

## Frequently Asked Questions



### How does PCU make county government interesting?

- PCU students don't just sit in a classroom. They are actively engaged in experiencing the challenges that affect county staff every day. Each week promises a new, experiential session with various county departments.
- PCU students learn not just the details, but become quite knowledgeable about the why behind the decision making.
- PCU is offered only once a year. Classes meet Thursdays, usually from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. By limiting the class size, each student gains the full benefit of each field trip and experience.

### What are the requirements for enrollment?

PCU students should be residents of Pinellas County and must be at least 18 years old. Enrollees are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis based on submission of a completed application and a \$35 check for tuition.

### What is covered in the tuition cost?

The tuition cost of \$35 covers course materials (notebooks, class handouts, etc.), a PCU class shirt, diploma, class photo and graduation ceremony.

### What are the physical demands for participating in PCU?

Every session involves considerable walking, climbing stairs, standing and periods of sitting and/or riding in vehicles. Sessions are held, both, indoors and outdoors. Participants may be exposed to periods of normal outdoor temperature variations, humidity, dust, odors, rough and/or uneven walking surfaces, and elevated open-grid walking surfaces. PCU is a behind-the-scenes experience and participants are gaining access to and experience of the normal work conditions involved in providing services to citizens. Every effort is made to assist individuals with full participation and access.

### Where are the sessions held?

The 10-week curriculum typically involves 10 different locations throughout the county. Some sessions are held at the same location because there is so much to see and do, and there are extra credit opportunities that will involve additional locations. Please refer to the [session location map](#) for information about this year's scheduled sites. Participants are responsible for their own transportation to and from the various session locations.

### What is PCU's graduation criterion?

PCU students need 180 credits to graduate, 200 credits to graduate with Honors and 220 credits to graduate on the Dean's List. 180 credits can be earned through a perfect attendance record (20 credits per session – 9 classes, excluding graduation).

### What happens if I can't make it to every class?

Everyone has busy lives and we realize circumstances will sometimes interfere with class attendance. That's why we've built in a credit system to allow students to participate in extracurricular activities to replace credits lost by an absence, or to serve as extra credit.

Class Attendance: 20 credits (180 credits for perfect attendance)

- 180 Credits = Graduation
- 200 Credits = Graduate with Honors
- 220 Credits = Dean's List

### Extra Credit is available too!

PCU students need 180 credits to graduate. Each Thursday session earns students 20 credits. Extra credit can be earned through these extracurricular activities:

- EMS/Sheriff's Office Ride Along (10 credits each)
- Attending a Board of County Commissioners meeting (10 credits)

### What's the schedule for classes this year?

Each semester offers 10 weeks of activities in key county departments.

- [Pinellas Citizen University Schedule](#) 📅