Student Guide for the Academic Year 2024-2025

Founded in 1988, the Higher Colleges of Technology (HCT) is the UAE's largest applied higher educational institution, renowned for its agile, innovative & job-focused education practices, such as experiential and hybrid learning; enhancing its standing as the Campus of Tomorrow.

Approximately 24,000 students attend 16 modern, technology-oriented campuses throughout the UAE, in the cities of Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, Dubai, Fujairah, Ras Al Khaimah, Sharjah and the Al Dhafrah region. HCT employs more than 2,000 staff, from over 80 nationalities, who share professional practices and innovative ideas, enriching the HCT community.

For Fall 2024 HCT offers over 30 bachelor and vocational Diploma programs in the following disciplines:

- Applied Media
- Business
- Computer Information Science,
- Education,
- Engineering Technology & Science
- Health Sciences

These programs are all designed in consultation with business and industry leaders, incorporating principles of innovation and entrepreneurship to ensure HCT students' skills are up-to-date and to the highest standards. HCT's courses are a hybrid blend of innovative, technology-driven academic studies and work-relevant programs, ensuring that HCT graduates have the necessary 21st century skills to make positive and lasting contributions to society in the 4th Industrial Revolution.

The HCT strategic plan, which is strongly aligned to the goals of the UAE national vision, the national employment strategies equips UAE's national workforce with future skills required in the labor market and empowers graduates to be familiar with technological updates, while enhancing their technical and general skills, so as to keep pace with accelerating job changes dictated by the 4th Industrial Revolution, such as Artificial Intelligence. As a result, HCT is a vital contributor to the UAE's national agendas, such as providing education opportunities for all Emirati youth, through life-long learning and career advancement opportunities.

HCT has great pride in its students and alumni and in order to meet national aspirations of the UAE's 50-year trajectory, HCT continues its efforts to attract and support student competencies and talents, as well as to cultivate the spirit of innovation in its student community. Accordingly, HCT students are well poised to be the technical leaders of tomorrow. Under the auspices of the "Hybrid Education" model, students are awarded an academic degree, based on fully accredited programs, and a professional certificate from an

international awarding body. This dual approach ensures that our students are in-demand locally and internationally renowned and relevant. In addition, HCT offers a unique and innovative suite of study tracks for its digital savvy student body, designing bespoke study paths and exit plans, where students can choose between Accelerated, Advanced and Professional study tracks.

HCT's Campus of Tomorrow model will equip UAE's National human capital resources with future workforce skills; meeting national goals and empowering graduates to be adept at technological updates. Through such groundbreaking initiatives, graduates will enhance their skills and keep pace with accelerating job changes, dictated by the 4th Industrial Revolution and the rapid development of Artificial Intelligence skills.

As a vital contributor to UAE's agendas, HCT was named the first educational free zone, under the UAE's Fifty Year Charter", supporting students to carry out incubated business and creative activities, through its state-of-the-art InnCuVation Spaces. At these incubators students can utilize all the benefits of an advanced business incubator to accelerate and commercialize their innovative visions and enterprises. As such, HCT students are well-equipped to be the technical leaders of tomorrow. The HCT has also embraced a global perspective on applied education by establishing the Global Applied Education Network (GAEN), which sees it partner with a range of leading global educational institutions.

The founding father of the UAE, the late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may God protect his soul, said: "Education is like a lantern which lights your way in a dark alley." HCT stands tall as a beacon of light in education, bolstered by visionary leadership, talented workforce & world-class teachers, state-of-the-art facilities and educational best practices.

1. HCT ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Admission and placement in all HCT credential programs is subject to the following criteria:

GENERAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants who meet the following requirements are eligible to apply for admission to the Higher Colleges of Technology, according to the admission policies and regulations for the relevant programs:
- They have passed the government General School Certificate (GSC) or its equivalent with a minimum average of 60%.
- They have completed the Emirates Standardized Test – EmSAT in English or equivalent.
In accordance with the following mechanisms and criteria:

Applied Bachelor-Direct Admissions	• Elite or equivalent: 60% • Advanced or equivalent : 70% • General / Applied or equivalent: 80% • English Proficiency: EmSAT-English 1100 or equivalent.

Advanced Diploma-Direct Admissions	• Elite or equivalent: 60% • General/Applied or equivalent: 70% • English Proficiency: EmSAT-English 1100 or equivalent.
Vocational Diploma-Direct Admissions	Advanced or equivalent: 60% General/ Applied or equivalent: 70% English Proficiency: EmSAT-English 900 or equivalent.

In accordance with the following mechanisms and criteria:

Admissions Criteria for Applied Bachelor Programs (Direct Entry)

Programs		Elite or equivalent	Advanced or equivalent	General or equivalent	Applied or equivalent
Applied Media		HS AV: 60% EmSAT-English: 1100	HS AV: 70% EmSAT-English: 1100	HS AV: 80% EmSAT-English: 1100	HS AV: 80% EmSAT-English: 1100
Engineering Technology & Science programs		HS AV: 60% EmSAT-English: 1100 EmSAT- Math: 900 * EmSAT- Physics: 700* EmSAT- Chemistry or Biology: 700 *	HS AV: 70% EmSAT-English: 1100 EmSAT- Math: 900* EmSAT- Physics: 700* EmSAT- Chemistry or Biology: 700 *	HS AV: 85% EmSAT-English: 1100 EmSAT- Math: 900 * EmSAT- Physics: 700* EmSAT- Chemistry or Biology: 700 *	HS AV: 85% EmSAT-English: 1100 EmSAT- Math: 900 * EmSAT- Physics: 700* EmSAT- Chemistry or Biology: 700 *
Health Sciences	**Health Science programs except Pharmacy and Nursing**	HS AV: 60% EmSAT-English: 1100 EmSAT score of **600** in two of the three science subjects (Chemistry, Biology or Physics)* Interview and Fitness test for EMS**	HS AV: 70% EmSAT-English: 1100 EmSAT score of **600** in two of the three science subjects (Chemistry, Biology or Physics)* Interview and Fitness test for EMS**	HS AV: 80% EmSAT-English: 1100 EmSAT score of **600** in two of the three science subjects (Chemistry, Biology or Physics)* Interview and Fitness test for EMS**	NA

	Programs				
	Pharmacy program	HS AV: 80% EmSAT-English: 1100 EmSAT- Math: 800* EmSAT score of 800 in two of the three science subjects (Chemistry, Biology or Physics)*	HS AV: 85% EmSAT-English: 1100 EmSAT- Math: 800* EmSAT score of 800 in two of the three science subjects (Chemistry, Biology or Physics)*	NA	NA
	Nursing program	HS AV: 60% EmSAT-English: 1100 EmSAT- Math: 700 * EmSAT score of 600 in two of the three science subjects (Chemistry, Biology or Physics)*.	HS AV: 70% EmSAT-English: 1100 EmSAT- Math: 700* EmSAT score of 600 in two of the three science subjects (Chemistry, Biology or Physics)*.	HS AV: 80% EmSAT-English: 1100 EmSAT- Math: 700* EmSAT score of 600 in two of the three science subjects (Chemistry, Biology or Physics)*.	NA
	Midwifery	HS AV: 65% EmSAT-English: 1100 Emsat Arabic-600 EmSAT- Math: 700 * EmSAT score of 600 in two of the three science subjects (Chemistry, Biology or Physics)*.	HS AV: 70% EmSAT-English: 1100 Emsat Arabic-600 EmSAT- Math: 700 * EmSAT score of 600 in two of the three science subjects (Chemistry, Biology or Physics)*.	HS AV: 80% EmSAT-English: 1100 Emsat Arabic-600 EmSAT- Math: 700 * EmSAT score of 600 in two of the three science subjects (Chemistry, Biology or Physics)*.	NA

Programs	Elite or equivalent	Advanced or equivalent	General or equivalent	Applied or equivalent
Education	HS AV: 75% EmSAT-English: 1100 Pass Interview*		HS AV: 80% EmSAT-English: 1100 Pass Interview*	NA

Computer Information Science	HS AV: 60% EmSAT-English: 1100 EmSAT- Math: 800 * EmSAT score of 700 in one of the three science subjects (Chemistry, Biology or Physics)*.	HS AV: 70% EmSAT-English: 1100 EmSAT- Math: 800* EmSAT score of 700 in one of the three science subjects (Chemistry, Biology or Physics)*.	HS AV: 80% EmSAT-English: 1100 EmSAT- Math: 800* EmSAT score of 700 in one of the three science subjects (Chemistry, Biology or Physics)*.	NA
Business Programs	HS AV: 60% EmSAT-English: 1100 EmSAT- Math: 800 *	HS AV: 70% EmSAT-English: 1100 EmSAT- Math: 800*	HS AV: 80% EmSAT-English: 1100 EmSAT- Math: 800*	HS AV: 80% EmSAT-English: 1100 EmSAT- Math: 800*

Conditional Admissions

In certain cases, HCT may extend conditional offers of admissions in vocational diploma programs to applicants who don't meet any of the aforementioned criteria

Vocational Diploma-Conditional Admissions	• Elite /Advanced or equivalent: 60% • General/Applied or equivalent: 70% • English Proficiency: EmSAT-English 700-875 or equivalent

Specific Admissions Requirements Alternatives:

EmSAT Test	Alternatives
Arabic 600-800 points	High School Subject score or equivalent: 75%
English 1100 points	Academic IELTS: 5.0 Points
	TOEFL: IBT 61
	TOEFL: CPT 173
Math 700- 800 points	High School Subject score or equivalent: Advanced or equivalent: 80% General or equivalent: 85%
	SAT- reasoning: 520
	IGCSE, AS and AL : C grade or equivalent
	IB Standard Level Math: 4 points
	AP- Math: 3 points
	ACT: 20 points
Math 900 points	High School Subject score or equivalent: Advanced or equivalent: 80% General or equivalent: 90%
	SAT- reasoning: 590
	IGCSE, AS and AL: C grade or equivalent
	IB Standard Level Math: 4 points
	AP- Math: 3 points
	ACT: 20 points

EmSAT Test	Alternatives
Physics 600-750 points	High School subject score (average of the best two of the last three years): 80% (Advanced or Equivalency only)
	IGCSE, AS and AL: C grade or equivalent
	IB Standard Level Physics: 4 points
	AP- Physics: 3 points
Chemistry 600-700 points	High School subject score (average of the best two of the last three years): 80% (for Advanced or equivalent only)
	IGCSE, AS and AL: C grade or equivalent
	IB Standard Level Chemistry: 4 points
	AP- Chemistry: 3 points
Biology 600- 700 points	High School subject score (average of the best two of the last three years) : 80% (for Advanced or equivalent only)
	IGCSE,AS and AL: C grade or equivalent
	IB Standard Level Biology: 4 points
	AP- Biology: 3 points

Students seeking transfer from Higher Education Institutions to HCT

National students and sons/daughters of national mothers may transfer from federal institutions to HCT during the fall and spring semesters provided that they did not cease their studies for more than one semester.

National students and sons/daughters of National mothers enrolled in non-federal universities accredited by the Commission for Academic Accreditation may apply for admissions considerations in HCT during the spring semesters only as non-current applicants (Priority 2 and Priority 3).

 Admissions of the aforementioned categories of applicants will depend on the number of seats allocated and in accordance with the following conditions:

1. Student must be of good academic standing.

2. Student must not have received any academic warnings or penalty (academic dismissal).

3. They meet HCT established admissions requirements for the programs they want to join (high school average and English proficiency criteria).

4. Students complete at least one regular semester with normal academic load of 12 credits. Academic departments will be responsible for determining the courses/credits to be transferred towards graduation requirements from HCT.

5. Student will be considered among P1 category if the period of interruption of studies in UAEU or Zayed University does not exceed one (1) academic year.

6. Applications by transfer students from other higher education institutions, and ZU/UAEU students who are inactive for more than one academic year, will be reviewed and they will be categorized as P2 or P3 students, depending on the year of high school graduation. Their acceptance will be dependent on the capacity of HCT and preferential criteria for this category in the admissions policy.

7. Transfer students are required to submit their applications on the Ministry of Education (MoE) official website, making sure to upload a copy of official transcripts, with course descriptions, from the previous government or private institution. Prior to registration, original transcripts and course descriptions must be submitted to the Academic Services Office in the relevant campus.

2   Self-Sponsored Student

Student who are not eligible for admission to HCT, but meet the HCT academic criteria, may qualify for HCT admission, provided they pay their own tuition fees, as specified below:

2.1   Criteria for students paying their own tuition fees

i. Non-Emirati high school students with an average of 85% and EmSAT-English >= 1250 or IELTS score of 5.5 or equivalent.

ii. UAE Nationals and Mother National applicants:
   a. Who have already received an academic credential and are interested in pursuing their studies to earn another credential from HCT.
   b. Non-Current applicants who completed their grade 12 in previous year and wish to pursue their first higher education degree in HCT.

2.2   Tuition Fees

2.2.1 Admission Application Fee, Cash AED 250 non-refundable.
2.2.2 Tuition structure as per table below:

Category	Lab Based	Non-Lab Based	Zero Level
Self-Sponsor	2500	2100	1389

2.2.3 HCT offers tuition remissions for expatriate applicants as per the following schemes.

High School Average	Tuition Discount (%)
95% and above	20%
Students with a cumulative GPA of between 3.00 and 3.74	
Sons/daughters of HCT employees	
UAE national students who are interested in pursuing an additional credential	
Students who attain a cumulative GPA of 3.75 and above.	40%

Non-recent High School Graduates (Non-current students)

National students and sons/daughters of National mothers who completed high school in previous years and wish to apply for admissions consideration in HCT, are required to apply online through the MoE website.

HCT shall consider admitting Priority 2 outstanding students, holding high school certificates which are not older than three (3) years at the time of submitting an application to HCT, according to the following competitive standards:

i.   Applicant must have achieved a highly competitive cumulative average, in their general secondary education, of not less than 85% or equivalent.
ii. Applicant student must present a valid EmSAT English exam with minimum score of 1100 or equivalent.
iii. Applicant must achieve high scores in other required EmSAT exams in accordance with the admission criteria for various respective disciplines.
iv. HCT shall consider special cases, whereby students graduated successfully over previous years and are among students of the second and third priority admission categories, whose medical or social conditions prevented them from pursuing further education.

STUDENT LIFE

HCT takes pride in adopting a holistic approach toward educating and developing its students. HCT students will experience a top quality academic education in the latest facilities and will have access to a comprehensive set of support services and activity programs.

From the time you are admitted to the HCT, until the time you graduate, you will have access to a range of support services, facilities, and programs at your campus. These are designed to help you attain personal growth and academic achievement. Services include providing you with academic information, academic advising, and personal and career counselling where needed. A range of co-curricular activities, extra-curricular activities,

sport, health and wellness, and recreational facilities are also available. Financial aid and special needs accommodation are offered to students who need assistance.

Accommodation and Transportation

The Higher Colleges of Technology (HCT) does not provide student accommodation services. However, transportation service is available, for nominal fees, in HCT women's campuses.

Services provided for the students of determination.

HCT campuses provide specific services for students of determination.

For more information on student life, an important calendar and dates for students and their parents and other services provided by the Higher Colleges of Technology, please visit the Higher Colleges of Technology website **www.hct.ac.ae**