



Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Changes to Noncredit Class Offerings

Why is Lakeland no longer offering noncredit personal enrichment classes after fall semester?

The decision to discontinue offering noncredit personal enrichment classes was made because these courses were not covering expenses. As a public institution committed to being fiscally responsible with taxpayer money, we sometimes have to prioritize offerings and make decisions that may not be popular. We also took into consideration the fact that these types of courses are readily available from local municipalities, libraries, senior centers, and other organizations at the same or a lower cost.

Which noncredit personal enrichment classes were discontinued?

Sports and fitness classes and driver's education were discontinued for fall semester. Arts, crafts, and hobbies; health and wellness; lifelong learning; and personal computing will be discontinued after fall semester.

These types of courses are readily available from local municipalities, libraries, senior centers, and other organizations at the same or a lower cost. Many of the noncredit classes at Lakeland were being taught by local small-business owners and independent contractors who offer the same services at their businesses and other nearby locations.

If Lakeland serves the community, why not just keep offering these classes?

While our objective is not to profit from these classes, it is not fiscally responsible for a public institution to subsidize programs that lose money annually.

Lakeland continues to serve the community by offering numerous noncredit professional development classes, arts and cultural events, and other educational opportunities. Adults 60 years of age or older may take any of Lakeland's credit courses for free on an audit (no grade or credit awarded) basis.

Lakeland offers a variety of arts, cultural and educational events throughout the year that are free and open to the public. These include the art gallery, theatre, civic music groups, Center for International Education activities, Knowledge Exchanges, management lecture series, a library book discussion group, and educational programming on The Lakeland Network. Lakeland also offers community memberships to its Athletic & Fitness Center.

Which noncredit classes are still being offered?

The college continues to offer noncredit classes for workforce development, including job training certificate programs and coursework in health, human services, manufacturing, and industrial, as well as the Basic Police Academy, and professional development courses leading to licensure or certification.

Lakeland will continue its commitment to small business development through the Entrepreneurship Center, and its support of the county's Small Business Development Center, the regional Procurement Technical Assistance Center, COSE, and other partners.

Why are you canceling noncredit personal enrichment classes when you just had a levy pass?

The 2015 levy was a capital improvement bond issue to expand and renovate the health technologies building. None of the money goes for salaries or operating expenses.

How did you let people know about this change?

A notice was emailed on Aug. 14 to anyone who took a noncredit personal enrichment or recreation class in the last year.

How can I share my thoughts about this decision?

We welcome your comments and suggestions at www.lakelandcc.edu/contact.