

Who is eligible to apply for this program?

Any CMU student (or Guest student from another institutions) who is at least 18 years old and will have completed one semester before they attend the program can apply online to Disney. Students can range from Freshman-Senior year and be from any major.

How early should I apply?

Disney recruits one semester before the start of their next program, meaning that they will recruit in early fall (Sept-Oct) for their spring programs and recruit early spring (Jan-Mar) for their fall programs. We suggest you apply the semester before, at the very beginning of a semester, when Disney opens their online application process for the program. Once open, they will recruit for approximately 6-8 weeks and then close it off.

Is there a best time to consider this experience during a student's 4 years at CMU?

No, we have not seen any favorable pattern in more than 40 years that shows a better time to experience this program. Freshman students have received just as much out of the program as our seniors. Students will want to confer with their parents and academic advisors to look at more favorable academic schedules when they consider which Disney program to apply for.

What if my major has nothing to do with Disney like history, sociology or psychology? Will this experience be a benefit?

Yes, we have seen the experience and skills that are developed from this program be a benefit to any student and any major. The transferable skills and maturity gained and developed from this opportunity are immeasurable. Developing better communication, problem solving, leadership, time management, teamwork, and guest service skills to name a few, will all benefit any student in any career choice. And employers echo this sentiment telling us they prefer skills and experience than merely a degree from a particular major.

Will this experience away from campus for one semester put me behind?

In some cases, yes, and others no. Every student's situation is different than the next when it comes to their major, year in school, career goals, and requirements. We will be happy to point out credit options for students but some students by their own choices find that while credit may be taken, it may not help them towards graduation requirements. Bottom line, every student situation is different than the next. Even if no credit is earned, the experience is definitely going to help students gain valuable experience that future employers have recognized during employment decisions. There is no substitute for gaining valuable experience and skills (small or great) from a model company as Disney.

What are the Disney jobs or roles like?

Disney is clear, these are not supervisory or managerial positions. These roles are entry level, seasonal employment positions with very high guest contact, and more responsibility and expectations than a normal entry level position. The training, work, cast member relationships, cultural and living experience and educational opportunities are what sets this program apart.

I understand that Disney provides educational offerings, are they similar to a classroom course/experience?

No, Disney's educational offerings are in a seminar, workshop or fieldtrip format. These offerings focus on either Disney topics (learning more about Disney) or Career Preparation (professional development). These can be found on Disney's college program website.

What is recreation fieldwork credit and how is it earned?

It's a supervised work experience and training in a recreational/tourism facility for academic credit. The credit is earned like an independent study class or internship type of experience. Credit is earned primarily for the work experience. There are no Central Michigan University classes that you attend while participating in the Disney College Program. Each student earns credit for the entire Disney College Program experience at Disney, which include work, education, and living components.

Who can take credit?

Any student admitted to a college/university in the United States of America is eligible to register for fieldwork credit. This includes any major or year in school, freshman through senior year.

How many credits can be taken?

Students may take one credit for each week of work (40 hours per week), from 1-15 credits. Each student determines how much credit they would like to take within the 15 credits available based on need and how it may help the student with academic or financial aid requirements.

How will the credit count?

Most CMU departments and other institutions accept our credit as “general elective” credit. Please check with your school advisor before registering.

What is required to earn this credit?

Fulfill your job commitment to The Walt Disney Company, and complete several educational requirements specified on the “Fieldwork Assignment Form” link on either the CMU Student or Guest Student webpages.

Is CMU an accredited institution?

Yes, by the Commission on Higher Education of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. In 1982, CMU’s Department of Recreation, Parks and Leisure Services Administration was recognized and fully accredited by the National Recreation and Park Association in all undergraduate programs and such accreditation still exists today.

Have other colleges and universities accepted this credit as transfer credit?

Yes, (for Guest Students) more than 250 other schools around the country have done so to date.

Can a student enroll full time (12 credits) for the purpose of maintaining full-time student status?

Yes, check with your school, financial aid office, bank, or insurance company to find out their requirements before registering.