Frequently Asked Questions for Health Sciences Programs at the MEC

How can I get information on the Health Sciences programs at the Medical Education Campus?

Attend the program Information Session. The Information Session will provide details about the pre-admission requirements and how and when to apply. Some programs have online Information Sessions that you can review at any time while other programs may require attendance at an in-person session. Information Sessions may be updated annually. A list of Information Sessions is available at www.nvcc.edu/medical/sessions.html.

I already applied to NOVA so why can’t I register now for a program at the MEC?

Medical education programs include student learning experiences called “clinical rotations” that are held at a local hospital, doctor’s office, or other patient care facility. Due to the limited number of available clinical sites, each program can only accept a specific number of students each year. There are pre-requisites that must be met to apply, and some programs are first-come/first-served while other programs are competitive. Interested students should attend the program Information Session to find out the required pre-requisites and how and when to apply.

I already have taken classes or earned a previous degree at another college. How can I find out if these courses will transfer?

Submit official sealed transcripts from each school attended to a NOVA Student Services Center. If your college was outside of the United States, your transcripts must be evaluated course-by-course by an international evaluation service before requesting evaluation by NOVA. Submit an online Transfer Credit Evaluation Request (form 125-049E) at https://dashboard.nvcc.edu/Default.aspx under Academic and Student Services. Transcript evaluation may take 6-10 weeks so submit your transcripts and transcript request form as EARLY as possible.

For programs with minimum grade requirements, students must have the specified grade requirement to be eligible for application. Science courses must be within 10 years to be accepted.

For more information on transferring courses, please refer to www.nvcc.edu/prior-learning/transfer.html.

I already took an English or Math course at another college. Do I still have to take the English or Math placement test?

Request official transcript evaluation through Student Services to see if your previous course may waive placement testing.
I took SDV 100 or another SDV course. Do I still have to take SDV 101 Intro to Healthcare?

No, you do not have to take SDV 101 if you have already completed another SDV course.

I am currently enrolled in a pre-requisite course but it will not be finished until after the deadline. Can I still turn in an application if I provide proof that I am doing well in the course?

No, you may not submit an application to the program until all pre-requisites are completed and a final grade and all applicable transfer credit is posted to your NOVA record.

How competitive are the Health Sciences programs?

Each program has its own admission criteria that is reviewed and determines how candidates are ranked. The applicant pool can be very different from year to year. The competitiveness of a program depends on the number of applications received versus the number of students that can be accepted, and the quality of the applications received for that admission cycle. For the best chance of acceptance, applicants will want to focus on being competitive versus just meeting the minimum requirements to apply.

I missed the deadline to submit my application. Is there anything else I can be doing while I’m waiting to apply to the next session?

You may complete any of the general education courses within the program while you are waiting to apply. You may also retake any pre-requisite courses to obtain a better grade to make yourself more competitive and increase your chance of being accepted to your desired program.

Can I work full-time and still attend the program?

The Health Sciences programs are intensive, and it is highly recommended that students work no more than 20 hours while attending the program. Any work schedules that students have must be arranged around the designated days and times for the lectures, labs, and clinical rotations for the program.

How much does the program cost?

Current tuition costs for NOVA can be found at [http://www.nvcc.edu/tuition/index.html](http://www.nvcc.edu/tuition/index.html). Students can use the current tuition rate and multiply this by the number of required credits for their desired program to find an approximate cost of the program. Program curriculums are available in the current college catalog at [http://www.nvcc.edu/curcatalog/](http://www.nvcc.edu/curcatalog/). Tuition rates are subject to change. Additional fees are required for textbooks, uniforms and program patches, any required lab or clinical equipment, and any applicable licensure application or testing fees.
I’m an international/out-of-state student. Can I apply to the Health Sciences programs?

Any students who have met the required pre-requisites may apply to the Health Sciences programs, but international and out-of-state students should note the following priority admission policy:

“Due to limited laboratory, classroom and/or clinical space, certain Health Sciences programs have restricted enrollment. As stated in the NOVA catalog, Health Sciences students are accepted on either a competitive or a first-come/first-served basis with priority given to:

1) Legal residents domiciled in the cities and counties supporting the College
2) Other Virginia legal residents
3) Out-of-state applicants
4) International students requiring Form I-20

Category 1 may include areas in which clinical affiliates have contractual agreements with NOVA or students from other VCCS service areas whose community college does not offer the specific program.”

Will I be assigned an advisor who will help me once I get into my program?

Students will be assigned a faculty advisor after being accepted to their program. Academic advisors are available in Student Services in Room 202 at the Medical Education Campus for students who need advising while completing the pre-requisites for their desired program.

How will I know if I have been accepted to the program?

The program office will notify all applicants of their admission status approximately 6 to 8 weeks after the deadline has passed. It is the responsibility of the applicant to respond by the deadline to officially accept admission and attend the mandatory program orientation. Students who do not respond by the provided deadline or who fail to show for the program orientation will be replaced with another applicant.

Do I have to get my physical or background check before I apply to the program?

Accepted applicants will receive instructions on how and when to obtain the physical and background check. They are not required to apply to the program.

Who can I talk to if I have additional questions about the Health Sciences programs?

You may visit the Medical Education Campus Student Services Office located in Room 202 during open business hours. Advising staff can provide assistance with course selection, transcript evaluation, or questions about the Health Sciences programs and admission process.