

TEX4S

educate. empower. employ. excel.

E4Texas Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Personal Care Attendant?

- A Personal Care Attendant (PCA) supports people with disabilities and older people to live in their homes, with their families, or in other community settings. A PCA can be employed by a provider of community services, a family member, or a person with a disability who needs support and assistance. Personal Care Attendants play key roles in the lives of the people they serve and their families. Personal Care Attendants are instrumental in supporting a person to live a valued life in his or her community.

What does a Personal Care Attendant do?

- Assist a person who is aging or disabled perform routine living activities. This could be in a client's home or in a residential care facility. Tasks can include routine cleaning, cooking, housekeeping chores, personal hygiene assistance and companionship.
- You may also be asked to keep detailed client records and report any significant changes in your client condition to your supervisor.

What training does the program include?

E4Texas has three semesters that must be completed.

1. Summer Semester – Students will live in a dorm at the University of Texas at Austin and learn independent living and self-determination skills. Students will attend classes, familiarize themselves with the city of Austin through public transportation, and will engage in special E4Texas outings. Housing and meals are included in the summer session.
2. Fall Semester – E4Texas: *Educate. Empower. Employ. Excel.* Students go to classes on the University of Texas campus and at community partner organizations. Fall builds on the skills learned in the summer and adds the Personal Care Attendant classes. E4Texas Fall semester combines classroom instruction with practical career building experiences.

Housing and meals are not included in the Fall session.

3. Spring Semester – E4Texas Internship
Students participate in internships in the community as well as maintaining community involvement and some classes.

Housing and meals are not included in the Spring session.

- *After successful completion of all three semesters, E4Texas students receive a Certificate of Completion from the Texas Center for Disability Studies at the University of Texas Austin.*

How is admission determined?

- Admission to the E4Texas Program is competitive. It is not determined on a "first come, first served" basis. There is no waiting list. Not all students who apply are accepted. Not all students who are accepted graduate. The program curriculum is rigorous. Because students are trained to work with some of the world's most vulnerable populations, high expectations are placed upon students who are admitted. Students must first fill out the online application, provide an essay, resume and identify references. Applications are then graded according to a rubric. The highest scoring students are invited for an interview where they are scored again. Acceptance letters will follow when interviews are complete.

Can I apply for the E4Texas program if I have a disability?

- The E4Texas program is an inclusive program which train students with and without disabilities to become a Personal Care Attendant (PCA).

What post-secondary educational support will I receive while I am in the program?

- The E4Texas program provides support to students. Universal Design Learning is utilized during instruction. Instructional materials will be in accessible formats regarding presentations, videos and/or audio. Students can choose to use multiple means to demonstrate their knowledge, such as written, oral, and demonstration. Assistive technology for students who need accommodations, such as the screen reader and speech to text training can be accessed via the Texas Technology Access Project on a loaner basis as available. In addition, tutoring and mentoring will be provided on an as needed basis.

Is there mentor support?

- Students will have access to a mentor to support homework. The mentor will work with the student to achieve their goals during the E4Texas.

What are the program dates?

E4Texas Move In: Sunday, July 5, 2020

E4Texas Move Out: Saturday, August 1, 2020

E4Texas Fall Semester 2020:

- September 8: Classes begin
- November 23-27: Thanksgiving – No Classes
- December 4: Last class day

E4Texas Spring Semester 2021:

- January 19: Classes begin
- March 15-20: Spring Break – No Classes
- May 7: Last day of class

How much does the program cost?

- Summer Semester:
 - \$5100, approximately \$1680 for Dorm/food
- Fall Semester:
 - Professionalism Course, Academic Career-focused Coursework-\$6,000
- Spring Semester:
 - Work-Based Learning Activities - \$6,000

*Fall and Spring semester tuition does not include housing or meals. Students will need to make arrangements for both. E4Texas has secured a relationship with a private dorm near campus and it is an approved vendor with TWC.

Are there financial resources available for the cost of the program?

- Some students fund themselves with private scholarships and personal savings. Students who have Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) counselors can visit with them to see what expenses TWC can help cover. For many of our students, TWC may be able to pay for their tuition, housing, and meals.
- For help identifying the nearest TWC office to you contact TWC Vocational Rehabilitation Inquiries.
 - Call: 800-628-5115
 - Email: customers@twc.state.tx.us

How do I apply for E4Texas?

- The application process consists of four parts.
 1. Complete the application.
 2. Respond to the essay and resume components.
 3. Identify two references to complete a short survey.

4. Submit the completed application and registration fee. All application packets must be fully completed and submitted with a \$50 application fee in order to be considered.

Here is the [link](#) to more information and the application.

- <https://disabilitystudies.utexas.edu/e4texas>