

# FAQs

## **What's the difference between a transition-oriented program and a career-oriented program?**

A transition-oriented program is designed to be the first and second years of a four-year bachelor's degree program. We call them transition programs because you can move into corresponding bachelor's degree programs on the uptown campus of the University of Cincinnati as if you had attended there the whole time. (Sometimes called "transfer" programs, you may also transfer to another university to complete your baccalaureate degrees.)

On the other hand, a career-oriented program is designed to give you very specific career training over a two-year period. While some of the courses taken will apply to a four-year baccalaureate (English Composition, Economics, Psychology, Chemistry, etc.), most (such as Information Processing, PC Repair, Keyboarding, Police Procedures, etc.) provide you with immediate employment skills. These technical skill courses generally do not meet the degree requirements of a Bachelor's program.

## **Will my credits transfer to places like Ohio State or Purdue?**

Absolutely! We are fully accredited. However, there is a difference between being given credit for a course and having that course accepted as fulfillment of a degree requirement. This can be especially difficult if you are transferring to a college on semester hours instead of quarter hours. We cannot over-stress the importance of coordinating, in advance, with the college you will be transferring to.

## **How long will it take to earn my associate degree?**

That depends on you! If you attend full-time and take the required courses in the recommended sequence, you should expect to graduate from most programs in six quarters. (That's 2 years with summers off.) Most students who take longer to graduate have changed majors, are acquiring a double major, did not take required courses in the appropriate quarters (we can't offer every class, every quarter), or attended less than full-time during one or more quarters. That is one reason we strongly recommend that you consult your academic advisor at least once each quarter and any time you're contemplating changing your major.

Some career-oriented programs (aviation, respiratory care, computer network systems and a few more) will also require summer coursework. And especially rigorous transition programs (pre-chemistry, pre-biology, pre-engineering and other pre-science majors) are much easier to complete if you use the summer quarters for your elective coursework.

## **Do I have to finish my bachelor's degree on UC's uptown campus if I start at Clermont College?**

No. You may transfer to any college or university that will accept you. However, not all colleges have the same course requirements for any given major. Our transition programs are designed to fit the degree requirements of the University of Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky University. If you will be transferring to another institution, you should establish contact with them now, so that you will take courses that will fulfill their degree requirements. (Your academic advisor here will help you select appropriate electives and alternates to required coursework so that you graduate on time while still meeting the prerequisites of your new college.)

By the way, you can complete your bachelor degree in criminal justice, paralegal studies, nursing, and certain education majors on our UC East campus. We also have the new Bachelor of Technical and Applied Studies (BTAs) for those who have already completed at technical associate's degree.

### **I have a friend who got her associate degree from Clermont. She's going to Northern Kentucky University and says she doesn't have to pay out-of-state tuition. Is that true?**

Yes, it is, with some exceptions. We have an articulation agreement with NKU that allows our graduates to attend NKU at resident tuition rates. (There are a few majors that this does not apply to.) And, you must actually complete your associate degree; you can't just get most of it done.

### **What if I decide to change majors?**

You can change your major (program) any time you wish, simply by filling out a short form. However this can delay your graduation, so be sure to check with your advisor before you make the change.

### **I really don't want to go to school for two years, but I need something to help me get a better job. Do you have something for me?**

We have several short-term technical certificate programs. These are very job specific programs. If you decide later that you want to get the corresponding associate degree, all your credits will apply toward your technical degree.

### **What does it mean to be matriculated?**

Matriculated is just a fancy way of saying you are admitted to the college as a degree-seeking student. Matriculation is the process of being admitted.

### **I just want to take a couple of courses to help in my job. Do I still have to apply for admission and send my transcripts?**

No. You can take up to 30 credit hours without being admitted. All you do is register for the classes you want to take. If you decide later to pursue a degree, you still get full credit for any classes you have taken. There are, however, some very good reasons for becoming matriculated and you should talk to an advisor before making your final decision about this.

### **I didn't take any college-prep classes in high school. Can I still go to college?**

Absolutely! Clermont College is an open-access college. We accept anyone who has a high school diploma or its equivalent (including a GED). And, we have an excellent Learning Center, which can help you with study skills, tutoring, and basics in English and math.

### **I have a GED. Can I still go to college?**

Certainly! Clermont College has open admission. We accept anyone with a high school diploma, a GED, or their equivalent. If you need them, we have preparatory courses in English, science and math to help bring your skills up to college level. All we require is your willingness to work and your desire to succeed.

### **I'm still in high school. Can I take college courses?**

Highly qualified high school students may attend classes here. Contact your high school guidance counselor and ask for information on the Post Secondary Option Program.

## **I've been out of school for a while. I'd like to get a degree, but I'm afraid my math and English skills are a little rusty. Should I be worried about trying to compete with college kids?**

Our Learning Center is one of our best student resources! These folks can help you brush up on your math and English, your study skills, and your test-taking strategy. They can also provide peer tutors in any subject that you find yourself struggling in. Their study groups (in most any subject) can also help you keep up.

Our student body has many “non-traditional” students, so you’ll find plenty of company here. We have housewives looking to start careers, working people advancing their careers, seniors exploring things they didn’t have time for earlier in their lives, people changing their careers, and folks just looking to broaden their horizons. We have a place for everyone!

## **How long does it take to be admitted?**

We recommend that you apply at least one full quarter before you intend to start. That makes it easier for you to schedule an appointment with an advisor, take the placement tests and attend orientation. It also makes it easier for us to process your records. However, because we are an open-access college, people do sometimes register for class and submit their admission application on the same day. We do not recommend that you do this, but we realize that individual situations vary. You should note that financial aid takes at least 6 to 8 weeks to process.

## **I want to go to college, but money may be a real problem for me. Do you give scholarships?**

Yes we do. Our advisors can help you apply for scholarships, grants and student loans. Our one word of advice—don’t wait until the last minute! Deadline for most scholarships is March 1st for the following fall. (You can also apply for scholarships next year if you are already attending this year.)

Don’t just assume you can’t afford college! Come in and talk to us.