respiratory Care. The majority of employing facilities mandate the RRT credential within a designated period of time for continued employment.

Graduation is just the beginning, explains Webb. “Good respiratory therapists are extremely self-motivated. They need to continually update their knowledge base, as technology and medications are ever-advancing. They also need to

constantly read journals and join our professional organizations.”

Instructor Tim King was among ECC’s first Respiratory Therapy graduates. He has worked in every area in the field, from stress testing and sleep labs to cardiac rehab and home care. He returned to the College as an instructor in 2002. “I love the family atmosphere here,” he says. “I’d rather be at ECC than anywhere else in the world. In health care, you know that you make a difference in a person’s life. As a teacher in health care, I know that I can make a difference in many, many more lives.” 

Learning to think like a



Nurse

by Diane H. Roberts

Imagine it is your first day in one of Edgecombe Community College's Nursing programs. Your instructor says that to be a nurse, you must learn to think like a nurse. "Do nurses think differently from other people?" you wonder.

"A nurse has to be not only task-focused but also patient-focused," says Melissa Harrison, a 2005 graduate of the Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) program. "You have to get patients to trust you and respect you; then they will do anything you ask for their betterment."

Jacki Godwin, who completed the Practical Nursing (PN) program in 2005, says she was "taught to think outside the box. I was challenged to think at a higher level than ever before in my education."

First-year ADN student Audria Torian was indoctrinated with the same philosophy. "Everything I do as a nurse will affect someone's life," she says.

Robin Pigg, Nursing department chair and lead instructor, explains the holistic approach to nursing as looking at the patient as a whole person. "The psychological and social needs affect

the physical," she says. "I tell my students that the patient is not a disease. Mr. Smith is not the gall bladder in 228; he is a person with a family who cares for him."

Just as critical as being patient-focused is the importance of being safety-focused. Students in both the ADN and the PN programs must demonstrate specific skills in the lab setting on a mannequin before they perform the procedure on an actual patient. Even after a skill is checked off in the lab, the student will still have the professional supervision of the clinical instructor numerous times until both student and instructor feel comfortable that the student is ready to perform the skill independently.

"A uniqueness of ECC's Nursing programs," says Pigg, "is that students will have an instructor for clinicals who is familiar with what was taught in the classroom and labs.

"The clinical instructor might even be the same person who taught students in the classroom the day before. The instructor's ability to link what was taught in the classroom with how it is applied in the clinical setting enables students to connect what was taught with the real world of nursing. In a university-based program, it would be rare for the clinical instructor to be



Melissa Harrison (left), completed ECC's Associate Degree Nursing program in May of this year. She credits lots of personal attention from faculty, such as Robin Pigg (right), head of the Nursing programs, with giving her a solid education in all aspects of nursing care.

able to immediately connect clinical and classroom because classroom faculty often are not clinical faculty.”

In addition, Pigg adds, “ECC’s instructors have recent and ongoing experience in the field.” Students find a comfort level with an instructor who is familiar with equipment, clinical protocols, and routines. Such an instructor can teach students how to observe and perform procedures and tasks more effectively.

ECC’s Nursing programs are part of the Nash-Edgecombe-Wilson-Halifax (NEWH) Nursing Consortium, an affiliation of Nash Community College, Edgecombe Community College, Wilson Technical Community College, and Halifax Community College. The ADN program, a five-semester program, qualifies graduates to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN). The vocational diploma in Practical Nursing, a three-semester program, qualifies graduates to take the NCLEX-PN.

“ECC’s Nursing programs enable students to gain experience in a wide variety of clinical areas as well as in different facilities,” Pigg points out. Nursing students perform direct patient care in area long-term care facilities as well as in several hospitals and medical centers, including Heritage Hospital, Nash General Hospital, Coastal Plains Hospital, Wilson Medical Center, and Wake Medical. Within these facilities, students are assigned to care for patients in a number of areas including medical/surgical, intensive care, emergency room, women’s health (maternity, labor and delivery, nursery, postpartum, and gynecological), recovery room, same-day surgery, pediatrics, and psychiatric nursing.

An example of the exposure students get, Pigg notes, was her students’ opportunity to assist Terry Congleton, the stroke nurse educator at Pitt Memorial Hospital, with free screenings to identify citizens at risk for stroke. ECC’s nursing students participated in screenings held at the Princeville Town Hall, at ECC, and in industries, such as Glenoit. They conducted interviews and distributed pamphlets as well as performed blood sticks, weights, blood pressures, and cholesterol checks.

Melissa Harrison agrees that the broad exposure students receive is an outstanding component of ECC’s program. Her interest in nursing was fueled when members of her family became ill and dependent on profes-



Brian Balazsi, like a majority of ECC students, worked while he attended college. He completed the Associate Degree Nursing program in May and has accepted a job in the Surgical Intermediate Care Unit at Pitt Memorial Hospital, where he worked as a nursing assistant. He plans to work at Pitt for several years, then return to school to earn his B.S.N. at East Carolina University and possibly a master’s degree. Balazsi also worked at Food Lion. He says ECC was “convenient and affordable.”

sional care. She saw how important nurses are and what a difference they make in the lives of their patients. Having worked in human resources at Heritage and Nash General hospitals, she already knew that she liked the health care environment. In 2003, Harrison quit her job and applied herself full time to the ADN program at ECC. She was thankful she had taken her general education courses at night while working because she was able to dedicate her study entirely to the nursing courses.

“I looked at the schools in the consortium,” says Harrison, “and chose the one closest to my home. The instructors at ECC are available any time. They were always there to show us a better way when we had questions.”

Harrison recalls the first day of nursing class. She was sitting in a classroom of strangers. Before long, however, the group bonded, supporting each other as they faced each test. “We sat in the hall together and cried and prayed. When we had tests on performing competencies on our check-off sheets, we all stayed together to help each other. We didn’t want anyone to be left behind. Each semester strengthened the bonding until by the end of the program, we were like a family.”

In June, Harrison will take the nation-

al exam and return to Nash General Hospital – this time as a registered nurse. She has experienced additional rewards through the degree, she says, explaining that she has become a role model for her two daughters. She also sees herself caring for patients and touching families as she observed nurses doing who took care of her aunt with Down’s syndrome years ago. “They saw beyond her imperfections.”

Like Harrison, Jacki Godwin began seriously considering returning to school when people she loved, her grandparents, became disabled. She had worked 12 years as an administrative assistant for an aerospace company, but her job was phased out. While she reflected on what direction to take, she helped care for her grandparents. “I realized that I loved working with the elderly,” she says. Also like Harrison, Godwin had already completed general education courses, so she decided to apply to ECC’s Practical Nursing program. “I had no idea I would be doing this.”

Godwin has become more confident and assertive as a result of the higher-level thinking skills she developed during her training. Doctors and nurses have made positive comments to her about the quality of graduates from ECC, referring to them as some of the best nurses in eastern North Carolina.

After taking her exam to become licensed later this summer, Godwin plans to work full time until she returns to ECC in spring 2006 to enter the transition course to become a registered nurse. As a licensed practical nurse (LPN), Godwin can work part

time and pursue an ADN degree to become an RN. Designed for licensed practical nurses to continue their education and move their career forward, the transition course enables the student to join the ADN program after completing required prerequisites and a transition course. Because the course “bridges” the Practical Nursing and Associated Degree Nursing programs, it is also called the “bridge” program.

Audria Torian, a first-year ADN student, chose nursing because of her husband’s military career. After graduating from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1994 with a B.S. degree in English, Torian married a navy pilot, started a family, and moved with her husband. As a result of seeing the need by military families for good health care, Torian decided she wanted to become an RN and eventually complete a master’s degree in women’s health.

Although she entered the ADN program as a confident student, she admits that “nursing is a different way of looking at things. I have learned my own strengths and weaknesses. Because I have two small children, I really had to organize my life to handle the studying.”

Torian is well on her way to fulfilling her goals. Articulate and sophisticated, she is comfortable with who she is. “In nursing, you have to step outside yourself and be willing to challenge yourself. You can’t be thin-skinned; criticism is to help you learn and grow. How you speak and relate to others reflects who you are. You have to keep bettering yourself.” 



Practical Nursing student Amy McLawhorn receives clinical training from Sarah d’Empaire, ECC Nursing instructor. One advantage of a nursing education at ECC, students say, is that clinical instructors strive to make classroom instruction immediately relevant.

What is an Education Really Worth?

by David N. Hutto

A recent report by the American Association of Community Colleges states that the average starting salary for recent graduates in one of the top programs at a two-year college is \$28,711. Even if a person gets a low-skill job that pays \$8.50 per hour, a community college education means one can earn an average of \$11,000 more per year than someone with only a high school diploma. Extend this over a 30-year career and that's a difference of \$330,000. According to the U.S. Department of Education, a person with a college degree will earn \$500,000 more than a person without one. If this sounds like a lot of money to you, then it's worth your investment of time and money now.

Can I afford to go to Edgecombe Community College?

Edgecombe Community College, like other community colleges in North Carolina, is among the best values available in higher education. Two semesters at ECC taking 16 credit hours per semester will cost about \$1,300, not including books. This is about three times less than two semesters at N.C. State University, for example. Completing your first two years of college at ECC can save thousands of dollars in the cost of obtaining a college degree. Something this inexpensive couldn't be that good, could it?

The answer is an emphatic YES! Eighty-five percent of ECC students who go on to North Carolina universities maintain a 2.0 or better GPA. That's better than most freshmen who start out at a typical four-year institution. A recent report shows that 99% of

Edgecombe Community College graduates indicate that the College met or exceeded their personal goals.

What are the teachers like at ECC?

Edgecombe Community College faculty members are different from the instructors at some large universities. They teach. Their success does not depend on bringing in research dollars to the institution or writing articles for journals. They don't have graduate assistants who teach for them. They enjoy teaching and are dedicated to helping students succeed in the classroom or lab. Our average class size is 15-20 students. Students receive individual attention that often makes the difference between failure or success. ECC graduates have gone on to become doctors, business professionals, and computer programmers.

What does it mean that ECC has an "Open Door Policy"?

The doors of Edgecombe Community College are open to any person seeking to improve his or her skills and gain the benefits of a college education. The door to the world of opportunity that is represented by graduation, however, must be opened by every student who leaves our institution. This is a door that is only opened through hard work and dedication in the classroom. The academic standards at ECC are high. A degree from ECC means that you are qualified and prepared for the next step in your career. The College is fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

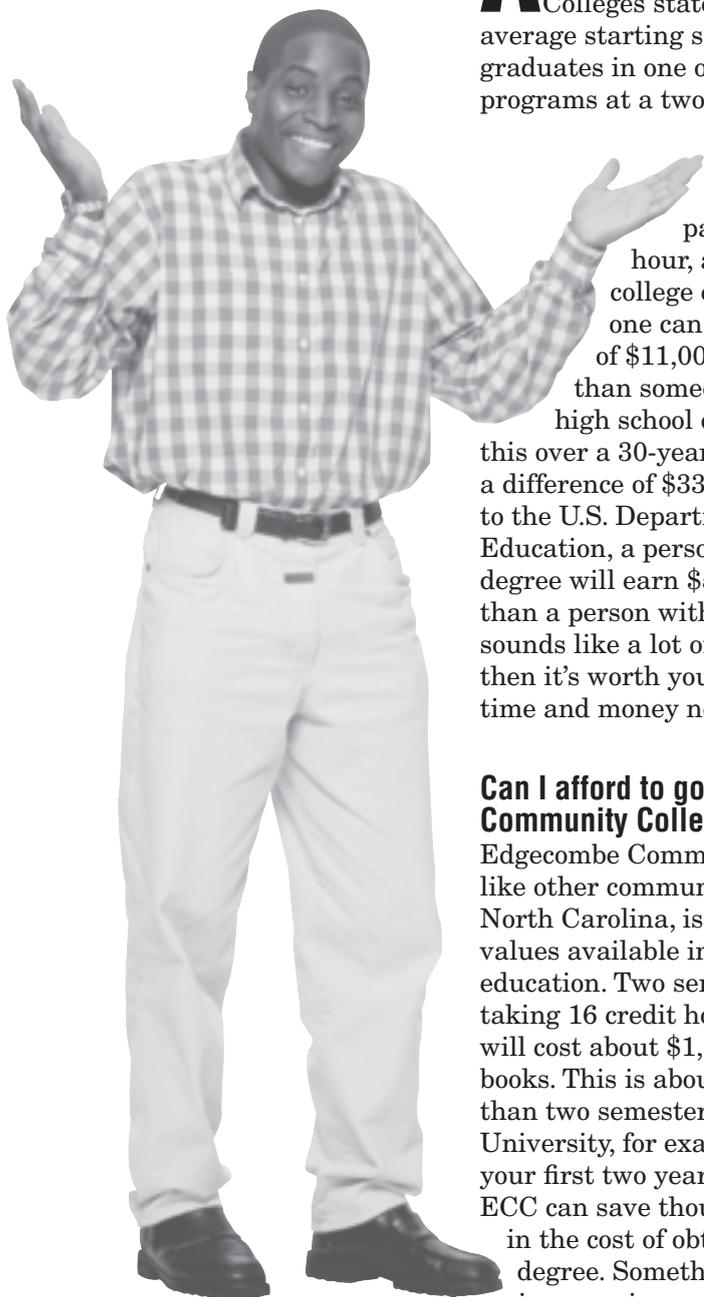
I just want to get a good job. What can you offer me?

ECC has 20 degree programs, 17 diploma programs, and 12 certificate programs that are designed to prepare you for good-paying jobs. Early childhood, office systems technology, cosmetology, accounting, facilities maintenance, autobody repair, mechanical drafting, networking technology, and many other programs are available. A recent survey revealed that 100% of ECC graduates were employed within one year of graduation. This same survey showed that 94% of employers were satisfied with ECC students working for their companies.

Edgecombe Community College is a place for new beginnings, a place where careers are born and lives are changed.

This sounds too good to be true. How do I find out more?

The College has a staff of highly qualified counselors in the Student Services Department who are available to advise you about the best program to meet your personal career goals. They will be happy to talk with you on the phone or set up an appointment for a personal visit to the College's Tarboro campus or Rocky Mount campus. Check out our website at www.edgecombe.edu or drop by our campuses any time. ☐☐



Medical Assisting Offers Versatility

by Diane H. Roberts

If you enjoy variety in your job tasks and responsibilities, you might consider becoming a medical assistant, a multi-skilled professional qualified to assist in administrative, clinical, and laboratory procedures in a health care facility.

Dottie Tolson, program coordinator of ECC's Medical Assisting program, explains the job as "similar to the old days when a doctor's wife assisted with both the front and the back office. The job description is basically an agreement between the physician and the medical assistant."

Carol Dunn, who graduated from ECC's program in 1998, passed the American Association of Medical Assistants' Certification Examination to become a Certified Medical Assistant (CMA) and has worked seven years at Nash OB-Gyn in Rocky Mount. She delineates her role as "doing everything except insurance," including taking vital signs, assisting with examination procedures, calling patients, scheduling patients, performing lab tests, and transcribing medical notations.

Dunn especially enjoys her contact with patients. "I ask about their family, and they ask about mine. I enjoy providing good, professional patient care." She also likes the choices that a degree in Medical Assisting provides. "A person can specialize if he or she chooses to do so in insurance, medical records, laboratory, or assisting the physician." The hours are good, allowing time with family, especially during weekends and holidays.

Kim Sparks, practice administrator at Nash OB-Gyn Associates, has worked with Dunn five and a half years. "Based on my relationship in employment, Carol is outstanding," says Sparks. "Her training, education, and skills have made her a tremendous asset. She can check in a patient and schedule an appointment, use the medical records system, and run lab tests. I would put her up against any of the RNs or LPNs."

"Medical assistants take their orders from the physicians," Tolson points out. The job is important and demands dedication. "The CMA is a buffer between the patient and the doctor," she adds. "The doctor may wish the assistant to schedule patients, file

insurance, dictate notes, transcribe notes, and work with the public. In addition, if the doctor wants the assistant to weigh patients, set up the exam room, take blood pressure and temperature, do a finger stick, draw blood, check the urine and hemoglobin, and sterilize instruments – the CMA is qualified to do all of those tasks. In North Carolina, medical assistants who are properly trained can also start IVs."

Another issue that Tolson stresses is professionalism. She tells students they must take their profession seriously. For example, the confidentiality of patient records is a critical issue. Tolson also tells her students they must enjoy working with the public to excel in their career. Some of her graduates have become office managers and supervisors.

Tolson says that some employees who work as medical assistants do not have a medical assisting degree and are not eligible to take the American Association of Medical Assistants national certification examination. She hopes these employees will be able to find a way to enroll in an accredited program. Like other professional cre-

entials, the CMA is evidence of competence and enhances job security.

Kesha Taylor has just completed her Associate in Applied Science Degree in Medical Assisting and will take the certification exam in October. Taylor performed her competencies for the administrative part of the curriculum at Edgecombe County Health Department and her clinical competencies at OIC Family Medical Center. "I am proud to have finished the program, and my family is also proud of me," Taylor says. She credits Tolson with always being available to help her.

"The program is not easy," Taylor admits, "but it pays off." Some of the subjects included in the curriculum are medical law and ethics, anatomy and physiology, CPR and first aid, administrative office procedures, CPT/HCPCS coding, diagnostic coding, billing and insurance, drug therapy, and microbiology. In addition, students gain on-the-job experience in the office and clinical areas, such as performing exam room and laboratory procedures. Taylor enjoyed assisting the doctor as well as providing care to patients and getting to know them. ☐



Carol Dunn, who graduated from ECC's Medical Assisting program in 1998, works at Nash OB-Gyn in Rocky Mount. She says especially enjoys her contact with patients. "I ask about their family, and they ask about mine. I enjoy providing good, professional patient care."



Kesha Taylor has just completed her degree in Medical Assisting and will take the certification exam in October. "The program is not easy, but it pays off," she says. "I am proud to have finished the program, and my family is also proud of me."



Amanda Ruffin completed ECC's Radiography program in May 2005. Ruffin, who works at Pitt Memorial Hospital, says the responsibilities of studying an intense curriculum were worth it. "Now I have a job and some money; it's worth the sacrifices."



ECC Radiography graduate Elsie Babb is a full-time instructor at the College and serves as the clinical instructor at Halifax Regional Medical Center.

Radiography and CT/MRI:

On the Cutting Edge of Science and Technology

by Diane H. Roberts

When program directors from ECC visit high school classes to talk about Radiography and Computed Tomography/Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technology (CT/MRI), most students say they have never heard of these career fields even though they are among the fastest growing areas in health care. However, anyone who has had an x-ray, CAT scan, or MRI has met a radiographer.

Fonda Worthington, program director for Radiography, describes the profession as both an art and a science. Students study anatomy, biology, radiation safety, and physics, as well as learn to use computers to acquire and manipulate images. Taking an x-ray with advanced medical equipment requires not only technical expertise but also the ability to capture the perfect image.

Students' training includes classroom studies and lab practice at ECC as well as clinical rotations. Students are assigned to a health care facility near their home for their clinical work.

An Associate in Applied Science Degree in Radiography at ECC qualifies graduates to take the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists' national examination for certification and registration as medical radiogra-

phers. Graduates may be employed wherever x-ray images are produced, including hospitals, clinics, physicians' offices, medical laboratories, government agencies, and industry.

Currently Radiography has 29 students in the program, 19 of whom will graduate in August 2005. "The main goal of the radiographer," says Worthington, "is to provide care for the patient that will lead to a diagnosis." Fulfilling this goal requires professionals who are accurate, efficient, and compassionate. "I tell prospective students that we get patients from all areas of a health care facility, including the emergency room, operating room, and occasionally the morgue," Worthington adds. "The work is challenging and fast paced. A radiographer has to be able to adapt to patients of different ages, sizes, and conditions." For the right personality, the profession provides job security and numerous opportunities to advance.

Amanda Ruffin, who completed the Radiography curriculum in May 2005, works at Pitt Memorial Hospital. She became interested in the program when ECC instructors gave a presentation to her high school class. The instructors allowed her to observe in the Radiography Department at Heritage Hospital. She also volunteered to work there after school.

Convinced that she wanted to become a radiographer, Ruffin began by taking her general education classes and then concentrated on her major courses. Two days a week she was on campus for class work and labs; the other three were clinical days. "When I started the program, my instructor said, 'We're your family now.' She gave us her home phone number." Amanda accepted the responsibilities of studying an intense curriculum, but says, "Now I have a job and some money; it's worth the sacrifices."

Priscilla Wells and Elsie Babb both completed the Radiography program and impressed their instructors so



Priscilla Wells, ECC Radiography graduate and current instructor, worked in the field for a number of years before she decided to teach.

much that they ended up employed as instructors themselves. Babb was hired part time after graduating and was offered full-time employment a year later. Wells worked in the profession for a number of years before deciding to teach.

As a student, Babb was interested in mathematics and science and considered nursing but decided she was the type who would become too attached to her patients. Radiography gave her the right balance between patient contact and technology.

Babb is the clinical instructor at Halifax Regional Medical Center, where she supervises students working with in-patients, out-patients, and emergency room patients. Students must pass 36 mandatory competencies and 15 elective competencies. At least 50% of those must be checked by a supervisor from ECC; the others may be checked by any registered radiographer at the hospital.

"The biggest challenge," says Babb, "is dealing with patients who are in pain. You have to keep them calm by being compassionate and empathetic. I try to put myself in the patient's position."

Wells became fascinated by x-ray study when her twins were born prematurely and stayed in the hospital two and a half months. She also had a



Rick Mastman, program coordinator and instructor of the CT/MRI program, discusses an MRI with student Jennifer Overstreet, who completed the curriculum in June 2005. "Working in CT/MRI provides a dynamic environment," she says. "You have to be able to multi-task."



Kelly Taylor completed the CT/MRI program two years ago and works in MRI at Nash Health Care Systems. She was such a good student that the head of ECC's program asked permission to use her notebooks as models for future students.

cousin who was in the field. "Because I have been exactly where my students are," Wells points out, "I can guide them and comfort them." She also asks them to perform any task they tell her they have passed as the need arises. "Once students pass a competency," says Wells, "we give them an opportunity to reinforce their skills."

Some graduates of the Radiography program choose to advance their careers by specializing in CT/MRI. In layman's terms, Rick Mastman, director of the CT/MRI program, explains that radiography is used primarily to take images of the skeletal and gastrointestinal systems; CT scans are used to evaluate the head, chest, abdomen, and pelvis; and MRIs are used to evaluate soft tissue, such as the brain, spinal cord, and joints as well as the vascular system.

To enter ECC's CT/MRI diploma program, students must be registered or registry eligible radiologic technologists. The intense curriculum devotes 20 weeks to CT and 20 to MRI. Mastman says the two primary goals of the program are to provide quality didactic and clinical education for students and to provide highly trained CT/MRI employees to our clinical affiliates.

Initially ECC offered CT/MRI as a certificate program in 1991. By 1997, the program expanded the curriculum to

the diploma level and added clinical affiliates across eastern North Carolina. In 2000, ECC and Johnston Community College formed a CT/MRI consortium, the first in the state.

Ninety-five percent of the students entering the program successfully complete the curriculum. All graduates who took the CT and/or MRI National Registry exam during 2003-2004 passed. Students accepted into the program have already proven themselves by earning a degree in radiography. "We get the best of the best," says Mastman.

Students are in class one day a week for seven hours studying the physics and procedures and in clinical sites four days. Class work, the didactic component, is held on the ECC campus. Some students travel from as far away as Wilmington for class; however, students are assigned to a clinical site close to their home.

Kelly Taylor completed the CT/MRI program two years ago and now works in MRI at Nash Health Care Systems. She was such a good student that Mastman asked permission to use her notebooks as models for future students.

Taylor describes the curriculum as structured and well-organized. "Rick explained everything so well and so

thoroughly that it was easy to check off competencies," she says. "He kept a close eye on our notebooks and visited the hospitals to go over things about clinicals. I still call him when I have a question."

In the future, Taylor sees herself going back to school to get a degree in health care management, but for now she is happy. "I love my job. I learn something new every day and always see something interesting."

Jennifer Overstreet, who completed the CT/MRI program in June 2005, investigated the career while she was in high school. After listening to a presentation given at her high school on ECC's Radiography program, she decided to shadow someone who worked in the area at Heritage Hospital. While she was pursuing the Radiography degree, Mastman visited her class to talk about broadening their career opportunities by becoming trained in CT and/or MRI. She was convinced she wanted to go the extra mile.

"The class is great," Overstreet says. "We are given PowerPoint presentations on every topic with associated handouts and outlines." Also, on class day, students discuss how they are applying in clinical what they are learning in class. Because students are assigned to different clinical sites, they

learn from each other how procedures are handled in different hospitals. "The training is a set of building blocks, and after a few days in clinical, a light bulb comes on. You see the connection between studying in class and performing a task."

All of Overstreet's clinical work was performed at Wilson Medical Center, where she practiced under the supervision of registered CT/MRI technologists. Instructors from ECC visit clinical sites to check on competencies and notebooks. Students must keep daily logs on procedures and competencies performed and passed. To be eligible to take the National Registry examinations, students must pass 125 competencies. They are graded in clinical every two weeks.

"Working in CT/MRI provides a dynamic environment," adds Overstreet. "You have to be able to multi-task." The keys to being successful in the field, she believes, are patience and communication. "You have to get on the same level as the patient." For example, she says some people are claustrophobic about going through the MRI machine. "You have to know how to explain what is going on. You can't just say, 'I know how to push this button.' You have a person's life in your hands, and you have to know his or her condition." ☐

by Doreen Robideaux

How to Pay for College...



Barbara Manning (left) and Carolyn Knight are financial aid counselors on the Tarboro campus.

“Financial Aid 101”

As you begin researching colleges and programs of study, you – every parent and student – also need to complete Financial Aid 101.

In sheer numbers, financial aid myths probably rival those of the Loch Ness Monster and Bigfoot, and they all rate about the same on the Truth Meter. So before you narrow your college choices based on the assumption that you're not eligible for financial aid, let's begin Financial Aid 101 with a few statistics:

- Almost 60 percent of all undergraduate students receive some form of financial aid.
- Nearly half of all students receive grant aid (grant aid does not have to be repaid).
- In 2002-2003, grant aid averaged almost \$2,000 per student in two-year public colleges, over \$2,400 at public four-year colleges, and about \$7,300 per student at private four-year colleges.

- The cost of tuition and fees for an in-state student enrolled full time at Edgecombe Community College for one semester is \$620.
- About 60 percent of ECC students receive financial aid, either through federal Pell grants or privately-funded scholarships.
- In 2004-2005, ECC awarded a total of \$3,474,660 in financial aid.

“Believe it or not, financial aid is available for almost all college students,” says Carolyn Knight, director of Financial Aid at Edgecombe Community College.

Feel better? Great! Now, before we proceed, it's important that you memorize these three financial aid words of advice: “Don't assume; apply!”

According to Knight, many students don't apply for financial aid because they assume they're not eligible. Those students end up missing out on valuable financial assistance available through scholarships and student loans.

“Just because your parents make X amount of dollars doesn't mean you won't

qualify for financial aid. Parents' income has nothing to do with eligibility for some student loan programs,” says Knight.

Let's examine the myths and realities of financial aid:

MYTH: We make too much money to qualify.

REALITY: Financial aid administrators take into account a lot of factors: whether there are other family members in college, the family's costs for housing and other necessities, as well as income. Besides, Knight explains, “Not all types of financial aid are based on need. Often, students don't apply because their spouse works full time and they assume they don't qualify. There are many scholarships available for all students.”

MYTH: You have to be Einstein to get financial aid; my grades aren't good enough.

REALITY: Although many scholarships have high grade-point-average (GPA) requirements, not all do. Even for those that do, you don't have to be a straight-A student to qualify; eligibility for the

Federal Pell Grant program is based on income and requires a minimum 2.0 GPA.

MYTH: We saved for college, so we won't qualify for aid.

REALITY: You took the right track, to be sure, but that doesn't mean you're not eligible for aid if you need it. Your student is still eligible for many scholarships – from institutions, civic groups, professional organizations, and other sources. As for federal and state financial aid, eligibility formulas calculate the family's share of college costs by income with only a small percentage of assets and savings calculated into the formula. Even if the aid you get is in the form of low-interest student loans, which eventually have to be repaid, you're still getting the support you need.

MYTH: If we're offered a loan, we have to take it even if we don't want it.

REALITY: Absolutely not true. You're under no obligation whatsoever to take a student loan, whether it's packaged with other financial aid or all by itself. Financial aid directors and guidance counselors often recommend that you

Allied Health Programs at Edgecombe Community College

- Associate Degree Nursing
- CT/MRI Technology
- Health Information Technology
- Medical Assisting
- Practical Nursing
- Radiography
- Respiratory Therapy
- Surgical Technology
- Dental Assisting *
- Dental Hygiene *

* Collaborative program with another N.C. community college

All ECC Allied Health programs begin in the fall semester. A majority of these programs require basic courses in English, math, science, and social sciences, prior to admission. Admission to Allied Health programs is competitive. Please contact ECC Allied Health program coordinators for specific admission and application details. Allied Health programs, like all of ECC's other curriculum programs, require placement testing. Nursing applicants are required to take the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS). Contact Student Services at (252) 823-5166 to learn more about applying to Allied Health programs at Edgecombe Community College.

Want to Know More?

If you are interested in learning more about Allied Health programs at Edgecombe Community College, contact the following student counselors at (252) 823-5166.

Health Information Technology & Medical Assisting – Cathy Stephenson, ext. 331

Nursing – Ann Newbern, ext. 263

Respiratory Care, Radiography & CT/MRI – Ginny McLendon, ext. 332

Surgical Technology – Lawrence Gulley, ext. 257



Angela Cooper (left) and Deborah Glover are financial aid counselors on the Rocky Mount campus.

apply and then compare the interest rate and terms with other forms of borrowing, even early withdrawals from investments. That way, it's available to you if you decide to take advantage of it.

MYTH: I'm too old to get financial aid.

REALITY: There's no such thing as an age limit for financial aid. Some private scholarships may stipulate an age range, but that type of criteria is quite rare. In fact, many scholarships and grants go to people who are well beyond the traditional college age and have children in school.

MYTH: College is just too expensive anyway. We can't afford it.

REALITY: First, go back and review the Financial Aid 101 statistics. Then consider this: studies show that college graduates earn 60-80 percent more on average than people with a high school diploma. Over the average lifetime, college graduates earn \$1 million more than they would have with a high school diploma. Do the math. Can you or your kids afford NOT to go to college?

MYTH: Community colleges are smaller than universities, so they won't have much financial aid to give.

REALITY: Actually, universities have larger student populations, so there's more competition for available funds. Considering the size of ECC's student population, your chances of receiving financial aid are probably better at

ECC. And because tuition at ECC is so low compared to larger schools, the aid you receive goes a very long way in covering your costs. In 2004-2005, ECC awarded an average of \$1,631 to each student who received financial aid.

Remember the three financial aid words of advice? Don't assume; apply! 

NOTE: Statistical information from collegeboard.com and Edgecombe Community College



The secret to paying for college is in your hands

In 2004-2005, about 60 percent of students at Edgecombe Community College received financial aid. The average award per student was \$1,631. We processed nearly \$4 million in financial aid, either through federal Pell grants or privately-funded scholarships.

We can help you, too. And it doesn't cost a cent.

Call the Financial Aid Office today at (252) 823-5166.

Surgical Technologists Keep Their Cool

by Mary Tom Bass

Sarah Thomas seems to have it all under control: she speaks calmly and deliberately, thoughtfully measuring her words as she talks about her work as a surgical technologist.

Here's the thing: she DOES have it all under control. Remaining calm under pressure is as essential to the skilled surgical technologist as knowing the difference between a clamp and a retractor. These professionals often work very closely with surgeons, handing them surgical instruments as they are needed.

"You have to know the procedure being performed so that you can anticipate what the surgeon might want next," Thomas says. "If you hand them the wrong instrument, they might throw it and you across the room! I'm kidding, of course," she laughs, "but seriously, you have to know your business before you ever step into the operating room (OR)."

Thomas is an expert on the OR, thanks to Edgecombe Community College's Surgical Technology program, which she completed in 1995. She works as a certified surgical technologist at Heritage Hospital in Tarboro, and she also serves as an ECC clinical instructor.

The Surgical Technology program prepares students to work as a member of the surgical team, arranging supplies and instruments, maintaining aseptic technique, preparing patients for surgery, and assisting the surgeon during operations.

"Most people think that being a medical professional means being a doctor or a nurse," says Surgical Technology Program Coordinator Linda Harrison. "When they realize that there are other types of health care providers who are just as important, that's when they discover surgical technology."

ECC enrolls a maximum of 15 students in the one-year diploma program each fall. Students spend the



Certified Surgical Technologist Sarah Thomas says she loves her work. "I was a nursing assistant for six years, and I was ready to do something different. Surgical technology was just right for me." Thomas also helps train future surgical technologists; for nine years she has served as an ECC clinical instructor.

first semester in classes and in labs, where they learn the basics of perioperative care, such as how to do a sterile scrub, how to gown and glove themselves, instrumentation, and the different types of sutures. Clinical training occurs during the second semester. Students spend three days per week working at clinical sites, which are Heritage Hospital, Pitt Memorial Hospital, and Surgicenter Services of Pitt.

Surgical technology is "like nothing these students have ever had in school," Harrison explains. "There is a technical aspect to the job, so students have to develop exceptional technical skills. The best surgical technologists are task-oriented, critical thinkers, and self-directed. They work under the supervision of the surgeon, so they can't be easily intimidated. They also have to be good communicators, because they deal with all types of medical professionals, from doctors and anesthesiologists to lab technicians and radiographers."

Aside from working in hospital operating rooms, they also find employment in doctors' offices, dental practices, out-patient surgery centers, and even in sales. Some continue their education, perhaps to become directors of operating rooms, for example.

"The future of surgical technology is wide open," Harrison says. "I don't see a decrease in the number of jobs." ECC graduates find jobs quickly, she adds, partly because she serves as a job referral system. "Hospitals and doctors' offices contact me when they have openings, and my graduates call me when they're looking for jobs. Because of my involvement with my

professional organization, I have nationwide contacts. If I have a graduate who is moving to California, I can call someone there to see what the job market is like. Our professional organization is a close-knit group, so I have unlimited resources."

One of the criteria by which ECC and other N.C. community colleges is measured is if graduates are employed within a year of graduation. "I've never had one take that long. We employ 100% of our graduates pretty quickly," she adds.

Graduates are qualified to sit for the national certification exam. Though the exam is not mandatory for employment, "our students who take the exam pass it. We have a 100% pass rate," Harrison says.

ECC's program is highly regarded among health care professionals, Sarah Thomas says. "I was very well-prepared at ECC. Linda (Harrison) makes sure that her students get what they need before they step into the OR. Students do not 'slide' through this program."

Harrison is a star in her field. She received the first Educator of the Year Award from the Association of Surgical Technologists in summer 2004. "I enjoy seeing people succeed when they make an effort to succeed, and I will do anything in my power to help them succeed. I push my students. When they finish here they have more self-confidence, and they know they can go out and get a job." 



Linda Harrison (right), coordinator/instructor of Surgical Technology, explains various surgical instruments to students Darleen Hobgood (left) and Everlene Nicholson.

Health Information Technologists

Bring Order to Health Care System Through Quality Information

by Mary Tom Bass

They are the worker bees of health care, buzzing about behind the scenes, keeping health information in patient records up-to-date, assuring security and privacy, coding charts for timely and accurate health insurance reimbursements, and compiling health care statistics for policy planning and evaluation. These are the health information technologists, information specialists who are essential to smooth operations at any health care organization.

ECC's Health Information Technology program is a unique curriculum, unique both to ECC and to its profession. It is one of only three accredited Web-based HIT curriculums in the state – others are at Pitt and Central Piedmont community colleges – and one of just 17 in the nation (http://www.ahima.org/careers/college_search/search.asp). All HIT courses are available online with the exception of classes at clinical sites.

Explains HIT Department Chair Kim Bell: "Through distance education, we can better meet the needs of those who are currently working full time and desiring to strengthen their body of knowledge and enhance their technical skills for better job opportunities. There are so many individuals who have family and work responsibilities, and traveling to a college campus for classes is simply out of the question for them."

ECC offers three curriculum options for individuals interested in careers as health information technologists. Completion of the two-year Associate of Applied Science degree (76 semester hours) qualifies graduates to sit for the national certification exam to achieve Registered Health Information Technology (RHIT) credentials. In 2004, the HIT program received a 100% pass rate for RHIT exam takers.

Four years ago, ECC began a HIT Coding certificate program, a six-course (18 semester hours) program specifically developed to meet the growing needs of the College's HIT program's clinical affiliate hospitals who had "on-the-job" trained coders in place with neither formal coding education nor coding credentials. At the



Shelia Hoskins is a full-time ECC employee and a part-time HIT student. "I believe everyone should continue to go to school, whether it's to get a degree or to update job skills," she says.

same time, the College also began a one-year Coding diploma (48 semester hours) program for students who were interested in the coding profession but had no experience and no formal course work.

Sheila Hoskins, coordinator of Cooperative Education and School-to-Work at ECC, began the HIT degree program in summer 2000. A part-time student, she is taking one or two courses per semester and should complete the program in summer 2006. "I chose HIT because it's an online curriculum," she says. "I wanted to do it in my own timeframe, and I wasn't interested in driving back and forth to a campus or sitting in a classroom." Hoskins holds bachelor's and M.B.A. degrees from East Carolina University, and she says the HIT curriculum is "challenging."

Recent graduate Kristy Wallace agrees. "Mrs. Bell pushed us hard, but without her I wouldn't be where I am today, and I want to thank her for that." Wallace is a Coding Specialist III at Pitt County Memorial Hospital, the flagship hospital of the University Health Systems of Eastern Carolina. She had the job offer before she completed the program. "It couldn't have been easier to find a job. HIT is a perfect mix of computers and health care. Every day I learn something new, and I love it."

Making HIT fully online was a goal of Bell's when she came to head the program at ECC in 1996. She began online course development in 1999, and by fall 2001, all HIT courses were

online. "Kim has always been one of our more aggressive faculty members in terms of online instruction," says J. Lynn Cale, associate vice president of instruction/curriculum. "Her efforts also have helped to strengthen the rest of the ECC's online offerings."

In February 2005, the HIT program recorded yet another first for the College. As part of a capstone class, a live Web cast was set up for students with a representative from LexiCode, an outsourcing consulting company in South Carolina. Most of the students in the class participated from home in the interactive session – a first for ECC – some from as far away as Savannah, Georgia, and Spartanburg, South Carolina.

"Our society is dependent upon data and information," explains Bell. "Soon the computer and Internet connectivity will be as common in our lives as the telephone used to be and the cell phone is today."

"The role of the health information management professional is to establish functional systems managing health information in today's health care delivery system, wherever the patients' needs may be, in Tarboro, Greenville, or Kodiak, Alaska," she continues. "These are truly exciting times to be in the health information management field. Continuously changing technology is not only changing the face of health care but also the access, transport, and storage of health care information." 

To learn about HIT at ECC, go to <http://www.edgecombe.edu/academics/allhdlth/hit/hit.htm>. Read more about the health information profession at <http://www.ahima.org>, the Web site of the American Health Information Management Association.



Health Information Technology Department Chair Kim Bell works closely with Kristy Wallace, who completed the HIT degree program in May. "Most people think that since all of our course work is done online we don't get to know each other. That isn't true," says Wallace. "I made plenty of new friends through the program. I even have a few coworkers who were former classmates."

Bet **YOU** Didn't Know!

- Today's job market requires that workers have a minimum of an associate's degree.
- An individual with a two-year degree will earn \$168,598 more over his or her lifetime than someone with a high school diploma.
- ECC students recover all costs of attending, including foregone wages, in 7.8 years.
- In 2004-2005, full-time students at ECC paid a maximum of \$620 in tuition per semester plus a \$.75 activity fee. By comparison, full-time students at East Carolina University paid \$1,067.50 in tuition plus \$659.50 in fees. Both rates applied to in-state students.
- ECC offers 20 two-year degree programs, 17 one-year diploma programs, and 12 certificate programs. Certificate programs are short-term.
- The typical ECC student is 29 years old, female, and works part time.
- Through the Continuing Education Division, ECC offers about 600 occupational extension classes each year, such as nursing assistant, police &

fire training, EMS, CPR, welding, notary public, and food service training.

- Four percent of ECC instructors hold doctorate degrees, 46% of ECC instructors have master's degrees, 30% hold bachelor's degrees, and 20% have associate's degrees and special certification in their field.
- Since 1999, the number of community college students who transferred to schools in the UNC system has increased 38 percent.
- ECC is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

• ECC offers credit courses to help you earn degrees as well as non-credit courses to expand your personal and professional interests.

• Sixty-two percent of ECC's

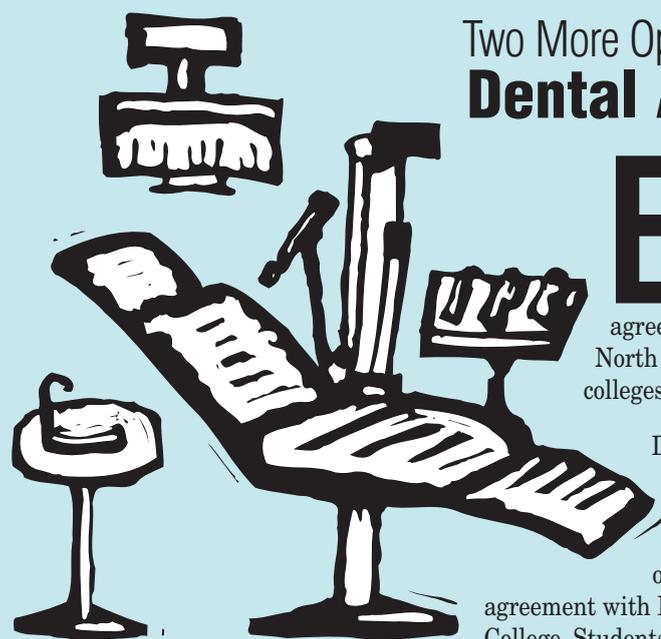
students attend college part-time. Many ECC students balance college with full-time employment and family commitments.

• ECC has experienced a 20% growth over the last four years, from an enrollment of 2,046 in 2001 to an enrollment of 2,565 in 2004. The College added 82 sections of courses over this four-year period.

• Sixty percent of ECC's students receive financial aid, either through federal Pell grants or scholarships.

• ECC is the county's major provider of workforce training and retraining.

• You can change your life at Edgecombe Community College!
CF



To learn more about becoming a Dental Hygienist or a Dental Assistant, call (252) 823-5166.

Two More Options: **Dental Assisting and Dental Hygiene**

Edgecombe Community College offers two Allied Health programs through collaborative agreements with other North Carolina community colleges.

Dental Hygiene is an Associate in Applied Science degree program offered through an agreement with Halifax Community College. Students take general education courses at ECC and major courses at Halifax Community College. The degree is awarded by Halifax Community College.

Dental hygienists work with individuals and communities in planning, implementing, and evaluating dental hygiene

care. Students learn to take patient histories, plan care, teach oral hygiene, clean teeth, take x-rays, apply preventive agents, complete chart entries, and perform other procedures related to dental hygiene care. The salary range for a dental hygienist is \$26,620-\$46,600*.

Dental Assisting is a Diploma program offered through an agreement with Martin Community College. Students take general education courses at ECC and major courses at Martin Community College. The diploma is awarded by Martin Community College.

Dental assistants work with licensed dentists and perform a variety of patient care tasks. These can range from instructing patients in dental care and exchanging instruments with the dentist to removing sutures and taking x-rays. The salary range for a dental assistant is \$19,380-\$26,390*.



To learn more about becoming a Dental Hygienist or a Dental Assistant, call (252) 823-5166. **CF**

**Source: 2004-2005 statistics from the North Carolina State Occupational Information Coordinating Committee*

Searching for something better in life?

Do you know how or where to start?

Gain a new perspective by evaluating where you are professionally. Maybe new skills or a career shift is what you need. If so, begin to make it happen at Edgecombe Community College. ECC has numerous programs to put you on a great career path.

Our outstanding faculty and committed team of academic and career counselors are ready to assist you in developing the plan to fulfill your dreams. Each of the following areas of study specify whether a degree, diploma, or certificate can be earned – meaningful credentials that make sense to employers and four-year colleges.

Associate degrees provide instruction in general education, as well as in-depth career preparation.

Diplomas are generally completed in one year. Diploma programs focus primarily on job skills but include some general education courses.

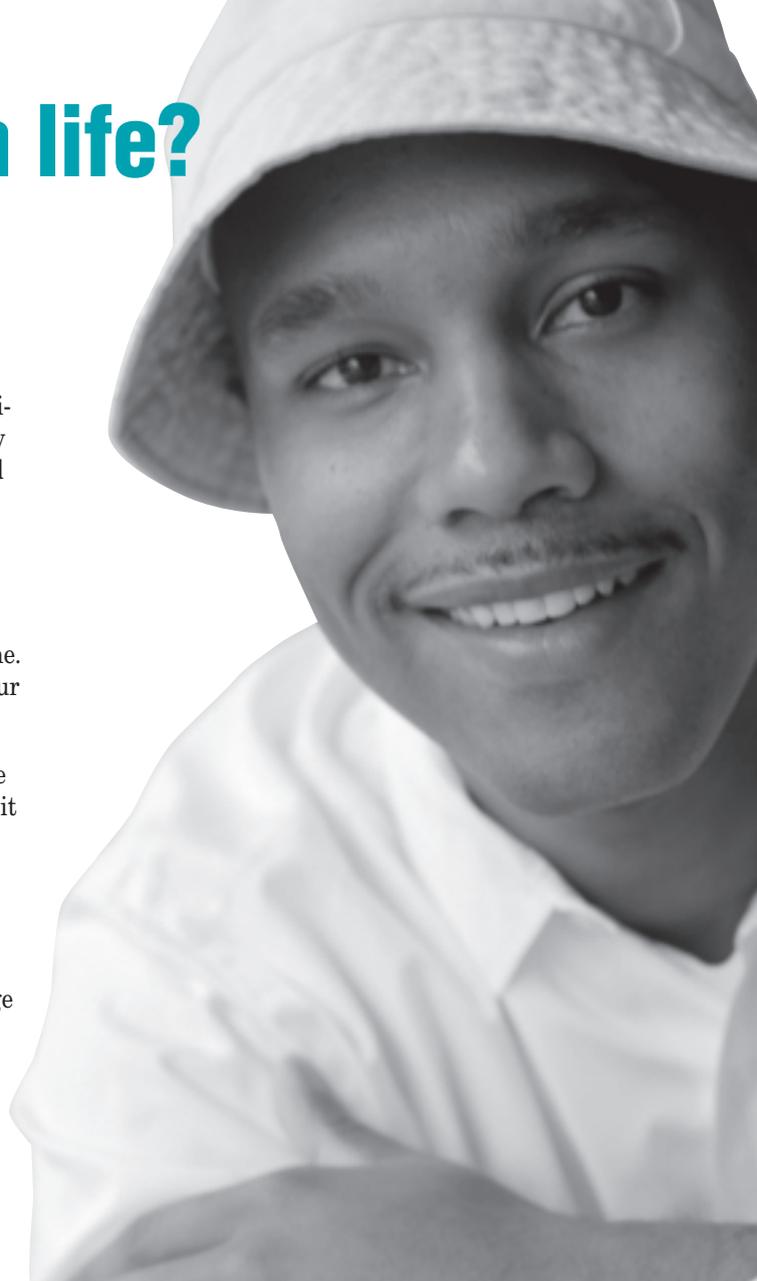
Certificates are typically short-term programs that emphasize job training. Only those classes required to perform the job are included in the curriculum.

A broad range of personal enrichment and continuing education courses also are available through the College's Continuing Education Division. A variety of seminars and workshops are offered throughout the year by the Small Business Center. Also, dynamic business and industry workshops and training programs help new and expanding industries by teaching employees new skills.

We understand that education has to fit your already busy lifestyle. We offer classes in the evening and online. And, as always, hundreds of courses are available on our campuses in Tarboro and Rocky Mount.

Take a look at the following listing. After you find some areas that interest you, call us at (252) 823-5166 or visit us online at www.edgecombe.edu. Let us know how we can help. Get started today, you'll be glad you did.

Note: Average Yearly Earnings: The first (top) salary number (followed by "e") represents the average entry wage. The second salary number represents the average rate of pay for the majority of employees in their occupation. **Source:** 2004-2005 statistics from the North Carolina State Occupational Information Coordinating Committee; 2002 Occupational Outlook Handbook 



Edgecombe Community College A-Z

What follows is an alphabetical listing of programs and areas of study offered by Edgecombe Community College. Call (252) 823-5166 ext. 255 for more information, or visit ECC on the Web at www.edgecombe.edu.

Area of Study	ECC Program	Prepares you for:	Average yearly earnings
Accounting	Associate in Applied Science Degree	Accounting positions in many types of organizations, including accounting firms, small businesses, manufacturing firms, banks, hospitals, school systems, and government agencies.	\$31,130e
	Diploma		\$49,220
Autobody Repair	Diploma	Employment in the automotive body and refinishing industry.	\$22,190e
			\$37,560
Automotive Systems Technology	Diploma	Positions as automotive service technicians in dealerships and repair shops.	\$19,670e
			\$34,630
Biotechnology	Associate in Applied Science Degree (offered through a collaborative agreement with Pitt Community College)	Positions as research assistant to a biologist or chemist, laboratory technician/instrumentation technician, or quality control/quality assurance technician.	\$26,990e
			\$36,830



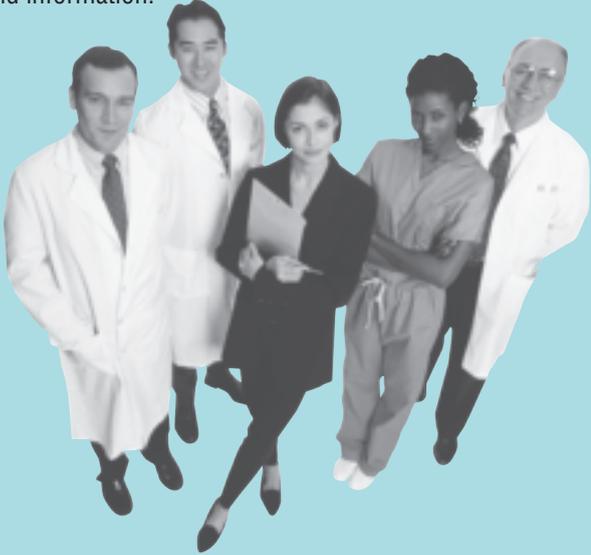
Area of Study	ECC Program	Prepares you for:	Average yearly earnings
Business Administration	Associate in Applied Science Degree	Employment opportunities in government agencies, financial institutions, and small to large businesses or industries.	\$20,000e
	Diploma		\$49,000
Business Administration, Electronic Commerce Concentration	Associate in Applied Science Degree	Employment in the field of the Internet economy and e-commerce.	\$25,000e
			\$52,000
Computer Tomography & Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technology	CT/MRI Diploma	The use of specialized equipment to visualize cross-sectional anatomical structures. These curriculums are specialties for radiographers.	\$28,980e
	CT Certificate		\$38,300
	MRI Certificate		
Cosmetology	Diploma	Employment in beauty salons and as skin/nail specialists.	\$14,250e \$22,830
Cosmetology Instructor	Certificate	Positions teaching cosmetology.	\$24,700e \$38,500
Criminal Justice Technology	Associate in Applied Science Degree	Employment in a variety of local, state, and federal law enforcement, corrections, and security fields.	\$24,830e
			\$33,920
Dental Assisting	Diploma	Positions in dental offices to assist the dentist in the delivery of dental treatment.	\$19,380e
	(offered through a collaborative agreement with Martin Community College)		\$26,390
Dental Hygiene	Associate in Applied Science Degree	Positions that plan, implement, and evaluate dental hygiene care for individuals and communities.	\$26,620e
	(offered through a collaborative agreement with Halifax Community College)		\$46,600



Area of Study	ECC Program	Prepares you for:	Average yearly earnings
Early Childhood Associate	Associate in Applied Science Degree	Positions working with children from infancy through middle childhood in a day care or child care setting.	\$14,680e
	Diploma		\$17,630
Early Childhood Associate, Teacher Associate Concentration	Associate in Applied Science Degree	Positions working with children from two years old through middle childhood in a pre-K through middle school environment.	\$14,680e
	Diploma		\$17,630
Electric Lineman Technology	Associate in Applied Science Degree	Positions as linemen in the preparation and repair of rural electrical utility service.	\$30,080e
	(offered through a collaborative agreement with Nash Community College)		\$41,920
Electrical/Electronics Technology	Diploma	Installing and maintaining electrical/electronic systems found in residential, commercial, and industrial facilities.	\$24,770e
	Certificate		\$33,980
Facility Maintenance Worker	Diploma	Positions in maintaining and repairing physical structures and systems of commercial and industrial establishments.	\$21,000e
	Certificate		\$46,000
Funeral Service Education	Diploma	Employment in the funeral service industry.	\$16,000e
	(offered through a collaborative agreement with Fayetteville Technical Community College)		\$24,000
General Occupational Technology	Associate in Applied Science Degree	Positions that require effective workers. This curriculum is individualized for students according to their occupational interests and needs.	\$16,500e
	Diploma		\$26,000
	Certificate		



Area of Study	ECC Program	Prepares you for:	Average yearly earnings
Health Information Technology	Associate in Applied Science Degree	Positions that process, compile, analyze, maintain, manage, and report health informatics and information.	\$20,590e
	Coding Diploma		\$31,570
	Coding Certificate		



Healthcare Management Technology	Associate in Applied Science Degree	Employment in health care business and financial operations.	\$20,500e
	(offered through a collaborative agreement with Pitt Community College)		\$34,570

Human Services Technology	Associate in Applied Science Degree	Positions in institutions and agencies that provide social, community, and educational services.	\$17,510e
			\$23,570

Industrial Systems Technology	Certificate	Industrial settings that need individuals to service, maintain, repair, or install equipment.	\$24,600e
			\$46,750

Information Systems	Associate in Applied Science Degree	Positions that provide technical assistance and training to computer users.	\$28,860e
			\$46,810



Internet Technologies	Associate in Applied Science Degree	Employment with organizations that rely on the Internet for information exchange.	\$22,000e
			\$64,000



Area of Study	ECC Program	Prepares you for:	Average yearly earnings
Manicuring/ Nail Technology	Certificate	Positions in beauty salons and nail salons.	\$14,250e
			\$22,830
Manufacturing Technology	Associate in Applied Science Degree	Positions as manufacturing technicians, quality assurance technicians, CAD/CAM technicians, team leaders, or research and development technicians.	\$24,500e
			\$45,500
Manufacturing Technology, Plastics Concentration	Associate in Applied Science Degree	Positions that set up, operate, or tend machines that taper, shape, or form plastic parts.	\$18,500e
			\$28,250
Mechanical Drafting Technology	Diploma Certificate	Employment in mechanical areas such as manufacturing, fabrication, research and development, and service industries.	\$28,600
			\$42,500
Medical Assisting	Associate in Applied Science Degree	Positions that assist physicians, prepare patients for exams, prepare treatment rooms, inventory supplies and instruments, schedule appointments, and maintain records.	\$18,630e
			\$24,270
Medical Transcription	Diploma	Employment as a medical language specialist who interprets and transcribes dictation by physicians and other health care professionals.	\$21,850e
			\$27,230
Networking Technology	Associate in Applied Science Degree Certificate	Employment supporting local- and wide-area networks.	\$37,850e
			\$58,780



Area of Study	ECC Program	Prepares you for:	Average yearly earnings
Nursing	Associate Degree	Positions that provide care, treatment, and health education to ill or injured people. Plan and supervise health programs and personnel.	\$36,930e \$46,370
	Diploma	Positions that provide patient care under the direction of doctors or registered nurses; may bathe, dress, feed and give medication to patients.	\$24,670e \$31,200
Office Systems Technology	Associate in Applied Science Degree	Positions that provide high-level administrative support.	\$22,870e \$30,880
Radiography	Associate in Applied Science Degree	Employment as a radiographer, who uses radiation to produce images of the human body.	\$28,980e \$38,300
Respiratory Therapy	Associate in Applied Science Degree	Employment as a respiratory therapist, who specializes in the evaluation, treatment, and care of patients with heart and lung diseases.	\$32,460e \$40,270
Surgical Technology	Diploma	Employment as a surgical technologist, who assists in the care of the surgical patient and functions as a member of the surgical team.	\$24,150e \$30,570



Edgecombe Community College Application for Admission

2009 W. Wilson St., Tarboro, NC 27886 • 225 Tarboro St., Rocky Mount, NC 27801



General Information

Social Security Number: _____ / _____ / _____ Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____
Last Name: _____ First (not nickname): _____ Middle: _____
Former Name (if applicable): _____
Mailing Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
County: _____ Email address: _____
Home phone: _____ Work phone: _____
Gender: Male Female
Ethnic Background: American Indian Asian Black Hispanic White Other _____
(Note: Information regarding ethnic background is voluntary and will not be used in decisions regarding the admissions process.)

Residence Information

North Carolina Law (G.S. 116-143.1) requires that "to qualify for in-state tuition, a legal resident must have maintained his or her domicile in North Carolina for at least 12 months immediately prior to classification as a resident for tuition purposes.

1) Are you a legal resident of N.C.? Yes No 2) Have you been a resident of N.C. for 12 months? Yes No
3) Dates of out-of-state residence: _____

Employment Status

Full-time Part-time Unemployed (not seeking employment) Unemployed (seeking employment) Retired

Educational Experience

High School (check only one)

High School Graduate (Y) _____ Date Completed Currently enrolled in High School (C) GED Completion (G) _____ Date Completed
 Non-High School Graduate (N) _____ Highest Grade Completed Adult High School Graduate (A) _____ Date Completed

College (check all that apply)

Vocational Diploma Associate Degree Bachelor's Degree Master's Degree or Higher

High School Last Attended: _____
School Name Location Dates Attended
College(s) Previously Attended: _____
School Name Location Dates Attended
_____ School Name Location Dates Attended

Enrollment Information

I plan to enroll: Fall Semester _____ Spring Semester _____ Summer Term _____

Status: Freshman Transfer Campus(es): Rocky Mount Tarboro
Enrollment Attendance: Day Classes Evening Classes Full time Part time
(check all that apply) :

Long Term Goal (check one)

To obtain an Associate Degree, Diploma, or Certificate. To enhance my job skills in my present field of work.
 To enhance my employment skills for a new field of work. To take courses to transfer to another college.
 To take courses for personal enrichment or interest.

Educational Background of Parents

(Check the boxes that indicate the highest level attained.)

Educational Background of Mother

High School

- High School Graduate
- GED Completion
- Adult High School Graduate
- Non-High School Graduate

College

- Vocational Diploma
- Associate Degree
- Bachelor's Degree
- Master's Degree
- Doctorate

Educational Background of Father

High School

- High School Graduate
- GED Completion
- Adult High School Graduate
- Non-High School Graduate

College

- Vocational Diploma
- Associate Degree
- Bachelor's Degree
- Master's Degree
- Doctorate

Medical Information

In the case of an emergency, please contact:

Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Phone (H): _____ Phone (W): _____

I certify that the information on this application is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that submitting false information may be grounds for dismissal. I agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the college and understand that completion/graduation rate information is available upon request in the student services offices.

Programs of Study

College Transfer

- A10100 Associate in Arts
- A10400 Associate in Science

Associate in Applied Science Degree Programs

- A25100 Accounting
- A25120 Business Administration
- A25121 Business Administration/E-Commerce Concentration
- A55180 Criminal Justice
- A55220 Early Childhood Associate
- A5522B Early Childhood Assoc./Teacher Assoc. Concentration
- A55280 General Occupational Technology
- A45360 Health Information Technology
- A45380 Human Services Technology
- A25260 Information Systems
- A25290 Internet Technologies
- A50320 Manufacturing Technology
- A5032A Manufacturing Technology/Plastics Concentration
- A45400 Medical Assisting
- A25340 Networking Technology
- A45100 Nursing
- A25360 Office Systems Technology
- A45700 Radiography
- A45720 Respiratory Therapy

Diploma Programs

- D60100 Auto Body Repair
- D60160 Automotive Systems Technology
- D55140 Cosmetology
- D45200 CT/MRI
- D50140 Electrical/Electronics Technology
- D50170 Facility Maintenance Worker
- D50340 Mechanical Drafting Technology
- D25320 Medical Transcription
- D45660 Practical Nursing
- D45740 Surgical Technology

Certificate Programs

- C55160 Cosmetology (Instructor Training)
- C50240 Industrial Systems Technology
- C55400 Manicuring/Nail Technology

Special Students

- T90990 Special Credit
- T90970 Huskins Bill
- T90980 Dual Enrollment

Application Process

Submit this application for admission to ECC's Department of Student Services in Tarboro or Rocky Mount. (*Note: A high school diploma, GED, or Adult High School Diploma is required for all associate degree programs.*)

Submit a transcript of credits from the last high school attended. Also include transcripts from any other college or university you may have attended. (*High school transcripts are required for all students.*) All official transcripts should be mailed directly to ECC from the institution attended. Applicants may hand deliver transcript(s) in an officially sealed envelope. (*That is, transcripts that have the official college seal should arrive at ECC in an envelope sealed and stamped by the Registrar of the issuing institution.*) Transcript request forms are available at Student Services on both campuses. Transcripts must be on file before a student can register for classes.

Complete placement test. This test is not an entrance examination and will not deny admission to the college for any student. The purpose of the test is to provide additional information in planning a student's program. The tests are scheduled for both campuses on the second Tuesday of each month at 9 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Have a personal interview with a counselor.

Questions? Give us a call...

Tarboro Campus • (252) 823-5166, ext. 255 • Rocky Mount Campus • (252) 446-0436, ext. 336



The world out there starts here.

COLLEGE TRANSFER PROGRAMS

Associate in Arts
Associate in Science

ALLIED HEALTH PROGRAMS

Associate Degree Nursing
CT/MRI Technology
Dental Assisting *
Dental Hygiene *
Health Information Technology
Medical Assisting
Practical Nursing
Radiography
Respiratory Therapy
Surgical Technology

AUTOMOTIVE PROGRAMS

Auto Body Repair
Automotive Systems Technology

BIOLOGICAL & CHEMICAL TECHNOLOGY

Biotechnology *

BUSINESS & COMPUTER PROGRAMS

Accounting
Business Administration
– Electronic Commerce Concentration
General Occupational Technology
Healthcare Management Technology *
Information Systems
Internet Technologies
Medical Transcription
Networking Technology
Office Systems Technology

INDUSTRIAL PROGRAMS

Electric Lineman Technology *
Electrical/Electronics Technology
Industrial Systems Technology
Manufacturing Technology
– Plastics Concentration
Mechanical Drafting Technology

SERVICE PROGRAMS

Cosmetology
Cosmetology Instructor
Criminal Justice Technology
Early Childhood Associate
– Teacher Associate Concentration
Facility Maintenance Worker
Funeral Service Education *
Human Services Technology
Manicuring/Nail Technology

** Collaborative program with another N.C. community college*

Edgecombe Community College

Tarboro Campus: (252) 823-5166 • 2009 West Wilson St., Tarboro NC 27886
Rocky Mount Campus: (252) 446-0436 • 225 Tarboro St., Rocky Mount NC 27801

www.edgecombe.edu





**Need a career change?
Looking for direction?
Not sure where to start?**

**Edgecombe Community College can
get you where you want to go.**

Upcoming Registration

Fall Semester 2005

Registration..... July 25-28
Final Registration..... August 17 & 18
Classes Begin August 19

Spring Semester 2006

Registration December 5-9
Final Registration..... January 4 & 5
Classes Begin January 6

If you're ready to get on with the rest of your life, Edgecombe Community College is the place to begin your success story. Make it a priority and add enrollment at ECC to your "to-do" list.

Whether you're in need of a fresh start, need a few new skills, or want to pursue a new career, ECC can get you where you want to go.

If you've never applied to or taken classes at ECC, you first need to complete a general application for admission. Look in the back of this magazine, or check out the online application at www.edgecombe.edu. Contact Student Services at (252) 823-5166 and ask to speak to a counselor, or stop by our campuses in Tarboro at 2009 West Wilson Street or in Rocky Mount at 225 Tarboro Street.

Former students who have been away awhile and aren't sure where to start can visit Student Services to update their file. No appointment necessary.

Call us as soon as you have plans to enroll or return to ECC.

(252) 823-5166