Pandemic drives changes: College maintains academic continuity

You’ve planned each step for your future career. You work full time, have family obligations, and spend early mornings, nights, and weekends studying. How can you possibly fit in time to speak with an advisor?

The answer is Zoom advising. With a couple of clicks of a button, you can receive answers in minutes, and you might even have time for a leisurely lunch. This is just one example of how Collin College has maintained academic continuity in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Others include:

- Extended Spring 2020 withdrawal deadline a full month
- Ensured that students could remain in student housing with food service throughout the Spring 2020 semester
- Kept traditional performance grading (not pass/fail) to ensure transferability
- Provided tuition credit to qualified students who withdrew from the Spring 2020 semester
- Awarded CARES Act funding to qualified students
- Provided student resources, including lending out graphing calculators and more than 50 laptops
- Created drive-in Wi-Fi hotspots on Frisco and McKinney campuses and provided hotspots to area ISDs

Thousands of Classes Converted to Online Format Due to COVID-19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Type</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring/Maymester Credit classes</td>
<td>3,846</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring Continuing Education (CE) classes</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CE Health Sciences Spring and Summer</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAIL Spring and Summer</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This spring, both the success rate (students with grades of C and above) and the class completion rate were higher than last spring, comparing year over year.

“This shows that students gave the online learning format a chance, and our dedicated faculty helped them successfully complete courses,” said Dr. Toni Jenkins, senior vice president of campus operations. “Every effort was made to ensure that students were able to accomplish their goals for the spring semester.”

Fall 2020 and Beyond

For Fall 2020, the college created a comprehensive reopening plan for student and employee safety that includes either fully online, fully in person with social distancing, or blended/hybrid delivery options. In addition, the Board of Trustees approved an engineering study for a new air cleaning technology for air purification on all campuses.

The Collin initiative, in development since Fall 2018, will be a complete online experience with all the student services that a traditional campus would provide for students in a virtual setting.

“Scheduled to fully launch Fall 2021, the initiative will allow students to apply for admission, register for classes, receive tutoring, and earn degrees completely online,” said Dr. Abe Johnson, vice president/provost of the Plano and iCollin campuses. “Our institutional commitment is that our iCollin offerings meet or exceed the rigor and standards of the best practices in the nation.”

Celebrating STUDENTS

June 20, 23-25: part one of two-step graduation celebration with gifts, photography, and video selfies on campuses in Frisco, McKinney, and Plano

July 10: part two of the two-step graduation celebration included an online celebration of the Spring 2020 graduating class with photo and video releases, graduation speeches, pomp and circumstance, and more

Aug. 6: nursing pinning event

May 15: nursing pinning parade

May 22: allied health recognition parade
5 things you didn’t know about skilled trades

Collin College’s Technical Campus opened this fall with a full slate of programs dedicated to in-demand, high-wage trade careers. Designed for students who love to use their hands as well as their heads, the programs will help fill growing employment needs for North Texas and beyond. Here are five things you may not have known about the skilled trades.

1. Many skilled trades are considered essential
The response to COVID-19 orders made it clear that trade careers help keep society moving. Most trade careers — construction, automotive repair, HVAC, and others — were considered essential by the state government, making those industries more resistant to layoffs.

2. Trade skills can pay as much as a four-year degree
The average salary for someone who holds a bachelor’s degree in Texas is $52,381 according to a ZipRecruiter.com survey. Collision repair technicians, like those taught at Collin College, average $54,500 a year in Collin County. Electronics Engineering Technicians earn an average salary of $72,200.

3. Baby boomer retirements mean more job opportunities
More than two million skilled workers nationwide are 55 or older* in trades being taught by Collin College. As those workers near retirement, there will be significant room for upward mobility in multiple industries.

4. Trade skills are versatile
The trade skills learned at Collin College are in demand across the country and can also further your education. Welders, for example, are needed in aerospace, manufacturing, and oil and gas exploration/refinement, just to name a few industries. What’s more, Prior Learning Assessment programs like the one sponsored by Capital One at Collin College may count industry certifications and achievements as credit toward a degree.

5. Collin College’s programs work with local industries
Before building the Technical Campus, Collin College used labor market analysis and worked with local industry to determine which programs best fit labor market needs. That partnership continues with advisory groups for each program, where industry has input on the curriculum, equipment, and skills needed, and creates a pipeline to employment.

For more information about programs offered at the Collin College Technical Campus, visit www.collin.edu/campuses/technical/.

* Bureau of Labor Statistics household data averages for unemployed persons by detailed occupation and age, based on programs taught at the Technical Campus.

Bachelor’s degree students pursue their dreams at Collin

In January, Collin College began offering two new bachelor’s degrees: a Bachelor of Applied Technology (BAT) in Cybersecurity and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). While the spring semester was met with some challenges due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, students carried on and continued to work hard toward their degrees.

Bachelor of Applied Technology (BAT) in Cybersecurity

Lisha Williams initially came to Collin College to take photography classes, but she loved learning and wanted to continue to expand her knowledge in the technology field. She ended up earning an Associate of Science and an Associate of Applied Science in Information Systems Cybersecurity. Now she is pursuing her BAT in Cybersecurity with Collin College.

“I chose the BAT program because it will help me transition to a security-focused career,” Williams said. “Collin has a team of caring professors and staff who are committed and want students to succeed. They offer sound advice and guidance. Additionally, the affordable cost of the classes is a huge plus. I’m taking university-level classes at a substantially reduced cost.”

Williams said what she likes the most about the BAT courses is how practical the material is and the real-life experiences that the professors bring to the lectures.

“I have also been able to apply some things I have learned to my current job functions, which gives me even more confidence in the program,” she said. “The BAT will open more opportunities for my career whether it be at my current company or another company in the cybersecurity field.”

Although Williams did not first attend Collin as a freshman, she said she believes Collin provides the support and quality programs for students in all walks of life.

“I enrolled in a level 300 online cybersecurity class offered by a four-year university, and I was presented with the same level and quality of information here at Collin. That cemented my decision to enter the BAT program,” Williams said.

Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)

Annette Minear decided to come to Collin College after she attended a nursing camp for high schoolers.

“I was inspired by the activities and students at the camp,” Minear said. “Collin College had so much to offer in the labs and has excellent professors. I started taking prerequisite courses that fall after the camp so I could apply to the program.”

Through taking prerequisite courses and core classes, Minear earned an Associate of Arts degree and an Associate Degree in Nursing. She is now pursuing a BSN through Collin.

“One of the biggest reasons I chose the BSN program at Collin was that I already knew the professors at Collin College,” she said. “The professors are amazing at Collin, and they are truly invested in your success.”

Minear said within the BSN program there is always constant communication between faculty and students. She said faculty provide a great environment to learn and encourage open discussion on various nursing topics.

Minear added that she is excited about the career opportunities that will open up for her once she receives a BSN. She explained she would like to be a part of more specialized health care programs and fields.

“Collin College is an amazing experience,” Minear said. “To be able to discuss health care topics with classmates and teachers will forever be some of the greatest learning opportunities I have experienced.”

For more information about Collin College bachelor’s degrees, visit www.collin.edu/academics/index.
Collin College offers new programs for Fall 2020

Collin College will offer an array of new workforce programs starting in the fall. These programs range from health care professions to careers in construction technology and automotive repair.

**Activity Care Professional:** Activity Care Professionals blend the skills and training of Certified Nurse Aides (CNA) with those of Activity Assistants. This career provides person-centered care to address physical, emotional, psychological, and social needs of special populations.

**Automotive Technology:** An automotive technician works on different types of vehicles, from cars and trucks to motorcycles and boats. Most technicians work at repair shops, service centers, and car dealerships.

**Biomedical Equipment Technology:** A biomedical equipment technician is responsible for maintaining and repairing medical equipment. Top employers include hospitals, medical offices, and large clinics that provide tests for patients.

**Collision Technology:** A collision repair technician is trained to analyze, assess, and fix damaged vehicles. Work includes repairing, replacing, and refinishing outer body parts. Most technicians work for large dealerships, manufacturers, or small private auto repair shops.

**Carpentry:** Carpenters cut, shape, and install building materials during construction. Their skills lend themselves to the artistic as well as the practical.

**Electrical:** Electrical contractors specialize in work related to design, installation, and maintenance of electrical systems.

**Facilities Management:** Facilities management professionals work with staff to ensure a business or other facility’s systems work together to provide a stable, comfortable, and safe environment for its occupants.

**Plumbing:** Plumbers install, repair, and maintain pipes, valves, fittings, drainage systems, and fixtures to supply water and gas to commercial and residential structures.

**Safety:** Construction safety personnel ensure that a construction site or the industry as a whole is not the cause of immediate danger to the public, or the workers at a site, while also making sure the finished product meets required safety standards.

**Industrial Automation:** Electro-mechanical technicians service and test robots and unmanned equipment and design processes to achieve maximum output for an assembly line.

**Medical Assisting Advanced Practice:** Graduates from this program will assist physicians in medical clinics, urgent care facilities, and hospitals. Graduates will be eligible for the following credentials: registered medical assistant, EKG technician, registered phlebotomy technician, and medical scribe.

**Metal Arts:** This consists of blacksmithing, nonferrous metal working, and sculpture. Careers for those interested in metal arts include fabricators for high-end metal work for both commercial and residential properties, jewelers, and blacksmiths.

**Rehabilitation Aide:** This program is for anyone interested in pursuing a career in physical therapy, occupational therapy, chiropractic medicine, massage, personal training, and other medical fields. Aides can work in a variety of settings – from hospitals to fitness facilities.

**Veterinary Technology:** Veterinary technicians assist veterinarians in preventative and emergency care for animals in private clinics, animal hospitals, and research facilities.
High school diplomas, a college degree, and industry certifications?
Yes, it is possible

In 2020, five students from the Plano ISD Health Sciences Academy (HSA), a partnership between PISD and Collin College, are earning associate degrees in addition to a variety of health science industry certifications, including Certified Nurse Aide (CNA), Electrocardiography (EKG), Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), and phlebotomy training.

Health Sciences Academy

When HSA graduate Sim Scott was 6 years old, he was diagnosed with a brain tumor.

“I had two surgeries, and they removed most of it,” Scott said. “That whole early experience got me interested in health care.
That’s why I applied for the HSA. I want to become an audiologist, which requires eight years of education.”

This fall Scott will attend The University of Texas at Dallas, and he plans to use his EKG certification to find a part-time job to pay for textbooks.

“My parents were very excited when they found out I could leave high school with a college degree,” Scott said. “College tuition is getting very expensive, and student loan debt is going crazy. Having the opportunity to take these classes while you are still in high school is a huge deal and not something to take for granted.”

Is it high school or college? The answer is both

If you haven’t been in high school lately, you might be surprised to discover what’s new. Thanks to the collegiate academy model and partnerships between area school districts and Collin College, students like Jasmin Hernandez have the opportunity to graduate from high school with college degrees.

“I figured it would give me a head start for my career,” said Hernandez, a senior at The Colony High School (TCHS) who is pursuing an Associate of Science degree and plans to become a nurse practitioner.

“It is less expensive to do it now because the high school provides the books. It’s really cool that our school is able to offer this opportunity.”

The collegiate academy model allows high school students to integrate dual credit classes into their schedules and provides full-time Collin College professors and college and career counselors in the high schools. The popular model is rapidly growing throughout the county. This year, close to 30 TCHS students graduated with Collin College associate degrees.

“We have enjoyed partnering with Collin College to make the Lewisville ISD (LISD) Collegiate Academy at TCHS a reality and success,” said Dr. Tim Baxter, TCHS principal.

“The partnership has been a benefit to our school, students, and community alike. It has opened up new doors of opportunity for students, has helped families proactively plan for their children’s future in a financially and educationally beneficial manner, and has been a source of pride and spirit within the campus.”

According to Baxter, the “Collegiate Academy” is the first LISD academy and students from all LISD middle school campuses can go to TCHS.

“This has been a great experience to include students from around the district and to see them pursue their dreams,” Baxter added. “We would highly recommend this program to other schools and districts as we have seen tremendous success in having more than 96 percent of students stay with the program for their entire high school journey.”

Collin College also has collegiate academy model partnerships with high schools in Allen, Frisco, Plano, and Princeton. This fall, Allen High School, Collin College, and the University of North Texas (UNT) will offer a program that enables students to earn high school diplomas and Associate of Arts degrees with business fields of study and enter UNT as juniors.

The new Technical Campus in Allen opened its doors this fall to offer area high school students workforce dual credit opportunities with career-specific training and industry certifications in high-wage, high-demand fields. Plano Independent School District has named their program the Plano ISD Industries Academy.

Businesses, students, and high schools are not the only groups excited about the collegiate academy model.

Parents like Tim and Michelle Cotton could not be prouder of their children.
Recent Princeton High School graduate Kennedy Cotton earned a Collin College Associate of Arts degree through the “College Jump Start” program.

“It would definitely recommend earning an associate degree in high school because of the long-term financial savings,” Tim said. “The high school made it part of their program, and as long as you maintained certain grades the classes were paid for.
That was definitely beneficial because we could focus on Kennedy’s academics.

“It was a phenomenal experience,” Michelle added. “Kennedy started taking the dual credit classes, got excited, and said, ‘I’m going to get my degree.’ Being in that atmosphere ignited a fire. The process was so great that her little sister, Reagan, will be doing it.”

Sim Scott earned an associate degree and EKG certification.

Jasmin Hernandez, a senior at The Colony High School (TCHS) is pursuing an Associate of Science degree and plans to become a nurse practitioner.

Recent Princeton High School graduate Kennedy Cotton earned a Collin College Associate of Arts degree through the “College Jump Start” program.

Jasmin Hernandez
IT Center at the Frisco Campus: A future technology hub in DFW

Soon, Collin College students interested in a career in information technology will be able to take classes in state-of-the-art labs and work with their peers in collaborative spaces at the new IT Center at the Frisco Campus. This new facility will put Collin College on the forefront of innovative learning. The center will be the home base for all of the college’s IT programs and help expand them, as well as emerging programs. The center will also be home to the college’s Bachelor of Applied Technology in Cybersecurity degree program, which is now being offered at Collin College. Students will be able to take IT courses at any campus throughout the district.

“The college is growing, and the need for our IT courses continues to grow each semester,” said Gregory Newman, associate dean of academic affairs at the Frisco Campus. “The footprint that we currently have is just not adequate, and while it does a good job for us, we have even more demand that requires new programs and new technology.”

The 92,000-square-foot center will incorporate specialized labs and equipment for forensics, defense operations, video production, and virtual/augmented reality to support several programs.

Chris Trevino is a division director at Robert Half Technology, a company that connects employers and job seekers to staff positions in the technology field ranging in web development and multiplatform systems integration to network security and technical support. Trevino also serves on the Collin College’s advisory council for cloud computing.

“My goal with the advisory council is to make sure when crafting a syllabus for a degree program, we’re staying on top of emerging trends and we’re teaching students the concepts and the skills to be best prepared for the future,” Trevino said. “As more and more of our lives becomes digitize, the need for technology is only going to grow and the IT Center places Collin College at the forefront of higher education by focusing on those emerging trends and training the future workforce to respond to those needs.”

For information about IT classes, visit www.collin.edu/academics.

Information Technology central: Collin College is home to IT academies

Collin College has IT training for the industry-recognized certificates you need at the times you need them. Learn new concepts or refresh your skills with courses on your schedule – days, nights, and weekends. Select credit, continuing education (CE), or linked classes that allow you to take credit courses through CE and earn continuing education credits.

“The professors are fantastic,” said Payden Laake, a Collin College student who holds Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA) and Security+ certifications. “They have a wealth of real-world experience and knowledge. Having hands-on training in a small setting where the professor knows your name is a great atmosphere for learning. The cost is fantastic. For the CCNA classes, you can use the equipment and don’t even have to buy a book. Why wouldn’t you take IT classes at Collin College?”

CompTIA
Credit, CE, Collin Weekend College
Preparation for A+, Network+, and Security+ certifications

Dell EMC
Credit and Linked
Preparation for Information Storage and Management (ISM) and Information Storage Associate
“DCA-ISM” certification

Microsoft
Credit and CE
CE preparation for Microsoft Azure Administrator, Microsoft Azure Architect Technologies, and Microsoft Azure Architect Design
Credit preparation for Microsoft Fundamentals Azure and Microsoft Azure Administrator Associate certifications

VMware
Credit, CE, and Linked
VMware vSphere: Install, Configure, Manage certification
Collin College also offers credit and CE preparation for Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) as well as IT associate degrees and a Bachelor of Applied Technology in Cybersecurity.

Aruba and EC-Council academies coming in 2021.

For more information about CE classes, visit www.collin.edu/ce/classes.

For more information about linked classes, visit www.collin.edu/ce/classes/linked.html.

For more information about credit classes, visit www.collin.edu/academics/class_schedule.html.

IT Academies

Amazon Web Services (AWS)
CE
Preparation for AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner and AWS Certified Solutions Architect-Associate certifications

Cisco*
Credit, CE, Linked; Collin Weekend College: CCNA I and CCNA II
Preparation for Cisco Certified Network Associate and Cisco Certified Network Professional certifications

*Collin College’s Cisco Academy serves as an Academy Support Center (ASC), an Instructor Training Center (ITC), and a student training center.

Certified Wireless Network Professional (CWNP)
Credit and Linked
Preparation for Certified Wireless Technician (CWT)

CompTIA
Credit, CE, Collin Weekend College
Preparation for A+, Network+, and Security+ certifications

Dell EMC
Credit and Linked
Preparation for Information Storage and Management (ISM) and Information Storage Associate
“DCA-ISM” certification

Microsoft
Credit and CE
CE preparation for Microsoft Azure Administrator, Microsoft Azure Architect Technologies, and Microsoft Azure Architect Design
Credit preparation for Microsoft Fundamentals Azure and Microsoft Azure Administrator Associate certifications

VMware
Credit, CE, and Linked
VMware vSphere: Install, Configure, Manage certification
Collin College also offers credit and CE preparation for Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) as well as IT associate degrees and a Bachelor of Applied Technology in Cybersecurity.

Aruba and EC-Council academies coming in 2021.

For more information about CE classes, visit www.collin.edu/ce/classes.

For more information about linked classes, visit www.collin.edu/ce/classes/linked.html.

For more information about credit classes, visit www.collin.edu/academics/class_schedule.html.
**Workforce spotlight:**
**Construction Technology**

**Students interested** in entering the job market quickly, improving their skills, or changing careers can choose from dozens of workforce programs at Collin College that will train them for rewarding futures.

Programs ranging from animation to welding prepare Collin College graduates to enter the workforce ready to succeed, armed with the technical skills and knowledge that employers are seeking. Connection regularly features programs like this month’s subject: **Construction Technology**.

**Carpentry, Electrical, and Plumbing**

Construction Technology focuses on the hands-on skills and fundamental knowledge needed for the construction trades. Students learn the techniques and processes that are essential for building a career in carpentry, electrical, or plumbing, with focuses on skilled labor and management.

Collin College offers a degree and multiple certificate options for each Construction Technology area. Level 1 certificates focus on trade skills or management. Students seeking degrees or Level 2 certificates have the option to blend their technical skills with a foundation in the business side of the industry. In those classes, students will be exposed to construction materials and methods, blueprint reading, an introduction to management, and mathematics for business.

**Carpenters**

Carpenters build exceptional projects and careers working on a wide variety of job sites in the construction industry, either with companies or as independent contractors. Collin College’s program teaches residential and light-commercial skills, both interior and exterior, from foundations through roofing.

**Average Salary:** $40,600*

20% growth*

**Electricians**

Collin College’s Electrical program builds on foundational construction principles and basic electrical theory to teach the National Electrical Code, residential wiring, industrial wiring, and commercial wiring, as well as an introduction to construction management.

**Average Salary:** $48,500*

23% growth*

**Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters**

Plumbers are problem solvers with new puzzles to figure out every day, from water pressure issues to plumbing design and installation. Collin College’s plumbing program prepares students with the foundation to work in new homes and businesses or to repair existing plumbing systems, providing great career opportunities.

**Average Salary:** $51,000*

24% growth*

For more information on any of these Construction Technology tracks, visit [www.collin.edu/academics/programs/](http://www.collin.edu/academics/programs/) and click on the subject you are interested in, or email workforce-programs@collin.edu.

* Job growth projected from 2019-2026. Data obtained from JobsEQ (Collin County), O*NET, and Workforce Solutions of North Central Texas.

Note: The earning potential for employees with certifications and Associate of Applied Science degrees may exceed the average salary.

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On Monday, Aug. 24 two new campuses opened their doors to students for the first time. Both the Technical Campus opening in Allen and the Wylie Campus are outfitted with the latest instructional technology and learning spaces with a focus on a safe environment.
Construction of new campuses in Celina* and Farmersville* and an IT Center at the Frisco Campus is ongoing. The center and two campuses are slated to open for classes in Fall 2021.

*The Collin College Farmersville and Celina campuses are pending approval by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

To see a time-lapse video of the construction progress of the IT Center at the Frisco Campus, visit https://app.oxblue.com/open/jedunn/collincollegeitcenter and click on the “Collin College IT Center #2” image, then “Time-Lapses.”
As Collin College expands throughout Collin County, it has added senior administrators who will help drive the vision to deliver a brighter future for our students and communities.

**Steve Matthews**
- Vice President, External Relations
- Oversees the Public Relations team and legislative affairs, cultivates relationships within the community and advocates for the college’s strategic priorities with external stakeholders.
- Served Atmos Energy for nearly three decades, including a dozen years as director of governmental and public affairs

**Chris Eyle**
- Vice President, Facilities and Construction
- Responsible for all aspects of facilities operation and construction projects as well as facilities planning and project development.

**Melissa Irby**
- Chief Financial Officer
- Serves as the investment officer of the college and financial officer to the district president and Board of Trustees. The CFO assures the integrity of financial accounting and reporting and serves as the custodian of all financial records and contracts, except personnel.
- Certified Public Accountant – Texas Board of Accountancy.
- Worked for the Abilene Independent School District for nearly two decades, most recently serving as the district’s CFO.

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**DID YOU KNOW?**

Preparing to reopen campuses for the “new normal” is no small feat. Here’s a glimpse into preparations.

**We’re all in this together...**

Life has changed, but your plans don’t have to. Keep your education on track.

**Starting Oct. 30, register for Wintermester and Spring classes.**

Visit [www.collin.edu/gettingstarted/admissions](http://www.collin.edu/gettingstarted/admissions) for more information.

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**The college announces administrative appointments**

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