College of the Mainland

SUMMER 2025

MEET THE NEW COMPRESIDENT

DR. HELEN CASTELLANOS BREWER

2025 SUMMER & FALL REGISTRATION NOW OPEN VISIT COM.EDU/APPLY

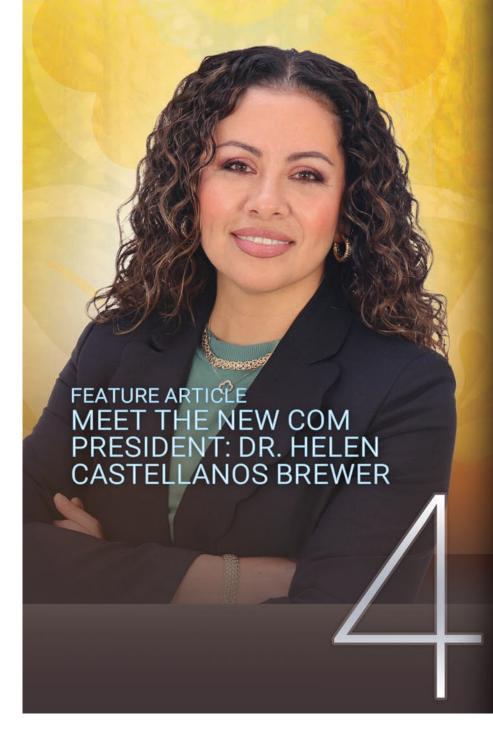
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College of the Mainland 1200 N. Amburn Road Texas City, Texas 77591 409-938-1211 com.edu

PUBLICATION STAFF

Editor: Diane Burkett

Managing Editor: Barbara Kovacevich

Photography: Jose Salazar

Print Production: Manda Young, Jonathan Hua

Design and Layout: Carl Owens **Graphic Design:** Scott Symes **Digital Content:** Chris Carpenter











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Admissions Office

Doyle Family Administration Building admissions@com.edu 409-933-8264 or 888-258-8859, Extension 8264

Financial Aid Office

Doyle Family Administration Building finaid@com.edu 409-933-8274

COM Foundation

Doyle Family Administration Building foundation@com.edu 409-933-8675



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The college district includes Texas City, Dickinson, Hitchcock, La Marque and Santa Fe. The service area includes League City, Friendswood, Kemah, Bacliff and San Leon.

A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS

MEET DR. HELEN CA.

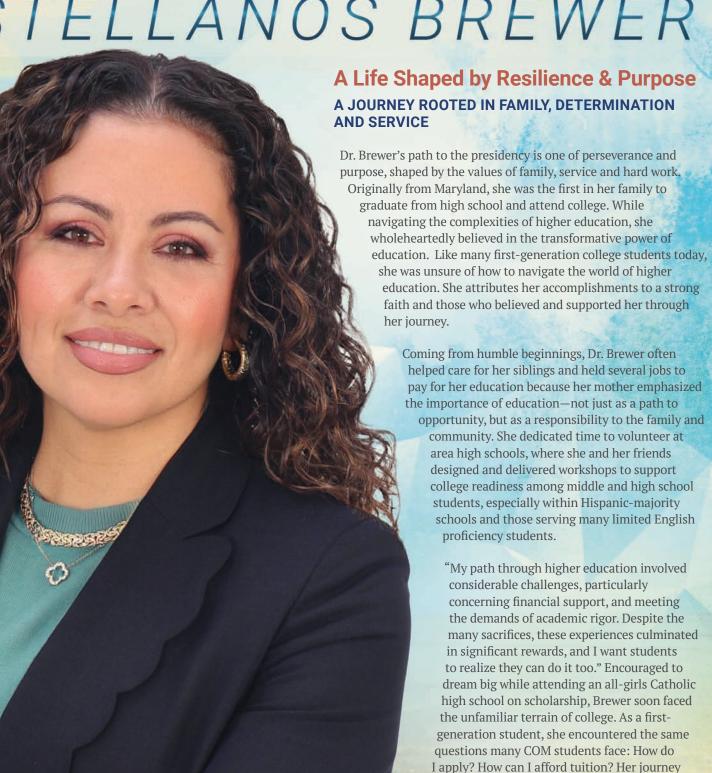
THE NEW PRESIDENT OF COLLEGE OF THE MAINLAND

College of the Mainland (COM) embarks on a new chapter with the appointment of Dr. Helen Castellanos Brewer as its ninth president. Officially stepping into the role on July 1, 2025, Dr. Brewer brings more than two decades of higher education leadership and a personal journey that closely mirrors the experiences of many COM students.

Her appointment followed a national search and unanimous approval by the COM Board of Trustees. A respected leader within the college community, Dr. Brewer joined COM in 2021 as vice president for Student Services and later served as executive vice president for Academic and Student Affairs. In those roles, she helped guide the transition to 8-week terms, expanded health care programs and led efforts that resulted in enrollment growth of more than 30 percent.

"I am honored to serve as the next president of College of the Mainland," Brewer said. "COM is a remarkable place, and I look forward to building on our momentum to create even more lifechanging opportunities through education."

STELLANOS BREWER



began at a community college, while working to support herself and navigate a world that didn't vet

feel like her own.

"As a first-generation college student who was working several jobs to pay for college and fulfilling family obligations like caring for my younger siblings, there was an overwhelming sense of uncertainty about whether higher education was a place I belonged." She added, "and I didn't realize that there was a support system in place."

She later transferred to the University of Maryland, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. While there, she took on a leadership role that reflected both courage and conviction. She and a small group of friends, many also first-generation college students, founded the state's first Latina sorority, a bold step toward creating connection and helping others feel seen, supported and proud of their identity. Her commitment to helping others continued as she pursued a Master of Arts in Counseling from Trinity Washington University, and later her PhD in Education Leadership, Management and Policy from Seton Hall University. She attributes her start at a community college as opening the doors to a whole new life.

An added gift of her community college experience was meeting her husband of twenty years, Dr. Athos Brewer, at the same institution where she had once been a student and later returned as a student affairs leader; together, they have two children, Aramis and Lily.

From Student to Advocate

BRINGING PERSONAL INSIGHT TO TRANSFORM STUDENT SUCCESS

Dr. Brewer's leadership is grounded in her personal experiences. She understands what it means to move between two worlds, one shaped by family, culture and responsibility, and another defined by unfamiliar academic systems and expectations. That perspective fuels her deep commitment to helping all COM students navigate challenges and stay the course.

"Education changed my social and economic trajectory..."

"As a first-generation college student, like many students at COM, my family had limited means but believed in the American dream and the societal equalizing power of education," she said. "Had it not been for the caring faculty and staff at my local community college, I would not have been able to access a high quality and affordable higher education. Consequently, at an early point in my career, I decided that I wanted to be engaged in helping others and changing their lives through education."

Her student-centered approach is already evident at COM. She has led efforts to reduce financial and procedural barriers, streamline applications and strengthen the first-year experience through personalized enrollment coaching. As a Rising Presidents Fellow with the Aspen Institute, a highly selective program that prepares aspiring community college leaders to become successful presidents focused on advancing student success, Brewer brings proven strategies from across the country and adapts them to meet the needs of local students.

"My goal is to look at how all of our services connect and make sure we are aligning with high-impact practices," she said. "However, this is an effort that extends beyond the College. We need our entire community to become involved in making changes, thereby ensuring our students are to be successful."





Now leading College of the Mainland, Dr. Brewer brings deep respect for the institution's history and a clear focus on what comes next. Her leadership is centered on expanding access, strengthening community partnerships and ensuring students are equipped for long-term success.

"I am proud to share our 2024-2027 Strategic Plan, a roadmap created through college- and community-wide collaboration," she said. "It reflects our shared commitment to student achievement, employee well-being and meaningful community impact."

The plan supports statewide goals such as Texas House Bill 8 and Talent Strong Texas, which emphasize workforce readiness and student outcomes. Through this lens, COM is not only preparing students for high-value careers but also honoring its responsibility to

serve the region with excellence and make an impact on the local economy.

Dr. Brewer often shares a message that speaks to both resilience and purpose: "If you don't give up, and if you stay the course, the reward will be greater than the sacrifices—not only for you, but for your family, too."

With her leadership, College of the Mainland is building on its proud legacy, deepening its roots in the community and shaping a future where more students can succeed and thrive.



A LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE: A FUTURE OF SUCCESS

Strategic Plan | 2024-2027

The 2024-2027 Strategic Plan is a roadmap designed to elevate COM to new heights. This plan, the result of extensive college-wide collaboration, outlines our commitment to student success, employee well-being and community impact.

GOAL 1:

STUDENT SUCCESS

Empower our students to clarify their educational paths, ensure their learning and meet their end goals.

Strategic Activities

- · Enhance Early Engagement
- Simplify Enrollment Pathways
- Optimize Communications
- Strengthen Onboarding
- Propel Academic Success
- Foster Lasting Connections

GOAL 2:

EMPLOYEE SUCCESS

Create an environment that retains and attracts administrators, faculty and staff that are committed to serving students.

Strategic Activities

- Invest in Employee Growth
- · Develop High-Impact Leaders
- Formalize Employee Recognition

GOAL 3:

CAMPUS AMENITIES & INFRASTRUCTURE

Develop and maintain a modern, sustainable and technologically advanced campus environment that supports the success, well-being and safety of students, employees and the broader community.

Strategic Activities

- Complete Bond-Funded Projects
- Establish Quality Assurance Program
- Upgrade Technology Infrastructure





GOAL 4:

CAMPUS SAFETY & WELLNESS

Ensuring safety, security and wellness initiatives for the COM community and its property to enable the pursuit of academic and professional goals.

Strategic Activities

- Enhance Physical Security
- Promote a Culture of Safety
- Support Wellness & Mental Health

GOAL 5:

CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT

Establish and maintain connections with our community and industry.

Strategic Activities

- Community Outreach & Engagement
- Addressing Community Needs
- Corporate & Continuing Education Market Research
- Corporate & Continuing Education Program Design & Development
- Corporate & Continuing Education Marketing & Outreach
- Corporate & Continuing Education Operational Efficiency
- · Build Long-Term Partnerships

Scan to view the Strategic Plan 2024-2027 Performance Indicators Summary

com.edu/strategic-plan





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DUAL CREDIT

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PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP



of COM'S Success

Leawana Williams

Hear from COM Collegiate High School student and peer mentor Leawana Williams as she shares what inspires her journey and how COM has supported her along the way.



SCAN TO WATCH

Lydia Wardell

"I've been a certified surgical technologist since 1988, and what's always drawn me in is the fast-paced, team-focused environment of the OR and the chance to make a real impact on patients at their most vulnerable. Since 2006, I've shared that passion through teaching by helping students build confidence, develop competence, and embrace a commitment to excellence. At College of the Mainland, our students train in a hands-on, real-world setting with state-of-the-art labs and dedicated faculty. With strong community ties and a focus on workforce development, COM is the perfect place to launch and grow the surgical technology program."

Abdu Meguader

"I chose COM because I wanted a school that would support my transfer to a four-year university. My experience here has been incredible, as I've met so many wonderful people and lifelong friends. COM has supported me academically and personally by allowing me to participate in initiatives like working at the tutoring center and serving as a President's Ambassador, where I get to contribute to the school's mission. My most memorable moment was attending the 2024 HACU conference in Colorado, where I had the opportunity to meet so many amazing people and network with potential employers."

Brittany Shelby

"As the Culinary Arts program coordinator at College of the Mainland, I'm thrilled to be part of this exciting new chapter that launched in 2024. What I love most about teaching at COM is witnessing our inaugural cohort's incredible progress as they master foundational skills in our brand-new, modern kitchen facilities. It's especially rewarding to see our first group of students approaching their Professional Cook Certificate completion. Watching them evolve from day one, when some were barely comfortable holding a knife, to now confidently executing complex techniques and menu planning has been remarkable. While we're still writing our program's success stories, the determination and growth I've seen in our students' eves during these first two semesters tells me we're building something truly special here at COM."



aerospace engineering, knowing COM gave me the foundation I needed."

EXPANDING

PROGRAMS AT GOM



CON

Surgical Technologies

Launching Fall 2025

A career in surgical technology is a rewarding opportunity to play a vital role in healthcare. Surgical technologists work alongside surgeons and nurses, ensuring procedures run smoothly and patients receive the best care. This fast-paced field requires attention to detail, adaptability and a passion for making a difference. With strong job growth and the chance to enter the workforce quickly, surgical technology is an excellent choice for those seeking a meaningful and dynamic career.

SCAN FOR MORE INFO



Limited Medical Radiologic Technology

Launched Spring 2025

An LMRT specializes in performing X-ray imaging with a focus on skeletal systems and bony anatomy. Their role involves acquiring and processing diagnostic images, guiding patients through procedures and supporting healthcare professionals by providing essential imaging data. LMRTs typically work in outpatient settings like clinics or private practices rather than hospitals. Earn an LMRT Certificate in as little as three semesters.

SCAN FOR MORE INFO



In response to our communities' growing and expansive learning needs, College of the Mainland is prioritizing innovative learning options to effectively prepare the workforce of the future.

For every student looking to advance their education, from pursuing high school equivalency, workforce education, transferring to a four-year university or looking to add to their existing education, COM is committed to providing an open and accessible experience for all.

Check out some of our featured programs at COM!

COM

Instrumentation & Electrical

Launching Fall 2025

COM's Instrumentation & Electrical (I&E) Technology program prepares students to install, maintain and troubleshoot complex industrial systems. With handson training and industry-relevant skills, graduates are prepared for careers in refineries, chemical plants, utilities and more. Earn a Level I I&E Certificate in as little as two semesters.

SCAN FOR MORE INFO



Culinary Arts | Evening Cohort

Launched Spring 2025

Are you passionate about the art of cooking? Ready to turn your love for food into a rewarding career? Look no further! COM's Culinary Arts program offers a delectable blend of hands-on experience, expert instruction and real-world skills to ignite your culinary passion and prepare you for success in the fast-growing industry. Earn a Professional Cook Certificate in a little as two semesters.

SCAN FOR MORE INFO



HEALTHCARE CA

Start Your Healthcare Career at COM.

Ready to make a difference? At College of the Mainland, we offer hands-on training for in-demand healthcare careers that put compassion into action. Whether you want to become a nurse, surgical technologist or medical assistant, COM provides the skills, certifications and support to launch your future in patient care.

PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

Nursing

Follow your passion and be on the front line of healthcare! You can pursue a certificate, associate degree, or obtain your bachelor's degree in nursing.

CHOOSE YOUR PATH:

- Vocational Nursing (LVN) –
 12 months
- VN to RN (AAS Nursing) 3 semesters
- Associate Degree Nursing (AAS Registered Nurse) 4 semesters
- RN to BSN online 3 semesters

Radiologic Technology

Radiographers are the third largest group of medical professionals in the United States.

Associate of Applied Science –
 Radiologic Technologist (RT) –
 5 semesters

Surgical Technology

New Program Launching Fall 2025

Get hands-on training and expert instruction to prepare you for success in the operating room.

• 3 semesters

Dental Hygiene

Dental hygienists are preventative specialists of the dental field.

- Associate of Applied Science in Dental Hygiene
 - 5 semesters

REERS



Medical Assisting

Often the first friendly face seen by patients, medical assistants guide patients throughout a clinic or hospital visit.

 Associate of Applied Science in Medical Assisting – 5 semesters

Certificates for quick entry into the healthcare industry:

- Certified Nursing Aide (CNA)
- Dental Assisting
- EKG Technician
- Medical Billing & Coding
- Health Information
 Management
- Limited Medical Radiological Technologist (LMRT)
- Pharmacy Technician
- Phlebotomy Technician
- Sterile Processing Technician

your path to
pur path to
pur path to
starts here!

EXPLORE AREAS OF STUDY!



com.edu/academics/areas-of-study.html

FORWARD MOMENTUM

COM 2023 BOND UPDATE

We're building spaces that power success – for students and our community.

In May 2023, voters approved a \$250M General Obligation Bond to support student success and workforce growth. Today, we're delivering on that promise with six major construction projects, two building modernizations and infrastructure upgrades – all on time and under budget.

The long-range master facilities plan directly addresses the region's immense growth, and ensuing education and workforce training needs through the development of new programs, new buildings and new opportunities for student success. The 2023 Bond moves us closer to completing the plan.

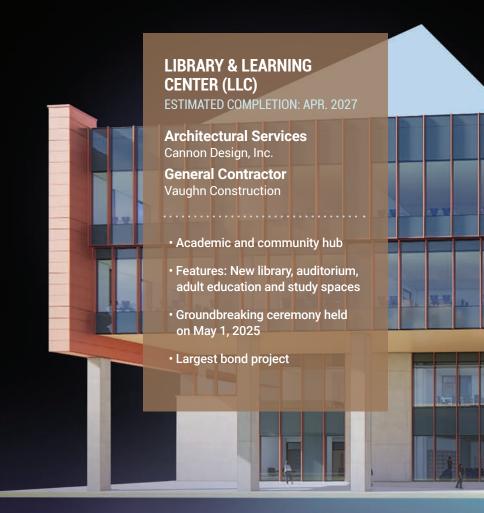
Bond Project Manager

Lockwood, Andrews, and Newnam, Inc.

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

ESTIMATED COMPLETION: OCT. 2025

- Campuswide utility and site upgrades
- Parking Lots B & C complete
- Demolition of Lot A and Fred Taylor (began March 14)
- Underground Utilities at the COMmons – 95% complete
- Lake Eckert Expansion upcoming



WORKFORCE EDUCATION & WELDING BUILDING RENOVATIONS

ESTIMATED COMPLETION: SEPT. 2025

Architectural Services Joiner Architects

General Contractor Pogue Construction

• Expanding hands-on training for Gulf Coast industry needs

COLLEGE SERVICES BUILDING

ESTIMATED COMPLETION: APR. 2027

- Supporting back-end services so students can thrive
- Construction starts
 May 2026





YOUR STORY DOESN'T END AT GRADUATION

Stay connected. Stay proud. Stay part of the legacy.

You walked the halls, made lifelong friends and shaped who you are today. Now it's your chance to give back, network and inspire the next generation.



SCAN TO SHARE YOUR STORY AND MAKE A GIFT!

COM ALUMNI NEWS



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Tanieka Francis



Tanieka Francis began her College of the Mainland (COM) journey at just 16 years old as a Collegiate High School student. Despite initial nerves, she quickly found her place and excelled—earning her associate degree in Natural Science in 2024, just two weeks before graduating high school.

"My experience at COM has been the best time of my life," Francis said.

COM gave her the confidence and support she needed to pursue her dream of becoming a nurse practitioner. She received scholarships from the COM Foundation and emergency aid during a difficult time.

"COM goes above and beyond to be there for their students," she adds.

During the 2024–2025 academic year, Tanieka served as a presidential ambassador, giving campus tours, assisting with scholarship events and even visiting the Texas Capitol for Community College Day.

"COM's programs put students in rooms they never thought they'd be in," she says.

Now on her way to UTMB's nursing program, Tanieka is committed to making a difference in trauma care.

"If I can make even a fraction of the impact on my patients' lives that COM made on mine, I'll know I've succeeded."



A Legacy of Historic Achievements

'nder Dr. Nichols' visionary leadership, COM accomplished what many thought impossible: securing the passage of two general obligation bonds that together exceeded \$400 million. This unprecedented achievement reflected not only the community's trust in his direction but also his ability to inspire broad-based support for the College's future.

"These bonds were crucial in turning vision into reality," said Don Gartman, COM Board of Trustees chair. "Dr. Nichols understood the importance of investing in infrastructure to create an environment where students can thrive."

These historic funds allowed long-stalled infrastructure projects to progress. New state-of-the-art learning facilities. updated labs and enhanced student spaces now reflect the modern, forward-thinking ethos of the institution. The result is not just a better campus, but a stronger foundation for future generations of learners.

Commitment to Students and Innovation

Dr. Nichols' focus extended beyond physical improvements. He introduced the first corequisite model at a Texas community college, a pioneering approach that provided academic support to students who were not yet college ready. This model enabled students to start college-level courses immediately, giving them a chance to succeed more quickly and confidently. The program's success inspired other institutions across Texas, cementing COM's reputation as a trailblazer.

In addition to the corequisite model, Dr. Nichols prioritized what the Opening Doors Promise Scholarship made possible. By initiating the scholarship at COM, he ensured that many local students could access a tuition-free college education, removing financial barriers and creating pathways to success. By expanding the national Guided Pathways and introducing the COM 8-Week

Advantage, he simplified the academic journey, helping students complete their studies more efficiently and effectively. These initiatives have contributed to a significant increase in enrollment—an impressive feat that reflects both Dr. Nichols' leadership and the college's dedication to student success.

Responding to Industry Needs: Program Growth Under Dr. Nichols

Under Dr. Nichols' leadership, COM experienced unprecedented program expansion to meet growing industry demands. New offerings in Surgical Technology, Radiologic Technology, Dental Hygiene, Instrumentation and Electrical (I&E) and a tuition-free Plumbing Pre-Apprenticeship program. to name a few, provided students with high-demand skills and credentials that translated directly into career opportunities. Meanwhile, expanded programming in allied health, culinary arts, and engineering

not only broadened



COM's educational portfolio but also enhanced its ability to serve as a vital workforce pipeline. Dr. Nichols' proactive approach to program growth ensured that COM remained at the forefront of regional workforce development, empowering both students and the local economy.

Community Engagement and Philanthropy

Dr. Nichols' tenure was marked not only by growth on campus but also by meaningful connections in the community. Through relationship building, he cultivated numerous philanthropic partnerships that have profoundly impacted COM students and staff. The COM Foundation, supported by these partnerships, raised millions of dollars to provide student scholarships, fund classroom technology enhancements and more. Dr. Nichols' ability to forge these connections helped create a culture of giving and collaboration that will continue to benefit the college and its students for years to come.

quality education and workforce training. He worked tirelessly to influence statewide policies, inspire fellow educators and build lasting partnerships with local businesses and organizations.

"Dr. Nichols' vision has truly transformed our community," Gartman said. "He has not only enhanced opportunities for students but also reinforced the college's vital role in regional workforce development."

Gratitude and a New Chapter

As Dr. Nichols steps away from the helm, the college and community look back on a legacy of innovation, growth and impact that has reshaped College of the Mainland. Under his leadership, the institution evolved from a challenging crossroads to a thriving hub of learning and opportunity, positioning students and staff for long-term success.

"Dr. Nichols' leadership has fundamentally transformed COM," said Dr. Helen Brewer. "His unwavering dedication and vision have not only laid a solid foundation for student success and institutional excellence but have also set the stage for the next chapter of COM's remarkable journey. As we look ahead, we remain deeply grateful for his service and the enduring legacy he leaves behind."

The next chapter for COM is already taking shape. The college is well-positioned to build on Dr. Nichols' legacy, with a bright future of continued growth, innovation and opportunity ahead.

Advocacy and Partnership

A passionate advocate for community colleges, Dr. Nichols championed their unique role in delivering accessible,



Watch the Video Interview

Learn more about Dr. Nichols' journey, his reflections on his career, and his hopes for COM's future.

Scan the QR code or visit: youtube.com/watch?v=N5jxxZYgAMs









A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO GETTING STARTED AT COM

Whether you're planning to transfer to a university, start or change careers, or advance in your current one, College of the Mainland (COM) is your gateway to unlimited possibilities. With flexible on-campus and online classes, comprehensive student success resources and wrap-around student services designed to support you every step of the way, COM gives you the tools and support to move forward—affordably and confidently."

At COM, you're more than just a student — you're part of a community committed to your success.



START YOUR JOURNEY

EXPLORE AREAS OF STUDY.
COM offers fully accredited bachelor and associate degrees to technical certification courses to continuing education classes for lifelong learners.



SCAN TO LEARN MORE

2 ATTEND AN INFORMATION SESSION.

COM's Information Sessions give you a chance to learn about academic programs, the admissions process, financial aid and more (in-person and virtual options available).



SCAN TO LEARN MORE

SIGN UP FOR A CAMPUS TOUR.

Experience our campus firsthand with a campus visit. Visits are offered year-round.



SCAN TO LEARN MORE

MEET WITH AN
ENROLLMENT COACH.
Start your journey with
a dedicated enrollment
coach by your side! Our
enrollment coaches are
here to guide you through
the entire enrollment
process, making it easy
and stress-free.



SCAN TO LEARN MORE

STEPS TO APPLY

Transferring? Militaryconnected? COM has tailored
steps for you. Start at:
com.edu/admissions

Apply for Admissions, Financial Aid & Scholarships

- Apply through ApplyTexas.org.
- FAFSA: studentaid.gov, COM school code: 007096
- TASFA: For Texas students without a Social Security Number
- Scholarships: One application opens the door to 100+ COM Foundation scholarships

Complete Testing Requirements

Take the TSI Assessment unless exempt by SAT/ACT scores

- Submit Documents

 Turn in vaccination records (if under 22) and official transcripts.
- Meet with an Advisor & Register for Classes

Ready to Apply? Get Started



NEED HELP? COM Enrollment Coaches are ready to guide you every step of the way. Visit: The Doyle Family Administration Building

Call: 409-933-8286

Email: enrollment@com.edu



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