Frequently Asked Questions and Responses

1. I have decided to attend Wharton County Junior College, how do I get started?

Easy Steps for Admissions and

1. Complete an application.
   • Submit your application online at www.Applytexas.org. The on-line application is quick and easy! After clicking on Applytexas.org, follow these steps to get started. Once your application has been processed you will receive an acceptance letter by email, usually within 48-72 business hours. Processing time may vary during peak registration periods. This email will provide detailed instructions on how to proceed with the admission and registration process.

2. Turn in transcripts.
   • Submit an official transcript of all high school (final transcript needed once graduated) and/or college transcript(s) or a GED certificate with official scores and completion dates. Official transcripts can be mailed to WCJC Main Campus, 911 Boling Hwy, Wharton, TX 77488, electronically submitted, or hand delivered to the campus closest to you. Official transcripts must be in a sealed envelope.

3. Complete testing requirements.
   • Have you taken an approved placement test, or been told by a WCJC advisor you do not need to test? Contact advising/counseling in order to determine if testing may be required, if so, contact the testing department at your nearest WCJC campus. http://www.wcjc.edu/Admissions/testing/index.aspx

4. Submit vaccination record.
   • Visit our page on vaccination requirements and provide the Office of Admissions and Registration with documentation. http://www.wcjc.edu/Admissions/admissions-and-registration/vaccination.aspx

5. Apply for financial aid.
   • This includes grants, loans, and scholarships. Go online at www.fafsa.gov or visit a Financial Aid office at any WCJC campus. Look at http://www.wcjc.edu/About-Us/administration/offices/financial-aid/ to learn more information. Check for deadlines so you don’t apply too late.

6. Understanding “Holds.”
   • On the Advising Website page, go to the document “Understanding Holds” for information on Holds. You’ll see “holds” listed in your online services account by a code.
2. When is the last day to register for classes?

The last day to register for classes will be the Friday (and get assistance) before the first day of class should you need assistance (i.e., August 23rd for fall term, January 17th for spring term). If you do not require any assistance, you will have until the day before classes start. For Spring Semester 2015, registration for 16 week and first 8 week courses closes at 11:59 pm on the 19th of January.

3. Which students are considered “in-district” for tuition purposes?

An adult who is a Texas resident and has resided continuously within the WCJC Taxing District (Wharton County and Needville ISD) for six months prior to his original registration, or if a minor, one whose parent(s) or legal guardian meet this qualification.

4. How do I know what classes to register for?

You should register for classes that are listed on your intended WCJC degree and/or university transfer plan. [http://www.wcjc.edu/Programs/index.aspx](http://www.wcjc.edu/Programs/index.aspx) and/or [http://www.wcjc.edu/Admissions/transfer/index.aspx](http://www.wcjc.edu/Admissions/transfer/index.aspx)

5. Can an academic advisor or counselor register me for classes?

Academic advisors and counselors will NOT register you for classes, but can assist you with online registration and educational planning.

6. Is a high school diploma or GED required to attend WCJC?

A high school diploma or GED is required for all certificate and degree programs. It may not be required for continuing classes (not college credit). Home School students must produce an official home school transcript signed (and notarized) by the parent or guardian. Home school students with transcripts from “home school providers” will be accepted but may have difficulty receiving financial aid---these students should check with the Office of Financial Aid.

7. What is the difference between an associate degree and a certificate?

An associate degree requires 60 or more college credit hours and generally takes two or more years to complete. Certificates require 15 to 50 college credit hours and can be classified as short-term training to obtain a specific marketable job skill. It is strongly suggested that you review the educational program requirements and college catalog to review the certificate and degree information.

8. How do I get a WCJC catalog? Class Schedule?
You can obtain a WCJC catalog and class schedules by going to the WCJC website and clicking on Admissions followed by Catalogs and Schedules link.  

9. What can I do with the various certificates and associated degrees offered at WCJC?

Our degrees and certificates are designed to enable graduates to enter an occupation with a marketable skill. More specific information concerning particular degrees can be access on our WCJC College Catalog online.

10. What is the Core Curriculum?

Every Texas public college and university is required by Texas to have a Core Curriculum that, if completed at one institution, should transfer and take the place of the core at the receiving institution. Therefore, if your plans include transferring to a Texas public university, it is to your advantage to complete the core at WCJC. You can find the core on the WCJC website on the bottom of the “Programs” page.

11. What sports are offered at WCJC?

We have a women’s volleyball team and a men’s baseball team. In addition, we have a rodeo team for both men and women.

12. Do I have to take an assessment test to attend credit courses at WCJC?

If you are pursuing an associate degree or higher, you are required by Texas state law to have appropriate assessment test scores. Scores generated by TAAS/TAKS/STARR, TASP/THEA, ACT, SAT, Compass, Asset, or ACCUPLACER may be acceptable. Currently WCJC is using the TSI Assessment. There is a video that you will have to watch in order to take the test. At the end of the video you will have to print a certificate that you will have to present at the time of testing. This video is located at http://www.wcjc.edu/Admissions/testing/index.aspx

Scores must be on file before registration can be completed. Some certificates may have test requirements. Some degree programs may require additional testing for entry into the program. Go to the Testing page for specific information on testing.

13. How long is the assessment process?

WCJC’s complete TSI assessment is comprised of math, reading, sentence structure and a writing sample. On average, the TSI test takes about 4 hours to complete and should be completed in one sitting.

14. Is there a fee for the TSI Assessment?
The TSI Assessment fee is $29 whether you take one portion or all 4. We highly recommend that you take all portions of the test at one sitting.

15. Is there a study guide for the TSI Assessment?

Yes. You will be able to access the study guide after you have preview a short video about the TSI Assessment. Links to the study materials will be embedded in the video. You can bookmark these links to have continuous access to the study materials. This video is located at http://www.wcjc.edu/Admissions/testing/index.aspx

16. How many times can I take the TSI Assessment?

You can take the TSI Assessment as many times as you wish for initial placement for classes.

17. If I do not meet the required test scores after testing, what classes will I be able to register for?

You will be able to register for certain developmental courses based on your test scores. In some cases you will also be allowed to take some college level courses in conjunction with the developmental courses. It is recommended that you meet with an academic advisor or counselor to assist with registration if your placement scores indicate a need for developmental coursework.

18. Will I receive college credit for any developmental courses I might have to take?

You will not receive college credit for developmental courses. But you will receive a grade and you will be able to use the hours to maintain full or part time student status for financial aid, etc. purposes.

19. Do I need to re-test after I finish taking developmental courses?

You are not required to re-test after successfully completing the highest level of the developmental reading, writing or math courses. Some certificate and associate of applied science programs may have additional test requirements. You are not required to re-test after successfully completing the highest level of the developmental reading, writing or math courses. Some certificate and associate of applied science programs may have additional test requirements.

20. What kinds of services are provided for students with disabilities at WCJC?

Special accommodations are available for qualified students with disabilities upon approval by the Disability Services Coordinator. Further information about accommodations may be obtained from the Disability Services Coordinator at 979-532-6384.
21. What documentation is needed to obtain accommodations?

Information regarding disability services can be obtained from the Disability Services Coordinator by calling 1-800-561-9252, ext. 6384 or 979-532-6384.

22. How do I plan my schedule for a semester?

Time management is essential when building your schedule. **Plan at least two-three hours of study time per week for each hour of course work.** Different course combinations may require a greater amount of study time. English, accounting, economics, science lab, and math courses are considered “homework intensive” so study times for these types of courses could double.

23. Are online classes offered at WCJC?

Yes, on-line classes are offered at WCJC.

24. What classes are offered online?

Most core curriculum classes, with the exception of some science courses, science labs, and P.E. are offered on-line. Some AAS and certificate programs offer coursework online.

25. Can I get any college credit for military service?

College credit may be awarded for military service after you have submit your DD214 and/or any accompanying military transcripts of coursework completed to the Office of Admissions and Registration.

26. What are my chances of receiving financial aid?

The only way to determine your eligibility to receive aid is to submit your Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).

27. When is the deadline to apply for financial aid (FA)?

The FAFSA must be received by the institution for processing before June 1st for the next academic year. The FA priority registration deadline for the fall is June 1, October 1 for the spring, and April 1 for the summer. You can apply for financial aid after these dates, but eligibility may not be determined prior to the payment for class deadline.

28. To receive financial aid, do I have to apply every year?

Yes. To receive consideration for eligible programs you must file a FAFSA each year. File the FAFSA any time after January 1st. You will need a complete tax return from the previous year.

29. How do I know when and how much I have been awarded?
Notification of all eligible programs will be provided to you in the form of an award letter listing the types of aid you can expect to receive for the school year. You can also view your awards by accessing “Online Services” on the WCJC website.

**30. Can I pay my tuition and fees on an installment plan?**

Yes, you can pay using the installment plans found in “Online Services” under WCJC student account suite.

**31. How often are payments due on the installment plan?**

Students may pay in full at the time of registration, or they may pay on the installment plan as follows:

- Prior to the first day of class
- Prior to the start of the 6th class week
- Prior to the start of the 11th class week
- 50% of tuition and fees plus a $35 Non-Refundable fee
- 25% of tuition and fees
- 25% of tuition and fees

Important Plan Information:

- A $35 NON-REFUNDABLE fee will be assessed for each late installment payment.
- Installment plans must be signed prior to the first class day. Late registrants are not eligible for the installment plan.
- Tuition, fees, and dormitory charges are subject to change without notice by action of the Board of Trustees or the state legislature.

**32. What happens if I register, but do not pay for my classes?**

You may be purged (withdrawn) from classes, but you are ultimately responsible for withdrawing from your classes if you are unable to make payment by the payment deadlines.

**33. What are the Counseling and Advising Center’s hours of operation?**

The current hours are Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., with no appointment is necessary. It is strongly suggested that you visit with an academic advisor/counselor early in the registration period and to avoid long wait times arrive in person early in the morning during peak time registration time frames. Appointments are made for after 5 pm on a limited basis.

**34. Is there a new student orientation that I can attend?**
New student orientations are scheduled in the summer for first time in college students. If you are unable to attend any of the sessions, it is highly recommended that you complete the online orientation that will be available under Student Services on the WCJC website in March.

35. **Will the courses I take at WCJC transfer to a Texas four-year college or university?**

WCJC is regionally and state accredited (SACS) and most of our transfer courses are accepted throughout Texas and other states. How those courses count toward graduation requirements for a bachelor degree is a more important question which will require on-going planning with academic advisors/counselors at two and four year institutions.

36. **What are the steps I must take to transfer to a university and how soon must I start them?**

Please inquire with your university of interest about transfer admission requirements. The information is typically available on the university’s website. A WCJC Academic Advisor or Counselor may also be able to assist you.

37. **Once I have earned my associate’s degree am I guaranteed to get into my major at a university?**

Admission into a major program at a transfer institution depends upon the receiving institutions requirements for that major. Some major programs are restricted and require special application as well as a competitive GPA.

38. **How long will it take me to finish my bachelor’s degree after I transfer?**

It depends on how many credit hours you complete at WCJC. Ideally, you may wish to can finish your associate’s degree at WCJC and then finish your junior and senior courses in your major at the receiving institution. If you are able to take a full time load of classes and take some courses in the summer, you should be able to complete the required courses in two more years.