

# Pinellas Citizen University

## 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 for six successive weeks on Wednesday or Thursday evenings, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., with one optional Saturday morning class. By limiting the class size, each student gains the full benefit of each 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.

### **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 6-week curriculum typically involves seven different locations throughout the county. Some sessions are held at the same location because there is so much to see and do. Participants are responsible for their own transportation to and from the various session locations.

### **What is PCU's graduation criterion?**

In order to graduate from Pinellas Citizen University and receive your certificate of completion, you will need to attend all the classes and tours. Exceptions will be made for one missed class with appropriate notice to your PCU Coordinator that you are unable to attend.

### **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. Exceptions will be made for one missed class with appropriate notice to your PCU Coordinator that you are unable to attend.