

Subject: CNU's Policy on Part-Time Students

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From: Paul Tribble <ptrible@cnu.edu>

To: facstaff@cnu.edu

There has been great confusion on our campus and throughout the community about our policy on part-time students.

Let me be very clear - part-time students are and will continue to be a significant and valued part of the life of CNU.

When I first came to CNU, I taught a course on leadership and politics. My class was a mix of full-time and part-time students. In that class, I experienced the rich interaction of people of different ages, backgrounds and perspectives. I know first hand the benefit that part-time students bring to the educational experience at CNU.

This fall, a total of 1,080 students, or 20% of our student body, are part time. And these students can remain part-time. Moreover, CNU continues to accept new part-time students. Indeed, this fall 216 new part-time students enrolled at CNU.

Degree-seeking students can be full-time or part-time. First time college students must enroll as full-time freshmen and must remain full-time. Part-time, degree-seeking students come to us as transfer students or as students who previously attended CNU and have decided to return to complete their degrees. This fall, CNU accepted 365 transfer students and 242 of those students enrolled. CNU accepted 134 students applying for readmission and 85 of those students enrolled.

Many students from the Peninsula transfer to CNU from Thomas Nelson. CNU and Thomas Nelson have a transfer agreement that allows students to attend Thomas Nelson and then transfer to CNU. These students can be full-time or part-time. This fall 44 students transferred to CNU from Thomas Nelson.

Furthermore, degree-seeking and non-degree seeking part-time students are able to attend summer classes. CNU's summer session offers over 200 courses in the months of May, June, July and August.

CNU and Northrop Grumman Newport News have had a long-standing relationship that enables their employees to take courses as part-time students. We highly value this relationship and will continue to make these opportunities available.

The administration's action only affects the admission of new part-time students who are not degree seeking and who wish to take courses. The State has slashed our funding by \$4.1 million and we expect additional cuts in the spring. Our faculty and staff are stretched to the breaking point and classroom space is limited. That is why we felt it was necessary to place a moratorium on the admission of part-time, non-degree seeking students.

Fortunately, CNU is not the only option for those wanting to take college courses. There are many colleges and universities on the Peninsula including Averett University, Florida Institute of Technology, Hampton University, Old Dominion University-Teletechnet Distance Learning, Old Dominion University - Peninsula Center, Saint Leo University, Strayer University and Thomas Nelson Community College.

The moratorium on the admission of non-degree seeking, part-time students was not intended to be permanent. It is my hope and expectation that next year we will be able to resume our tradition of

admitting part-time, non-degree seeking students who meet our admission requirements.