

**With campuses at Bells**

## **Student Handbook/Catalog**

**2020 – 2021**

### **Main Campus**

127 Industrial Drive  
Ripley, TN 38063  
Phone (731)635-3368  
Fax (731) 635-4674

### **Bells Campus**

6514 Highway 412 South  
Bells, TN 38006  
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Fax (731)345-3303

Web Page: [www.tcatripley.edu](http://www.tcatripley.edu)

Youlanda Jones, President

Published September 1, 2020

This Student Handbook/Catalog presents the course offerings and academic requirements in effect at the time of publication but provides no guarantee that offerings will not be changed or rescinded. The course offerings and requirements of TCAT Ripley are continually under examination and review. The College reserves the right to make changes in course offerings, curricula, academic policies and other rules and regulations affecting students and which will become effective whenever determined proper by the Institution. Reasonable notice will be given to students regarding any changes in the Student Handbook/Catalog. All updates and/or corrections will be posted in the online version of the Student Handbook/Catalog, which will supersede previous written copies. Changes will govern current, former, and prospective students. This Student Handbook/Catalog is not intended to state contractual terms and does not constitute a contract between the student and the Institution.

For information about graduation rates, placement rates and other important information, please visit our website at [www.tcatripley.edu/programs](http://www.tcatripley.edu/programs)

A copy of Tennessee College of Applied Technology - Ripley's Annual Security Report is available. This report includes statistics for the previous three years concerning reported crimes that occurred on-campus; in certain off-campus buildings or property owned or controlled by TCAT Ripley; and on public property within or immediately adjacent to and accessible from the campus. The report also includes institutional policies concerning campus security, such as policies concerning sexual assault, and other matters. You may obtain a copy of this report by contacting the Student Services office or by accessing the following website:

<https://tcatripley.edu/about/safety-and-security>

## GOVERNANCE, ACCREDITATION, and APPROVALS

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### Governance

The Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) system consists of 40 institutions. TBR's 13 community Colleges, and 27 Colleges of applied technology offer classes in almost all of Tennessee's 95 counties. The activities of the Tennessee Board of Regents System are coordinated with the Tennessee Higher Education System to achieve unity in the programs of higher education in Tennessee.

Tennessee Board of Regents  
1 Bridgestone Park  
Nashville, TN 37214

Tennessee Higher Education Commission  
404 James Robertson Parkway, Suite 1900  
Nashville, TN 37243

### Accreditation

The Tennessee College of Applied Technology Ripley is an accredited higher education institution. An annual report of the school's progress is made each year for continuing accreditation and every six years the accreditation must be substantiated by another self-study and team visit. TCAT Ripley is accredited by:

Commission of the Council on  
Occupational Education  
7840 Roswell Road, Building 300, Suite 325  
Atlanta, GA 30350

Telephone (Toll-Free): 800-917-2081  
Fax: 770-396-3790  
[www.Council.org](http://www.Council.org)

### Veteran Training

The Tennessee College of Applied Technology - Ripley is an approved College for Veterans Training (GI Bill). For information on using Veteran benefits please contact the Financial Aid Department in the Student Services Office.

VA Education  
110 9th Ave South  
Nashville, TN 37203  
1-888-442-4551

### Tennessee Boards Approval

Below are the programs that require additional programmatic accreditation or agency oversight.

The Practical Nursing, Emergency Medical Technology and Cosmetology programs of The Tennessee College of Applied Technology - Ripley are approved by the following boards respectively:

Tennessee Board of Nursing  
Department of Health  
665 Mainstream Drive, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Nashville, TN 37423

Tennessee Board of Cosmetology  
Department of Commerce and Insurance  
500 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, TN 37243

State of Tennessee Department of Health  
Emergency Medical Services  
665 Mainstream Drive, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Nashville, TN 37243

For more information on the institution's governance, accreditation, or approvals, visit the Office of the President.

## PURPOSE OF STUDENT HANDBOOK

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This student catalog/handbook has been prepared to provide information about the programs and training opportunities provided by the Tennessee College of Applied Technology Ripley for the 2020-2021 academic year. It is designed to serve as a guide for currently enrolled students, parents, educators, employers, and others who are interested in seeking information and/or technology training for gainful employment or to update current skills and related information.

TCAT Ripley provides the opportunity for students to increase their knowledge by providing various programs of instruction by well-qualified faculty. However, acquisition of knowledge by any student is contingent upon the student's desire to learn and his/her application of appropriate study techniques to any course of program. All students are expected to fulfill his/her commitment to utilize the facilities provided and to make satisfactory progress in his/her preparation for employment. Also, each student will abide by TCAT and Academic Program policies necessary to assure all training achieves its intended purpose in an efficient and safe manner. Efforts are made to update equipment and course content to provide educational experiences necessary for an era of rapid technological change. The administrative and instructional staff is comprised of skilled and knowledgeable individuals who are competent in their occupational field, as well as proficient instructors. They participate in special in-service training such as state directed workshops, field trips, community, and university courses to maintain and update their skillsets. Graduates of the Tennessee College of Applied Technology Ripley should not be expected to compete with journeymen who have developed skills and on the job experience. Usually, the graduates are considered for "entry-level" employment in their respective occupations.

The course offerings and requirements of the Tennessee College of Applied Technology Ripley are continually under examination and review. The College reserves the right to make changes as required in course offerings, curricula, academic policies and other rules and regulations affecting students and will become effective whenever determined necessary as part of that continuous review by the institution. This Student Handbook/Catalog presents the offering and requirements in effect at the time of publication but provides no guarantee that offerings will not be changed or rescinded. Reasonable notice will be given to students regarding any changes in the Student Handbook/Catalog. All updates and/or corrections will be posted in the online version of the Student Handbook/Catalog, which will supersede previous written copies. Changes will govern current, former, and prospective students. ***This Student Handbook/Catalog is not intended to state contractual terms and does not constitute a contract between the student and the institution***

### POLICY ON NON-DISCRIMINATION

The Tennessee College of Applied Technology is an AA/EEO institution/employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, ethnic or national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, disability, age (as applicable), status as a covered veteran, genetic information, and any other category protected by federal or state law or regulation or by Tennessee Board of Regents policy with respect to employment, educational programs and activities sponsored by the College. Procedures for filing complaints of discrimination of any type are found through the links provided below and in the Office of the Title VI & IX Coordinator. Further information can be found at the following links:

<https://tcatripley.edu/about/non-discrimination-statement>

<https://policies.tbr.edu/guidelines/discrimination-harassment-complaint-investigation-procedure>

Title VI - <https://tcatripley.edu/about/non-discrimination-statement>

The TCAT Ripley complies with the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. §2000d et seq. ("Title VI"). Title VI is a federal law that prohibits discrimination based on race, color, or national origin in programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance. As a recipient of federal funding (e.g. Title IV financial aid for students), the TCAT Ripley is required to comply with the non-discrimination provisions of Title VI in its educational and federal grant funded programs. Title VI is enforced by the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) in the U.S. Department of Education. The Title VI regulations define the forms of discrimination covered by statute, including, but not limited to; racial harassment, school segregation, denial of language services to students of non-U.S. nationality who are limited in English language proficiency, and retaliation for filing an OCR complaint or for advocacy for a right protected by Title VI.

The TCAT Ripley will respond promptly and effectively once informed about an allegation of race, color, or national origin-based discrimination or harassment and will take immediate action to eliminate the harassment, prevent its recurrence, and address its effects. Upon receipt of a complaint, the TCAT Ripley will promptly investigate to determine what occurred and then take appropriate steps to resolve the situation. TCAT Ripley's procedures for filing complaints of race, color, or national origin discrimination are available from the Title VI Coordinator, in the Student and Employee Handbooks, from the Student Services Office, on the TBR web site at <https://www.tbr.edu> and on the TCAT Ripley website at <https://tcatripley.edu/about/policies-and-guidelines>. Inquiries or complaints concerning Title VI may be reported to the College's Title VI coordinator:

Jacquene Rainey  
Title VI Coordinator  
127 Industrial Drive  
Ripley, TN 38063  
(731)635-3368

Or the Office for Civil Rights:

U.S. Department of Education,  
Office for Civil Rights  
(800) 421-3481 or [ocr@ed.gov](mailto:ocr@ed.gov)  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/complaintintro.html>

Title IX <https://tcatripley.edu/about/policies-and-guidelines>

The TCAT Ripley complies with the requirements of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq. ("Title IX"). Title IX prohibits discrimination based on sex in education programs and activities, including with respect to admission and employment. Prohibited forms of sex discrimination include sexual harassment; sexual misconduct, including sexual assault, stalking, dating or domestic violence; and discrimination against pregnant/parenting students. TCATRipley also prohibits retaliation because an individual filed a complaint of sex discrimination or participated in an investigation related to sex discrimination.

Information about the College's policies and procedures that prohibit sex discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual misconduct, may be found in the links provided at the top of this sub-section, in the Student and Employee Handbooks, from the Student Services Office, on the TBR web site at <https://www.tbr.edu> and on the TCAT Ripley website at <https://tcatripley.edu/about/policies-and-guidelines>. Inquiries or complaints concerning Title IX and/or the Title IX regulations may be referred to the College's Title IX coordinator 24/7 in person, by phone, and/or email at:

JacQuene Rainey  
Title IX Coordinator  
127 Industrial Drive  
Ripley, TN 38063  
(731)635-3368

Or the Office for Civil Rights:

U.S. Department of Education,  
Office for Civil Rights  
(800) 421-3481 or [ocr@ed.gov](mailto:ocr@ed.gov)  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/complaintintro.html>

### **Pregnant Students**

TCAT Ripley complies with Title IX as the law applies to pregnant/parenting students and is committed to their success. Students may:

- Continue to participate in classes and extracurricular activities even though pregnant and/or
- Request reasonable accommodations.

TCAT Ripley will work with pregnant students to provide options for continuing in a program of study through excused absences or medical leave. Absences due to pregnancy or childbirth are excused absences when medically necessary. For detailed information or assistance see the TCAT Ripley Title IX Coordinator, or Student Services Coordinator.

### **Disabled Students**

Tennessee College of Applied Technology Ripley is committed to providing program access and accommodations for all academically qualified students with disabilities. This commitment is consistent with the College's obligation under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). Qualified students are defined as individuals who, with or without reasonable modifications and accommodations, meets the essential eligibility requirements for the program services and activities offered by the College. A disability is defined as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities.

In order to obtain reasonable accommodations in relation to a qualifying disability, a student should contact the Student Services Coordinator prior to enrollment, or as the need arises, and provide current documentation of the disability. Documentation is defined as a written summary from a professional who is licensed to practice in the field appropriate for diagnosing and/or treating the disability in question. TCAT Ripley will engage in an interactive process with the student to determine appropriate and reasonable accommodation(s) in relation to the documented disability and program requirements. A request form for disability assistance is available by contacting the Student Services Coordinator. The form along with medical documentation of the qualifying disability, must be submitted to initiate the interactive process.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>GOVERNANCE, ACCREDITATION, and APPROVALS .....</b>	<b>2</b>
Governance .....	2
Accreditation.....	2
Veteran Training.....	2
Tennessee Boards Approval.....	2
<b>ACADEMIC CALENDAR.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>HISTORY .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>GENERAL INFORMATION .....</b>	<b>12</b>
What is a Tennessee College of Applied Technology?.....	12
Statewide Mission.....	13
TCAT Ripley Purpose.....	13
<b>ADMISSIONS .....</b>	<b>13</b>
General Admission Policy.....	13
HESI Admission Assessment.....	14
Technology Foundations.....	15
Ability to Benefit .....	15
Credit for Previous Training from Other Institutions/Experience.....	15
Re-Admission Policy .....	16
Service Member Re-admission .....	16
Readmission from Academic Suspension (All programs except Allied Health) .....	16
Readmission for Nursing Students.....	17
Transfer from another Nursing Program .....	17
<b>TUITION &amp; FEES .....</b>	<b>18</b>
Fee Assessment .....	18
Maintenance Fees .....	18
Other Fees.....	19
Books, Supplies and Expenses .....	19
Fee Waivers.....	19
Fee Discounts .....	19
Dishonored Check Collection Fees .....	19
Refund Policy .....	20
Calculation of Refunds .....	20
<b>GRADING &amp; PROGRESS POLICIES.....</b>	<b>21</b>
Academic Retention and Readmission Policy.....	21
Grading and Progress for All Programs (except Allied Health) .....	23
Student Grading and Progress for Nursing & Allied Health.....	24
Worker Characteristics Grading (Work Ethics Program) .....	24
<b>STUDENT RECORDS .....</b>	<b>24</b>
Student Files .....	24
Student Record Confidentiality .....	25
Student Notification of Rights - Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) .....	25
Release of Personally Identifiable Information .....	25
Other Possible Bases for Release of Student Records.....	26
Transcript of Academic Record.....	27
High School Transcripts and GED and HiSet Scores .....	27
Transfer of Student Records to other Institutions .....	27

<b>STUDENT POLICIES.....</b>	<b>27</b>
Attendance Policy.....	27
Full-Time Students.....	28
Make-Up Hours.....	28
Exempt Absences.....	28
Reporting Absences.....	29
Changes in Enrollment Status.....	29
Classroom and Shop Maintenance.....	29
Utilization of Physical Facilities.....	29
Responsibility for Tools, Equipment and Property.....	30
Course Activities.....	30
Dress Policy.....	30
Attitude.....	30
ID Badges.....	30
Program Transfer Policy.....	31
Transfer from TCAT Ripley to Other Institutions.....	31
Transfers of Students from Other Institutions.....	31
Articulation.....	31
Procedure for Voluntary Termination of Training.....	31
Involuntary Withdrawal Policy (Automatic).....	32
Health and Accident Policy.....	32
Student Insurance.....	32
Nursing and Allied Health Liability Insurance.....	32
TBR Student Health Insurance Exchange.....	32
Graduation Requirements.....	32
Graduation Ceremonies.....	33
Awards Issued Upon Program Completion.....	33
<b>STUDENT CONDUCT/STUDENT LIFE.....</b>	<b>33</b>
Student Accountability/Conduct.....	33
Academic Integrity Policy.....	33
Computer Operation and Internet Access Policy and Guidelines.....	33
Copyright and Digital Millennium Act.....	34
Copyright General Information.....	34
Patriot Act Notice to All Students.....	34
Traffic and Parking Rules.....	34
Disabled/Handicapped Parking Violations.....	35
Campus Security Act.....	35
Campus Crime Report.....	35
Sexual Offender Information.....	36
Drug-Free Campus and Workplace.....	37
Smoking Policy.....	37
Drug and Alcohol Prevention Information.....	37
Sanctions - Unlawful Possession or Distribution.....	39
Student Life Activities.....	39
Student Organizations.....	39
Student Services.....	40
Alumni.....	40
Career Counseling.....	41
Communication Devices.....	41
Exit Interview.....	41
Food Services.....	41
Inclement Weather.....	41
Safety Policy.....	42
Firearms.....	43



Emergency Procedures.....	43
Infectious Disease Policy .....	44
<b>II. Responsibilities.....</b>	<b>46</b>
Campus Sexual Misconduct Policy.....	47
Visitors on Campus .....	65
<b>ACADEMIC SUPPORT.....</b>	<b>66</b>
Instructor Qualifications.....	66
Preparatory Programs.....	66
Non-preparatory Supplemental Programs .....	66
Special Industry Training Programs .....	66
Notice of Disclaimer.....	66
Cooperative Education .....	67
Library / Media Services.....	67
<b>CONSUMER INFORMATION.....</b>	<b>67</b>
Students Right-To-Know Graduation Rate.....	68
Voter Registration .....	68
Integrated Postsecondary Data .....	68
<b>TESTING CENTER.....</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE .....</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>PREPARATORY PROGRAM CATALOG.....</b>	<b>70</b>
Campus Training.....	70
Advisory Committees .....	70
General Advisory Committee .....	70
<b>Alphabetical Program Listing.....</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>Program Break/Lunch Schedules Ripley Campuses .....</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>LIVE WORK AND REPAIR SERVICES.....</b>	<b>80</b>
Live Work Fee & Cost of Service Fees.....	80
Relationship to Training.....	80
Live Work Projects .....	80
Administration of Live Work.....	81
Customer Obligations.....	81
<b>STAFF DIRECTORY .....</b>	<b>82</b>
Administration Office.....	82
Business Office/Human Resources Office .....	82
Student Services Office .....	82
Full-Time Faculty .....	82
Part-Time Faculty .....	83
<b>FINANCIAL AID HANDBOOK .....</b>	<b>84</b>
Applying for Assistance .....	84
Application Deadlines.....	85
Types of Financial Aid.....	86
Federal Pell Grant .....	86
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG).....	86
Federal Work-Study Program (FWS).....	86
TCAT Reconnect Scholarship.....	86
Tennessee Promise Scholarship.....	87
Tennessee Student Assistance Award (TSAA) .....	87
Wilder-Naifeh Technical Skills Grant (WNTSG) .....	87



<b>Appeals Process and Guidelines .....</b>	<b>87</b>
<b>Benefit Programs .....</b>	<b>88</b>
Veterans Assistance .....	88
Veterans Benefits and Transition Act of 2018 .....	88
Vocational Rehabilitation Department of Human Services.....	89
Workforce Investment Act (WIOA).....	89
<b>Financial Aid Disbursement .....</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>Satisfactory Progress for Financial Aid .....</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>Leave of Absence (LOA) .....</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>Refunds and Financial Aid.....</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>Return of Title IV Funds .....</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>Student Repayment of Title IV Funds to the Dept. of Education .....</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>Applying the Return of Title IV Funds Policy and TBR Refund of Maintenance Policy .....</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>Student Rights and Responsibilities.....</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>TENNESSEE BOARD OF REGENTS POLICIES (TBR) AND GUIDELINES.....</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>TENNESSEE BOARD OF REGENTS SENIOR STAFF &amp; BOARD MEMBERS .....</b>	<b>98</b>
TBR Senior Staff.....	98
TBR Board Members .....	98

## ACADEMIC CALENDAR

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The Tennessee College of Applied Technology Ripley operates on a year-round basis dismissing only for observance of legal holidays, teacher in-service, breaks between terms and student vacation days. Full-time preparatory classes are scheduled five days a week for six hours a day. In addition to full-time day classes, supplemental classes are offered each term.

The calendar for the Tennessee College of Applied Technology Ripley is based on three equal trimesters that include a minimum of 216 instructional days. The three trimesters are:

**Fall:** September, October, November, December

**Spring:** January, February, March, April

**Summer:** May, June, July, August

432 hours = 1 trimester

864 hours = 2 trimesters

1296 hours = 3 trimesters

1728 hours = 4 trimesters

2160 hours = 5 trimesters

This calendar is subject to change at any time prior to or during the academic term due to emergencies beyond the reasonable control of the College, including severe weather, loss of utilities, or orders by federal or state agencies. The College reserves the right to cancel any supplemental class scheduled for a given term when the number enrolled is considered insufficient.

### 2020

Summer Break	June 22, 2020 - July 3, 2020
Labor Day	September 7, 2020
Fall Classes Begin	September 1, 2020
Thanksgiving Break	November 24 - 27, 2020
Classes End	December 16, 2020
Winter Break	December 17 - 31, 2020

### 2021

New Year's Day	January 1, 2021
Spring Classes Begin	January 4, 2021
Martin Luther King Day	January 15, 2021

Faculty/Staff In-service (no classes)	March 8-12, 2021
Classes End	April 23, 2021
Spring Break	April 26-30, 2021
Summer Classes Begin	May 3, 2021
Memorial Day	May 31, 2021
Summer Break	June 22 - July 2, 2021
Independence Day	July 5, 2021
Classes End	August 26, 2021
Fall Classes Begin	September 1, 2021
Labor Day	September 6, 2021
Thanksgiving Break	November 22-26, 2021
Classes End	December 17, 2021
Winter Break	December 20-31, 2021

## HISTORY

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The Tennessee College of Applied Technology Ripley is one of 27 TCATs and 40 total institutions in the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) system that are located across the state, serving the citizens of Tennessee. The TBR and the Board of Trustees of the University of Tennessee System are coordinated by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC). THEC was created by the General Assembly in 1967 to achieve coordination and unity in the programs of public higher education in Tennessee. The Tennessee College of Applied Technology Ripley formerly the Ripley State Area Vocational-Technical School, under the direction of the Tennessee Board of Education, first opened its doors on November 13, 1967. All initial students of the school were Ripley High School juniors and seniors. Course offerings included Auto Mechanics, Electronics, and Office Occupations. The first certificates of completion were issued to students in May of 1968. The first post-secondary students were accepted at the campus in 1973, enrolling in the Practical Nurse Education program. Additional adult enrollment in other programs began in 1974 on a space available basis. A Basic Skills class (Technology Foundations) was added in 1979. This program was designed to provide remedial opportunities for adult students.

The TBR system was created by legislation enacted by the 1963 General Assembly of Tennessee, Chapter 229 of House Bill 633. Chapter 181, Senate Bill 746-House Bill 697, of the Public Act of 1983 transferred the governance of the state technical institutes and area vocational-technical schools from the State Board of Education to the Tennessee Board of Regents. The transfer became effective on July 1, 1983. In May 1993, a joint proposal from community leaders and center personnel was made to the Tennessee Board of Regents requesting relocation of the Ripley State Area Vocational Technical School. With a pledge of \$100,000 from Lauderdale County and donated land from the City of Ripley, the project was approved for inclusion on the State's Master Plan. By action of the Tennessee Legislature in 1994, the school name changed from Ripley State Area Vocational Technical School to Tennessee Technology Center at Ripley. Groundbreaking for the new facility was held on December 19, 1995. Classes began on March 31, 1997. With the opening of the new facility came the addition of new class offerings and termination of a previous class offering. Computer Aided Drafting, Computer Operations Technology, and Commercial Truck Driving were added while Auto Mechanics was closed.

In 2013, the Legislature unanimously approved changing the name of the state's technology centers to the Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology. The Tennessee Board of Regents, the governing body for TCAT Ripley, underwent a major shift in 2017 because of the FOCUS Act of 2016 and the appointment of a new Chancellor, Dr. Flora Tydings. The FOCUS Act seeks to ensure the state's community Colleges and TCATs are organized, supported, and empowered in efforts to increase the percentage of Tennesseans with a postsecondary credential. Largely this involved the development of local governing boards for each of the six universities thus allowing TBR a greater focus on the 13 community Colleges and 27 TCATs. Additional TBR efforts under the leadership of Dr. Tydings included the retitling of the chief administrative officers of the TCATs Director to President; the movement towards all 40 campuses in the TBR system operating with shared services; and, the restructuring of the TBR organization uniting the community and TCATs through common offices and services.

### **Bells Service Delivery Area**

In 2001 the Service Delivery Areas (SDAs), as designed by the Tennessee Department of Labor, were changed statewide. Included in the new SDA for Ripley was neighboring Crockett County. The Tennessee College of Applied

Technology Ripley, seeing an opportunity to expand, approached the Tennessee College of Applied Technology Jackson about taking over a struggling Practical Nursing Program at an Alamo, TN location. TCAT Jackson readily agreed to transfer the program. Once an agreement had been reached, TCAT Ripley approached the Crockett county Board of Education about forming a partnership. The proposal was to offer additional post-secondary classes at the site where the current Practical Nursing program was being offered. A new building was erected in Bells, Tennessee with the intent to house various educational programs. This project was a partnership between local and state government, the Tennessee Board of regents, and private donations. In January 2011, the move was made to relocate students from the Alamo facility to the new Crockett County Higher Education Center in Bells, Tennessee. The ribbon cutting was held on February 11, 2011. TCAT Ripley offers programs at the Bells Service Center including Patient Care Technology/Medical Assisting and Practical Nursing.

Currently, the college has eighteen (8) programs with certificate and diploma levels in each program. Students may be enrolled in these programs on a part-time basis if they are unable to attend full-time.

**Current Educational Programs by Campus**

Computer Information Technology	Ripley	
Cosmetology	Ripley	
Emergency Medical Technology	Ripley	
Health Information Management	Ripley	
Industrial Electricity Technology	Ripley	
Manufacturing Technology	Ripley	
Patient Care Technology	Ripley	
Practical Nursing	Ripley/Bells	

**Directors and Presidents**

Tom G. Hall	June 1972 – October 1975
Jerry Little	January 1976 – December 1998
Brian Collins	January 1999 – 2011
William Ray	July 2011 – January 2015
Youlanda Jones	July 2015 - Present

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

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**What is a Tennessee College of Applied Technology?**

A Tennessee College of Applied Technology is an institution, which serves people in a specific geographical area within the state of Tennessee consisting of two or more counties that offers technical/occupational education. Tennessee has 27 TCATs, 26 of them (all except Chattanooga) are freestanding institutions. Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology are the state’s premier providers of workforce development in the state of Tennessee. The 27 TCATs and their employees provide state-of-the art technical training for workers to obtain the technical skills and professional training necessary for advancement in today’s competitive job market. Through their workforce development mission, the TCATs help businesses and industries satisfy their need for a well-trained, skilled workforce. Under the governance of the Tennessee Board of Regents, the TCATs offer certificate and diploma programs in more than 50 distinct occupational fields as well as customized training for business and industry.

## Statewide Mission

The Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology continue to serve as the premier providers for workforce development throughout the State of Tennessee. The Colleges fulfill the mission by:

- Providing competency-based training through superior quality, traditional and distance learning instruction methods that qualify completers for employment and job advancement.
- Contributing to the economic and community development of the communities served by training and retraining employed/unemployed workers.
- Ensuring that programs and services are economical and accessible to all residents of Tennessee.
- Building relationships of trust with community, business, and industry leaders to supply highly skilled workers in areas of need.

## TCAT Ripley Purpose

The purpose of Tennessee College of Applied Technology Ripley curricula is to provide instruction whereby individuals may be trained or retrained for employment, and to upgrade skills and knowledge of employed workers. Each program offered will assist the student in acquiring the skills, knowledge, understanding, and attitudes, which contribute to proficiency and competency in his or her chosen field.

The College fulfills this purpose by providing training through four types of programs:

1. Full-Time Preparatory programs are designed to prepare persons for employment in specific or closely related occupations. These programs are offered on a six-hour per day basis. The length of programs can vary depending upon the requirements of the occupation.
2. Part-Time Preparatory programs are designed to prepare persons for employment in specific or closely related occupations. The part-time preparatory program is offered on less than full-time basis. Length of training ranges from a few months to four years depending upon the entrance requirements of the occupation. Part-time is classified as any hours less than 30 per week.
3. Supplemental programs are designed to assist employed workers to improve or upgrade skills and increase technical knowledge necessary for present employment or to acquire new skills and knowledge for a higher level of employment. The length of supplementary courses varies from two to several weeks. Content of the courses is determined by the specific needs of the members of the class. Time and frequency of meetings are arranged according to the convenience of the group for which the class is organized.
4. Special Industry and Public Service programs are offered to business and industry upon their request. These classes can be conducted in the College or place of employment of the class members. Specialized and intensified courses to meet specific requirements of industry may be offered when the need arises.

## ADMISSIONS

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The Tennessee Board of Regents establishes the admission requirements for age, status, counseling, and testing. Tennessee College of Applied Technology Ripley maintains an open-door policy for admission into most occupational programs, however, educational requirements for program admission may vary from program to program. Most programs will admit students with a special education High School Diploma or a Certificate of Attendance. Students are informed by the instructor that job placement in some fields may not be obtained without a regular high school diploma. Due to licensing requirements, some programs require a regular high school diploma, GED or HiSET.

## General Admission Policy

Persons seeking admission to the College must be at least 18 years of age or have a high school diploma or equivalent. Prospective students are encouraged to apply at any time. Steps to apply are as follows:

- Discuss career objective with Student Services and consult with instructor/tour program, if desired, and choose one program of study.
- Complete an application for enrollment online at [www.tcatripley.edu](http://www.tcatripley.edu);
- Have a financial plan for attending the institution which may include financial aid, Veterans' educational benefits, scholarships, cash, check, money order, or some major credit cards.
- Provide TCAT Ripley with sealed, official high school transcript/diploma, College transcript/degree, or GED or HiSET scores.

Prospective students who are foreign nationals (non-U.S. Citizens or non-Permanent U.S. Residents) are permitted to enroll at the TCAT. It is up to the prospective student to determine what, if any, affect enrollment might have on their immigration/visa status in the U.S. To be eligible for state funded financial aid or other assistance, prospective students must meet the requirements of the Tennessee Eligibility Verification for Entitlements Act (EVEA) T.C.A. §4-58-101 et seq.

The completed application for enrollment will be added to the program interest list on the date the application is received by the College. The applicant will be notified about this action by letter. Periodic letters will thereafter be sent to those with applications on lengthy interest lists to confirm their continued interest. When an opening becomes available, notification will be sent to the next applicant on the interest list, along with a scheduled orientation date. If the applicant declines or does not respond to the notification of an opening in the desired program, the TCAT may decide to delay the applicant's entry to the next available vacancy. If the applicant declines the opportunity for enrollment twice, their enrollment application will be retired, and the student removed from the Priority Wait List. After an enrollment application is retired, an applicant may still re-apply at any time.

Prior to, or upon, the first day of attendance at TCAT, each new student will participate in a group orientation session, which acquaints him or her with institutional policies, functions, and personnel. The orientation process is an ongoing program which involves departmental orientation, safety policies, and development of work attitudes, habits and behaviors which help the student to use the resources available to him/her most effectively while at the TCAT. Applicants who cannot attend their assigned orientation should reschedule with Student Services in advance. Those failing to attend their assigned orientation who still desire to attend should reapply.

In addition to the general admission criteria, specific educational and physical requirements must be met by applicants, either with or without an accommodation, in the following programs:

<b>Emergency Medical Technology</b>	H.S. Diploma, GED or HiSET; Information Session; Satisfactory Physical with all required immunizations; Pass Drug Screen and background check; Three References.
<b>Practical Nursing</b>	H.S. Diploma, GED or HiSET; Information Session; Passing score on Achievement Test; Three References. Clinical sites will require a Satisfactory Physical with all required immunizations; Pass Drug Screen; and background check. Costs for clinical site requirements are the responsibility of the student.
<b>Patient Care Technology</b>	H.S. Diploma, GED or HiSET. Passing score on Achievement Test (HESI or TABE); Clinical sites will require a Satisfactory Physical with all required immunizations; Pass Drug Screen; and background check. Costs for clinical site requirements are the responsibility of the student.

## HESI Admission Assessment

The HESI Admission Assessment is a computerized entrance exam for the Practical Nursing and Patient Care Technology programs. Minimum scores of 70 in both the reading and math sections are required for admission to Practical Nursing. Minimum scores of 60 in reading and 50 in the math sections are required for admission to the

Patient Care Technology program. Additional points will be given in the admissions process for Critical Thinking. HESI scores are considered valid for a maximum of two years. A fee is required to take the HESI exam. Please contact the Nursing or Student Services Departments for the fee amount and test schedule.

## Technology Foundations

Technical College Learning Support Policy (TBR Policy 2.03.00.04) requires that students who do not present valid ACT, SAILS, or other approved valid assessment scores, that demonstrate college readiness based upon established cut scores, or other documentation will be placed into the appropriate learning support course for applied mathematics, graphic literacy, and reading for information as defined by the academic program requirements.

Students with transferable college-level coursework may be exempt from the Technology Foundations Learning Support course or completing assessments.

Institutions will provide, or may require, assessment(s) to allow students to challenge placement into Technology Foundation Learning Support if they have not met established criteria.

A first-time or transfer student, entering without valid assessment score or college level coursework not meeting transferable requirements will be enrolled into the appropriate subject area Technology Foundation Learning Support course along with the paired technical college program coursework or may be given the option of challenge testing to place into the technical college program without learning support.

The purpose of the Technology Foundations program is to provide a comprehensive program of activities that will enable students to develop and/or enhance their basic academic skills, life skills, and job skills. The Technology Foundations program will provide supplemental skill training necessary for students to reach their fullest potential in the workplace. Students must complete Technology Foundations to graduate.

## Ability to Benefit

Ability to Benefit is the U.S. Department of Education established criteria, through a provision of the Higher Education Act, that must be met by a person who does not have either a regular high school diploma, General Education Diploma (GED), or High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) Exam to receive federal financial aid. All students must meet the admission requirement(s) for their programs of study; students without a high school diploma who are beyond the age of compulsory school attendance and wish to apply for federal student aid may be admitted under Ability to Benefit provisions set forth by the Department of Education.

## Credit for Previous Training from Other Institutions/Experience

Students may be given credit toward program completion requirements upon demonstration of common competencies. Students may request credit for prior education, training, or work experiences may do so based on:

1. Credit from a sister TCAT institution
2. Credit from all other institutions, work experiences, certifications, etc.

Credit for the previous training can be established by:

1. Testing: A student may demonstrate proficiency through oral, written, and/or skill performance. The test will be administered by the program instructor and the completed test maintained as part of the student's testing files. Recommended credit must be documented on a prior credit request form and filed in the student's folder in the Student Services Office.



2. Transcript: Prior credit may be granted to students by transcripts from other schools. Credit earned from other sources must be from institutions that are accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education or whose acceptance is required by a state or federal approving agency, including:
  - a. Other TBR schools. The instructor should evaluate the transcript to ensure that credit is given only for those courses or units that coincide with units of instruction for this program.
  - b. Schools not governed by TBR, but which have an articulation agreement with TCAT Ripley. Credit will be given as specified in the articulation agreement.
  - c. For students who are transferring from a program certified by a state or national governing board such as practical nursing, cosmetology, or NATEF (ASE), credit may be granted for completed certified units as prescribed by the certifying agency.
  - d. Institutions not governed by TBR, but which have courses similar to the program of instruction at TCAT.

Upon pre-enrollment/enrollment, students desiring credit for prior education, training, or work experiences must complete a Previous Training/Experience Form, available from the Student Services Office. The prior credit form should be completed by the student and instructor and submitted to the Student Services Office by the end of the first term of the student's enrollment. Students should identify prior credits, via an official transcript, including a course description(s), that the student feels are a match for a course(s) in the TCAT program of study. Past work experience will be evaluated for currency, type of equipment used and length of employment. Students seeking such credit should submit supporting documentation to their instructor for review and recommendation(s) for credit towards completion of a program of study. The instructor's role is only to recommend whether to grant credit towards a certificate or diploma based on past education, training, or work experiences. Based on the information submitted, the instructor will recommend the amount of credit to be given or recommend that the student complete a challenge test to determine credit. The instructor will then forward recommendation(s) to the Student Services Office. Credit granted will not exceed 25% of the program of study. After assessment of previous education, training and/or experience the student will be enrolled in training at the student's documented proficiency level. The time normally required for training will be shortened accordingly.

## Re-Admission Policy

A student who previously attended Tennessee College of Applied Technology Ripley who either withdrew or whose attendance was otherwise terminated must re-apply for admission by completing a new enrollment application. Due to processing of financial aid, students desiring to enroll in a new program of study and use financial aid, or did use financial aid in a prior term, will experience a 60-day waiting period for re-admittance.

## Service Member Re-admission

Military reserve and National Guard personnel who are mobilized to active military service within six months of attendance at TCAT Ripley and who plan to return to College, will have their tuition assessed as per TBR policy B-60.

## Readmission from Academic Suspension (All programs except Allied Health)

The President, in coordination with the Student Services Coordinator, may consider for re-admission an applicant who has been suspended. Criteria that will be considered in assessing candidacy for re-admission are as follows:

1. Assessment of the candidate's willingness to address those deficiencies that contributed to the prior suspension; and
2. Assessment of the likelihood that the re-admitted student may succeed in pursuing his/her training objective.

No student will be allowed to re-enter the College if he or she has been suspended two times for failure to meet academic standards. Probationary guidelines may be imposed upon re-enrollment after suspension for the following violations:

**Attendance Violations:** Any student suspended for poor attendance must sit out one full term but will be eligible to return the following term provided space is available. Exceptions may be made by the President.

**Unsatisfactory Progress:** A student suspended for unsatisfactory progress evaluation must sit out for one term but will be eligible to return the following term provided space is available.

Disciplinary action for student conduct code violations will be processed separately as provided in the TCAT Student Disciplinary Code <https://tcatripley.edu/about/policies-and-guidelines> and the TBR Policy on student discipline (<https://policies.tbr.edu/policies/general-policy-student-conduct-disciplinary-sanctions>).

## Readmission for Nursing Students

Any TCAT Ripley nursing program student who was previously suspended for failing to meet academic standards in the nursing program must reapply for admission to return to the program. If the student is seeking readmission the regular application process will apply. The applicant will be required to attend an information session and submit the necessary applications. References, transcripts, and HESI scores are considered valid for two years from the time of their initial receipt.

The Nursing Coordinator will review each case and may recommend readmission to the school President. Criteria that the Nursing Coordinator will consider in determining readmission include demonstration of the student's willingness to address the deficiencies that contributed to the prior suspension and assessment of the likelihood that the readmitted student may succeed.

Any student suspended for poor attendance must sit out one full term before being readmitted to the program.

Any student who has been suspended twice from the nursing program due to violation of attendance, academic, and/or clinical performance may be denied readmission. After a period of five years from the date of the second termination, an individual may apply to the nursing program and be given consideration for readmission. Transfer credit for this admission will not be considered.

## Transfer from another Nursing Program

Students who have completed nursing courses at another nursing program and seek to enter the program nursing program may apply for enrollment. The application process for transfer students includes:

- Submit completed application for enrollment.
- Submit official copy of high school transcript or high school equivalency.
- Submit official transcript from previous nursing education program.
- Submit proof of score at least a 750 on each of the HESI end of course exams for the term(s) that are being granted credit. The costs of the HESI exams are the responsibility of the applicant. If an applicant has had the HESI end of course exams within the previous two years, an official copy of the test results can be provided in lieu of retesting.

Applicants will be accepted to the program based on classroom space and clinical availability. If all application materials are received, acceptance is based on a first-come, first-served basis. Priority is given to previous TCAT Ripley students seeking re-enrollment.

After notification of conditional acceptance to the program, the following items required by clinical sites must be completed and submitted prior to enrollment:

- Satisfactory drug screen within the previous six months (may be less depending on clinical site),

- Satisfactory criminal background screening within the previous six months,
- Proof of current CPR certification, and
- Up-to-date physical/immunizations.

## TUITION & FEES

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### Fee Assessment

Fees are assessed each term in accordance with an approved fee schedule for Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology. Maintenance Fees are based upon the number of clock hours the student is scheduled to attend for the term as outlined below for on-ground students. In addition to paying a Maintenance Fee each term, on-ground students must pay a Technology Access Fee and a Student Access Fee each term. Fees may be paid by cash, check, and money order, or credit card or by charging against Financial Aid. No two-party checks or partial payments accepted. Students must pay their fees before being admitted to class each term. All fees must be paid on registration day. Students will be counted absent until tuition and fees are paid. NOTE: Fees subject to change without notice.

Clock Hours	Maintenance Fee	Technology Fee	Student Activity	Total Fees
*01-40	\$192.00	\$45.00	\$10.00	\$247.00
*11-80	\$259.00	\$45.00	\$10.00	\$314.00
*81-135	\$391.00	\$45.00	\$10.00	\$446.00
136-217	\$680.00	\$73.00	\$10.00	\$763.00
218-340	\$1098.00	\$73.00	\$10.00	\$1181.00
341-432	\$1229.00	\$73.00	\$10.00	\$1312.00

### Maintenance Fees

1. **Full-time Programs** – All full-time students enrolling for 341 - 432 hours, whether residents or non-residents of Tennessee, shall pay the current maximum maintenance fee as approved by the Tennessee Board of Regents. Students enrolling or completing between term beginning and ending dates will pay a prorated fee for that term based upon the fee schedule.
2. **Part-time Programs** – Students enrolling part-time or in short term, supplemental or special programs of less than 341 hours will be assessed a fee based on the length of the program in which he or she is enrolled. Full-time students enrolling in part-time or special industry classes will be assessed the part-time fee.
3. **Secondary Students** – Secondary students shall not be individually assessed fees. (The TCAT will negotiate with each school district the appropriate fee for their students enrolling at the TCAT.)
4. **Home School and Private School Students** – Each student will be assessed the standard fee.
5. **Special Industry Training** – Student fees shall not be individually assessed for special industry training. All charges will be made to the receiving industries and shall be credited to the school's appropriate Grants and Contracts revenue account.
6. **Other Students**—For credit classes, a fee of \$50 per term (including maintenance fee and tech access fee) may be charged to persons who are domiciled in Tennessee with a permanent and total disability, and persons who will become 65 years of age or older during the academic term in which they begin classes and. This only applies to enrollment on a space-available basis. Fees may be discounted or considered as scholarships for full-time state employees, TBR employees, spouses, and dependents as well as children of certified public-school teachers. Before any student is counted as enrolled, the maintenance fee must be paid. Maintenance fees may not be waived unless extenuating circumstances are present according to TBR policy at the approval of the President. After a student has properly completed the enrollment form and has

been approved for the courses designated on the form, the amount of applicable fees will be determined according to the fee schedule.

## Other Fees

Drug screening fees, Background Checks, Clinical Fees, Liability Insurance, Truck Maintenance Fees, Welding Fees, Testing Fees, and other special academic fees are non-refundable.

In compliance with TBR B-060: Appeal process regarding fees, charges, and refunds, students have the right to appeal all fees, charges, or refunds assessed to their account if they are believed to be in error. Appeals must be submitted in writing to the Student Services Office for a review. If the charges are deemed to be appropriate, students may submit their appeal to the President of TCAT Ripley for their determination, which will be final.

## Books, Supplies and Expenses

Students must purchase the following on their own, as may be required by the area of training in which enrolled:

1. Texts, workbooks, paper, tools, and pencils
2. All parts and materials used on personal projects
3. Uniforms, safety glasses, and other personal items are required by specific occupational areas.
4. Students are encouraged to take the accident insurance available.

All materials, books, and other supplies purchased from the bookstore by the student become the property of the student and are non-refundable.

## Fee Waivers

Full-time state employees (to include TBR and UT employees) may enroll in training programs on a space-available basis without paying maintenance, technology access fees, and student activity fees using a PC-191 waiver. Any dependent child under the age of 21 whose parent died as a direct result of injuries received while serving in the armed forces may be eligible for a fee waiver.

**Note:** All persons eligible for maintenance fee waivers or discounts must provide appropriate documentation prior to registration.

## Fee Discounts

A maintenance fee discount equal to 50% will be provided to spouses and dependent children under the age of 26 whose parent is employed by the TBR or UT system. A maintenance fee discount of 25% will be given to dependent children under the age of 24 whose parent is employed as a full-time state employee or certified teacher in a Tennessee public school or whose parent is a retired state employee.

Persons with a permanent, total disability, and persons who will become 65 years of age or older during the academic term in which they begin classes and who are domiciled in Tennessee will be charged a service fee of \$60 per term. This only applies to enrollment on a space available basis.

## Dishonored Check Collection Fees

The payment of fees may be made by cash, check, credit card, or money order. If a student pays fees with a check that is not honored by the bank, the student will be notified by the person so designated at the Tennessee College

of Applied Technology Ripley. If the check is not paid in cash within 15 calendar days from the date of notice, that student will be withdrawn from classes. A returned check fee of \$30 will be assessed. The institution may deny future check writing privileges to students who have paid registration fees with checks that are dishonored. (Policy 4:01:03:00 page 1). Once a check is returned for insufficient funds a second time, students are required to pay with a cashier's check or cash in subsequent terms. Any past due debts must be paid prior to any additional registration and no grade reports, certificates, or diplomas will be issued until the debt is paid. Also see Payment of Student Fees and Enrollment, TBR Policy 4.01.03.00.

## Refund Policy

The College will automatically calculate and process a refund for any student that withdraws during the refund period. All refund checks are mailed directly to the student from the TCAT Business Office within 30 days of receipt of the request.

### Eligibility for Refunds:

1. The change in a full-time student's schedule which results in reclassification to a part-time student.
2. A change in a part-time student's schedule, which results in a class load of fewer hours.
3. Voluntary withdrawal from the College within the refund period.
4. Cancellation of a program by the College.
5. Death of a student.
6. Students administratively dismissed WILL NOT be eligible for refunds.

Title IV financial aid students (i.e. Pell, SEOG) may be subject to Return of Title IV refund policies. Wilder-Naifeh recipients are subject to institutional refund policies. There is **no** refund of technology access fees, student activity fees, or special academic fees after classes have begun.

## Calculation of Refunds

### 1. Full Refund:

- a. 100% of tuition and fees will be refunded for classes canceled by the College.
- b. 100% of tuition and fees will be refunded for drops or withdrawals prior to the first official day of classes.
- c. 100% of tuition and fees will be refunded in the case of death of the student during the term.

### 2. Partial Refund:

- a. A refund of 75% of tuition may be allowed if a program is dropped or a student withdraws within the first 10% of the class hours.
- b. A refund of 50% of tuition may be allowed if a course is dropped or a student withdraws within the first 20% of the class hours.
- c. No refund of tuition may be permitted after 20% of the class hours have been completed.

### 3. There will be NO refund after the first official day of classes when a minimum fee is collected.

### \*Please note:

- Bookstore purchases, special academic fees, and liability insurance are non-refundable.
- Costs charged against a financial aid award may result in the refund to state or federal entities.
- Refund checks are requested by TCAT Ripley Business Office and are mailed to the student from the Tennessee Board of Regents Service Center.

## GRADING & PROGRESS POLICIES

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Students are evaluated on skill and theory in each program during the academic term. Progress reports, attendance records, and work evaluations are maintained on each student in Banner, a computerized student information management system. Students' files are maintained in the College's Student Services Office.

### Academic Retention and Readmission Policy

#### I. Student Attendance

- A. The nature of the programs at the Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology is such that it is necessary for every student to attend regularly. Excessive interruptions due to absences will have an adverse effect on student progress.
  - 1. A full-time student enrolled for a full term (432 hours) and that has been absent for more than 5.5% (24 hours) of the scheduled hours enrolled, will receive written communication alerting the student to the number of hours remaining prior to suspension. Available community and institutional resources will be shared to assist students with attendance issues. The number of hours of absence triggering notification must be prorated for all part-time students and full-time students enrolled for less than a full term.
  - 2. When a full-time student enrolls for a full term (432 hours) and has absences exceeding 9.7% (42 hours) of the scheduled hours enrolled, that student will be suspended. A student suspended for attendance may appeal the suspension in writing to the president within three (3) days of receiving notification of the suspension. A student appealing suspension of attendance may remain in class until the suspension has been reviewed. The number of hours triggering suspension must be prorated for all part-time and full-time students enrolled for less than a full term.
  - 3. A student is considered tardy if not in the classroom at the designated time for class to start. Multiple tardies will result in the following discipline:
    - a. Five (5) tardies: Student will be given a written warning by instructor.
    - b. Six (6) tardies: Student will be placed on probation by the president or the president's designee.
    - c. Seven (7) tardies: Student will be referred to the president, and may be suspended.
  - 4. An attendance record for each student shall be maintained in the student information system.
- B. When a student misses three (3) consecutive days without contacting the college, that student may be presumed to have withdrawn from the college.

#### II. Exceptions for Suspension Due to Student Attendance

- A. In individual cases of extenuating circumstances, the president may make exceptions to the requirement of suspension or presumed withdrawal due to absences. The circumstances warranting such exceptions should be fully documented.

#### III. Student Progress

- A. Evaluations of student achievement toward a program's identified occupational competencies are recorded for each student at the end of 432 hours of instruction that comprise a term. Those evaluations shall be based on the following scale of progress:
  - 1. A = 94 – 100
  - 2. B = 87 – 93
  - 3. C = 80 – 86
  - 4. D = 73 – 79
  - 5. F = 0 – 72
  - 6. P = Pass
  - 7. CONT = Continuing/Incomplete



8. W = Withdrew

- B. Grades for courses will be determined as described in course syllabi. Students will be graded in the following categories:
  - 1. Skill Proficiency
  - 2. Theory/Related Information

IV. Prior Learning Assessment/Transfer Credit

- A. Each TCAT will establish a process for prospective students to submit prior learning or transfer credit for review by an instructor in the student's selected program of study. The process will be advertised to all students and will be outlined in the student handbook.
- B. Transfer credit for previous training from other institutions or prior learning experience may be given credit toward program completion requirements upon demonstration of common competencies. Students requesting credit for prior education/training or experiences may do so through two sources of prior credit that can be reviewed by instructors for recommendation for the student to receive credit towards a course in a TCAT program of study.
  - 1. Credit from a sister TCAT institution.
  - 2. Credit from all other institutions, work experiences, certifications, etc.
- C. For the purpose of GPA, the prior learning or transfer credit will appear on the student's transcript. A grade of 'TP' for Transfer--Full Course Credit or 'TC' for Transfer—Partial Course Credit will be assigned and will not be included in the GPA calculation.
- D. Transfer credit provisions are set by each technical college in keeping with best practice guidelines. As such, transfer of prior credit is limited in a number of areas.  
For example,
  - 1. the number of hours that may be transferred,
  - 2. in equivalency of requirements,
  - 3. the procedures for acceptance of transfer credits, including GPA requirements,
  - 4. the period in which courses may be taken and time limits on work varies by institution,
  - 5. department and academic program.

V. Grade Point System

- A. The following grade point system is to be used in grade point average (GPA):
  - 1. A: 4 points per customary clock hour
  - 2. B: 3 points per customary clock hour
  - 3. C: 2 points per customary clock hour
  - 4. D: 1 points per customary clock hour
  - 5. F: 0 points per customary clock hour
- B. The grade point average is determined by dividing the total number of grade points earned by the total number of customary clock hours for the courses which the student attempted. Customary clock hours in courses from which the student withdraws or in which the student receives grades such as pass/fail, are not considered when determining the GPA.
- C. Finally, a single student transcript will include term and cumulative GPA calculations. The cumulative calculation will be used in determining the required GPA for graduation, honors, and financial aid eligibility. The term calculation will be used when determining suspension.
- D. For the purpose of increasing mastery in a course when such is necessary for program progression or for the purpose of increasing the GPA, institutions may permit students to repeat courses in which their final grades are C or lower. Allied Health programs may outline specific repeat course guidelines in their respective Allied Health student handbook.
- E. In computing the GPA, the question of how to count repeat courses must be specifically addressed in the Student Handbook of each institution. In the event a student repeats a course, the repeat course grade is calculated into, and the original grade is excluded from the GPA. If courses are repeated more than twice (three attempts), GPA is calculated using the third attempt and all subsequent attempts.



## VI. Retention Standards

### A. GPA TCATs

1. A student who fails during any term to attain a cumulative GPA at or above the level indicated below for the customary clock hours attempted or the average grade per course, will be placed on suspension at the end of the term.
  - a. Standards:
    - I. A student must earn a "D" (73) or better per course for each term and an overall 2.0 GPA or better per term.
    - II. Allied Health Programs require a "C" (80) or better per course for each term.
2. Additional retention standards for specific programs may be established by the college based on accreditation or licensing requirements applicable to a program.

## VII. Readmission from Suspension for Grades or Attendance

- A. The president may consider for readmission the applicant who has been suspended.
- B. Criteria that the president will consider in assessing candidacy for readmission are as follows:
  1. Assessment of the candidate's willingness to address those deficiencies that contributed to the prior suspension, and
  2. Assessment of the likelihood that the readmitted student may succeed in pursuing their training objective.

## Grading and Progress for All Programs (except Allied Health)

### Grade Scale (except Nursing & Allied Health)

A (94-100)	D (73-79)
B (87-93)	F (0-72)
C (80-86)	

Each student will be evaluated on a term basis. The term grade report will reflect each student's progress in the categories of Skill Proficiency and Related Information (theory).

A student must maintain a "D" or better average per course code and an overall combined average of a "C" or better for the 72-day period of instruction, which comprises a term. Failure to maintain the required overall combined grade average of "C" or better at the mid-term or end of term will result in academic probation. Once on probation, failure to bring grades up to an overall combined average of "C" or better by the end of the next grading period (midterm or end of term as applicable) will result in suspension. Suspended students must wait one full term prior to re-enrollment.

**Pace/Progress:** Instructors shall have a course outline/curriculum that stipulates the customary length of time for a module of study. Instructors shall consult with their advisory committees on their course outline/curriculum. Student Services personnel shall communicate the concept of pace/progress to new enrollees during orientation. Instructors shall communicate their program's specific pace/progress schedule to every incoming student. Instructors shall create and maintain a grading system whereby those students not maintaining the stated pace/progress for a specific module of study will receive a grade that reflects that lack of pace/progress. Instructors shall inform all students, existing and new, of the grading policy.

Since all occupational training offered in the area Colleges involves technical knowledge and occupational and employability skills, students are encouraged to apply themselves to achieve success in their chosen vocational objective.

## Student Grading and Progress for Nursing & Allied Health

Nursing and Allied Health students receive a theory grade in each subject. Academically, grades of A, B, and C are considered satisfactory progress; grades of D or F are considered unsatisfactory progress. A student who receives an unsatisfactory academic grade at the end of the term or unit will be suspended from the program due to failure to progress. All grades/grade averages will be calculated to the tenth place. If the tenths place is 0.5 or greater the next higher whole numerical number will be assigned. (i.e. 79.5 = 80) If the tenths place is 0.4 or less the numerical grade will be rounded down. (i.e., 79.4 = 79). Students must maintain a satisfactory average (80) for each unit of the curriculum.

### Grade Scale for Practical Nursing & Allied Health

A (94-100)	D (73-79) Failing
B (87-93)	F (0-72) Failing
C (80-86)	

Once grades have been awarded and posted, they may not be changed without written authorization of the instructor and the approval of the President unless altered pursuant to a grade appeal. Students enrolled in the Practical Nursing and Allied Health programs must maintain a satisfactory average of 80 for each unit of study.

### Worker Characteristics Grading (Work Ethics Program)

The U.S. Department of Labor estimates that 80 percent of workers who lose their jobs do so not because of lack of occupational skills, but because of poor work ethics. The mission of technical education is to provide business and industry with trained workers who possess both strong occupational skills and good work habits.

Business and industry leaders have identified essential worker characteristics that should be taught and practiced to help develop a viable and effective workforce.

The ten worker characteristic traits identified are:

- |               |                          |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Attendance | 6. Productivity          |
| 2. Character  | 7. Organizational Skills |
| 3. Teamwork   | 8. Communication         |
| 4. Appearance | 9. Cooperation           |
| 5. Attitude   | 10. Respect              |

The Tennessee College of Applied Technology Ripley has incorporated a worker characteristics course focusing on the worker characteristics to be taught each term. These sessions are conducted throughout the term weekly, depending on the class schedule. Each student will receive a worker characteristics course grade, which will be recorded on the student's transcript.

## STUDENT RECORDS

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### Student Files

A permanent file is maintained on each current and former student who has enrolled in Tennessee College of Applied Technology Ripley. The College complies with G-070 on disposal of records.

Each permanent student record will contain a minimum of the following information: 1) academic records; 2) disciplinary files; 3) matters resulting to student discipline. The class roll is maintained by the instructor and is the official record for all students in a class. It is the official school record in matters

pertaining to entrance dates, completion dates, and attendance. These records are the property of the College and are stored in the Office of Student Services.

The Tennessee College of Applied Technology Ripley complies with the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act: Security Information Program guidelines that set standards for protection of all nonpublic financial information.

## Student Record Confidentiality

All student records are confidential in accord with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C.–§1232g and T.C.A. §10-7-504. (See also TBR Guideline S-020 on confidentiality of student records). Confidential student record information generally may not be disclosed without the written consent of the student. Consent to release forms and information regarding disclosure procedures may be obtained from the Student Records Office.

## Student Notification of Rights - Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

Students of Tennessee College of Applied Technology Ripley have specific rights under FERPA, as well as the related regulations of the Department of Education. This law and the regulations provide that a student has a right to inspect and review their education records. Requests will be honored within 45 days of the day the TCAT receives a request for access. Students should submit a written request to the Student Services Coordinator, identifying the record(s) they wish to inspect. The student will be notified of the date and time when the records will be available for inspection.

As per both FERPA and TBR Guideline S-020, a student may request that any record be amended if the student believes it is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of privacy rights. To request an amendment, the student must write the Student Services Coordinator and clearly identify the part of the record they want changed and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the College decides not to amend the record, the student will be notified of his/her rights to a school hearing. Additional information regarding hearing procedures will be provided to the student at that time.

## Release of Personally Identifiable Information

TCAT Ripley will obtain the student's written, signed consent before disclosing personally identifiable information about the student from their records, unless release is pursuant to one of the exceptions provided by FERPA or its regulations. Students may execute a FERPA release form which gives the College permission to release information or to speak with others about matters contained in the student's records as designated by the student. Students also have the option to execute consent forms authorizing the TCAT Ripley to release student records to parents or other designated persons/entities. For information on the FERPA release form, visit the Student Services Office.

FERPA permits disclosure without consent, to TCAT officials with legitimate educational interests. A College official has a legitimate educational interest if the official is a person employed by TCAT Ripley in an administrative, supervisory, faculty or staff position; a person or company with whom the school has contracted services; a member of the school's governing board; or, a student serving in an official capacity, such as student review hearings. Upon request, the school also discloses education records without student consent to officials of another school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, but will notify the student, if possible, of the request.

A school may also disclose personally identifiable information without student consent to the following parties:

U.S. Comptroller General, U.S. Attorney General, U.S. Department of Education  
Authorized organizations conducting educational research

Accrediting agencies  
Alleged victim of a crime  
Parent of a Dependent Student as defined by the IRS  
Parent of a student under 21 regarding the violation of a law regarding alcohol or drug abuse

FERPA also permits the disclosure of “Directory Information” without prior consent of a student. “Directory information” means information contained in an education record of a student which would NOT generally be considered harmful, or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. Directory information includes:

Name  
Address  
Date of birth  
Telephone listing  
Course of study  
Dates of attendance  
Awards earned  
Most recent previous institution attended  
Other information of the type above specifically approved by the institution or school as acceptable directory information

TCAT Ripley does not sell and generally does not distribute mailing lists of students to any person or entity except as mandated by certain federal laws for military recruiters. The Solomon Amendment requires the release of name address, and date of birth to military recruiters upon their request.

## Other Possible Bases for Release of Student Records

### **FERPA and Subpoenas**

The TCAT may be required to disclose information pursuant to a court order or lawfully issued subpoena. The TCAT must make a reasonable effort to notify the student of the order or subpoena in advance of compliance, so that the parent or eligible student may seek protective action, unless the court or issuing agency has prohibited such disclosure.

### **FERPA and Health Records** 45 CFR Part 160; 45 CFR Part 162; 45 CFR Part 164

Your schools' Office of Disability Services (ODS) normally obtains and maintains health records for each student who applies for accommodations, services, or waivers. If a health record is used to decide regarding a student's education program, the health record is an education record. In that case the normal FERPA confidentiality provisions apply.

### **FERPA and Health and Safety Exemption** 34 CFR 99.31(a)(10) & 34 CFR 99.36

A health and safety exception permits the disclosure of personally identifiable information from a student's record in case of an immediate threat to the health or safety of students or other individuals. The school discloses personally identifiable information from an education record to appropriate parties in connection with a health or safety emergency *if* knowledge of the information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals.

### **FERPA and the Patriot Act:**

In response to the terrorist attacks on the United States that took place on September 11, 2001, Congress made changes to FERPA. Section 507 of the USA Patriot Act amended FERPA, which now contains 16 exceptions to the general rules. *Public Law 107-56; DCL April 12, 2002*. TCAT Ripley complies with the changes made to FERPA because of the USA Patriot Act as outlined in *DCL April 12, 2002*.

Students may report violations of FERPA or submit questions about FERPA matters to the TCAT. Complaints or requests for information about FERPA and the TCAT Ripley's policies related to student records may do so by contacting the Vice President. Additional information may be found at:

JacQuene Rainey, Vice President  
Tennessee College of Applied Technology Ripley  
127 Industrial Drive  
Ripley, TN 38063  
(731)635-3368  
<https://tcatripley.edu/about/policies-and-guidelines>

Tennessee Board of Regents  
1 Bridgestone Park  
Nashville, TN 37214  
[www.tbr.edu](http://www.tbr.edu)  
Policy 3:02:03:00-Confidentialty of Student Records

A student also has the right to file a complaint with the U. S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by TCAT Ripley to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U. S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Ave. S. W.  
Washington, DC 20202-4605  
Phone: 202-260-3887  
[www.ed.gov/offices/OM/fpc](http://www.ed.gov/offices/OM/fpc)

## Transcript of Academic Record

A transcript of training completed will be prepared and supplied to students upon request. All requests for transcript, including requests made to be mailed to employers or other education institutions must be made with a Transcript Release Form signed by the student. This release will expire when the request is finalized. Transcript requests take 7-10 business days to process. Students with an encumbrance of \$100 or greater will **not** be allowed to receive transcripts, awards, or to have transcripts sent to 3<sup>rd</sup> parties until that balance is settled or unless the transcript is to be sent to another TBR institution and the student has entered into a written agreement to satisfy the outstanding debt or obligation owed to the College issuing the certificate of credit or official transcript. The receiving institution will not release an award or transcript until the encumbrance is paid to TCAT Ripley. The College will keep a permanent record of training. Any student who changes his/her name or address should notify the main office so that accurate records may be maintained.

## High School Transcripts and GED and HiSet Scores

GED and HiSET scores and transcripts are required to be on file in the Student Services Office.

## Transfer of Student Records to other Institutions

Educational records may be disclosed without the student's consent to officials of another school or institution in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

# STUDENT POLICIES

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## Attendance Policy

The nature of the programs at the TCAT Ripley is such that it is necessary for every student to attend regularly. Excessive interruptions due to absences will have an adverse effect on student progress. The

daily attendance of a student becomes a part of the student's permanent file and is reflected on their transcript.

The attendance policy is intended to promote dependability and positive worker characteristics essential to success in the workforce. Students are expected to be punctual and attend class each day. The purpose of the attendance policy is to provide those students with extenuating circumstances or emergencies beyond their control an exception to perfect attendance. Discretionary hours or personal time away from school is not considered appropriate absences. On occasions where a student must be absent from the TCAT, they are required to call in to their instructor to inform them of that fact. All students must attend at least 90.3 % of their scheduled hours to maintain satisfactory attendance.

## Full-Time Students

- After a full-time student has been absent for a total of 5.5% of the total hours for which he/she enrolled for the term, the student will receive written communication from their program instructor and will be counseled about their attendance pattern, alerting the student to the number of hours of permitted absences for the remaining portion of the term without suspension for non-compliance with the attendance policy.
- When a student accumulates absences more than 9.7% of the hours for which he/she enrolled for the term, the student will receive written notification of suspension. The student may appeal the suspension within three days of notification of the suspension. Should the student decide to appeal, an Attendance Appeal Committee will review the student's attendance record and any student provided absence documentation and make a recommendation to the President regarding whether a miscalculation of attendance has occurred or whether an extenuating circumstance exists to merit an exception to the attendance policy. A student appealing suspension of attendance may remain in class until the suspension has been reviewed and a decision made.

A student is considered tardy if not in the classroom at the designated time for class to start. Students arriving late to school will be charged for absences due to tardiness as follows:

1. 1 to 30 minutes will be counted as 30 minutes
2. 31 to 60 minutes will be counted as one hour, etc.
3. Multiple tardies will result in the following action(s),
  - a. 5 tardies—student will be given a documented warning by instructor,
  - b. 6 tardies—student will be placed on probation by the Student Services Office,
  - c. 7 tardies—student will be referred to President and may be suspended,
  - d. A student absent three consecutive days with no notification of absences will be automatically terminated from the program. See the Withdrawal Policy found on page \_\_ of this handbook.

To re-enroll, following a suspension for an attendance policy violation, the student must complete and file an application for readmission. Students terminated for attendance violations must wait one full term before re-enrolling. Re-admission requires a new application and following standard admissions processes.

## Make-Up Hours

Make-up hours are not permitted except as a reasonable accommodation permitted pursuant to procedures applicable in specific situations, e.g. pregnant students, or certain documented disabilities.

## Exempt Absences

Students who are members of the Reserve or National Guard and who are required to serve two weeks active duty each year will be permitted to do so. In such cases, the student will be granted leave for the period of active duty. VA certifications for such students will be adjusted accordingly. These students



should advise the school of their military schedule at the beginning of the term their active duty tour is scheduled. The student must provide the College with a copy of the official orders.

A student will be excused from classes for jury duty; however, a copy of the summons must be provided to the College as well as an excuse for each day from the court clerk.

## Reporting Absences

All absences and tardiness must be recorded on the progress report, which is kept in the student's permanent record. When returning to class following an absence, the student should report to the instructor and complete the absence report. Students leaving class without authorization will be counted absent and may result in disciplinary action. The student should report to the instructor before leaving. False information pertaining to reasons for absences will be grounds for discipline.

## Changes in Enrollment Status

It is sometimes necessary for a student to change status or alter his/her attendance schedule. A change of status could be an increase or decrease in scheduled hours to attend. One change of status per term is permitted prior to the census date for the term; however, after the census date, students will normally not be allowed to change status. Additional circumstances where change of status is permitted are:

- Students may change status between terms; however, approval for the change in status must be granted prior to registration for the subsequent term.
- A student may be allowed to change status from full-time to part-time or from part-time to full-time during the term only when there are documented medical or personal reasons. Such medical or personal reasons shall include, but not be limited to, serious extended illness of the student, serious or extended illness, death of an immediate family member, or other extraordinary circumstances that are beyond the student's control where continued enrollment would create a substantial hardship.

Students must contact the Student Services Office to request a change in status. If a change in status is approved, the amount of any financial aid awards being received will be adjusted based on the revised scheduled hours for the term, therefore, students must review the change in status request with the Financial Aid Office. Any amount that the student owes for financial resources already received must be paid back prior to the effective date of the change. The institutional refund policy will be applied to determine if a refund is due. Additional procedures may apply for Wilder-Naifeh recipients when changing status. For students receiving the Wilder-Naifeh Technical Skills Grant award only, the student may appeal a denial of a request for change in status is.

## Classroom and Shop Maintenance

Good housekeeping practices should always be followed. Trash must be picked up on site; tools, equipment, etc. should be kept in appropriate places—not on benches, machines, and floors when not in use. As an integral part of instruction, each student is expected to participate in housekeeping and cleanup activities at the conclusion of each day to maintain efficient, high-level training programs. Instructors and students are responsible for cleanliness and orderliness of classroom work areas at all times. Each program will establish a daily routine for cleaning and students are expected to carry out duties as assigned.

## Utilization of Physical Facilities

Shops, laboratories, and equipment shall be used only for carrying out the instructional program of the school. Students are responsible for proper use and care of tools and equipment.



Organizations seeking to utilize designated TCAT facilities must complete the Facilities Usage Application. This application must be submitted to the President or designee at least five (5) business days prior to the event. The President or designee will review the request and approve or deny it in writing, which may take the form of an email message. Denial of a Facilities Usage Request will include a statement of the basis for the denial. Please see the TBR policy 1:03:02:50 on Facilities use (<https://policies.tbr.edu/policies/access-and-use-campus-property-and-facilities>).

## Responsibility for Tools, Equipment and Property

Students are responsible for the proper use and care of tools, equipment, and other school property. Students responsible for loss of, or damage to, school property may be required to pay costs associated with that loss or damage. Students must report damaged equipment or facilities to the instructor as soon as detected.

## Course Activities

Each training program has specific rules and class policies regarding conduct, dress, safety, break and lunch schedules, and course requirements. The instructor has charge of all course activities and will inform students of training expectations, including the purchase of books, supplies, tools, and uniforms.

## Dress Policy

The Tennessee College of Applied Technology Ripley is a vocational/technical training institution. Most employers will not employ persons with inappropriate appearance. Presenting a work-like and neatly dressed appearance makes the task of finding and securing employment much easier. The College's aim is to make the educational experience as much like a well-managed industrial establishment as possible.

Appropriate attire must be worn that is representative of what industry requires in the workplace. Safety glasses are required in the shop areas, and loose clothing is prohibited when operating machinery. Appropriate dress is strongly encouraged and will be defined by your instructor. An important training goal for each student at TCAT Ripley is to develop a sense of personal pride in his or her appearance and chosen occupation. Students may be required to purchase certain prescribed clothing such as shop suits, steel-toe boots, pants, shirts, uniforms, etc., for their training area. Students must wear shoes and clothes suitable for the area enrolled and keep them neat. Provocative or offensive clothing is prohibited on campus.

The evaluation of student worker characteristics will include student appearance as it relates to occupational/job requirements. Work and dress habits are an important part of any skilled craft person, technician, or office worker.

## Attitude

Students are expected and encouraged to develop proper work habits and to maintain a sincere, cooperative attitude at all times.

## ID Badges

Students must always wear their Tennessee College of Applied Technology student photo identification badges while on campus. The badges cannot be issued without a student submitting a valid unexpired government issued ID to verify identity. The badges must be displayed so that they are readily visible. To ensure the security of student data, a student ID badge or other valid unexpired government issued ID

must be presented to college staff in order to discuss student account/financial aid information or receive financial aid residual checks. If a student loses his or her student ID badge, the item must be reported as lost or stolen to the Business Office during normal operating hours. A replacement fee of \$5.00 must be paid and a receipt must be presented to school personnel in Student Services before a new ID badge will be made. Upon termination from the TCAT, students must return their ID badges to the instructor/Student Services Office.

## Program Transfer Policy

It is expected there will be very limited transfer between programs since every attempt is made to place the student into a suitable area at the time of initial enrollment. When a student who is currently enrolled needs to transfer to a new training program because of a change in career objectives, the Student Services Office will coordinate with the instructors and the student in making the transition to another program and in ensuring the change is appropriate to the student's interests and qualifications. Students must have a passing average in the program they desire to transfer from before the transfer will be considered. When the transfer choice is made, the President must approve the transfer. It is expected that generally this will occur during the first term of the student's training.

## Transfer from TCAT Ripley to Other Institutions

Those students who wish to transfer to another TCAT will need to consult with the Student Services Office concerning the date they expect to enroll in their new Tennessee College of Applied Technology. Students transferring from Tennessee College of Applied Technology Ripley must follow the records policy to have their records sent to other institutions. Financial aid records do not automatically follow students; please see Financial Aid personnel for assistance.

## Transfers of Students from Other Institutions

All transfer applicants are considered on a/an individual basis. Transcripts documenting clock hours of attendance, grades, and skills mastered are reviewed for credit, time, and placement. Transfer students are admitted when space is available and admission requirements are met.

## Articulation

Tennessee College of Applied Technology Ripley is committed to helping our students achieve more advanced degrees. Students who have documented classroom hours or experience in technical areas offered by TCAT Ripley may receive advanced placement at subsequently attended institutions of higher education based on a competency-based test or a review of TCAT transcripts. To receive more information on current articulation agreements please contact with the Student Services Office.

## Procedure for Voluntary Termination of Training

Every student should talk with his/her instructor and the counselor before voluntarily terminating his/her training or withdrawing from enrollment at the TCAT. The procedure terminate/withdraw is:

1. Talk with your instructor. Explain why you are leaving and what your plans are for the future.
2. Complete an Exit Interview Form and turn your ID badge in at the Student Services Department.
3. If a student fails to complete an Exit Interview Form, the Student Services staff will mail the form to the student. This information is very important for COE, U.S. Department of Education, and TBR reporting.

4. Students may owe refunds for financial assistance program if they do not complete the hours scheduled during the term they terminate/withdraw. An interview with the Financial Aid Administrator is recommended prior to termination/withdrawal to determine any applicable financial penalties.

## Involuntary Withdrawal Policy (Automatic)

Any student who is absent from class for three days without notification to the program instructor will be automatically withdrawn from class per TBR policy 2:03:01:05. On the day following the third no call no show absence, the instructor will fill out the required termination notification forms and forward them to the Student Services Office.

Student Services personnel will process the withdrawal forms, including determination of Return of Title IV Aid Calculation, TBR Refund Calculation and notification of withdrawal to required outside agencies. Should the student return to class after an automatic withdrawal has been processed, the student will be required to complete a re-admission form and a new application for enrollment.

## Health and Accident Policy

All students enrolling in Tennessee College of Applied Technology Ripley are encouraged to complete a Medical Record form. This information will be treated as a confidential educational record and will only be utilized if a student requires immediate assistance due to an illness or injury on the College campus or training work site. Adherence to sound safety practices should prevent accidents. However, in the event of an injury or illness, the following procedures will be observed:

- TCAT staff may attempt to administer first aid.
- Instructors/staff members will inform campus administration of the injury or illness.
- If needed, Emergency services will be contacted, and the student may be transported to a medical facility as determined by responding emergency medical personnel. The TCAT will notify designated family members or contact persons as provided on the student's Medical Record form if a student is transported to a medical facility or requires assistance to leave campus.
- TCAT personnel will complete an incident report as soon as possible after the event.

It is important that the medical information provided by students file be complete and that medical and contact information is up to date. Students with special health conditions should include that information when completing the medical information form and may inform the faculty about those special conditions if they believe it to be necessary.

## Student Insurance

### **Nursing and Allied Health Liability Insurance**

All nursing and allied health students are required by clinical affiliates to purchase special liability insurance applicable to their program. More information may be found through the Nursing Handbook.

### **TBR Student Health Insurance Exchange**

Other TCAT students interested in obtaining health insurance coverage can access information about the TBR Student Health Insurance Exchange online at <https://www.ahix.com/> or by calling 1-800-647-4104.

## Graduation Requirements

Graduates of Tennessee College of Applied Technology Ripley are usually considered for entry-level employment in their respective occupations. Satisfactory completion may be achieved by demonstrating proficiency based on the occupational entry requirements.

The TCAT awards two (2) types of educational credentials. A ***certificate of completion*** may be awarded to any student who reaches a job proficiency level and to any supplemental student who completes objectives for upgrading necessary skills and knowledge within a program of study. A ***diploma*** may be awarded to students who demonstrate satisfactory proficiency in a complete course of study. (See each program area for those job titles designed as complete courses of study.)

## Graduation Ceremonies

Graduation ceremonies are held once a year. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in this occasion, when the student's family and friends, as well as the College faculty and staff, are given the opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of our graduates. The Student Services Office will notify students of the graduation application procedure as well as all deadlines leading up to the event, including arrangements necessary to receive the cap and gown, as well as the appropriate credential(s).

## Awards Issued Upon Program Completion

Awards and transcripts are typically issued within three to four weeks following completion of a program of study.

# STUDENT CONDUCT/STUDENT LIFE

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## Student Accountability/Conduct

Students are responsible for their own conduct, and violations of established rules and regulations may subject them to disciplinary measures or dismissal. Tennessee College of Applied Technology complies with the Tennessee Board of Regents Policy 3:02:00:01 Subject: General Regulations on Student Conduct and Disciplinary Sanctions (<https://policies.tbr.edu/policies/general-policy-student-conduct-disciplinary-sanctions>) and the TCAT Student Discipline Policy <https://tcatripley.edu/about/policies-and-guidelines>.

## Academic Integrity Policy

Tennessee College of Applied Technology Ripley operates under the premise of academic integrity. The policy prohibits plagiarism and other forms of academic cheating. It is the instructors' responsibility to create an environment in which academic integrity is expected. It is the students' obligation to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with expectations for academic integrity. The full policy statement on Academic Integrity is set out in the TBR Student Conduct and Disciplinary Sanctions Policy (<https://policies.tbr.edu/policies/general-policy-student-conduct-disciplinary-sanctions>) and TCAT Student Discipline Policy <https://tcatripley.edu/about/policies-and-guidelines>.

## Computer Operation and Internet Access Policy and Guidelines

All students are required to sign an Acceptable Use Policy for Information Technology and must adhere to the following protocols. Compliance with this policy is necessary to ensure security and performance of TCAT computer resources and a proper learning environment. Strict adherence to this policy will prevent costly damage, need for equipment/system repairs, system downtime, and/or loss of computer privileges.

The TCAT's Acceptable Use Policy can be found at <https://tcatripley.edu/about/information-technology-guidelines>.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Any person who violates this policy will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

## Copyright and Digital Millennium Act

Copyright - Materials published by the Tennessee College of Applied Technology Ripley are protected by the Digital Millennium Copyright Act. The DMCA also requires that the institution inform all computer and network users that downloading of copyrighted material is prohibited. In addition, Tennessee Code Annotated §49-7-1(c) specifies that the institution ensure that no copyrighted digital music or videos be downloaded using institutional resources. Any attempts to do so will result in appropriate disciplinary sanctions.

Violations - Violations of the policy will result in corrective action by the appropriate institution office. Students who violate this policy will be referred to the Student Services Coordinator for appropriate action. Employees who violate this policy may be subject to disciplinary measures imposed by their supervisor in conjunction with the institution's administration. Violations of local, state, or federal laws regarding unlawful access or use may be referred to the appropriate law enforcement officials for investigation and/or prosecution.

### **Copyright General Information**

Copyright is a form of protection provided by the laws of the United States (Title 17, U.S. Code) to creators of "original works of authorship" including literary, dramatic, musical, artistic, and other published and unpublished works, when "fixed in a tangible form of expression." Protections last for the term of the author's life plus 50 years after death.

It is illegal for anyone to violate any of the rights provided to the owner of a copyright. The Copyright Act (1976) contains provisions permitting the award of monetary damages against individuals who infringe on copyrighted material. In civil cases, the law allows the assessment of actual damages or statutory damages. For each infringement, statutory damages range from \$250 to \$10,000. Sections 107-118 of the Copyright Act also establish exempt uses of copyrighted materials and thus relief from liability. One major limitation is the doctrine of "fair-use" which is given statutory basis in Section 107 of the Act.

## Patriot Act Notice to All Students

The U.S.A. Patriot Act authorizes law enforcement agencies, acting pursuant to a valid court order, to compel personnel to disclose otherwise confidential information about their student educational records, electronic communication including e-mail; their computer access of the internet and other network databases; and/or records of their telephone usage.

## Traffic and Parking Rules

Parking Regulations – Faculty, students and visitors are expected to comply with all campus parking and speed regulations as well as all state laws, county and municipal ordinances governing traffic/parking in their locality. State and local law enforcement authorities will enforce those provisions on TCAT campuses. Violators may also be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the TCAT Student Disciplinary Policy governing student conduct and disciplinary sanctions. This policy is promulgated pursuant to, and in compliance with, TBR Policy 3:02:00:01(V) Traffic and Parking found at <https://policies.tbr.edu/policies/general-policy-student-conduct-disciplinary-sanctions>.

Students are permitted to park only in the student parking. All students parking are on a first come basis. Painted lines, markings, or other visible signs will be used to designate authorized parking areas for students, faculty, staff, visitors, or any other persons authorized to use the College's facilities. Student parking is indicated by WHITE painted lines and markings. Please observe the signs for correct movement around the campus.

Inability to locate an authorized parking space on campus will not excuse improper parking. Improperly parked vehicles may be towed at the owner's expense.

Improper parking includes, but is not limited to the following:

1. Parking in unauthorized spaces or areas;
2. Parking in driveways, sidewalks, intersections, or loading zones;
3. Parking in any manner that blocks properly parked vehicles, such as "double-parking";
4. Within 15 feet of a fire hydrant;
5. Parking in spaces designated for use by persons with disabilities only.
6. Parking overnight is prohibited unless prior approval has been granted by the administration.
7. Refraining from littering from a vehicle.

Under no circumstances may a student park in the fire and safety lanes, or in those spaces designated for faculty. Parking spaces for the handicapped are for students or visitors using a wheelchair or for those allotted a space by the College President. Improperly parked vehicles will be towed at the vehicle owner's expense.

## Disabled/Handicapped Parking Violations

Authority: Tenn. Code Ann. § 40-8-203

The fine for disabled/handicapped parking violations is established by State law and will increase, as needed, to remain in compliance with State law. This rule supersedes all rules or notices regarding fines for disabled/handicapped parking violations at any TBR Institution. The fine for disabled/ handicapped parking violation is \$200.00 or as prescribed by state law.

## Theft, Loss, or Damage to Motor Vehicles

The College is not responsible for the security of, loss, or damage to, any vehicle or its contents while on campus. Students are requested to report any incidents, unusual occurrences, or concerns regarding their vehicles on TCAT property to the TCAT administration.

## Campus Security Act

All students and employees are required to report any criminal offenses or activities that occur on the main campus, extension campus, or instructional service centers. TCAT employee report them to TCAT administration immediately for appropriate action. TCAT students report them to their instructor, Student Services personnel or any TCAT administrator.

The College maintains statistical data regarding certain crimes committed on College-controlled property. The annual Campus Security Report contains offenses reported for the previous year. The Annual Security Report can be found at <https://tcatripley.edu/about/safety-and-security>. Students may request a paper copy of the Report at the Student Services Office. Students may also request to view the campus crime log. Questions or concerns regarding campus security matters may be directed to the TCAT administration.

## Campus Crime Report



The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation maintains information and statistics on crimes reported on all educational campuses in Tennessee. That report can be found at <https://www.tn.gov/tbi/divisions/cjis-division/recent-publications.html>. Printed copies are available in Student Services. The specific crime(s) for TCAT Ripley and the number of incidences that were reported for the 2019 reporting year, are as follows:

Burglary	0
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	0
Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts	0
Sexual Offenses (Forcible)	0
Drug/Narcotic Violations	0

## Sexual Offender Information

Pursuant to T.C.A. §Title 40-39-201, the Tennessee College of Applied Technology Ripley furnishes its students with a link to the state of Tennessee's sex offender registry:

<https://sor.tbi.tn.gov/SOMainpg.aspx>. The information contained in the registry has been provided to registering agencies and the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation by the offender and is based upon information provided by the offender. Offenders may have moved without notification. This information may be used to determine whether an individual registered at this site is employed or enrolled as a student at the TCAT Ripley only and should not be used in any manner to injure, harass, or commit a criminal act against any person named in the registry. Any such action could subject you to discipline by the TCAT Ripley and/or criminal prosecution.

## Drug-Free Campus and Workplace

In accordance with the Drug -Free Workplace Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-960) and the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989, TCAT Ripley prohibits the unlawful use, manufacture, possession, distribution, or dispensing of "controlled substances", as defined in the Controlled Substance Act, 21 U.S.C. 812, and alcohol on school property. All employees and students are subject to this Act. Any violation of this policy will result in appropriate disciplinary action.

## Policy on Drug Screening

In addition to any program specific policy, in compliance with the requirements of the Drug-Free Campus & Workplace Act and to maintain a safe environment conducive to both work and learning, TCAT Ripley specifically prohibits the unlawful use, manufacture, possession, distribution or dispensing of alcohol or illegal drugs, the misuse of legally prescribed or "over the counter" drugs or being under the influence of alcohol or drugs in its facilities and programs. Pursuant to this policy, and where "reasonable suspicion" exists that a student or employee is "under the influence" of alcohol or a controlled substance while on campus or engaged in any TCAT related activity, the TCAT may require that individual to submit to a test to determine the presence of alcohol or controlled substances.

For the purposes of this policy, "reasonable suspicion" means suspicion based on specific and articulable facts, taken together with rational inferences from those facts that give rise to the conclusion that an individual is under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance(s). "Under the influence" means that an individual's judgment or motor coordination is impaired due to the presence or use of alcohol or a controlled substance(s), including prescription medication(s).

When it has been determined that a reasonable suspicion exists that an individual is under the influence of alcohol and/or a controlled substance, he/she may be required to submit to a test to determine whether the individual is actually under the influence. An individual who refuses to undergo testing when



reasonable suspicion has been determined to exist, will be found to have violated this policy and will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action. Additionally, any person who tests positive for being under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance(s) in violation of this policy will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action. The cost of reasonable suspicion drug testing is the responsibility of the individual being tested.

## Smoking Policy

Pursuant to, and in supplement of, the laws of the State of Tennessee (Public Chapter 410, “Non-Smoking Act”) and TBR Policy No. 1:07:00:10, the following smoking policy applies to all persons at Ripley:

Smoking will not be permitted in any administrative or faculty office, shop, classroom, school vehicle, or laboratory at any time. All smoking must be done in designated outside areas. The use of electronic or e-cigarettes and smokeless tobacco will be treated the same as traditional tobacco products for purposes of this policy.

Persons violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including the termination of employment or enrollment at the TCAT. Visitors violating the policy will be asked to stop their violation. If a visitor refuses to comply with the policy after being instructed to stop will be escorted off the premises.

Receptacles will be provided for this purpose and all persons are expected to properly dispose of their cigarette butts.

## Drug and Alcohol Prevention Information

The Tennessee College of Applied Technology Ripley’s Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program addresses three major concerns:

1. The maintenance of an environment in which students can learn and be safe,
2. Help for students whose development or performance is threatened by abuse of drugs or alcohol, and
3. The enforcement of policies and laws regarding possession or use of drugs or alcohol on campus.

### What Is Addiction?

When a drug user cannot stop taking a drug even if s/he wants to, it is called addiction. The urge is too strong to control, even if you know the substance is causing harm.

Addiction is a chronic, often relapsing, brain disease that causes compulsive drug seeking and use, despite harmful consequences to the addicted individual and to those around him or her. Although the initial decision to use drugs or alcohol is voluntary for most people, the brain changes that occur over time challenge an addicted person’s self-control and hamper his or her ability to resist intense impulses to use drugs or alcohol.

Addiction can become more important than the need to eat or sleep. The urge to get and use the drug can fill every moment of a person’s life. The addiction replaces all the things the person used to enjoy. A person who is addicted might do almost anything—lying, stealing, or hurting people—to keep taking the drug. This could get the person arrested.

Addiction is a disease, just as diabetes and cancer are diseases. Addiction is not simply a weakness. People from all backgrounds, rich or poor, can get an addiction. Addiction can happen at any age, but it usually starts when a person is young.

## Statement of Health Risks

Abusing drugs or alcohol interferes with the body's normal functioning. Because drugs directly affect many parts of the brain, abuse can lead to problems with learning, sleeping and emotional health. Abuse can also lead to permanent damage of vital organs such as the brain, heart and liver and be manifested by heart attack, stroke, blood clots, lung damage, liver damage, cancer, and sudden death.

Individuals who suffer from addiction often have one or more accompanying medical issues, including lung and cardiovascular disease, stroke, cancer, and mental disorders. Imaging scans, chest X-rays, and blood tests show the damaging effects of substance abuse throughout the body. For example, tests show that tobacco smoke causes cancer of the mouth, throat, larynx, blood, lungs, stomach, pancreas, kidney, bladder, and cervix. In addition, some drugs of abuse, such as inhalants, are toxic to nerve cells and may damage or destroy them either in the brain or the peripheral nervous system.

Even small doses of drugs and alcohol can significantly impair judgment and coordination. This is especially true in a person's ability to safely drive a vehicle or operate other machinery. Moderate doses may increase incidents of aggressive acts like spouse or child abuse. High doses can cause respiratory depression and death.

Fetal alcohol syndrome is a common problem of babies and infants born to mothers who drink alcohol during pregnancy. These infants can have mental retardation and irreversible physical abnormalities. Children born to alcoholic parents are at a greater risk of becoming alcoholics.

Sources: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute of Drug Abuse; Tennessee Code Annotated.

### **Prevention Assistance**

Drug and alcohol addiction are preventable diseases. Effective education and outreach programs can lead to reduced instances of abuse. Abuse can be prevented if one never uses drugs.

It is the policy of the College to prohibit the illegal use, abuse, manufacture, possession, sale, or distribution of alcoholic beverages or any controlled substance, including any stimulant, depressant, narcotic, hallucinogenic drug or substance, or marijuana on College-owned, controlled, or leased property. Such use, solicitation, sale, or distribution is prohibited during any school-related activity, including off-campus trips. All students are subject to applicable federal, state, and local laws related to this matter. In addition, any violation of this policy will result in disciplinary actions as set forth in the Student Conduct Policy and Disciplinary Sanctions section of this Handbook. Students are also subject to arrest and prosecution by civil authorities for violation on campus.

College personnel will seek to identify abuse problems and provide immediate intervention and assistance. The College will assist any individual whose mental or physical health is threatened by the use or abuse of alcohol or drugs. The College counselor can refer individuals to community resource centers for abuse counseling and rehabilitation.

Following is a list of area resources:

#### **Professional Care Services Contact Information:**

Appointment Line – 1-844-727-2778

Crisis Line – 1-800-353-9918

Covington (901) 476-8967

Brownsville (731) 772-9002

Dyersburg (731) 287-1794

Somerville (901) 465-9831

Millington (901) 873-0305

Ripley (731) 635-3968

**Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services:**

[https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/mentalhealth/documents/SAPT\\_Agencies\\_FY21.pdf](https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/mentalhealth/documents/SAPT_Agencies_FY21.pdf)

<https://www.tn.gov/behavioral-health/substance-abuse-services.html>

**To find the closes AA Meeting, visit <http://www.aawesttn.org/meetings.html>**

Further information is available in the Student Services Coordinator's office.

## Sanctions - Unlawful Possession or Distribution

TCAT Ripley and all Tennessee Board of Regents institutions have prohibitions against the possession and/or use of drugs and alcohol on property controlled by TCAT Ripley or while participating in a Ripley-sponsored program. (Please see disciplinary policies and procedures concerning student conduct listing in the Tennessee Board of Regents Policies (TBR) and Guidelines for TCATs section of this handbook).

Various federal, state, and local statutes make it unlawful to manufacture, distribute, solicit, dispense, deliver, sell, or possess with intent to manufacture, distribute, solicit, dispense, deliver, or sell controlled substances. The penalty imposed depends upon many factors, which include the type and amount of controlled substance involved, the number of prior offenses, if any, whether death or serious bodily injury results from the use of such substance, and whether any other crimes were committed in connection with the use of such substance. Possible maximum penalties for a violation of federal/state laws prohibiting the use/distribution of drugs/alcohol include imprisonment, up to a term of life imprisonment, and fines in excess of \$1 million. In addition, employees/students found to be in violations of federal or state laws regarding the use/distribution of drugs/alcohol may be subject to disciplinary action up to, and including, termination of employment or enrollment at the TCAT.

## Student Life Activities

Student activity programs are designed to provide information and resources, which will assist students in career and life planning. The Student Services Department is always receptive to student suggestions and requests regarding any activities that students want to organize such as job fairs, health fairs, financial aid workshops, and professional development. All students are encouraged to participate in these planned activities.

## Student Organizations

### **National Technical Honor Society**

National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) is the acknowledged leader in the recognition of outstanding student achievement in career & technical education. Thousands of schools and Colleges are affiliated with the Society. Member schools agree that NTHS encourages higher scholastic achievement, cultivates a desire for personal excellence, and helps top students find success in today's highly competitive workplace.

**Mission:** To honor student achievement and leadership, promote educational excellence, and enhance career opportunities for the NTHS membership.

**Vision:** To be the leader in providing recognition for excellence in career and technical education and creating significant occupational opportunities for America's top workforce education students.

### **SkillsUSA**

SkillsUSA is an applied method of competition and instruction for preparing America's high-performance workers in public career and technical programs. It provides quality education experiences for students in

leadership, teamwork, citizenship, and character development. It builds and reinforces self-confidence, work attitudes and communications skills. It emphasizes total quality at work -- high ethical standards, superior work skills, life-long education, and pride in the dignity of work. SkillsUSA also promotes understanding of the free-enterprise system and involvement in community service.

**Mission:** SkillsUSA's mission is to help its members become world-class workers, leaders, and responsible American citizens.

## Student Services

**Educational.** The staff assists applicants in selecting an area of training based upon his/her abilities, interest, and goals.

**Personal Counseling.** The staff will provide individual counseling services to students who are experiencing personal, academic, attitude, or financial problems. The staff may recommend outside agencies specially trained to assist students in specific personal problems. All matters will be treated individually and on a confidential basis.

**Job Placement.** Tennessee College of Applied Technology Ripley is dedicated to our graduates finding employment upon completion of training. The department maintains very close contact with industry and the state employment security office and can place a large percentage of students in employment upon completion of training. Placement of graduates is a primary concern of each instructor and College's personnel. Also, the student must fully participate in the job seeking process. Transcripts are available to the student or to agencies upon request. A transcript request form can be completed in the Student Services Department. Placement rates are continually evaluated and reported to our accrediting agency and the Tennessee Board of Regents. Placement rates are evaluated and utilized to monitor effectiveness and continuation of all programs.

**Follow-Up.** An effort is made to keep in touch with graduates after entering employment to determine their success and to make the training more relevant to the needs of new students and industries. All graduates are requested to keep the school informed as to their employment and any changes in employment. Surveys and student follow-up studies are made to determine if changes need to be made in meeting these needs. Employers, College's personnel, and others are involved in follow-up efforts to assess and/or improve program curriculums and serving the needs of each student. It is very important for students, faculty and staff to recognize the importance of all responses to follow-up surveys as a means of evaluating, improving and funding the program offerings at the Tennessee College of Applied Technology Ripley. Graduates are normally considered for "entry-level" employment in their respective occupation. A certificate of completion may be awarded to any preparatory student who reaches a payroll job proficiency level and to any supplemental student who completes objectives for upgrading necessary skills and knowledge. A diploma may be awarded to each preparatory student who demonstrates satisfactory proficiency in a complete course of study.

**Limited English Proficiency.** TCAT Ripley follows TBR policy in admission and delivery of services to those students with Limited English Proficiency (LEP). TCAT Ripley makes use of a language identification card to determine the language of LEP individuals who present themselves at a campus location seeking information. The institution is a subscriber to state of Tennessee-contracted Linguistica International for outside interpreter service.

## Alumni

This institution does not have a formal alumni organization. However, all graduates are considered Tennessee College of Applied Technology Ripley alumni and are encouraged to provide any feedback to the College as deemed appropriate and respond to follow-up forms as received. The College also encourages its alumni to provide community support to the College and visit the College periodically.

## Career Counseling

Vocational guidance is the primary service offered to students by the Student Services Office to assist each applicant who desires or expresses an interest in pursuing a course of study in this College. Student Services personnel will assist the applicant in choosing a training program through an evaluation of the applicant's work experience, interests, test scores, and previous education.

Student Services personnel are responsible for guidance to those currently enrolled students who may decide to change their original vocational choice. In addition, the student may make personal problems or conflicts known to a member of the Student Services Office who will endeavor to help the student with alternatives to successfully solve or adjust to the problem. If appropriate or necessary, the student will be referred to an agency that has been established to meet specific needs of the individual. By providing career assessment, academic, and personal counseling, the Student Services Office functions for the benefit of helping applicants, students, and graduates to develop their employment potential and reach their intended career goals. Students need not have an appointment or schedule a specific time in advance, but in some cases, it is advisable. Instructors will cooperate with the students in allowing and encouraging the use of the Student Services Department.

## Communication Devices

Telephones in the College offices are for College business only. Except for emergency situations, students will not be called from class to receive incoming calls. The College is not staffed to handle calls or take messages from family, friends, etc. Students must advise friends and family of this procedure. Students are not permitted to use office or classroom phones except for emergencies. Cell phone and other electronic devices should be silenced during training hours.

## Exit Interview

Students leaving the College are requested to complete an exit interview form. This questionnaire will provide useful information to the College regarding the quality of programs, instructional equipment, and our services, as well as student employment information. Before leaving the College, the student should obtain an exit interview form (hard copy or electronic) from the Student Services Office or from the instructor. Students must complete an exit interview form upon completion of their training program to meet graduation requirements.

## Food Services

A student breakroom, which is operated by Tennessee Business Enterprises for the Blind, is provided for the convenience of students and staff. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a courteous and appropriate manner while relaxing in this area. Please clean up after eating and dispose of trash in appropriate containers.

## Inclement Weather

Inclement weather, especially winter ice and snow, occasionally make it difficult for students to attend school. The faculty and staff of the Tennessee College of Applied Technology Ripley are concerned with the safety of each student during inclement weather. The Tennessee College of Applied Technology Ripley will take one of three steps during inclement conditions.

1. Remain open as normal.
2. Close completely with the day(s) being made up within the same term at the direction of administration and approved by TBR.

3. Operate on a modified school schedule since so often many roads are usually clear by mid-morning.
4. Classes will be dismissed at any time during the training day or evening if weather conditions deem it necessary.

In the event of snow, ice, or other severe weather conditions, students should use their own judgment in deciding whether to travel to school. It will be the responsibility of the student to provide documentation for unusual and extenuating circumstances.

When weather conditions are severe, information regarding College closing will be provided for announcement to the following at the earliest possible:

- Student Notification System (RAVE)
- [www.tcatripley.edu](http://www.tcatripley.edu)
- (731)635-3368
- Social Media

Do not confuse announcements regarding TCAT Ripley with Community Colleges, Universities, or Public Schools. A cancellation of day classes does not mean that night classes will also be canceled, or vice versa. Any instructional time, which is lost due to College closures, may be made-up at the end of the term in which the closure occurs.

## Safety Policy

The Tennessee College of Applied Technology Ripley is required to comply with the Tennessee Occupational Safety Health Act, P.L. 91-596 of 1970, Standards, which require all persons to understand the safety and health requirements of their specific area of training/employment as well as any other current safety directives as dictated by local health and state agencies. Each student will receive instruction in safety upon enrolling and is required to comply with all safety requirements of the TCAT. No student will be permitted to use any machine or training equipment without permission from the instructor. Safety glasses are required to be worn in certain shops. In some training areas, safety glasses, protective clothing and footwear are required. At all times and in all training areas, students are required to wear proper attire as defined in this policy and by program Instructors. Anyone wishing to report a safety hazard may contact their instructor, the President, or any other member of TCAT staff.

TCAT Ripley complies with the Hazardous Communication Standard by making available in each classroom Safety Data Sheets which provide information about hazardous chemicals known to be on campus. Safety Data Sheets also explain the risks, precautions, and potential solutions for exposure(s) to hazardous materials in both normal and emergency situations. Safety instructions will be given during every course, and each student must pass tests to determine comprehension of these instructions. Safety glasses and goggles must be worn in all shops. Violation of safety policies or instructions may result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension or expulsion from the College.

Everyone at the TCAT is responsible for fire prevention. Careful compliance with safety regulations is required to prevent fires. Emergency drills (i.e., fire, tornado, etc.) are conducted periodically to keep all College personnel and students alert and responsive in case of emergency and to provide frequent testing and proper use of all emergency equipment. The safety of students and employees are vital to administration. All students should familiarize themselves with the plans, locate emergency exits, tornado shelters, and must actively participate in any drills.

Students are to comply with all directives from College officials and emergency services personnel in the event of an emergency. Once a report of an emergency has been received, TCAT Ripley makes use of an emergency notification system that alerts students and staff through email, phone calls and texts. To ensure receipt of such alerts, students must notify Student Services of any changes and update their contact lists. Periodically, TCAT Ripley sends a test message through its emergency notification system.



With all safety related messages, students and employees are encouraged to take responsibility for their own security and the security of others.

TCAT Ripley complies with the federal Clery Act concerning campus security, prevention programs and reporting. All students and employees are required to report any criminal offenses or activities which occur on campus to the school administration immediately for appropriate action. The school maintains statistical data regarding certain crimes committed on school-controlled property. This data may be obtained from Student Services upon request and accessed on the TCAT website at:

<https://tcatripley.edu/about/safety-and-security>.

TCAT Ripley reserves the right to tow any vehicle that is improperly parked or abandoned. Any fees associated with towing will be the responsibility of the owner/driver of the vehicle.

## Firearms

Pursuant to T.C.A. §§39-17-1309 and 39-1751 and TBR Policy No. 7:01:00:00 found online at: <https://policies.tbr.edu/policies/firearms-and-other-weapons>. Possession of firearms on TCAT Ripley property is prohibited and may subject an individual to arrest/prosecution and/or disciplinary action, subject to the following exceptions:

1. Adult full-time employees who possess a valid handgun carry permit may possess a firearm on institutional property, if;
  - a. The individual has registered with the law enforcement agency with jurisdiction over the campus, which is the employee's regularly designated worksite,
  - b. The firearm is concealed on their person or within their immediate control, and
  - c. The individual does not disclose the fact that they are carrying a firearm to any person.
2. Adult full-time employees who possess a valid handgun carry permit may store a firearm and/or ammunition in their motor vehicle if the handgun ammunition is securely stored out of ordinary vision and is not handled by the adult or any other person, other than for purposes of complying with this policy, while the vehicle is on institution property.
3. Students may never carry or possess a firearm on TCAT Ripley property unless permitted by a specific statutory exception.
4. Adult visitors to the TCAT may possess a firearm on campus if it is securely stored and out of ordinary sight inside a motor vehicle.
5. TCAT Ripley will not take any adverse disciplinary action against any person for possession/carrying a handgun on institution property if they remain in compliance with T.C.A. §39-17-1309(e)(9), T.C.A. §39-17-1313, TBR policy.
6. Violations of these laws and policies will result in the appropriate legal and disciplinary action. Please TBR policy 7:01:00:00, linked above, for more detail regarding the applicable laws and policy requirements regarding the possession of firearms on campus.

## Emergency Procedures

Each institutional department/program has a copy of the Tennessee College of Applied Technology Ripley Emergency Preparedness Response Guide. The plan is easily recognizable in a red flip book and is located



in a centralized area for faculty, staff, and student access. Included in the Guide are Emergency Response Plans, Emergency Notifications, Medical Emergency Plan, Active Shelter Protocol. Floor Plans, Evacuation Routes, and Safe Places information are posted in public areas and classrooms.

## Infectious Disease Policy

TBR Institutions will comply with all Federal and State laws, Executive Orders, Rules, Regulations, and Guidance from Public Health Agencies/Authorities applicable to outbreaks of infectious and/or communicable diseases. This policy authorizes TBR institutions to enact policies, procedures, and/or plans to facilitate compliance with such laws, orders, and guidance, for the purpose of making best efforts to prevent the spread of infectious/communicable diseases within the campus community.

College employees, students, and other persons entering the premises of any TBR institution shall be required to comply with all policies, procedures, and/or plans established relating to the control of an outbreak of infectious/communicable diseases. Implementation and enforcement of policies, procedures, and/or plans promulgated in response to an outbreak of an infectious or communicable disease shall be enforced with the primary goal of achieving compliance with the applicable policy or plan. Removal from campus or discipline of individuals who are not compliant with the institution's policy or plan is authorized as necessary after efforts at obtaining compliance have been exhausted or as health, safety, and security require.

### Procedure

#### I. Infectious/Communicable Disease Plans

A. During certain communicable disease outbreaks such as a large epidemic or pandemic, TBR institutions may be required, or may find it appropriate, to develop and implement a plan or procedure to comply with laws, orders or directives issued by government or public health officials to address and/or curtail such outbreaks. In developing such plans/procedures, TBR institutions shall do so in a manner that is consistent with applicable lawful orders issued by government authorities and guidance from public health authorities including, but not limited to, the CDC, federal, state and local public health agencies. When creating such plan/procedure, TBR institutions shall also take care to comply with all applicable state and federal laws, including but not limited to, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA), and/or all laws governing/prohibiting unlawful discrimination. TBR institutions shall consult with the TBR Office of General Counsel (OGC) to ensure that any policy or plan promulgated in response to an outbreak of an infectious or communicable disease is compliant with such laws.

B. During an outbreak of an infectious/communicable disease, and consistent with guidance from appropriate health authorities, TBR institutions may take steps to identify and address potential actions or protocols that are appropriate given, the nature and circumstances associated with a particular outbreak/disease, including but not limited to the following:

1. Implementation of health screening protocols as a precondition to entry onto/into any campus or facility owned or controlled by a TBR institution, consistent with guidance or directives from local, state, or federal authorities.
2. Implementation of health safety protocols as a requirement of permitted presence for persons entering any campus or facility owned or controlled by a TBR institution, consistent with guidance or directives from local, state, or federal authorities. (E.g., wearing a mask or PPE to prevent shedding/spread of a virus.)
3. Establishment of requirements requiring individuals who travel to and from countries with active communicable disease outbreaks to report such travel and

quarantine and/or isolate for established periods of time prior to entry/return to any campus/facility owned or controlled by the institution.

4. Restrict business related travel to high-risk locations.

5. Require individuals seeking to return to any campus or facility after any period of travel, to self-quarantine, or isolate and to provide evidence of testing, screening(s) or other information from a treating medical professional, that the individual is free from, or not likely to transmit, a particular infectious/communicable disease consistent with public health/medical guidance, as permitted by law, prior to returning to any campus/facility.

6. Require individuals seeking to return to any campus or facility after any period of quarantine or isolation related to a diagnosis or exposure to an infectious/communicable disease to provide evidence of testing, screening(s) or other information from a treating medical professional, that the individual is free from or not medically likely to transmit a particular infectious/communicable disease at issue consistent with public health/medical guidance and as permitted by law, prior to returning to any campus/facility.

7. Inquire about any symptoms recently experienced, consistent with an infectious/communicable disease, by any individual seeking to enter campus.

8. Require an individual to submit to an appropriate medical evaluation from a physician of the College's choosing at the College's expense prior to entering any campus or facility.

9. Consult with an individual's physician (with appropriate consent) regarding the health of any individual relative to an infectious/communicable disease, prior to entering any campus or facility.

10. Consult with public health authorities and/or other qualified persons or resources, to assist in determining any appropriate course of action.

11. Exclude individuals from any campus/facility who are infected with, or have been exposed to, an infectious/communicable disease from any campus, facility, or activity. Employees will be subject to the College's policies, procedures and other requirements for requesting/receiving benefits and leaves of absence.

12. Offer accommodations to employees and students who are displaced from their regularly scheduled College events and/or activities due to an infectious/communicable disease.

13. Activate College Emergency Operations to consider measures such as social distancing, College closure, cleaning procedures, travel monitoring, class suspension, use of **PPE**, etc.

14. Implement other temporary action(s) that is/are reasonably required to prevent unacceptable risk of introduction or exposure of an infectious or communicable disease to a TBR institution's campus or community, until the College is able to consult with a physician or local, state or federal authorities.

15. Establish alternate work plans and/or education delivery plans.

16. Implement all health/safety requirements imposed by federal, state, and/or local authorities as applicable to members of the college community.

C. The primary focus of an institution's infectious/communicable disease plan shall be maintain and protect the health and safety of the campus community.

D. An institution's infectious/communicable disease plan should permit, to the extent reasonably possible, students who are impacted by an infectious/communicable disease to continue to participate in an educational program. An institution's infectious/communicable disease plan should permit, to the extent reasonably possible, employees who are impacted by an infectious/communicable disease to continue to work, as long as an employee is able to perform the essential functions of the job satisfactorily. The College will consider making

reasonable accommodations for impacted students and employees consistent with applicable federal, state, and local laws as well as guidance from public health authorities. Discrimination against and/or harassment of employees and/or students impacted by an infectious/communicable disease is prohibited and may result in disciplinary action.

E. Health care workers, personal service workers, and food service workers employed by the College will be expected to follow guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and protocols at Affiliate sites for the prevention of transmission of infectious/communicable diseases. The College will make educational materials on infectious, communicable diseases available for students and employees.

F.

## **II. Responsibilities**

### **A. General**

1. Through the President and/or designee, the Institutional Administration will develop procedures and regulations concerning the outbreak of infectious, communicable, and/or life-threatening diseases that are appropriate to the particular circumstances and guidance, and consistent with this policy. The President and/or designee should include individuals with appropriate authority over essential functions of the College as well as persons with relevant medical/health education/experience in the process to develop procedures and/or regulations responsive to the outbreak of an infectious/communicable disease. Such procedures and/or regulations will be published to the institutional community as appropriate. In meeting its compliance obligations TBR institutions will prioritize, in descending order:

- a. Health and Safety of the Campus and Surrounding Community,
- b. Continuity of Education Mission for Students,
- c. Minimized Disruption of Employment for Faculty & Staff

### **B. Environmental Health & Safety**

1. Plans will require the appropriate Vice President(s) or designees to coordinate environmental health & safety, police/security, custodial, and maintenance services personnel to ensure that procedures, regulations, and appropriate precautions are implemented to minimize the risk of introduction, exposure, and/or spread of infectious/communicable and/or life-threatening diseases. This will include special attention to custodial, public safety and other employees and students with increased likelihood of exposure to the infectious/communicable diseases.

### **C. Internal Communication of Procedures**

1. Plans will include the requirement that the appropriate Vice President(s), Chief Human Resources Officer(s) or designees will ensure education and outreach programs are developed to provide employees and students with appropriate factual material regarding relevant disease protocols and precautions.

2. Plans should ensure that clear guidance is provided about the referral of questions about infectious/communicable diseases or life-threatening illnesses to the appropriate Vice President, Chief Human Resources Officer, designee, or the

institution's Employee Assistance Program.

D. Response to Notifications

1. Infectious/Communicable disease plans should provide for the response to information acquired by the institution regarding any individual present on an institution's campus who is/has been diagnosed, infected, or exposed to an infectious/communicable disease. The plan will provide for the President and/or designee(s) to recommend medically reasonable efforts/action to confirm, assess, and respond to the reasonably anticipated risk to the campus community and communication with the appropriate health department authorities as required. Responsibilities will also include the confirmation of reports of infectious/communicable diseases impacting the institutions/campus/community.

E. External Communications

1. Infectious/Communicable disease plans should provide that decisions concerning official communications with external stakeholders will be disseminated from the President's or other designated office. TBR institutions will follow Tennessee Department of Health guidance for reporting occurrences to appropriate health authorities.

F. Confidentiality

1. Infectious/Communicable disease plans shall provide that TBR institutions will maintain confidentiality of medical information received and will not disclose the identity of any individual who has been infected, diagnosed or exposed to an infectious/communicable disease, except to individuals with a need to know or as may be permitted or required by law, absent consent from the affected individual.

2. College employees will be informed that they are to take reasonable precautions to comply with confidentiality obligations, e.g. FERPA, ADA, FMLA, HIPAA, and/or state confidentiality laws. An employee, other than the affected employee or student, who inappropriately releases confidential medical information shall be subject to disciplinary action, which may include termination of employment. In certain situations, specific government reporting requirements or a medical justification may necessitate the disclosure of health information, and nothing in this policy shall be construed to prohibit disclosure of health information consistent with mandatory and permissive disclosure laws and obligations.

## Campus Sexual Misconduct Policy

TCAT Ripley complies with TBR Policy No. 6.03.00.00 regarding Sexual Misconduct. All other forms of sex discrimination including sexual harassment are also strictly prohibited. Allegations that are not within the scope of this policy are subject to the procedures described in TBR Policies 6.01.00.00 & 6.02.00.00 and TBR Guideline P-080 located at <https://policies.tbr.edu/policies/sexual-discriminationharassmentmisconduct>.

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I. Prohibition of Sexual Misconduct and General Information

A. Sexual Misconduct is a form of sex discrimination prohibited by Title IX. TCAT Ripley is committed to eliminating any and all acts of Sexual Misconduct. As set forth in this policy,

Sexual Misconduct includes Title IX Sexual Harassment, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, Stalking, and Sexual Assault. TCAT Ripley strictly prohibits these offenses.

1. Because Sexual Misconduct is a subset of the broader category of sexual harassment, not all sexual harassment allegations will be handled according to this policy. Allegations of sexual harassment that do not fall within the more limited definition of Sexual Misconduct or otherwise do not meet the criteria for filing a Formal Complaint will be handled in accordance with TBR Guideline P-080 and institutional policy.
2. With respect to allegations of Sexual Misconduct against faculty and staff in which a student is not the Complainant, additional laws and policies apply, most notably Title VII and anti-discrimination policies. In such situations and absent unusual circumstances, the Complainant may file a Formal Complaint pursuant to this policy or proceed pursuant to TBR Guideline P-080 and the appropriate institutional policy.
3. With respect to allegations of Sexual Misconduct in which a student is either a Complainant or Respondent and meets the criteria for filing a Formal Complaint, absent unusual circumstances, pursuing a Formal Complaint pursuant to this policy will be the appropriate method of addressing the allegations.
4. Upon receiving and assessing a report of Sexual Misconduct and/or sexual harassment, the Title IX Coordinator will decide whether the criteria for proceeding under this policy are met and whether another policy may apply. If there is a possibility of proceeding pursuant to TBR Guideline P-080 and another institutional policy, the Title IX Coordinator will explain the options.
5. This policy applies to conduct by third parties. An example of a third party is a vendor with whom the institution contracts to provide services.
6. This policy applies to all students and employees, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

B. Title IX Coordinator

Complaints of Sexual Misconduct (or any sexual harassment or sex discrimination) should be made to:

TCAT Ripley Title IX Coordinator  
127 Industrial Drive  
Ripley, TN 38063  
(731)635-3368  
jacquene.rainey@tcatripley.edu

C. Lack of Bias and Equitable Treatment

1. Neither the Title IX Coordinator, any investigator, any decision-maker, any person designated to facilitate an informal resolution process, nor anyone deciding an appeal will have a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally, or against an individual Complainant or Respondent.
2. The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for appointing investigators, decision-makers, and appellate reviewers, and may appoint someone from another institution or someone not employed by a TBR institution in order to avoid potential bias or for other reasons. In the event of potential bias of the Title IX Coordinator, or if the Title IX Coordinator believes that another person should serve in that role for other reasons, the Title IX Coordinator should report the matter to TBR Central Office.
3. TCAT Ripley will provide a prompt, fair, and impartial investigation, adjudication, and, if applicable, disciplinary process. TCAT Ripley will treat Complainants and Respondents equitably, which includes an objective evaluation of all relevant evidence, including both evidence that tends to prove or disprove the allegations.

4. Credibility determinations will not be based on a person's status as a Complainant, Respondent, or witness.
5. The investigation will proceed with a presumption that the Respondent is not responsible for the alleged conduct unless and until a Determination of responsibility for a violation of this policy is made at the conclusion of the decision-making process. It is the institution's responsibility to establish Sexual Misconduct by a preponderance of the evidence.
6. The institution shall provide simultaneous written notification to the Parties of (1) any initial, interim, or final decision by an official authorized to resolve disciplinary matters, (2) any available appeal procedures for that decision, (3) any change to that decision, and (4) when that decision becomes final. The Parties will receive timely and equal access to information.

## II. How to Report Sexual Misconduct

- A. TCAT Ripley takes seriously all complaints of sexual discrimination, sexual harassment, and Sexual Misconduct. This section explains the various reporting, complaint, and confidential disclosure options available to enable individuals to make informed choices about where to turn should they experience sexual discrimination, sexual harassment, or Sexual Misconduct.
  1. Sexual Misconduct should be reported to the Title IX Coordinator. Such a report can be made at any time, including during non-business hours, by using the telephone number or electronic mail address, or office mail address. The contact information for TCAT Ripley's Title IX Coordinator is:
  2. JacQuene Rainey, Vice President, 127 Industrial Drive, Ripley, TN 38063 (731)635-3368, jacquene.rainey@tcatripley.edu
  3. TCAT Ripley recommends that reports and complaints of all Sexual Misconduct be made to the Title IX Coordinator so that the institution can respond appropriately. Although reports and complaints of Sexual Misconduct may be made at any time, reports should be made as soon as possible so that the institution is best able to address the allegation.
  4. TCAT Ripley encourages anyone who witnesses, experiences, or has information about possible Sexual Misconduct to take reasonable actions to prevent or stop such actions. This may include speaking up while the behavior is taking place or immediately afterwards, reporting the behavior (in accordance with the reporting options outlined in this policy), directly intervening when it is safe and reasonable to do so, contacting law enforcement, or other means. A person who has been subjected to any type of Sexual Misconduct need not confront the other Party. The appropriate process to address the conduct is through this or other applicable policy.
- B. Supportive and Interim Measures
  1. After receiving a report of potential Sexual Misconduct, whether or not the report is a Formal Complaint, the Title IX Coordinator will contact the Complainant to discuss the availability of Interim/Supportive Measures, inform the Complainant of their availability, and consider the Complainant's wishes with respect to potential Interim/Supportive Measures. The Title IX Coordinator will also explain the process for filing a Formal Complaint.
  2. The Title IX Coordinator, in conjunction with the appropriate department, may implement interim, supportive, or protective measures while assessing, investigating, and resolving the report. These Interim/Supportive Measures are non-disciplinary, non-punitive, individualized services and are offered without fee or charge to the Complainant or Respondent before or after the filing of a Formal Complaint or where no Formal Complaint has been filed. These measures are designed to restore or preserve equal access to the institution's programs or activities without unreasonably burdening the other Party and may include measures designed to protect the safety of all Parties or the institution's educational environment or deter Sexual Misconduct.



3. These measures may include, but are not limited to: mutual no-contact directives; access to counseling services and assistance in setting up an initial appointment; changing schedules, assignments, or job/study locations to lessen or minimize contact; extensions of deadlines and course-related adjustments; limiting or barring an individual's or organization's access to certain institutional facilities or activities; providing an escort to ensure safe movement on campus; providing academic support services, such as tutoring; arranging for a Party to re-take a course or withdraw from a class without penalty; administrative leave; leave of absence; institution-imposed leave or physical separation from individuals or locations.
  4. TCAT Ripley will attempt to maintain the confidentiality of such Interim/Supportive Measures, to the extent that it can do so without impairing its ability to effectuate the Interim/Supportive Measures or to investigate and adjudicate the complaint.
- C. Formal Complaint
1. Any person who has been a victim of Sexual Misconduct that took place within an education program or activity of TCAT Ripley in the United States may file a Formal Complaint under this policy.
  2. A Complainant who wants TCAT Ripley to conduct an investigation and take action in accordance with this policy must file a Formal Complaint alleging Sexual Misconduct.
  3. A Complainant must submit a written Formal Complaint in person, by mail, or via electronic mail to the Title IX Coordinator. The document must contain the Complainant's physical signature or a "digital signature." (A digital signature is information transmitted electronically that enables the Title IX Coordinator to determine that the Complainant is the person submitting the complaint, including, but not limited to, an email from their TCAT Ripley institutional account or a typed version of the Complainant's name. A digital signature need not reproduce a written signature.) A Formal Complaint cannot be submitted anonymously. Only the Title IX Coordinator can submit a Formal Complaint on behalf of another person.
  4. Although TCAT Ripley will attempt to consider the wishes of Complainants, including that no investigation be conducted, TCAT Ripley will also consider their obligations under both TBR policy and applicable law, including Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Thus, when the Title IX Coordinator receives a report of Sexual Misconduct, and especially when the complaint involves an employee, the Title IX Coordinator may decide to investigate the matter pursuant to Guideline P-080 and institutional policy, even if the Complainant does not want the report investigated. If the Title IX Coordinator decides to file a Formal Complaint, the Title IX Coordinator is not a "Party" to any investigation, Determination or hearing process.
  5. Complainants should provide as much of the following information as possible: what happened, where, and when; names of all people involved, including witnesses (if any); supporting documentation (if any); and contact information. TCAT Ripley encourages reporting of Sexual Misconduct even if some or all information is unavailable or cannot be provided. The Title IX Coordinator will explain their role, the options for reporting an incident, potential available Interim/Supportive Measures, and the available resources for assistance.
- D. Confidential Resources (who will not share information with Title IX Coordinator)
1. TCAT Ripley encourages victims of Sexual Misconduct to talk to someone about what happened, whether they want their report to be investigated or not, so that they can get the support they need. Some resources are confidential and should be considered if the Complainant does not want the institution to investigate the matter. If a victim chooses to report an incident of sexual misconduct in a confidential manner, the victim can report the incident to the following agency who



employs licensed counselors and is required to maintain confidentiality in accordance with Tennessee State law:

**West TN Location Nearest Sexual Assault Program**

**Jackson Madison General Hospital 620 Skyline Dr Jackson TN**

**Wo/Men's Resource & Rape Assistance Program (WRAP) 800-273-8712**

**SANes on staff; Call 731-541-6289 for the SANE message information line  
Madison**

**Shelby County Crime Victims & Rape Crisis Center 1060 Madison Ave**

**Memphis TN 901-222-4350**

**Sexual assault advocates and counselors on staff NPs/SANes on staff & on-call 24/7 Shelby**

**For questions or additional resources, please call the Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic & Sexual Violence at 615-386-9406.**

2. TCAT Ripley contracts with WellVia to provide virtual telehealth and mental health services. Should a victim choose to utilize such services, WellVia will not report any information about an incident to the Title IX Coordinator without the victim's permission. 855-WELLVIA  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MscOfKB15sLjeWfsMvDHzliVj7xOocWuStaw6Ex03c/edit>
  3. Counselors and health care providers not affiliated with TCAT Ripley will generally maintain confidentiality and not share information with the institution unless the Complainant requests the disclosure and signs a consent or waiver form. However, these resources may have reporting obligations under state or federal law. For example, healthcare providers and certain other individuals are required to notify law enforcement when a person seeks treatment for injuries related to a violent crime, including injuries resulting from Sexual Misconduct or abuse of a minor.
- E. Reporting by Employees
1. All employees who learn of Sexual Misconduct (or any form of sexual harassment or sex discrimination, or retaliation) are encouraged to report such matters to the Title IX Coordinator.
  2. Supervisors and managers who learn of Sexual misconduct (or any form of sexual harassment or sex discrimination, or retaliation *must immediately* report such concerns to the Title IX Coordinator.
- F. Anonymous and Third-Party/Bystander Reporting
1. TCAT Ripley encourages third parties to report incidents of Sexual Misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator. TCAT Ripley may not be able to move forward with third-party reports if the Complainant does not wish to file a Formal Complaint or cooperate with an investigation.
  2. After providing a report, third parties are not entitled to information about the institution's investigation and response due to privacy concerns and applicable federal and state laws.
- G. Abuse of Minors
1. Tennessee law mandates reporting by any person who has knowledge of physical or mental harm to a child if: (1) the nature of the harm reasonably indicates it was caused by brutality, abuse, or neglect; or (2) on the basis of available information, the harm reasonably appears to have been caused by brutality, abuse, or neglect. Tennessee law also mandates reporting by any person who knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been sexually abused, regardless of whether the child has sustained any apparent injury as a result of the abuse.

2. In the event of a life-threatening emergency, a report of child abuse or child sexual abuse should be made by calling 911. In other cases, a report of child abuse or child sexual abuse must be made immediately to one of the following authorities:
  - a. The Tennessee Department of Children's Services (the Central Intake Child Abuse Hotline is 1-877-237-0004);
  - b. The sheriff of the county where the child resides;
  - c. The chief law enforcement official of the city where the child resides; or
  - d. A judge having juvenile jurisdiction over the child.
3. In addition, TCAT Ripley employees shall make a report of child abuse or child sexual abuse in connection with an institutional program or activity to the Title IX Coordinator. Note that a report to TCAT Ripley law enforcement or security agency is not sufficient to comply with state law.

#### H. Law Enforcement

1. The following law enforcement agencies listed in this policy are available for emergency response, facilitating medical transport, investigating incidents of a criminal nature, referrals, and preserving evidence. Law enforcement may be required to report potential violations of this policy to the Title IX Coordinator and to report incidents of sexual assault and other criminal acts of a serious nature to other law enforcement authorities.

The main campus is located in the City of Ripley, and is under the jurisdiction of:

**Ripley Police Department, 110 Washington Street, Ripley, TN 38063, 731-635-1515.**

**Lauderdale County Sheriff's Office, 675 U.S. 51, Ripley, TN 38063, 731-635-1311.**

The Bells Educational Service Center is located in Bells, TN and is under the jurisdiction of:

**Bells City Police Department, 12987 US-79, Bells, TN 38006, 731-663-3131**

#### I. Reporting Pursuant to the Nottingham Act.

1. Unless the victim of a rape does not consent to the reporting of an offense, the chief security officer or chief law enforcement officer of each institution shall immediately notify the local law enforcement agency with territorial jurisdiction over the institution if the officer is in receipt of a report from the victim alleging that any degree of rape has occurred on the property of the institution. The chief security officer or chief law enforcement officer shall designate one (1) or more persons who shall have the authority and duty to notify the appropriate law enforcement agency in the absence of the chief security officer or chief law enforcement officer. In the case of an alleged rape, the institution's law enforcement agency shall lead the investigation. After notifying the local law enforcement agency, the institution shall cooperate in every respect with the investigation conducted by the law enforcement agency. T.C.A. § 49-7-129.
2. If the victim does not consent to the reporting, the chief security officer or chief law enforcement officer at TCAT Ripley shall not report the offense to the local law enforcement agency. T.C.A. § 49-7-2207; T.C.A. § 49-7-129.

#### III. Additional Information

##### A. No Retaliation

1. Retaliation against a person who makes a report or files a complaint, participates or assists in an investigation, encourages another to file a complaint, or opposes Sexual Misconduct (or any other form of discrimination prohibited by institutional policy) is prohibited. Individuals must not interfere with an investigation.

Retaliation will result in disciplinary measures, up to and including termination or expulsion.

2. In order to help prevent retaliation, TCAT Ripley's policy is to keep confidential the identity of anyone who has made a report or complaint of sex discrimination, including anyone who has filed a Formal Complaint of Sexual Misconduct, any Complainant, any Respondent, and any witness except as is required to carry out TCAT Ripley's responsibilities under this policy, as permitted by FERPA, or as required by law.
3. Anyone who wishes to file a complaint of retaliation should contact the Title IX Coordinator.

B. Emergency Removal/Administrative Leave

1. If it appears, based on an allegation of Sexual Misconduct, that a student may constitute an immediate and direct threat to the physical health or safety of another individual, TCAT Ripley will conduct an individualized inquiry and risk analysis and may place the student on interim suspension on an emergency basis. If the institution implements an interim suspension, the student shall be given the opportunity at the time of the decision, or as soon thereafter as reasonably possible, to contest the interim suspension. Institutions shall follow the procedures set forth in TBR Policy 3.02.00.01-General Regulations on Student Conduct & Disciplinary Sanctions (and applicable institutional policies) before placing any student on interim suspension.
2. TCAT Ripley may place employees on administrative leave or similar action while addressing allegations of Sexual Misconduct.
3. Visitors, vendors, and other third Parties may be removed from the premises consistent with applicable policies and procedures.

C. Court Orders

1. Individuals may seek orders of protection, restraining orders, or other similar orders from a court of law.

D. Participation in the Formal Complaint process by a Complainant, Respondent, institution, or other person does not waive applicable privileges, including attorney-client privilege, doctor-patient privilege, the peer review/quality improvement privilege, etc. The holder of a privilege may waive it in certain circumstances.

IV. Investigation and Outcomes

A. The Office of General Counsel shall always be consulted prior to investigation.

B. Intake and Assessment of Formal Complaints

1. The Title IX Coordinator will assess the nature of reports and Formal Complaints, including whether one or more allegations meet the criteria for the filing of a Formal Complaint (e.g., whether the allegations include conduct that, if proven, took place in the United States and will constitute Sexual Misconduct in an education program or activity by a participant or someone attempting to participate in the education program or activity). Formal Complaints that include some allegations that, if proved, constitute Sexual Misconduct and some that do not meet that definition, will be handled pursuant to this policy. As appropriate, the Title IX Coordinator may initiate proceedings under another policy, refer the matter to another department, and/or inform the Complainant about the availability of other methods to address the allegations.
2. As part of the assessment, the Title IX Coordinator or designee may contact the Complainant and ask for information about the allegations. Supporting documents, such as emails, photos, text messages, and any other evidence should be preserved. If witnesses were present or have relevant knowledge, it is important to identify them, state what they may know, and inform the investigator how they can be contacted.
3. Where Formal Complaints involving more than one Complainant and/or more than one Respondent arise out of the same facts and circumstances, the Title IX Coordinator may consolidate Formal Complaints.

C. Notice of Allegations

1. Upon receipt of a Formal Complaint, the Title IX Coordinator will provide written notice to known Parties. (A Notice of Allegations will be provided even if the Formal Complaint is dismissed at the same time or shortly after the Notice of Allegations issues (e.g., the allegations if proven do not meet the definition of Sexual Misconduct)). The Notice of Allegations will enable both Parties to appeal the dismissal or to proceed under another policy.) The Notice of Allegations shall contain:
  - a. an explanation of the investigation and grievance process, including a copy of or link to TCAT Ripley I policy, as well as any other applicable policies;
  - b. the availability of an informal resolution process;
  - c. explanation of the allegations potentially constituting Sexual Misconduct in sufficient detail and with sufficient time to prepare a response before any initial interview. A Respondent will have at least three (3) business days after issuance of a Notice of Allegations prior to an initial interview, but depending on the nature of the allegations, additional time may be offered or requested;
  - d. the identity of the Parties involved in the incident, if known, and the date and location of the alleged incident;
  - e. a statement that the Respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct unless and until a Determination of responsibility has been issued;
  - f. a statement that the Parties may have an advisor of their choice at meetings they are permitted to attend. The advisor may be, but is not required to be, an attorney. (Parties may hire their own attorneys. At a live hearing only, TCAT Ripley will provide advisors to Parties who do not have their own);
  - g. any statements in TBR institutional policies, procedures, or guidelines that prohibit knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the process; and
  - h. a statement that retaliation against a person who makes a report or files a complaint, participates or assists in an investigation, encourages another to file a complaint, or opposes Sexual Misconduct is prohibited and will result in disciplinary measures, up to and including termination or dismissal.
2. If, during the course of an investigation, TCAT Ripley decides to investigate allegations about the Complainant or Respondent that are not included in the Notice of Allegations, TCAT Ripley will provide additional written Notice of Allegations to known Parties.

D. Dismissal of Formal Complaints

1. The Title IX Coordinator shall obtain advice from the Office of General Counsel before dismissing a Formal Complaint.
2. If the Title IX Coordinator concludes that the Complainant was not participating in or attempting to participate in an institutional education program or activity at the time of the Formal Complaint or that the conduct alleged in a Formal Complaint would not constitute Sexual Misconduct even if proved, did not occur in an institution's education program or activity, or did not occur against a person while in the United States, the Title IX Coordinator shall dismiss the Formal Complaint.
3. The Title IX Coordinator has discretion to dismiss a Formal Complaint or any allegations in it, if at any time during the investigation or hearing a Complainant notifies the Title IX Coordinator in writing that the Complainant would like to withdraw the Formal Complaint or any allegations in it; the Respondent is no longer enrolled by, employed by, or associated with a TBR institution; or specific circumstances prevent the TBR institution from gathering evidence sufficient to reach a Determination as to the Formal Complaint or allegations therein.

4. The Title IX Coordinator may decide to dismiss a Formal Complaint of Sexual Misconduct and refer the matter for disposition pursuant to a different policy, guideline, or process when an allegation of Sexual Misconduct is dismissed or when a Formal Complaint ceases to include an allegation of Sexual Misconduct.
  5. Upon dismissal of a Formal Complaint for any reason, the Title IX Coordinator will promptly send written notice explaining the reasons for dismissal to the Parties. The dismissal notice will also explain whether TCAT Ripley will investigate or respond to the allegations under another policy, guideline, or process and the availability of other methods to address the allegations.
- E. Informal Resolution
1. Because a full investigation and adjudication process may not be in the best interests of all concerned, the Title IX Coordinator may decide to offer an informal resolution process. The informal resolution process is designed to provide flexibility in crafting a resolution to a Formal Complaint that meets the needs of the Parties and TCAT Ripley. Informal resolutions may include meetings facilitated by TCAT Ripley or third parties, resolutions facilitated by the Title IX Coordinator without formal meetings, mediations, and/or restorative justice concepts. Disciplinary action may or may not be part of any informal resolution. Both Parties must agree in writing to participate in any informal resolution process that the Title IX Coordinator may offer.
  2. An informal resolution process is only available after the filing of a Formal Complaint and prior to a Determination regarding responsibility. If the Title IX Coordinator believes an informal resolution may be appropriate, the Title IX Coordinator will propose an informal resolution process in either the initial Notice of Allegations or a subsequent written document. The Title IX Coordinator may discuss with the Parties the details of how the process will work. The written notice will contain the allegations or refer to the Notice of Allegations, set out the informal resolution process, explain that at any time prior to agreeing to a resolution, the Complainant, Respondent, or TCAT Ripley may withdraw from the informal resolution process and resume the investigation and adjudication process under this policy, and identify any records that will be maintained or shared related to the process.
  3. The Title IX Coordinator will not offer or facilitate an informal resolution process to resolve allegations that an employee engaged in Sexual Misconduct against a student.
- F. Investigation of Formal Complaints
1. TCAT Ripley will investigate all Formal Complaints, unless dismissed or resolved through an informal resolution. During the investigation:
    - a. TCAT Ripley will not access, consider, disclose, or otherwise use a Party's records that are made or maintained by a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or other recognized professional acting in the professional's capacity and made or maintained in connection with the treatment to the Party, unless the Party voluntarily consents in writing;
    - b. The investigator will conduct an investigation that is appropriate under the circumstances. The investigation will include a review of documents and physical evidence, as well as interviews with the Parties and other. The investigator may request access to premises, records, and documents deemed relevant. As the investigation progresses, the investigator may seek clarification, including during a subsequent interview, from any person participating in the investigation regarding the incident or their statement. A Party who learns or remembers any additional information should notify the investigator immediately. The Parties will have an equal opportunity to provide evidence and to identify witnesses, including fact and expert witnesses. Parties are encouraged to provide, as soon as possible, any evidence that the Party believes to be relevant and wants the investigator



to consider. If at all possible, all evidence should be provided in time for the investigator to make it available for inspection and review;

- c. Although the Parties are encouraged to provide TCAT Ripley with information and evidence related to the allegations, TCAT Ripley is ultimately responsible for gathering evidence sufficient to reach a Determination regarding responsibility;
- d. TCAT Ripley will not restrict the Parties from discussing the allegations under investigation or from gathering and presenting relevant evidence. Any restrictions on the ability of the Parties to discuss matters related to the proceeding but which are not under investigation will be explained in the Notice of Allegations;
- e. Each Party will have the opportunity to obtain and to be accompanied to a meeting or proceeding by an advisor of their choice, who may, but is not required to be, an attorney, in accordance with Section IV.H. below;
- f. When a Party is invited or expected to participate in a meeting, TCAT Ripley will provide written notice of the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of the meeting, interview, or hearing, with sufficient time for the Party to prepare to participate;
- g. Both Parties will have an equal opportunity to inspect and review any evidence obtained as part of the investigation that is directly related to the allegations raised in a Formal Complaint, including evidence that is directly related to the allegations but upon which TCAT Ripley does not intend to rely in reaching a Determination regarding responsibility. TCAT Ripley will include both evidence that tends to prove and disprove the allegations, whether obtained from a Party or other source, so that each Party can meaningfully respond to the evidence prior to the conclusion of the investigation;
- h. Prior to the completion of an investigative report, TCAT Ripley will send to each Party the evidence subject to inspection and review. Unless a Party requests that TCAT Ripley not do so, TCAT Ripley will also send the evidence to each advisor who has been identified. TCAT Ripley may decide to provide access to evidence through electronic means that is not available for download. In such case, the Parties and their advisors are prohibited from, directly or indirectly, photographing or reproducing such evidence (unless the Party has independent access to the evidence independent of the portal, e.g., documents submitted by the Party or publicly available information); and
- i. TCAT Ripley will provide at least ten (10) calendar days for the Parties to respond to the evidence provided for inspection and review. The investigator will share any written response with the other Party and will consider any written response prior to completing the investigative report.

G. Investigation Report

- 1. At the conclusion of the investigation, the investigator will prepare written report. The report shall:
  - a. identify the allegations;
  - b. identify relevant policies, guidelines, and other standards;
  - c. explain the procedural steps taken between receipt of the Formal Complaint and the conclusion of the investigation, including all notifications to the Parties, interviews with the Parties, interviews with other witnesses, dates of all interviews, any site visits, and the methods used to gather evidence; and
  - d. fairly summarize the relevant evidence.
- 2. The written report shall not make findings of fact or conclusions regarding the application of facts to this policy.

3. At least (ten) 10 calendar days prior to a hearing, the investigator will send to each Party the investigation report in either electronic or hard copy, for their review and written response. Unless a Party requests that TCAT Ripley not do so, TCAT Ripley will also send the investigation report to an advisor whom the Party has been identified.
  4. The Parties should provide any written response as soon as possible, as the investigator may issue an amended investigation report if the investigator deems appropriate and if a Party provides comments in sufficient time for the investigator to do so. The Parties' written responses and any amended investigation report will be sent to the decision-maker.
- H. Advisors
1. Both the Complainant and the Respondent will be permitted to have an advisor of their choosing present during meetings where their attendance is permitted or expected. Nothing in this policy shall be read to require that TCAT Ripley allow a Party to attend an interview of the other Party or of a witness.
  2. The advisor may accompany and confer privately with a Party, but the advisor may not interrupt, speak on behalf of a Party, or otherwise actively participate in any meeting, except for conducting cross-examination at a live hearing.
  3. An advisor's failure to comply with these guidelines may result in the termination of the meeting or the advisor no longer being permitted to be present.
  4. TBR and TCAT Ripley personnel employed in the offices responsible for the disciplinary proceedings described in this policy, along with those in the chain of command, personnel employed by OGC, and others whose participation could create a conflict of interest with their duties are not eligible to serve as advisors. TCAT Ripley shall not otherwise limit the choice of an advisor.
  5. If there is a question or concern about a possible advisor, the Title IX Coordinator should be consulted. A Party choosing to have an attorney present as an advisor must provide advance notice so that a member of OGC can attend any meeting at which an attorney will be present.
- I. Recordings
1. Parties are not permitted to record any meeting conducted pursuant to this policy.
  2. When a live hearing is conducted, TCAT Ripley will create an audio recording, audiovisual recording, or transcript and make it available to the Parties for inspection and review.
- J. Past Relationships and Conduct
1. Previous sexual relationships of the Complainant and Respondent with third parties generally are irrelevant.
  2. A past sexual relationship between the Complainant and Respondent may or may not be relevant. For example, past sexual encounters may provide insight on communication patterns for purposes of determining whether consent was present.
  3. Questions and evidence about a Complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant, unless such questions and evidence about the Complainant's prior sexual behavior are offered to prove that someone other than the Respondent committed the conduct alleged by the Complainant, or if the questions and evidence concern specific incidents of the Complainant's prior sexual behavior with respect to Respondent and are offered to prove consent.
- K. Standard of Evidence
1. TCAT Ripley use the preponderance of the evidence standard of evidence in evaluating whether Sexual Misconduct occurred. This standard looks at whether it is "more likely than not" that this policy was violated.
  2. The burden of proof will remain with TCAT Ripley through the Determination.
- L. Timeline
1. Formal Complaints typically will be resolved (exclusive of any appeals) within 90 calendar days of filing.



2. Appeals will be resolved within fifteen (15) calendar days of the filing of an appeal.
  3. Given the many variables and factors that may arise in such cases, additional time may be needed in some cases. Any departure from these frames will be for good cause and communicated in writing or by email to both the Complainant and the Respondent simultaneously, along with a new timeline and explanation of the reasons. Good cause to extent the deadlines includes, but is not limited to, the absence of a Party, a Party's advisor, or witness; concurrent law enforcement activity; or the need for language assistance or the accommodation of disabilities.
  4. Incompletion of the process within such time frames is not cause for dismissal of a Formal Complaint.
- M. Parallel Investigations with Law Enforcement
1. The filing of a police report or the pendency of civil or criminal proceedings does not preclude TCAT Ripley from proceeding with its investigation and Determination.
  2. The investigation and Determination may be delayed until law enforcement has finished gathering evidence and indicated that TCAT Ripley may proceed with an investigation, but TCAT Ripley generally will not wait for the conclusion of any criminal proceeding.
  3. Civil or criminal proceedings are separate and distinct from internal TCAT Ripley proceedings, and they may or may not run parallel to one another. However, TCAT Ripley may be required by law to provide information in civil or criminal proceedings.
  4. TCAT Ripley policies shall set forth parameters and clarify what information may and may not be shared during a parallel investigation with law enforcement (e.g., via a memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement).
- N. Live Hearings
1. TCAT Ripley will conduct a live hearing of Formal Complaints not dismissed pursuant to this policy in order to make a Determination whether this policy has been violated. The decision-maker appointed by the Title IX Coordinator has the authority to maintain order at the hearing and make all decisions necessary for the fair, orderly, and expeditious conduct of the hearing. The decision-maker shall be the final decider concerning all aspects of the hearing, including prehearing matters and at the hearing, how evidence is examined and the order of witnesses.
  2. At the request of either Party, TCAT Ripley will provide for the live hearing to be conducted with the Parties located in separate rooms with technology enabling the decision-maker and Parties to simultaneously see and hear the Party or the witness answering questions.
  3. In cases involving more than one Respondent, any Party may request separate hearings by submitting a request at least five (5) business days before the hearing. The Title IX Coordinator will decide whether to grant the request.
  4. Live hearings may be conducted with all Parties physically present in the same geographic location or, at TCAT Ripley's discretion, any or all Parties, witnesses and other participants may appear at the live hearing virtually, with technology enabling participants simultaneously to see and hear each other.
  5. At least ten (10) business days prior to a live hearing, TCAT Ripley will provide both Parties with written notice of the following:
    - a. The time, place, date of the hearing, and electronic access information, if applicable;
    - b. The name of each witness TCAT Ripley expects to present or be present at the hearing and those TCAT Ripley may present if the need arises;
    - c. The right to request a copy of the investigative file (other than portions that are protected by law or privilege), which includes all of the evidence obtained as part of the investigation that is directly related to the allegations raised in the Formal Complaint;

- d. The right to request copies of all documents, copies of electronically stored information, and access to tangible evidence that TCAT Ripley has in its possession, custody, or control and may use to support claims or defenses;
  - e. The right to have an advisor of the Party's choice, who may be, but is not required to be an attorney, and that if the Party does not have an advisor present at the hearing, TCAT Ripley will provide an advisor of TCAT Ripley's choice, without fee or charge, to ask the other Party and any witnesses all relevant questions and follow-up questions on behalf of that Party;
  - f. Any Party in need of a TCAT Ripley -provided advisor must inform the Title IX Coordinator at least five (5) business days before the hearing;
  - g. Any cross-examination of any other Party or witness must be conducted by the advisor; and
  - h. Other information may be included in the notice of hearing.
6. When notice is sent by U.S. mail or courier service, the notice is effective on the date the notice is mailed or delivered to the courier service. When notice is hand delivered by TCAT Ripley, notice is effective on the date that the notice is delivered to the Parties. When notice is sent by email, the notice is effective on the date that the email is sent to the Parties' TCAT Ripley -provided email account.
  7. The decision-maker may conduct a pre-hearing meeting or conference with the Parties and their advisors to discuss pre-hearing issues, including any technology to be used at the hearing and the general rules governing the hearing.
  8. The decision-maker may allow a temporary delay of the process or the limited extension of time frames for good cause with written notice to the Parties of the delay or extension and the reasons for the action. Good cause may include, but is not limited to, considerations such as the absence of a Party, a Party's advisor, or a witness; concurrent law enforcement activity; or the need for language assistance or accommodation of disabilities.
  9. If a Party fails to attend a hearing, the decision-maker may proceed without that Party's participation.
  10. During the hearing, the decision-maker will make evidence subject to review and inspection during the investigation phase available to give each Party equal opportunity to refer to that evidence, including for purposes of cross-examination.
  11. Questions and evidence about the Complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant, unless such questions and evidence about the Complainant's prior sexual behavior are offered to provide that someone other than the Respondent committed the conduct alleged by the Complainant, or if the questions and evidence concern specific incidents of the Complainant's prior sexual behavior with respect to the Respondent and are offered to prove consent.
  12. Only relevant cross-examination questions may be asked of a Party or witness. Before a Complainant, Respondent, or witness answers a cross-examination or question from someone other than the decision-maker, the decision-maker will first determine whether the question is relevant and explain any decision to exclude a question as not relevant.
  13. The decision-maker will not require, allow, rely upon, or otherwise use questions or evidence that constitute, or seek disclosure of, information protected under a legally recognized privilege, unless the person holding the privilege has waived the privilege.
  14. The decision-maker will permit each Party's advisor to ask the other Party and any witnesses all relevant questions and follow-up questions, including those challenging credibility. Such cross-examination at the live hearing will be conducted directly, orally, and in real time by the Party's advisor and never by a Party personally. Conducting cross-examination will be the advisor's only opportunity to speak. Advisors will not engage in other presentation of arguments or evidence, including opening statements, closing arguments, or direct examinations.

15. If a Party does not have an advisor at the live hearing, TCAT Ripley will provide without fee or charge to that Party an advisor. TCAT Ripley will choose the advisor.
16. If a Party or witness does not submit to cross-examination at the live hearing, the decision-maker will not rely on any statement of that Party or witness in reaching a Determination regarding responsibility; provided however, that the decision-maker cannot draw an inference about the Determination regarding responsibility based solely on a Party's or witness's absence from the live hearing or refusal to answer cross examination or other questions.
17. For good cause shown, a decision-maker may permit the participation of witnesses who were not identified by the Party to the investigator, or the inclusion of evidence not provided by the Party to the investigator.
18. TCAT Ripley will create an audio or audiovisual recording, or transcript, of a live hearing and make it available to the Parties for inspection and review.
19. The decision-maker may dismiss the Formal Complaint or any allegations therein, if at any time during the hearing a Complainant notifies the Title IX Coordinator in writing that the Complainant would like to withdraw a Formal Complaint or any allegations therein, the Respondent is no longer enrolled or employed by TCAT Ripley, or specific circumstances prevent TCAT Ripley from gathering evidence sufficient to reach a Determination as to the Formal Complaint or allegations therein.
20. If the decision maker dismisses the Formal Complaint during the grievance process, the decision-maker will promptly notify the Title IX Coordinator, who will promptly send written notice of the dismissal and reasons therefor simultaneously to the Parties.

O. Written Determination

1. Within fifteen (15) business days of the hearing, the decision-maker will issue a written Determination, based on a preponderance of the evidence standard, which will be provided to the Parties simultaneously.
2. The Determination becomes final either on the date that TCAT Ripley provides the Parties with a written result of an appeal, or if an appeal is available but not filed, the day after the deadline to appeal.
3. The Determination will include:
  - a. Identification of the allegations potentially constituting Sexual Misconduct, as well as identification of any additional allegations that are being resolved but which do not constitute Sexual Misconduct;
  - b. A description of the procedural steps taken between receipt of the Formal Complaint and the Determination, including all notifications to the Parties, interviews with Parties and witnesses, site visits, methods used to gather other evidence, and any hearings held;
  - c. Findings of fact supporting the Determination;
  - d. Conclusions regarding the application of this policy, as well as any other relevant policy, guidelines, or code, to the facts;
  - e. A statement of, and rationale for, the result as to each allegation before the decision-maker, including a Determination regarding responsibility;
  - f. Any disciplinary action that the decision-maker imposes on the Respondent, including referral to another process, such as tenure termination proceedings;
  - g. Any remedies that TCAT Ripley will provide designed to restore or preserve equal access to the Complainant; and
  - h. The permissible bases and procedures, including timelines, for appeals by the Parties.

P. Remedies and Disciplinary Action Following Determinations of Violations

1. TCAT Ripley will provide remedies where a Determination of responsibility for Sexual Misconduct has been made. TCAT Ripley will follow this policy before the

imposition of any disciplinary sanctions for Sexual Misconduct that are not supportive/interim measures.

2. Remedies will be designed to restore or preserve equal access to education programs and activities and will include discipline under the applicable policies and procedures. Remedies may include verbal warnings, written warnings, final written warnings, suspension, termination of employment, non-renewal of appointment, or dismissal from TCAT Ripley. Faculty may be subject to proceedings under TBR Policies 5.02.03.10 and 5.02.03.30.
3. Remedies should also consider improvements to the campus-wide environment. It is the intent of TBR that TCAT Ripley consider the impact of an incident of Sexual Misconduct on the campus as a whole or specific groups or areas of campus. For example, specific training may be needed for a student group.
4. The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for ensuring effective implementation of the remedies.

Q. Appeals/Post-Determination Procedures

1. Parties are permitted to appeal to the TCAT Ripley's President (or other person appointed by the Title IX Coordinator) from a Determination regarding responsibility (or no responsibility) and from a dismissal of a Formal Complaint or of any allegations in a Formal Complaint on the basis of:
  - a. procedural irregularity that affected the outcome of the matter;
  - b. new evidence that was not reasonably available at the time the Determination or dismissal was made, but only if that new evidence could affect the outcome of the matter;
  - c. The Title IX Coordinator, investigator(s), or decision-maker(s) had a conflict of interest or bias for or against Complainants or Respondents generally or the individual Complainant or Respondent that affected the outcome.
2. A Party wishing to appeal a Determination regarding responsibility or the dismissal of a Formal Complaint or any allegations therein must file a written appeal with the Title IX Coordinator within seven (7) business days of the date of the Determination or the dismissal. The written appeal must identify the reasons for the appeal.
3. As to all appeals, the Title IX Coordinator will:
  - a. Notify the other Party in writing when an appeal is filed;
  - b. Implement appeal procedures equally for both Parties;
  - c. Ensure that the decision-maker(s) for the appeal is not the same person as the investigator, the decision-maker, or Title IX Coordinator;
  - d. Provide each Party five (5) business days to provide a written statement in support of, or challenging, the Determination.
4. The decider of the appeal will issue a written decision describing the result of the appeal and the rationale for the result, and will provide the written decision simultaneously to the Parties.

V. Victim Services

- A. The resources listed below are not exhaustive or limited to victims who wish to make an official report or participate in an institutional hearing, police investigation or criminal prosecution. However, in cases where a victim wishes to maintain complete confidentiality, the victim should carefully review Section II above related to the limits on the College's ability to maintain confidentiality.

1. On Campus Resources

Office of the Title IX Coordinator	127 Industrial Drive, Ripley TN 38063	Jacquene Rainey (731)635-3368 Jacquene.rainey@tcatripley.edu
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Student Services Coordinator	127 Industrial Drive, Ripley TN 38063	Amy Stephens (731)635-3368 astephens@tcatripley.edu
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2. On-line Resources:

<http://tncoalition.org/> - State Coalition Against Rape  
(use this link <https://www.tncoalition.org/help-in-your-area> to also provide information specific to your area)

<http://tncoalition.org/> - State Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
<http://www.thehotline.org/> - Website for LGBTQ survivors of sexual or domestic violence and minority women survivors of sexual or domestic violence

<http://www.pandys.org/> Website providing information, support and resources to survivors of rape and sexual abuse

<http://www.rainn.org> – Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network

<http://www.justice.gov/ovw> - Department of Justice

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/index.html> - Department of Education Office for Civil Rights

Please list additional agencies, either local, state or national as pertinent.

VI. Victim Services Policy

A. The following individuals may be able to assist in the event of an emergency

1. On Campus

- a. Youlanda Jones, President, (731)635-3368, [yjones@tcatripley.edu](mailto:yjones@tcatripley.edu)  
JacQuene Rainey, Vice President (731)635-3368,  
[jacquene.rainey@tcatripley.edu](mailto:jacquene.rainey@tcatripley.edu)  
Amy Stephens, Student Services Coordinator, (731)635-3368,  
[astephens@tcatripley.edu](mailto:astephens@tcatripley.edu)
- b. JacQuene Rainey, Title IX Coordinator (731)635-3368,  
[jacquene.rainey@tcatripley.edu](mailto:jacquene.rainey@tcatripley.edu)

2. Off Campus

- a. Ripley Police Department – (731)635-1515  
Lauderdale County Sheriff Department – (731)635-1311  
Bells City Police Department – (731)663-3131

B. The following health care options are available to seek treatment for injuries, preventative treatment for sexually transmitted diseases, and where and how to get a rape kit or find a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE);

1. Jackson Madison County General Hospital  
620 Skyline Drive, Jackson, TN 38301  
(731)541-5000

Lauderdale Community Hospital  
326 Asbury Avenue  
Ripley, TN 38063  
(731)221-2200

2. Where and how to get a rape kit and location of a SANE link to list  
(<https://f62034bb-6cd2-4e27-a3c9->

f)

3. Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic & Sexual Violence – (615)-386-9406

C. It is very important for the Complainant to seek medical attention immediately so that the Complainant can be screened for sexually transmitted diseases/pregnancy/drugs that may have been used to incapacitate, obtain emergency contraception, and receive treatment for any injuries. Valuable physical evidence can be obtained from the Complainant and the Complainant's clothing. Even those who are unsure whether to make a police report or take action may wish to have a forensic examination, which will facilitate the identification and preservation of physical evidence;

1. To help preserve evidence in the event of a sexual assault, it is important for the Complainant not to change clothes or bedding and not take a shower, douche, use the toilet, brush their teeth, or clean up until police have had a chance to gather evidence. However, if a Complainant has already changed clothes or cleaned up/showered, evidence may still be collected. The Complainant should leave any clothes or bedding unfolded and undisturbed, if possible. If clothing or bedding must be moved, items should be kept separate to prevent transfer of body fluids or other trace evidence. Parties should not delete or destroy any text messages, social media, emails, voicemails, written notes, or any other documents that may be relevant.

2. The following sources are available to accompany a victim to the hospital or health provider;

These services are available for victims of Sexual Misconduct whether or not a victim chooses to make an official report or participate in the institutional disciplinary or criminal process.

VII. Education, Training, and Awareness

A. TCAT Ripley offers educational programming and training to their students, faculty, and staff that are intended to end Sexual Misconduct.

VIII. TCAT Ripley utilizes the student handbook and orientation sessions to provide user friendly materials to explain the policy and how victims can get help and provides these online and through other strategies appropriate for the campus. TCAT Ripley provides online training for sexual assault and misconduct prevention education to incoming students to promote awareness of rape, acquaintance rape, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. This education also includes information on how to prevent sexual assault, such as information on bystander intervention, as well as how to recognize abusive behavior and avoid potential abusive relationships. Within this training, students are given information the procedures for filing a report, as well as procedures for institutional disciplinary action in cases of alleged sexual violence. The training also informs students of the sanctions and protective measures that the institution may impose once a report of sexual violence has been made. Effective Date

A. This policy is effective August 14, 2020.

B. If any provision of the Title IX regulations on which this policy is based is enjoined or held invalid as it applies to the TBR institution or the Title IX regulations' application to any person, act, or practice is enjoined or held invalid as it applies to the TBR institution, the remainder of this policy or the application of its provisions to any person, act, or practice shall not be affected thereby.

C. For conduct that occurs across multiple versions of this policy, complaints of Sexual Misconduct will be addressed utilizing the procedures outlined in the version of this policy in effect as of the date of the Notice of Allegations. The "Definitions" and "Clarifications" sections of the policy in effect as of the date of the alleged incident will be used. Complaints and reports of conduct spanning more than one version of the policy will be addressed using the "Definitions" and "Clarifications" sections in the version of the policy in effect at the time of the most recent alleged incident.

IX. Clarifications

A. Consent



1. Consent means an active agreement to participate in sexual activity. An active agreement is words and/or conduct that communicate a person's willingness to participate. The following individuals cannot give valid Consent:
  - a. A person who is Incapacitated, if either the person claiming to have obtained Consent knows that the other person is Incapacitated or a reasonable person would know that the other person is Incapacitated;
  - b. A person who is Forced; or
  - c. A person who is under the age of eighteen (18), unless the person giving Consent is at least the age of thirteen (13) and the other person is less than four (4) years older than the person giving Consent.
2. During a sexual encounter, each person has responsibility for obtaining Consent from the other person. During an investigation, the institution has the burden of obtaining evidence whether Sexual Misconduct occurred without Consent. During any hearing, the institution has the burden of proving that Sexual Misconduct occurred without Consent. (In other words, it is not a Respondent's burden to prove Consent during an investigation or hearing). Whether a person has communicated Consent generally is evaluated from the perspective of what a reasonable person who perceived the individual's words and/or nonverbal conduct would have understood; however, in the context of a relationship that has involved sexual activity and a pattern of communicating Consent, whether Consent has been communicated may be evaluated based on a subjective standard (i.e., what did the specific person who initiated the sexual activity conclude based on the pattern of communication?).
3. A verbal "no" (or words equivalent to "no") or the nonverbal communication of "no," even if it sounds or appears insincere or indecisive, means that Consent has not been communicated, or if previously communicated, has been withdrawn. The absence of a verbal "no" or the absence of a nonverbal communication of "no" does not necessarily mean that Consent has been communicated.
4. Consent must exist from the beginning to the end of each sexual encounter and for each sexual act that occurs during a sexual encounter. A person has a right to change their mind; thus, Consent may be withdrawn at any time. A withdrawal of Consent is communicated through clear words and/or conduct that indicate that a person no longer agrees to participate in sexual activity. Once a person's withdrawal of Consent has been communicated, the other person must cease the sexual act for which Consent was withdrawn and must obtain Consent before reinitiating that sexual act. Consent is automatically withdrawn when a person becomes incapacitated or is forced to participate in sexual activity.
5. Consent to one type of sexual activity (e.g., oral sex) does not constitute or imply Consent for another type of sexual activity (e.g., vaginal intercourse), whether during a sexual encounter or based on a previous sexual encounter.
6. The following do not communicate a person's willingness to participate in sexual activity:
  - a. Silence, unless accompanied by non-verbal conduct conveying a willingness to participate in sexual activity;
  - b. Consent communicated by the person on a previous occasion;
  - c. Consent communicated to a third person;
  - d. The person's failure to resist physical force (however, for purposes of the Policy, the person's resistance to physical force will be viewed as a clear demonstration that the person has not communicated Consent);
  - e. A current or previous dating, romantic, intimate, or sexual relationship with the other person;
  - f. Currently or previously cohabitating with the other person;
  - g. The person's attire, reputation, giving or acceptance of gifts, sexual arousal, or extension or acceptance of an invitation to go to a private residence, room, or other location.



- h. One's own use of alcohol, drugs, or other substances does not diminish one's responsibility to obtain Consent from the other person. Another person's use of alcohol, drugs, or other substances does not diminish one's responsibility to obtain Consent from that person.
- B. Force
  - 1. Force includes physical force (such as pushing, hitting, pinning down), threats (direct or indirect expressions of intent to inflict harm to self or others), intimidation (implied or indirect threats), and/or other forms of coercion. To coerce is to attempt to cause another person to act or think in a certain way by use of force, pressure, threats, or intimidation; to compel is to coerce.
- C. Incapacitation
  - 1. A person violates this policy when they engage in sexual activity with another person who is incapacitated under circumstances in which a reasonable person would have known the other person to be Incapacitated. For evaluating Incapacitation, a "reasonable person" means a sober, objectively reasonable person in the same situation, with ordinary sensitivities, and with similar identities as the Respondent.
  - 2. Incapacitation can be voluntary or involuntary. Signs of Incapacitation may include, without limitation: sleep; total or intermittent unconsciousness; lack of control over physical movements (e.g., inability to dress/undress without assistance; inability to walk without assistance); lack of awareness of circumstances or surroundings; emotional volatility; combativeness; vomiting; incontinence; unresponsiveness; and inability to communicate coherently. Incapacitation is an individualized determination based on the totality of the circumstances.
  - 3. Blacking out is an amnesia-like state that may be brought on by drugs, heavy drinking, or intoxication; blacking out is not necessarily incompatible with the ability to engage in simple or even complex behavior. After blacking out, a person has no recollection of all or part of the events that occurred during the blackout. There is a distinction between passing out (falling asleep or becoming unconscious) due to drug or alcohol use and blacking out in that a person in a blackout remains conscious and operative.
  - 4. Incapacitation or Incapacitated means a person's inability, temporarily or permanently, to communicate a willingness to participate in an activity (e.g., sexual activity) because of mental or physical helplessness, sleep, unconsciousness, or other lack of awareness that the activity is taking place. Incapacitation can be voluntary or involuntary. Signs of Incapacitation may include, without limitation: sleep; total or intermittent unconsciousness; lack of control over physical movements (e.g., inability to dress/undress without assistance; inability to walk without assistance); lack of awareness of circumstances or surroundings; emotional volatility; combativeness; vomiting; incontinence; unresponsiveness; and inability to communicate coherently. Incapacitation is an individualized determination based on the totality of the circumstances. Alcohol and drugs (including "date rape" drugs) are common causes of Incapacitation. When alcohol or drugs are involved, Incapacitation is a state beyond mere drunkenness or intoxication.
- D. Severe and Pervasive
  - 1. Severe and Pervasive. Severe means behavior that is more than antagonistic, non-consensual, and crass, even where the behavior is based on differences in sex or gender. Pervasive means systemic or widespread, and it necessarily involves more than one incident of sexual harassment.

While visitors and guests are welcome on campus, the welfare and safety of the entire student body and the maintenance of its academic programs **MUST** be placed above all else. All visitors and guests should report directly to the front office to sign in and receive a visitor's badge which is always to be worn while on campus. Tennessee College of Applied Technology Ripley faculty and staff are aware that many of its students are both students and parents and that there are often complicating factors that impact these two roles. However, TCAT Ripley does not permit children who are minors to be on the campus without notice to, and permission from, the TCAT Administration. A child is anyone who is birth to 17 years of age. Any visitor, who brings or invites children to campus **MUST** maintain custody of the children while on campus and is responsible for the behavior and safety of the children while at TCAT Ripley. All visitors will be provided safety glasses when visiting a shop area.

When a violation of this policy is observed, the Student Services Office should be contacted. It is the responsibility of this office to assess the situation and, with the assistance of security, take appropriate action, which may include escorting the student, employee or guest and children off campus.

## **ACADEMIC SUPPORT**

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### **Instructor Qualifications**

Instructors at the Tennessee College of Applied Technology Ripley meet a minimum requirement of at least three years of experience and formal training in the area in which they instruct. In addition, each instructor that has prior experience and training are involved in continuing education to ensure that they are knowledgeable in the latest technology relevant to their prospective programs.

### **Preparatory Programs**

All preparatory programs are designed to prepare persons for employment in specific or closely related occupations. Full-time continuing programs are offered on a thirty-hour per week basis. The part-time continuing programs are offered on a less than full-time basis. Instructional units are designed as a guide to assist the instructor in developing an individualized program for each student. The instructor will adjust the number of hours that a student spends working in the instructional units according to the student's ability.

### **Non-preparatory Supplemental Programs**

All non-preparatory supplemental programs are designed to assist employed workers to improve or upgrade skills and increase technical knowledge necessary to present employment or to acquire new skills and knowledge for a higher level of employment. Special interest courses may be offered as demands warrant by the public.

### **Special Industry Training Programs**

Special industrial programs are offered to business and industry upon their request. These classes are conducted by instructors at the school or at the place of the enrollees' employment. When the need arises, specialized and intensified courses may be developed to meet specific requirements of industry. School administration may be contacted for more information. These courses do not qualify for Title IV financial aid.

### **Notice of Disclaimer**

The Tennessee College of Applied Technology Ripley provides the opportunity for students to increase their knowledge by providing programs through faculty who, in the opinion of TCAT Ripley, are trained and

qualified for teaching at the post-secondary level. However, the acquisition of the knowledge by any student is contingent upon the student's desire to learn and his/her application of appropriate study techniques to any course program. As a result, TCAT Ripley does not warrant or represent that any student who completes a course or program of study will necessarily acquire any specific knowledge or skills or will be able to successfully pass or complete a specific examination for any course, degree or license.

## Cooperative Education

Cooperative Education (Co-op) is an educational program that combines classroom instruction with practical work experiences directly related to the student's curriculum. This combined classroom study and work experience is a meaningful way for students to learn and to assist in making informed career choices while earning credit. Students interested in Cooperative Education should meet with their instructor to discuss co-op opportunities. The instructor must submit a co-op request form to the President for approval. The student, instructor, employer, and President must sign the formal co-op agreement.

## Library / Media Services

Each program has a resource library and media collection located in each classroom.

## CONSUMER INFORMATION

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As a participant in federal Title IV financial aid programs, TCAT Ripley is required to make certain information available to students and the public. In fulfillment of that requirement, the following Consumer Information about TCAT Ripley, its Extension Campuses and Instructional Service Centers is available for review in the Student Handbook, on the College website <http://www.tcatripley.edu> or from the Student Services office, as indicated. Information is also available to current or prospective students and employees upon request. An outline of available information is distributed to all students each year in the Fall term.

### General Information (Student Handbook)

- Accrediting Agency
- Cost of Attending School
- Facilities & Services for Disabled Students
- Withdrawal Process & Refund Policy
- Statement of Non-discrimination
- Training Programs
- Services for Limited English Proficiency (LEP)
- Physical Resources
- Faculty & Staff Directory

### Financial Aid (Student Handbook):

- Federal Financial Aid
- State, Local, & Private Financial Aid
- How to Apply for Financial Aid
- Terms & Conditions (Work-study)
- Student Rights & Responsibilities
- Distribution of Financial Aid
- Eligibility Requirements
- Satisfactory Attendance & Progress

### Drug & Alcohol Abuse Prevention (Student Handbook)

- Preventing Drug & Alcohol Abuse
- Local, State & Federal Sanctions
- Student Conduct
- Institutional Policy on Violations
- Counseling, Treatment, Rehab Programs
- Health Risks

### Campus Security (Student Services)

- Annual Safety & Security Report (This report is available to current students annually by October 1.)

### Student Right-to-Know Information (Student Services & Student Handbook)

- Completion and Graduation Rates

#### Miscellaneous

- Voter Registration Information
- Peer-to-Peer File Sharing
- Service Member Re-admission
- Program Improvement Plans

## Students Right-To-Know Graduation Rate

The graduation rate for the Tennessee College of Applied Technology Ripley for the 2018-2019 academic year was 89%; the placement rate was 89%; and, the licensure rate was 94%.

## Voter Registration

In accordance with the Higher Education Act Campus Voter Registration Section in 34 CFR Part 668.14, TCAT Ripley encourages all students to register to vote. Forms may be obtained in the Student Services Office. The State of Tennessee voter registration form is available at <https://sos-tn-gov-files.s3.amazonaws.com/forms/ss-3010.pdf>.

## Integrated Postsecondary Data

<b>Institution Name:</b> Tennessee College of Applied Technology Ripley		<b>Institution Type:</b> College	
<b>Address:</b> 127 Industrial Drive Ripley, TN 38063		<b>General information:</b> (731)635-3368 <b>Financial aid office:</b> <a href="https://www.tcatripley.edu">https://www.tcatripley.edu</a> <b>Admissions office:</b> <a href="https://www.tcatripley.edu">https://www.tcatripley.edu</a>	<b>IPEDS ID:</b> 221388
<b>Description:</b>		Public, 2-year	
<b>Certificates offered:</b>		Less-than one year, One but less than two years, Two but less than four years	
<b>Total enrollment:</b>		205	
<b>Undergraduate enrollment:</b>		205	
<b>Percent of Undergraduate enrollment by gender</b>			
Men:		47%	
Women:		53%	
<b>by race/ethnicity</b>			
American Indian or Alaskan Native:		0%	
Asian:		1%	
Black or African American:		47%	

Hispanic/Latino:	1%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander:	0%
White:	48%
Two or more races:	2%
Race/ethnicity unknown:	0%
Non-resident alien:	0%

(Enrollment data Fall 2019)

#### Program prices for full-time students

	2019-20	2018-19	2017-18
Tuition & fees	\$4,236	\$4,143	\$4,038
Books and supplies	\$2,958	\$3,012	\$3,275
<b>Off-campus</b>			
Room and board	\$4,730	\$4,642	\$4,554
Other expenses	\$4,246	\$4,246	\$3,212
<b>Off-campus with family</b>			
Other expenses	\$4,246	\$4,246	\$3,212

(Source: IPEDS College data 2019-2020)

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#### National Center for Education Statistics

Institute of Education Sciences

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Federal Pell Grant Recipients totaled 234 as reported for the academic year 2018-2019.

## TESTING CENTER

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The Tennessee College of Applied Technology Ripley has partnered with a variety of companies to establish testing and training solutions that utilize state-of-the-art, web-based curriculum and assessments.

Testing opportunities available at the TCAT Ripley may include, but are not limited to the following:

- HESI (Nursing Entrance Exam)
- PearsonVue (CompTIA)

## PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE

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Program	Hours	Final Award Type
Computer Information Technology	2160	Diploma
Cosmetology	1500	Diploma
Emergency Medical Technology	744	Certificate
Health Information Management Technology	1296	Diploma

Industrial Electricity Technology	1728	Diploma
Manufacturing Technology	1296	Diploma
Patient Care Technology/Medical Assisting	864	Diploma
Practical Nursing	1296	Diploma

For information about graduation rates, placement rates and other important information, please visit our website at [www.tcatripley.edu/programs](http://www.tcatripley.edu/programs)

## PREPARATORY PROGRAM CATALOG

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### Campus Training

Training at Tennessee College of Applied Technology Ripley allows the student to have the ability to network, make professional contacts, and communicate with classmates, instructors, and faculty and staff.

The educational programs offered at TCAT Ripley are competency based and most are open entry/exit. Instruction is individualized, and learning is self-paced.

Program offerings are listed alphabetically, with a brief description of program content, training schedule and award levels. For more information about our graduation rates, the median debt of students who completed the program, and other important information, please visit our website at [www.tcatripley.edu](http://www.tcatripley.edu).

### Advisory Committees

Advisory Committees serve as a liaison between the school, business, and industry. Each full-time preparatory program offered by the institution has an advisory committee. Decisions on curriculum, equipment, instructional methods, and technology are made after considering the advice and recommendations made by advisory committee members.

### General Advisory Committee

Tennessee College of Applied Technology Ripley utilizes a General Advisory Committee to advise the campus as a whole and is comprised of representatives from the following:

Chamber/ Business Member  
Community Member  
County Mayor

K-12 Member  
Public Member



# Alphabetical Program Listing

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## Computer Information Technology

### Location(s): Ripley

For information about graduation rates, placement rates and other important information, please visit our website at [www.tcatripley.edu/programs](http://www.tcatripley.edu/programs)

The Computer Information Technology (CIT) Program prepares the student for employment in a variety of computer-related fields in today's technology centered society. This program features plenty of hands-on learning, and a host of activities that will give the student a working knowledge of the most popular software applications and hardware technology available today. It also features in-depth studies of the major operating systems, networking, security, and configuration of computers and servers. Successful graduates will possess both entry level and advanced skills necessary to secure employment in a wide range of computer specialties, such as Computer Technician, Technical Support Specialist, Software Specialist, and Network Technician.

While in the CIT program, the student also has the opportunity to pursue industry recognized certifications, such as (but not limited to): CompTIA A+ Certified Computer Service Technician, Microsoft Certified Professional, Microsoft Certified System Administrator, CompTIA Network+ Certified Technician, and CompTIA Security + Certified Technician. Listed below are the exit titles and approximate training hours required to meet the specific exit proficiency.

### Program Awards and Lengths

#### **DIPLOMAS:**

IT Systems Coordinator	2160 hours
IT System Support Specialist	1728 hours

#### **CERTIFICATES:**

IT Security Specialist	1296 hours
IT Network Support Specialist	1080 hours
Technical Support Specialist	642 hours
Personal Computer Operator	216 hours

#### **Courses in Program:**

Worker Characteristic  
Orientation/Safety Course  
Technology Foundations  
Computer Concepts/Literacy  
Introduction to Operating Systems  
Introduction to Applications  
Hardware: Installation/Troubleshooting/Maintenance  
Software: Installation/Troubleshooting/Maintenance  
Network + Troubleshooting/Maintenance  
Security+ Troubleshooting Maintenance

## Alphabetical Program Listing

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### Cosmetology Location(s): Ripley

For information about graduation rates, placement rates and other important information, please visit our website at [www.tcatripley.edu/programs](http://www.tcatripley.edu/programs)

Cosmetology provides classroom and practical learning experiences that are concerned with a variety of beauty treatments including the care and beautification of the hair, the complexion, and hands. For those wishing to enter an excellent service-oriented profession, this program prepares its graduates for the two-part state licensing examination. This examination is required before the graduate can begin working as a Licensed Cosmetologist.

### Program Awards and Lengths

**DIPLOMAS:**

Cosmetologist	1500 hours
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**CERTIFICATES:**

IT Security Specialist	1296 hours
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**Courses in Program:**

- Worker Characteristic
- Orientation
- Sterilization
- Bacteriology
- Anatomy and Physiology
- Shampooing and rinsing
- Hair and Scalp Care
- Facials
- Hair Shaping
- Hairstyling
- Manicuring and Pedicuring
- Permanent Waving
- Shop Ethics and Salesmanship
- Facials and Eyebrows
- Hair Structure and Chemistry
- Sculptured Nails
- Hair Color and Lightening
- Hair Relaxers
- State Law

## Alphabetical Program Listing

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### Emergency Medical Technology

#### Location(s): Ripley

For information about graduation rates, placement rates and other important information, please visit our website at [www.tcatripley.edu/programs](http://www.tcatripley.edu/programs)

The Emergency Medical Technology Program is designed to provide basic and advanced training for emergency medical care and transportation for critical and emergent patients who access the emergency medical system. Emergency Medical Technicians function as a part of a comprehensive Emergency Medical System response, under medical oversight. EMTs perform interventions with the basic equipment found on an ambulance.

### Program Awards and Lengths

#### **CERTIFICATES:**

Basic Emergency Medical Technician	432 hours
Advanced Emergency Medical Technician	744 hours

#### **Courses in Program:**

Worker Characteristic,  
Foundations of EMS,  
Airway Management Respirations and Artificial Ventilations  
Patient Assessment  
Medical Emergencies  
Trauma Emergencies  
Special Populations  
EMS Operations  
Clinical I & II  
Prep for Advanced EMT Practice  
Human Development Health and Disease  
Pharmacology  
Assessment & Initial Assessment  
Rescue and Special Operations

## Alphabetical Program Listing

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### Health Information Management Technology

**Location(s): Ripley**

For information about graduation rates, placement rates and other important information, please visit our website at [www.tcatripley.edu/programs](http://www.tcatripley.edu/programs)

The Health Information Management Technology program is designed to develop the skills and knowledge needed to secure jobs in today's rapidly changing medical field regardless of a student's prior office experience or training.

Students have the opportunity to study and experience "hands-on" training with today's advanced electronic health records software and develop the computer skills needed for the modern medical office, including medical coding and insurance billing as well as basic medical office skills.

The increasing use of Electronic Health Records (EHR) will continue to broaden and will utilize a classification system to determine the amount for which healthcare providers will be reimbursed if a patient is covered by Medicare, Medicaid, or other insurance programs. Health Information personnel should possess good oral and written communication skills as they often serve as liaisons between healthcare facilities and insurance companies.

### Program Awards and Lengths

**DIPLOMAS:**

Health Information Specialist	1296 hours
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**CERTIFICATES:**

Health Information Coordinator	864 hours
Health Information Support	432 hours

**Courses in Program:**

- Worker Characteristic
- Orientation and Safety
- Keyboarding and Intro to Computers
- Medical Law & Ethics
- Medical Terminology
- Basic Anatomy
- Intro to Medical Insurance
- Electronic Health Records
- Health Information Management
- Intro to Medical Coding
- Medical Office Procedures
- Employability Skills
- Advanced Outpatient Coding
- Inpatient Coding and Billing
- Dental Coding Billing and Assisting
- Medical Transcription

## Alphabetical Program Listing

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### Industrial Electricity Technology

**Location(s): Ripley**

For information about graduation rates, placement rates and other important information, please visit our website at [www.tcatripley.edu/programs](http://www.tcatripley.edu/programs)

This program combines classroom instruction and hand-on experiences utilizing actual equipment and/or related training devices to give the student the necessary background to enter industrial maintenance or construction. Students begin by completing basic electricity and safety followed by transformers, motors, motor controls and National Electrical Code general installations. Full-Time and Part-Time schedules available.

### Program Awards and Lengths

**DIPLOMAS:**

Industrial Electrician	1728 hours
Electrician Apprentice Class 1	1296 hours
Electrician Apprentice Class 2	864 hours

**CERTIFICATES:**

Electrician Helper	432 hours
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**Courses in Program:**

Worker Characteristic  
Orientation and Safety  
Basic Principles and Meters  
Basic Electronics  
National Electrical Code I  
Wiring  
National Electrical Code II  
Motors and Transformers  
Motor Control and Timers I & II  
Installation Guidelines I & II  
Timers and Drivers  
National Electrical Code  
Programmable Logic Controllers  
Drawings  
Documentation and Residential Wiring

## Alphabetical Program Listing

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### Manufacturing Technology

**Location(s): Ripley**

For information about graduation rates, placement rates and other important information, please visit our website at [www.tcatripley.edu/programs](http://www.tcatripley.edu/programs)

This program will focus on the needs of a growing West Tennessee in areas of production and maintenance. As the need for advance maintenance employees grow, there will be a demand for advance machine operators. This program will address both areas, students high trained in safety, advance quality control and measurements, employability skills and craftsmanship. These same students will gain knowledge of core skills need to further their career in the maintenance field of choice.

### Program Awards and Lengths

**DIPLOMAS:**

Mechatronics Manufacturing Technician	1296 hours
*Elective	
CPT Manufacturing Technician	1296 hours
*Elective	
Machine Manufacturing Technician	1296 hours
*Elective	
Welding Manufacturing Technician	1296 hours

**CERTIFICATES:**

Machine Set-up	864 hours
Machine Operator	432 hours

**Courses in Program:**

Worker Characteristic  
Orientation and Safety  
Manufacturing Safety  
Tech Foundations  
Basic Principles & Meters  
Quality Assurance  
Manufacturing  
Processes  
Forklift  
Introduction to Mechatronics,  
CPT Manufacturing Process  
Machine Fundamentals  
Welding Tech Fundamentals



## Alphabetical Program Listing

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### Patient Care Technology/Medical Assisting

**Location(s): Bells**

For information about graduation rates, placement rates and other important information, please visit our website at [www.tcatripley.edu/programs](http://www.tcatripley.edu/programs)

The Patient Care Technology/Medical Assisting Program is an eight-month program designed to train students to a level in patient care technology that prepares them for certification and employment as a PCT. This course offers students training in anatomy and basic science, CPR, First Aid, Phlebotomy, EKG, and patient care technology. Certificates available in this course include: Nursing Assistant, Phlebotomy Technician, and Electrocardiography Technician. The diploma obtainable upon completion of the program is Patient Care Technician.

### Program Awards and Lengths

**DIPLOMAS:**

Patient Care Technician	1296 hours
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**CERTIFICATES:**

Electrocardiogram	864 hours
Patient Care Technician	864 hours
Nurse Aide	432 hours

**Courses in Program:**

Worker Characteristic  
Nursing Assistant  
Anatomy & Physiology  
Medical Terminology  
Phlebotomy  
Electrocardiography  
Medical Assistant

## Alphabetical Program Listing

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### Practical Nursing Location(s): Ripley and Bells

For information about graduation rates, placement rates and other important information, please visit our website at [www.tcatripley.edu/programs](http://www.tcatripley.edu/programs)

This program provides the student with academic and clinical experience. The program is built upon a demanding curriculum emphasizing dedication and a caring attitude. A Registered Nurse provides supervision and instruction for the students. A license may be awarded to qualified applicants by the Tennessee Board of Nursing contingent upon a passing score on the National Council Licensure Examination for the Practical Nurse (NCLEX-PN).

A practical nurse cares for the ill, injured, convalescent, or handicapped persons. Most practical nurses are employed in hospitals, mental health facilities, clinics, private duty, nursing homes, assisted living, schools, prisons, industry, or home health. Some competencies required of a practical nurse regarding patient care include: vital signs, preparing for surgery, performing a physical examination, assisting with diagnostic testing, catheterization, tracheostomy care, monitoring oxygen, assisting with personal hygiene, assisting with nutrition needs, administering prescribed medications, and maintaining a clean and healthy patient

### Program Awards and Lengths

**DIPLOMAS:**

Practical Nurse	1296 hours
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**CERTIFICATES:**

Nurse Aide	432 hours
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**Courses in Program:**

- Basic Nursing
- Fundamentals
- Administer of Meds & Basic IV Therapy
- A & P
- Clinical I
- Worker Characteristic
- Pharmacology I
- Mental Health
- Medical & Surgical Nursing I
- Maternity Health
- Clinical II
- Clinical III
- Adv Prof Vocational Relations
- Pediatric Nursing
- Pharmacology II
- Medical & Surgical Nursing II

## Program Break/Lunch Schedules Ripley Campuses

Instructor/Program	Morning Break	Lunch
<b>Computer Information Technology</b>	9:20 – 9:30	11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
<b>Cosmetology</b>	9:20 – 9:30	11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
<b>Emergency Medical Technology</b>	N/A	N/A
<b>Health Information Management Technology</b>	9:20 – 9:30	11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
<b>Industrial Electricity Technology</b>	9:20 – 9:30	11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
<b>Manufacturing Technology</b>	9:20 – 9:30	11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
<b>Patient Care Technology/Medical Assisting</b>	9:20 – 9:30	11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
<b>Practical Nursing</b>	9:20 – 9:30	11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

\*Allied Health program schedules may vary given the clinical assignments.

Classes begin daily at 8:00 a.m. and are dismissed at 2:30 p.m. Classes begin and end promptly at the designated time. Break and lunch times will be observed strictly as shown in this schedule unless otherwise directed by your instructor as they may be adjusted to meet individual program needs or clinical schedules.

## **LIVE WORK AND REPAIR SERVICES**

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Live Work is done by students as part of their training program. Such work can be done in school or on a job site and includes service, repair, or production jobs. All projects must be selected with the approval of the instructor and must fit into the training program. Work can only be accepted if it can be completed within a reasonable timeframe and projects cannot be allowed to remain in Tennessee College of Applied Technology Ripley possession if not being actively worked on. Live Work projects will be assessed for timely completion.

### **Live Work Fee & Cost of Service Fees**

Live work project owners must pay for all expenses related to the project. Off-campus live work projects, an instructor must always be present with students. All projects are to be completed under instructor supervision and released only after a thorough final inspection. The fee schedule shall be made available to project owners prior to completion of the project agreement form. Payment of the live work fee of \$5.00 will be paid once the agreement form is signed. The fee for cost of services received is due upon completion of the project.

### **Relationship to Training**

Live work projects performed by students enhances the technical training of students. The Tennessee Board of Regents Guideline TCAT-010, Instructional Projects at Colleges of Applied Technology, is the basis for all live work projects performed at TCAT Ripley. Live work will be conducted when training programs require such projects for the acquisition of occupational skills leading to employment. Live work will be assigned to individual students by their instructor as part of the student's training program. All services are to be performed only by students with the instructional assistance of their instructor.

### **Live Work Projects**

Many of the training programs at Tennessee College of Applied Technology Ripley provide repair services and/or live work. The scope and extent of each project will be well defined before acceptance. Eligible persons may request appropriate training programs to perform needed repairs or services. An instructor shall be responsible for selecting and scheduling individual projects, which may be selected only from authorized categories. No work may be performed from a category that has not been authorized. An instructor may give priority to a project belonging to a student, provided it meets established training objectives.

The sources of individual projects may include those offered by:

- a. Students
- b. TCAT Ripley employees and their immediate families
- c. Members of the school's advisory committees
- d. Personnel and institutions of the Tennessee Board of Regents System
- e. TCAT Ripley Retirees
- f. Civic Groups
- g. Governmental agencies, and
- h. Non-profit organizations.

Live work is not to be performed for the public unless it is a much-needed source for skill training. The College President may authorize individual projects offered from individuals and groups not listed above in the event appropriate projects are not available from the above sources.

## Administration of Live Work

Administration and control of live work projects are the responsibility of the instructor. All work performed must be approved in accordance with the President and TBR Guideline TCAT-010. Persons requesting repair service from various training departments at Tennessee College of Applied Technology Ripley must first be authorized.

Upon approval of need to perform the service at hand, and verification of project ownership, by the instructor of the training program, the instructor will complete a "Live Work and/or Service Agreement" form. This form will be submitted to the President or their designee for approval and signature. Upon administrative approval, the form will be submitted to the Student Services Office, where it will be logged and identified with a work order number. A copy will be provided to the instructor to post in the program lab where work is to be performed, and a copy of the form will be provided to the individual or group for whom the work is being performed. The owner of the project shall be responsible for providing the parts, supplies, and materials for individual projects. All live work is to be completed under the instructor's supervision and may be released only after a thorough final inspection.

## Customer Obligations

The person, program, institution, or organization for which live work is done shall:

1. Sign a Live Work Agreement form in advance of any work or inspection.
2. Assume all responsibility for the results of the work being done by students.
3. Bear all actual cost of material and parts involved.
4. Pay a service charge according to schedule as prescribed by the section on service charges and established by the institution's administration to cover indirect expenses.
5. Tipping of students is not permitted.

## STAFF DIRECTORY

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### Administration Office

**Youlanda Jones** – President  
M.A.L.S. – University of Memphis

**JacQuene Rainey** - Vice President  
M.B.A. – Union University

**Erika Smith** – Director of Nursing and Allied Health  
B.S.N. – Western Governor's University

### Business Office/Human Resources Office

**Marcy Johnson** – Financial Support Specialist

### Student Services Office

#### Ripley Campus:

**Amy Stephens** - Student Services Coordinator

**Candida Lewis** – Financial Aid/Student Support Specialist

**Ashlee Henderson** - Student Support Specialist

**Beverly Clay** – Administrative Support Specialist

**Jessica Cannon** – Dual Enrollment/Public Information Recruitment Specialist

#### Bells Campus:

**Wendi Petges** – Academic/Student Support Associate

### Full-Time Faculty

**Larry Autry** – Instructor, Industrial Electricity  
M.B.A. – Bethel University

**Moneka Bonds** – Associate Instructor, Cosmetology  
B.I.S. – UT Martin

**Beth Choat** – Instructor, Patient Care Technology/Medical Assisting  
PN Diploma – Tennessee College of Applied Technology Ripley

**Bridgette Cobb** – Associate Instructor, Practical Nursing  
A.S.N. – Dyersburg State Community College



**Martin Crowder** – Instructor, Manufacturing Technology

A.S. – Jackson State Community College

**Leticia Harris** – Associate Instructor, Practical Nursing

A.S.N. – Dyersburg State Community College

**Nacquia Johnson** – Associate Instructor, Health Information Management Technology

M.A. – Delta State University

**Laquedia Payment** - Instructor, Computer Information Technology

Diploma – Tennessee College of Applied Technology Ripley

**Candace Stallings** – Senior Instructor, Practical Nursing

B.S.N. – Union University

### **Part-Time Faculty**

**Ben Hearn** – Emergency Medical Technology Instructor

M.A.R. – Liberty University

**Wayne Maupin** – Dual Enrollment Instructor

Diploma – Tennessee College of Applied Technology Newbern

## FINANCIAL AID HANDBOOK

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The purpose of financial aid is to help students who, without such aid, would find it difficult or impossible to attend the College. The College adheres to a nationally established policy and philosophy of financial aid for education. The basis of this policy is that students and parents have the primary responsibility for financing an education. Students with questions may contact TCAT Ripley's financial aid offices at the Ripley Main Campus (731)635-3368.

Financial aid programs are intended to supplement the efforts of the student and/or the student's family to self-finance the desired program of training/education. To demonstrate financial need, students must file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The information reported on the FAFSA is used in a formula, established by the federal government, to calculate a student's Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The EFC is an amount of money the student and student's family are expected to pay toward the student's education. The EFC is used by the Financial Aid Office to determine a student's financial need.

Financial Aid Awards are calculated on an academic year basis. An academic year is for a 12-month period beginning each July 1 and ending each June 30. Renewal of financial aid is not automatic; students must file a new FAFSA each year.

All interested students are encouraged to apply for financial aid. To qualify, the individual must meet the eligibility requirements specified by the training program in which the student is enrolled. In general, a student is eligible for Federal and/or State aid if you meet the following requirements:

1. You are enrolled as a regular student in an eligible program.
2. You are a U.S. citizen/national or an eligible non-citizen.
3. You are making satisfactory academic progress in your course of study and meeting attendance standards.
4. You are not in default on a Federal Perkins/ National Direct Student Loan, Federal Family Education Loan, Federal Plus Loan, Federal Direct Student Loan, Income Contingent Loan or a Consolidation Loan, and you do not owe a refund or repayment on a Pell Grant, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, Tennessee Student Assistance Award, Wilder-Naifeh Technical Skills Grant and/or a Byrd Scholarship or have documented satisfactory repayment arrangements if in default or owe a refund/repayment.
5. You are registered with the Selective Service if you are required to register.
6. Have not been convicted of any offense involving possession or sale of illegal drugs for an offense that occurred while you were receiving federal student aid, unless successfully completed an approved drug rehab program or completed the time of ineligibility.
7. Have a signed statement of educational purpose saying that the student will use the money only for expenses related to attending the College (usually collected on the FAFSA).
8. Have a high school diploma or equivalent or be able to benefit from education according to guidelines established by the Department of Education.
9. Complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the financial aid office must have received a valid record for the student from the U.S. Department of Education. Submit signed copies of all required documents to the financial aid office if selected for verification by the U.S. Department of Education and have a completed financial aid file, as verified by the financial aid office.

### Applying for Assistance

General Procedures for applying

- Complete and submit the FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA) to determine eligibility for financial assistance. Students should complete the FAFSA via the internet at **[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)**. You will need to include our **Federal School Code #012164** on the FAFSA. If

you do not have access to the Internet, you can call the US Department of Education at 1-800-433-3243 and request that a paper application be mailed to you; or you may come to the Student Services Office for access and assistance in completing application on-line.

- Be accepted for admission to TCAT Ripley.

## Application Deadlines

Students are encouraged to complete the FAFSA application as soon after **October 1<sup>st</sup>** as possible.

Pell Grant- The FAFSA must be received by the processor no earlier than October 1<sup>st</sup> and no later than June 30<sup>th</sup> of the following year. All required forms must be received by the Financial Aid Office by June 30<sup>th</sup> or your last day of enrollment, whichever comes first.

Tennessee Promise-Before November 1 for new applicants (Fall before the graduating high school senior graduates) and before **February 1** of each year after.

Tennessee Reconnect-Same deadlines as Wilder Naifeh Technical Skills Grant listed below.

Wilder Naifeh Technical Skills Grant- Students must have a processed FAFSA on or before the following deadline dates to be eligible for the award. Students whose applications are processed after the deadline date may be eligible for the WNTSG for subsequent terms.

Fall term deadline-November 1<sup>st</sup> /Spring term deadline – March 1<sup>st</sup>/Summer term deadline- July 1<sup>st</sup>

Tennessee Student Assistant Award- Due to funding limitations, the TSAA is awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis and is based on the FAFSA completion date. Therefore, students are encouraged to complete the FAFSA as early as possible. Prior-year recipients (renewals) will receive the award if they meet all eligibility requirements and complete the FAFSA on or before February 1. After February 1, remaining funds will be awarded to the neediest applicants who apply by February 1 based on the availability of funds. Awards are made until funds are depleted.

## Additional Rules and Requirements for the Wilder-Naifeh Technical Skills Grant

Eligibility: To be eligible to receive funds from the Wilder-Naifeh Technical Skills Grant (WNTSG) a student must meet the following eligibility requirements in addition to those listed above.

- Apply by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), available at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov). Applications must be received by July 1 for the Summer trimester, November 1 for the Fall trimester, and March 1 for the Winter/Spring trimester. Early application is recommended
- Must not be incarcerated
- Must meet the enrollment requirements for both the school and the program (Do not have to have a high school diploma or GED if not required for enrollment in the school or program. Also, a student that possesses a bachelor's degree or higher may be eligible for the WNTSG)
- As of Fall 2015, prior Tennessee HOPE Scholarship recipients may qualify
- Cannot be a prior recipient of the Wilder-Naifeh Technical Skills Grant
- Available to all students enrolled at a Tennessee College of Applied Technology who are TN residents for one (1) year prior to enrollment. State residency is determined using TBR Rule 02402-2 <https://publications.tnsosfiles.com/rules/0240/0240.htm>
- Must never have completed a previous certificate or diploma program with Wilder-Naifeh Technical Skills Grant funding or had a break in enrollment while receiving the Wilder-Naifeh Technical Skills Grant.

**Note:** Students may enroll as full-time or part-time. There is no income limit for eligibility. Students may receive the WNTSG for all coursework required for completion of the certificate or diploma.

Calculation of WNTSG Award: The maximum WNTSG award may vary from year to year. This amount is subject to availability of funds from the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship program. The WNTSG funds will be paid each term in the academic year. The amount of the award will be prorated based on the number of scheduled hours for each term. The amount of the award will be rounded to the nearest whole dollar.

Receipt of student financial aid from other sources will not reduce the WNTSG award if the student's total aid does not exceed the total cost of attendance. If a student's total aid exceeds the cost of attendance, the school shall, to the extent it does not violate applicable federal regulations, reduce the excess by reducing the student's WNTSG.

Retention of WNTSG Award: To continue to be eligible for WNTSG funds a student must meet the following requirements:

- Continue to meet all eligibility requirements as stated above
- Reapply each year using the FAFSA by the application deadline date
- Maintain continuous enrollment (unless a leave of absence or military mobilization leave is granted for the WNTSG)
- Maintain enrollment status during the term (unless a change in status is granted)
- Maintain satisfactory progress according to standards used for financial aid purposes. Students must meet grade and attendance requirements as well as the 133.33% timeframe requirement.

**Note:** Once the student becomes ineligible for WNTSG for any reason, the student shall not be eligible to regain the WNTSG.

## Types of Financial Aid

### **Federal Pell Grant**

A Federal Pell Grant is an award to help undergraduates pay for their education after high school. For the Federal Pell Grant Program, an undergraduate is one who has not earned a bachelor's or professional degree. The amount of Pell Grant received is calculated based on the student's expected family contribution.

### **Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)**

A Federal Supplemental Opportunity Grant is for undergraduates with exceptional financial need, as determined by the College. Priority is given to Federal Pell Grant recipients with a zero EFC. The amount of the FSEOG award is \$200.00 per pay period. Students with a 4-year degree are not eligible.

### **Federal Work-Study Program (FWS)**

The FWS program provides part-time jobs for students who have financial need. Students will generally work on-campus after class in staff support jobs. Funds and job availability are limited.

### **TCAT Reconnect Scholarship**

The TCAT Reconnect scholarship is available to students with a FAFSA status of independent. Students must enroll in a full-time program at a TN College of Applied Technology in order to be eligible.

Eligibility requirements include:

- Tennessee resident and U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen
- Have a FAFSA dependency status of "independent"

- Enroll in a certificate or diploma program at a Tennessee College of Applied Technology and maintain satisfactory academic progress and continuous enrollment
- Available to students enrolled at a Tennessee College of Applied Technology who are TN residents for one (1) year prior to enrollment

### **Tennessee Promise Scholarship**

Tennessee resident/U.S. citizen/eligible non-citizen/students who graduate from an eligible high School, homeschool, or earn a GED/HISET (prior to 19th birthday) can receive an award at an eligible postsecondary institution toward tuition and mandatory fees after all other gift aid has been first applied. Students must attend mandatory meetings and participate in a mentoring program. Students must be enrolled in a full-time program, continue to participate in the mentoring program, and perform 8 hours of community service prior to each term the award is received.

### **Tennessee Student Assistance Award (TSAA)**

The Tennessee Student Assistance Award is a state grant program that awards students based on the cost of tuition and the need of the student.

### **Wilder-Naifeh Technical Skills Grant (WNTSG)**

The Wilder-Naifeh Technical Skills Grant is a part of the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship Program. The WNTSG is a grant that is available only to Tennessee residents that attend a Tennessee College of Applied Technology.

## **Appeals Process and Guidelines**

Appeal and Exception Process for Wilder-Naifeh Technical Skills Grant: The Institutional Review Panel (IRP) is established for the purpose of hearing appeals from decisions denying or revoking an applicant's WNTSG award. The following items can be appealed to the IRP:

1. Denial of a Change in Status request
2. Denial of a Leave of Absence request
3. Denial of Reinstatement of eligibility after a change in grade
4. Denial of Reinstatement of eligibility after the grade for an incomplete course is reported.

The IRP members will be designated by the school President and may be composed of, but not limited to, the following: two faculty members, one student, one administrator and one support staff. An alternate will be designated for an IRP member who is personally involved in a case or is otherwise unable to attend. No school official rendering a decision to deny or revoke a WNTSG award shall participate in the appeal process.

IRP Appeals Process and Timeline: Any student wishing to appeal to the IRP must provide a written appeal within five (5) calendar days of notification of denial. The IRP may review the student's appeal with or without a hearing and shall decide no later than the end of the term after the student properly files an appeal. The IRP shall render a written decision no later than seven (7) calendar days after considering an appeal, except for exigent circumstances.

Appeals of IRP Decisions: A student seeking an appeal of a decision rendered by the IRP shall submit a request in writing outlining the basis for the appeal with the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation TELS Award Appeals Panel within fourteen (14) calendar days from the date the decision was delivered to the student. The submission should be sent to:

Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation  
TELS Award Panel  
404 James Robertson Parkway

## Benefit Programs

TCAT Ripley is approved to provide training to students who have been determined eligible for the following benefit programs: Veterans Administration programs, Veteran Readiness and Employment Benefits, the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) WIOA program, and others. Eligibility determination must be established by agencies outside the College. Eligible students are normally referred to the College by the appropriate program agency.

### **Veterans Assistance**

This program assists eligible veterans and dependents of veterans by providing educational benefits through the Veterans Administration. Appropriate forms to be completed should be obtained from the Financial Aid Office/VA Certifying Official prior to enrollment. Veterans must submit transcripts/certificates of previous education/training from Colleges, technical or vocational schools, military, etc., to apply for benefits. Upon enrollment, veterans should present their DD214 form and/or their Notice of Eligibility, to the Financial Aid Office/VA Certifying Official where paperwork will be processed and forwarded to the Veterans Administration. Veterans will receive their benefit checks directly from the Veterans Administration approximately six to eight weeks from their enrollment date.

If you are receiving benefits based on your status as a service person, veteran, or reservist you must verify your enrollment at the end of each month to receive benefits. Benefits are paid after each month of school is completed. Verification can be done beginning the last day of the month by using the Web Automated Verification of Enrollment (WAVE) at <https://www.gibill.va.gov/wave> or by calling toll free at 1-877-823-2378 and using your touch tone phone. Both systems are available 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. If you are receiving VEAP or Dependents Educational Assistance (Chapter 35), or Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33), benefits are sent automatically each month.

Service-members, veterans, and dependents of veterans who are eligible beneficiaries of U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs education benefits or other governmentally funded educational assistance, subject to the conditions and guidelines set forth in the Tennessee Code Annotated 49-7-104 as amended, may elect, upon formal application, to defer payment of required tuition and fees until the final day of the term for which the deferment has been requested. Application for the deferment must be made no later than 7 days before the beginning of the term, and the amount of the deferment shall not exceed the total monetary benefits to be received for the term. Students who have been granted deferments are expected to make timely payments on their outstanding tuition and fees balance once education benefits are being delivered, and eligibility for such deferment shall terminate if the student fails to abide by any applicable rule or regulation, or to act in good faith in making timely payments.

This notice is published pursuant to T.C.A. §49-7-104.

### **Veterans Benefits and Transition Act of 2018**

Public Law 115-407

The TCAT adheres to Public Law 115-407 and does not have any active policies inconsistent with section 103 of the law. The college ensures efficient processing of benefits and successful transition for our veterans and family members in the following ways:

1. Upon submission of a Certificate of Eligibility (COE) or VA Form 28-1905, VA Certifying Official processes a student's certification. Any additional documentation required for processing must be submitted.



2. Students receiving VA educational benefits or VA Veteran Readiness and Employment Benefits as well as financial aid are permitted to purchase necessary books and supplies prior to aid receipt.
3. In the event a student is eligible and certified for payment, but DVA's payment is significantly delayed, Accounts Receivable will remove a balance due hold to allow registration for subsequent semesters.
4. No penalty is imposed on a student whose disbursement of benefits is delayed.

### **Vocational Rehabilitation Department of Human Services**

The Tennessee Department of Vocational Rehabilitation provides funds for students who are physically or mentally impaired and can demonstrate that they may benefit from training. Eligibility should be established prior to enrollment.

### **Workforce Investment Act (WIOA)**

Eligible students may receive federal assistance for books and supplies, transportation, and day care services. Students should be assessed and certified by the WIOA office prior to their enrollment.

## **Financial Aid Disbursement**

In keeping with federal grant regulations, TCAT Ripley pays federal grant funds in increments called payment periods. Payment periods are defined by regulation and are determined by your program length and academic year. TCAT Ripley will apply a portion of each payment period's grant funds to pay estimated direct school costs (tuition/fees/books) for the payment period. If there are funds remaining after those costs are paid, you will receive a residual check for the unused portion, which can be used to pay indirect school costs. Since tuition/fee costs are assessed by academic term (trimester) and payment periods may span more than one academic term, tuition/fee costs are estimated on the front-end. Grant funds will be credited to a student's account or disbursed by check to the student approximately one month after the beginning of the term for students who enroll at the beginning of the term. For students who enroll later in the term, residual checks will be disbursed no later than the end of the term. Students may pick up their residual check at the TCAT Ripley Business Office by showing their student I.D. badge.

All disbursements represent payment made in advance of training. Students must successfully complete the hours and weeks in the payment period before they can receive disbursement for subsequent payment periods. In addition, if you withdraw before completing the hours you have been paid for you are at risk for overpayment with the Department of Education and may owe money to the school.

## **Satisfactory Progress for Financial Aid**

- A. To make satisfactory progress a student must:
1. Complete 67% of cumulative scheduled hours (pace of completion). All periods of enrollment for a student's program will be included in determining the cumulative scheduled hours used for SAP, regardless of receipt of Title IV aid for the prior enrollments.
  2. Must maintain a minimum cumulative passing grade of "C" or higher if specified by the program and as published by the institution. (34 CFR §668.34.)
- B. Satisfactory progress will be evaluated at the expected end of a student's payment period. If the student fails to make satisfactory progress, the student will be placed on financial aid warning for the next payment period. If the student fails to make satisfactory progress for the next payment period, financial aid will be suspended. There is no appeal process for financial aid satisfactory progress. To reestablish financial aid, a student must make satisfactory academic progress at the next evaluation date.

- C. Remedial Courses – Any courses considered ‘remedial’ are included in the student’s normal program of study and are included in the students SAP calculation.
- D. Program Changes - Changes in program will not affect SAP because a student will then have a new program length and new payment periods.
- E. Transfer Credit – Students who receive credit for hours completed for previous education (other institutions, life experience, work credit, dual enrollment, etc.) will have their program length reduced. A student that receives transfer credit will have a maximum timeframe calculated based on the reduced program length. Transfer credits are not included in the GPA calculation nor the cumulative hours of completion.
- F. Repeats

Program Repeats – Any student who completes an entire clock hour program and later re-enrolls to take that same program again or to take another program may be paid for repeating coursework regardless of the amount of time between completion of the first program and beginning the same program or another program.

Course Repeats - The repeated course grade will be counted along with the previously assigned grade. Repeated course hours will count toward total cumulative hours (pace of progression).

- G. Withdrawals In scenarios where students withdraw from courses, course withdrawals (W grades) are not included in the GPA calculation but are considered a noncompletion of attempted coursework. Therefore, attempted hours for a withdrawal are factored into the student’s PACE of completion. The following process is followed in relation to the treatment of payment periods and repeat courses upon a student’s return to the institution within the same program:

Reentry within 180 days – Reentry within 180 days – A student who withdraws from a clock hour or credit hour non-term program and reenters within 180 days is considered to remain in the same payment period when they return and, subject to conditions imposed by ED, is eligible to receive FSA funds for which they were eligible prior to withdrawal, including funds that were returned under R2T4 rules. The repeated course grade will be counted along with the previously assigned grade. Repeated course hours will count toward total cumulative hours (PACE of completion).

Reentry after 180 days and transfer students – Generally, you must calculate new payment periods for a clock hour or credit hour non-term program for:

1. A student who withdraws and then reenters the same program at the same institution after 180 days: the repeated course grade will be counted along with the previously assigned grade. Repeated course hours will count toward total cumulative hours (pace of completion), or
2. A student who withdraws from a program and then enrolls in a new program at the same institution, or at another institution within any time period. The student establishes a new maximum timeframe based on the new program length. Hours and grades from the previous program are not included when evaluating SAP for the new program.

*\*Note: SAP Must be evaluated at the point of reentry regardless of the length of time between enrollments. If the student’s previous hours + the number of hours required to complete the program is greater than the maximum number of hours, then the student is not eligible for Title IV aid. For example – A student enrolls in Welding (1296-hour program) and completes 700 hours. Student returns*

*2 years later. Instructor requires student to retake entire program. Student could not complete the program in 150% (1944 hours) as  $1296 + 700 = 1996$  hours. Therefore, this student would not be eligible for Title IV aid upon re-entry.*

H. Incompletes An incomplete “I” grade is not utilized at the TCAT. The TCAT issues a grade of CONT. CONT is awarded when a student completes clock hours within a term for a course but is not able to complete all clock hours for a specific course. This grade simply denotes that the student is continuing the course into the next trimester, and the remaining clock hours for the course will be included in the overall clock hours for the next trimester. The CONT does not mean the student did not complete the scheduled hours in the trimester, only that all hours were not completed for a course. The CONT grade is not included in the GPA calculation. Once a course is completed and a grade entered, that grade is factored into a student’s GPA. The attended hours associated with a CONT grade are factored into a student’s PACE of completion.

I. Maximum Time Frame (this is for maximum timeframe only, cannot pay more than 100% of student’s program length). Students may continue to receive State Aid at the pace of 67% or greater until they have been enrolled 150% of their scheduled hours.

1. A student may receive aid while enrolled in this program, up to the point you determine the student cannot complete the program within 150% (our maximum timeframe for SAP). The student fails SAP for maximum timeframe at the evaluation point where they can no longer graduate within the maximum timeframe - not at the point where they actually hit the number of hours or weeks that make up the maximum timeframe (this point is actually earlier than the actual maximum timeframe).

2. If the student’s previous hours + the number of hours required to complete the program is greater than the maximum number of hours, then the student is not eligible for Title IV aid. For example – A student enrolls in Welding (1296-hour program) and completes 700 hours. The student returns two (2) years later, and the instructor requires the student to retake the entire program. The student could not complete the program in 150% (1944 hours) as  $1296 + 700 = 1996$  hours. Therefore, this student would not be eligible for Title IV aid upon re-entry.

J. Notification

Students will be notified of any evaluations that impact eligibility of Title IV aid.

*Note: Students receiving the Tennessee State Aid may not appeal unsatisfactory progress.*

## Leave of Absence (LOA)

A student may request a leave of absence (LOA) to continue eligibility for Wilder-Naifeh Technical Skills Grant, TN Reconnect Grant, or TN Promise Scholarship. An LOA may be approved for documented medical or personal reasons, such as serious extended illness of the student, serious or extended illness or death of an immediate family member, extreme financial hardship of the student or the student’s immediate family, or other extraordinary circumstances that are beyond the student’s control where continued enrollment creates a substantial hardship. A student must submit a written request in advance for a leave of absence unless an unforeseen circumstance prevents the student from doing so. The student’s signed and dated request must include the reason for the request, beginning and ending dates for the leave and supporting documentation. The student will be readmitted as space is available upon completion of the LOA.

An approved LOA will be treated as a withdrawal for all financial aid programs other than the WNTSG/TNPromise/TNReconnect. This may cause other awards to be recalculated and a Return of Title IV funds calculation must be done. If the student's request for a leave of absence is denied, the student may appeal the decision to the Institutional Review Panel (IRP).

## Military Mobilization of Eligible Students

Members of the United States Armed Services, National Guard, or Armed Forces Reserves receiving a Wilder-Naifeh Technical Skills Grant/TN Reconnect who are mobilized for active duty during a term that is already in progress shall be granted a personal leave of absence and shall not have their eligibility negatively impacted. A student whose spouse, child, or parent is mobilized for active duty may also request a personal leave of absence. The student must provide the Student Services Office a copy of their military orders and complete a Leave of Absence request form.

The hours attempted during the term will not be taken into consideration for purposes of determining future eligibility. The student's Wilder-Naifeh Technical Skills Grant/TN Reconnect eligibility will resume as if no break in enrollment has occurred if the student re-enrolls within one year following their return from the mobilization.

For all other financial aid programs, including Title IV and Veteran's Education Benefits, the LOA will be treated as a withdrawal. Accordingly, awards will be recalculated and in some cases a Return of Title IV funds calculation may be necessary.

## Refunds and Financial Aid

Financial aid is used first for direct education costs, tuition, and fees. Therefore, if a student withdraws and is scheduled to receive a refund of fees, all or part of this refund will be used to reimburse the financial aid programs from which the student received funds. Any student receiving financial aid will not receive a cash refund until all financial aid funds disbursed have been applied back to the respective accounts from which they were issued.

## Return of Title IV Funds

Return of Title IV Funds calculations apply for any student who:

- Withdraws before the point when 60% of the hours for the payment period are scheduled to be completed. A pro rata schedule is used to determine the amount of Title IV funds the student has earned at the time of withdrawal.
- Received or could have received a disbursement of Title IV Funds (Pell Grants or SEOG)

If both above conditions apply to the student, the institution will perform a Return of Title IV funds calculation in addition to the TBR Refund of Maintenance Fee and Technology Fee calculation.

A Return of Title IV calculation is not required if student received or was eligible to receive only FWS or State Grants. FWS funds are not included in a Return of Title IV calculation. For Return of Title IV and Maintenance Fee, the scheduled hours must be based on students last day of attendance.

As an attendance taking school, faculty members regularly enter attendance data. The withdrawal date for a student is determined according to the last day a student is marked as attending for the payment period. For official withdrawals, the last date of attendance is also used but students also complete an Exit process with the institution that is verified by faculty members.

### Return of Title IV Funds Calculation

1. Determine Amount of Title IV Aid Disbursed or that Could Have Been Disbursed for the Payment
2. Determine the Percentage of Title IV Aid Earned by the Student
  - a. Note: Round to three decimal places when calculating percentages. Example: .4486 would be .449 or 44.9%
  - b. Divide the clock hours scheduled to have been completed as of the last day of attendance (withdrawal date) in the payment period by the total clock hours in the payment period.
    - i. If this percentage is greater than 60%, the student has earned 100% of the Title IV aid, proceed to Step 3. (.6001 would be considered as greater than 60% even though when rounding the percent would be 60.0%, however, .5999 would be less than 60%).
    - ii. If this percentage is less than or equal to 60%, proceed to Step 3.
3. Determine the Amount of Title IV Aid Earned
  - a. Multiply the Percentage of Title IV Aid Earned from Step 2 times the total Title IV aid disbursed plus the Title IV aid that could have been disbursed for the payment period from Step 1.
4. Determine the Amount of Title IV Aid to be Disbursed or Returned
  - a. Compare the amount of Title IV aid earned to the amount of Title IV aid that was disbursed for the payment period.
    - i. If the amount of Title IV aid earned is less than the amount of Title IV aid disbursed, the difference must be returned to the Title IV programs.
    - ii. If the amount of Title IV Aid earned is greater than the amount of Title IV aid disbursed, the difference must be offered to the student as a post-withdrawal disbursement.
5. Determine the Amount of Title IV Aid to be Returned by the School
  - a. Multiply the institutional charges for the payment period times the percentage of aid unearned (100% - % from Step 3). The school is responsible to return the lesser of the amount determined in Step 4 or Step 5.
    - i. Note: Tuition and Fees are always considered Institutional charges no matter how they were paid.
6. Return of Funds by the School
  - a. The school must return the unearned aid for which it is responsible by repaying funds to the following sources, in order, up to the total net amount disbursed from each source.
    1. Pell Grant
    2. Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant
    3. Iraq Afghanistan Service Grant
  - b. The college does not participate in the FFEL GRAD/PLUS Loan or the Federal Direct Stafford Loan programs; therefore, they have been omitted from the above list.
2. Determine the Initial Amount of Title IV Aid to be Returned by the Student
  - a. Subtract the amount of Title IV aid due from the school from the amount of Title IV aid to be returned. (Amount from Step 5 minus amount from Step 4).
3. Determine the Amount of Title IV Grant Funds to be Returned by the Student
  - a. Amount of Title IV Grant protection: Multiply the total Title IV grant aid that was disbursed or could have been disbursed for the period of enrollment by 50%.
  - b. Title IV Grant funds for student to return: Subtract the protected amount of Title IV grants from the initial amount of Title IV grants for the student to return.
    - i. The grant funds returned by the student are applied to the following sources, in order, up to the total amount disbursed from that grant program, after subtracting the amount the school will return.
      1. Pell Grant
      2. Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant
      3. Iraq Afghanistan Service Grant

## Student Repayment of Title IV Funds to the Dept. of Education

Within 45 days of notice, the student must make full payment of the amount owed back to the federal government because of over payment or returns due to withdrawal or dismissal from the College. During this initial 45 days, the student must make payment to the school. If the student does not make payment in the full during the 45-day period, the student will lose eligibility for additional Title IV funds at any school.

After the 45-day period, the Tennessee College of Applied Technology will report the amount owed to the Department of Education and the student will be required to make payment Ripley arrangements with the Department of Education before being eligible to receive future Title IV assistance at any school.

*Note that the student is not responsible for returning funds to any grant program to which the student owes \$50.00 or less.*

## Applying the Return of Title IV Funds Policy and TBR Refund of Maintenance Policy

In most instances when a student has charged their tuition, fees, and books to their Pell grant and withdraws prior to completing 60% of their scheduled hours for the payment period, the student will owe payment to the school. This will occur when the TBR policy determines that the student owes more than what he or she is eligible to keep in Title IV funds, as a result of the Return of Title IV calculation.

In these instances, the school will require payment of the difference from the student. A "HOLD" will be placed on the student's account until full payment is made to the school. The student will not be allowed to apply for re-admission, register for class, or receive official copies of transcripts until the outstanding balance on their account is paid.

## Student Rights and Responsibilities

Student Rights. Students have the right to find out from the College the following:

- (a) What financial assistance is available, including information on all federal, state, local, private, and institutional financial aid programs. Students also have the right to know how the College selects financial aid recipients.
- (b) What the procedures and deadlines are for submitting applications for each available financial aid program.
- (c) How the College determined financial need. This process includes how costs for tuition and fees, room and board, travel, books and supplies, and personal and miscellaneous expenses are considered in the cost of education. It also includes the resources considered in calculating need (such as parental contribution, other financial aid, and assets). Students also have the right to know how much financial need has been met and how and when aid will be received.
- (d) How the College determines each type and amount of assistance in the financial aid package.
- (e) How the College determines whether students are making satisfactory academic progress, and what happens if not. Whether students continue to receive federal financial aid depends, in part, on whether satisfactory progress is being made.
- (f) If a federal work-study job is offered, what kind of job it is, what hours must be worked, what the duties will be, what the rate of pay will be, and how and when payment will be made.
- (g) Who the College's financial aid personnel are, where the office is located, how to contact the office for information.
- (h) Students have the right to know the College's refund policy.

Students Responsibilities:

- (a) Review and consider all information about the College's programs before enrolling.
- (b) Pay special attention to the application for student financial aid, complete it accurately and submit it on time to the financial aid office.
- (c) Know and comply with any deadlines for applying or reapplying for aid.
- (d) Provide all additional documentation, verification, corrections, and/or new information requested.



- (e) Notify the College of changes including name, address, telephone number, or e-mail address.
- (f) Read, understand, and keep copies of all forms requiring a signature.
- (g) Repay any overpayment discovered.

## TENNESSEE BOARD OF REGENTS POLICIES (TBR) AND GUIDELINES FOR TCAT'S

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Select Tennessee Board of Regents policies are located here for convenience; however, a complete listing of policies and guidelines may be found at <http://www.tbr.edu/policies/default.aspx?id=1166> .

**Instructional Projects:** TBR Guideline TCAT 010 <https://policies.tbr.edu/guidelines/instructional-projects-colleges-applied-technology>

**Procedures for Grievances by Students:** TBR Guideline TCAT 023 <https://policies.tbr.edu/guidelines/uniform-procedures-grievances-students-tcats>

**Academic Retention and Readmission at the Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology:** TBR Policy 2:03:01:05 <https://policies.tbr.edu/policies/academic-retention-and-readmission-tennessee-colleges-applied-technology>

**General Policy on Student Conduct & Disciplinary Sanctions:** TBR Policy 3:02:00:01 <https://policies.tbr.edu/policies/general-policy-student-conduct-disciplinary-sanctions>

**Student Due Process Procedure:** TBR Policy 3:02:01:00 <https://policies.tbr.edu/policies/student-due-process-procedure>

The purpose of this policy is to establish student due process procedures for Tennessee Board of Regents

**Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment:** TBR Policy 6:02:00:00

It is the intent of the Tennessee Board of Regents that the institutions under its jurisdiction shall fully comply with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Sections 799A and 845 of the Public Health Service Act and Regulations issued pursuant thereto (45 C.F.R. Parts 83 and 86). This policy and procedure is adopted by the Board to assist the institutions in such compliance.

See also: TBR Policies 6:01:00:00 & 6:03:00:00 (recited above in this Handbook).

TBR Guideline P-080, Complaint & Investigation Procedure.

<https://policies.tbr.edu/guidelines/discrimination-harassment-complaint-investigation-procedure>

**Freedom of Speech and Expression:** TBR Policy 1:03:02:60 <https://policies.tbr.edu/policies/freedom-speech-and-expression>

This policy reflects the commitment of the Board of Regents and the institutions it governs to freedom of speech and expression for all students and all faculty.

**Fees and Refunds:** TBR Guideline TCAT-080 <https://policies.tbr.edu/guidelines/fees-and-refunds>

This guideline compliments and implements provisions of Guideline B-060 (Fees, Charges and Refunds), relative to the TCATs. All provisions of B-060 shall otherwise remain in effect for the TCATs. The purpose of this Guideline is to ensure uniform administration of fees and refunds at the TCATs, and to establish related procedures between the TCATs and Lead Institutions.

**Student Scholarships, Grants, Loans & Financial Aid Programs:** TBR Policy 3:04:01:01

<https://policies.tbr.edu/policies/student-scholarships-grants-loans-financial-aid-programs-tennessee-colleges-applied>

This policy covers the establishment of and participation in student scholarship and financial aid programs by Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology.

# TENNESSEE BOARD OF REGENTS SENIOR STAFF & BOARD MEMBERS

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