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Cleary University | Detroit Fire Department Degree Completion Pathway Program FAQs

Q: Who can participate in this program?

A: All employees of the Detroit Fire Department (DFD) are eligible to participate in the Cleary University Degree Completion Pathway Program.

Q. What Degree Completion Pathway Program are available?

A. Pathway programs are available for three distinct segments of the DFD based on their professional experience and training. These tracks include:

TRACK A | EXPERIENCED FIRE PROFESSIONALS (8-12 YEARS WORK EXP.)

- Degree completion program for experienced fire professionals - 30 credits to graduation

TRACK B | MID-LEVEL FIRE PROFESSIONALS (4-7 YEARS WORK EXP.)

- Degree completion for Mid-level fire professionals – 57 credits to graduation

TRACK C | ENTRY-LEVEL FIRE PROFESSIONALS (1-3 YEARS WORK EXP.)

- Degree completion for Entry-Level fire professionals - 81 credits to graduation

Q. How long will it take to finish by degree?

A. Depending on your work life and professional experience, you can complete your degree in as little as 12 months. Other tracks may range from two to three years to complete your program of study.

Q. How many credits can I transfer to Cleary?

A. Each student varies, however the maximum amount a student can transfer in is 90 semester credit hours or 75% of a bachelor's degree.

Q. What is Prior Learning?

A. Prior learning is the process by which DFD employees will receive prior learning credit through Cleary's proprietary Prior Learning Assessment Process (PLA) which maximizes transfer credits, reduces costs, and decreases time to degree. Prior learning including transfer credits, credit by exemption, experiential credits, professional training (i.e. Fire Fighter I & II, Paramedic, EMT Training, etc.), will be evaluated for college-level credit and applied toward your degree.

Q. Where are classes held?

A. Classes will be held one evening per week, onsite, face-to-face at Detroit Public Safety Headquarters or at Cleary University's Detroit Education Center (2470 Collingwood St, Detroit, MI 48206)

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Q. If I enrolled at Cleary University prior to the start of this partnership program, can I transfer in?

A. Cleary University will assess each student's unique situation prior to any transfers or transitions.

Q. If I must withdraw from the Degree Completion Pathways Program can I reenroll?

A. Students who withdraw from the Program and are in good standing (2.0 GPA or above) must resume their degree within 12-months to maintain their degree status.

Q. What happens if I leave the Program during an active course?

A. Students who leave during an active course are subject to Cleary's withdrawal policies for DFD students.

Q. Are my spouse or dependents eligible for this Program?

A. No, however Cleary University has established a 25% discount off published tuition and would be able to enroll through regular university admissions processes.

Q. What degree will I earn through this partnership program?

A. Regardless of what Track you enroll in based on your work/life experience this custom program will result in your earning a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree (BBA) with a concentration in Diversity, Leadership and Public Safety.

Q: What are my out-of-pocket expenses per year?

A: As part of this exclusive pathway agreement, your maximum out-of-pocket expenses per year will NOT exceed \$9,000. This also includes ALL digital books and course materials throughout your program of study.

Q: How can I find out information about Cleary and this program?

A: Visit www.cleary.edu/detroitfire for information about programs, application process, financial aid, and admission requirements. For information specifically regarding Cleary University please visit www.cleary.edu.

Q: Is Cleary University an Accredited University?

A: Yes, Cleary University is fully accredited by The Higher Learning Commission
<https://www.hlcommission.org>

Q: Can I transfer to Cleary University from another college?

A: Yes, you must complete Cleary application for admission requirements, as well as any supplemental information required by the Cleary University Records Department. They will evaluate your previous academic transcripts. Students may request an official transcript by ordering through the Parchment storefront found at:

https://exchange.parchment.com/send/adds/index.php?main_page=login&sid=aSgHojQfp9D3lOKm

Q: What are Cleary University's Admission Requirements?

A: These can be found at: www.cleary.edu/detroitfire

Q. Are tutoring and advising services provided?

A. Yes, these pathway programs were designed with working DFD employees in mind and include access to tutoring, advising, and student support services. In addition, students will have access to career counseling and placement services throughout the duration of their program and for life once they earn their degree from Cleary University.

Q: Who can I speak to learn more about the CU | DFD Degree Completion Pathway Program?

A: Discuss options with our DFD Program Specialists:

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Ms. LaTasha Ellis | e: lellis@cleary.edu t: 800.686.1883

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Q: Do I need to apply for financial aid?

A: Yes. We encourage all students to apply for Financial Aid to maximize all grant monies available at the state and federal levels. Students can complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) prior to being registered for classes. You can do so online at: www.studentaid.gov. All federal grants (free money) will be applied toward tuition.

Q: Are there time requirements to finish a degree?

A: Yes, they are dependent upon which Track you are enrolled ranging 12 months (Track A | Experienced Fire Professionals) to 3 years (Track C | Entry Level Fire Professionals).

Q: What happens if I am no longer employed by DFD?

A: You can continue your education at Cleary; however, you will revert to the standard university Courage and Public Service tuition rates. Each semester all participants will be approved by DFD to confirm they are in good standing with the department.

Q: What type of computer do I need to take courses at Cleary?

A: Students can use an iPad, Chromebook, PC, or Mac.

Q: Can I get my bachelor's degree and then continue on to get my master's degree at Cleary?

A: Yes, you can, and we are currently working with members of the DFD leadership to establish custom masters' programs that meet the needs of aspiring and existing DFD employees.

Q: How long is each class?

A: Each class throughout your program of study is six (6) weeks in duration. There are three classes per each semester (Fall, Spring and Summer).