

Walt Disney World College Program Frequently Asked Questions

“What to know before you go”

Dream it. Do it. **Disney.**



Q: Where can I get information about the Walt Disney World College Program?

A: The most current information is available on the Disney College Program website: www.wdwcollegeprogram.com. Additional information is available at GCC by contacting Jamie Edwards in the Career Services Center (JLEdwards@genesee.edu) or Professor Amy Slusser (ALSlusser@genesee.edu). Be sure to browse the ENTIRE site before you apply or interview!

Q: Who can participate in the Walt Disney World College Program?

A: All GCC students are eligible to participate, even if your program of study does not require an internship or cooperative education.

- You must be enrolled in courses at least part-time the semester PRIOR to participating.
- Participants must be in good academic standing and have completed at least 24 credit hours prior to participating
- GCC suggests attending in your second year of study or thereafter (24 credits)

Q: When would I go to Walt Disney World?

A: Disney arranges interviews and hires interns twice a year. Disney recruiters no longer visit campus for face-to-face interviews; however the website does offer a very good e-presentation you should view prior to applying. www.wdwcollegeprogram.com

Interview Time Frame	Participation Time Frame
Fall	Spring (January – May)
Fall	Spring Advantage (January – August)
Spring	Fall (August – December)
Spring	Fall Advantage (May – December)

- *Specific travel dates will be assigned by Disney*

Q: Do I need to be enrolled in classes while participating in the program?

A: No, however you should be aware of the implications of not attending college.

- There may be financial aid implications while you are not a full-time student. See your financial aid counselor prior to interviewing to access your situation.
- Students requiring Cooperative Education (BUS 217) as part of their degree should enroll in the course during the semester you attend.
- Not being enrolled in courses for a semester will impact your graduation date.

Q: If I am required to be a full-time student while participating in the program (due to health insurance or financial aid), is it possible for me to attend?

A: Yes, GCC offers many online classes.

- Students need to take 12 credit hours of study to be considered full-time
- Disney provides you with a fully equipped computer lab and library at each apartment complex, so taking courses is possible.
- See your academic advisor, Mr. McGowan or Professor Slusser for course scheduling.

Q: Are there courses offered at Disney that I can take?

A: Yes, Walt Disney World offers many courses, however only some are accepted by Genesee.

- Credit is not transferred to GCC until you have completed the course, therefore you will not be considered enrolled
- Disney courses are free, as well as some of the text books required
- Again, these courses are not financial aid eligible

WDW Course	Transfers to GCC as....
Corporate Communications	BUS 106 – Business Communications
Organizational Leadership	BUS 214 – Business Management
Human Resources Management	BUS 207 – Human Resources Management

Q: If I attend the meeting and interview, am I obligated to participate?

A: No. If you decide at any time to decline the offer, Walt Disney World will not hold it against you for future employment.

- However, you should show courtesy to Disney and let them know as soon as possible and BEFORE accepting the offer.

Q: How do I apply for an internship at Walt Disney World?

A: You MUST complete the application that is available on the Disney College Program website.

- You should print a hard copy of the application for your records
- Also, it is advisable to read through the information on their website thoroughly before you apply
- It is advisable to mark all the jobs listed on the application that you possibly can.
- The more jobs you are willing to do, the more likely you are to get accepted. However, do not mark jobs that you legitimately cannot do (Example: Lifeguard – if you cannot swim)

Q: What can I expect in the interview and what is expected of me as a candidate?

A: Walt Disney World Recruiters will arrange a telephone interview with interested students within a day or so after their online application is accepted.

- If you do not receive notice to set up your phone interview within 48 hours and do not receive notice that you were not accepted, you may be on a waitlist.
- No job experience is necessary, but it is important to project a positive attitude and smile!)
- Disney has many rules about appearance / dress code. All apply on the day that you arrive. Visit their website for more details.

Q: What type of work will I do at Disney?

A: The jobs offered are mainly entry level positions that Disney will train you for.

- A complete list is available on their website
- You CANNOT choose the job you want, however you can list on the application any jobs that you cannot perform or are not willing to perform.
- Not all jobs are available at all times
- Common jobs: Quick Service F&B, Operations, Transportation, Retail, Life Guard, Vacation Planner (Character positions require a separate interview)
- Uniforms will be provided for every position however you will be responsible for providing your own shoes based on the job you have.

Q: Will I get paid while working at Disney?

A: Yes, as a cast member at Disney you will be paid minimum wage for most jobs.

- Some jobs, such as lifeguards and vacation planners, do receive more money.
- Overtime shifts are often available, especially around holidays and during weekends

Q: How do I get to Orlando?

A: Transportation to Orlando is your financial responsibility and for you to arrange.

Q: Do I need a car while at Disney?

A: No. Although many people have cars, it is not a necessity.

- Disney provides bus service to/from work so you can avoid parking and traffic delays.
- The Disney buses run daily from before the park opens to after all parks are closed
- Convenient bus service is also available to the nearby mall, Wal-Mart and local theatres and routine bus service will also take you to the beach and area event on scheduled days.

Q: Where will I live while in Orlando?

A: Disney requests students live in their housing complexes near the parks. (Although exceptions can be made)

- Rent is reasonable and is determined by the number of roommates that you have.
- Rent will be deducted directly from your paycheck each week.
- Disney's apartment complexes are nicely appointed, conveniently located and offer a wide variety of activities to their residents.

Q: Can I choose my roommates?

A: Disney does allow you to choose ONE roommate, however you should arrive with that person and be standing in line with them in order to guarantee your placement.

- You will live with people from all over the world, have the opportunity to learn about their cultures and make friends. You can join their Facebook page and talk to other students and determine roommates prior to attending.
- Students who are under 21 years of age when they arrive will be placed in "Wellness Housing" that prohibits alcohol consumption.
- Those over 21 can CHOOSE to live in wellness housing also.

Q: What should I pack?

A: Disney provides the majority of household items that you need while you are there.

- See the packing list available on the website for details on what is NOT provided.

Q: Can my family come visit me while I am at Disney?

A: Yes, however they CANNOT stay at your apartment.

- Disney offers accommodation discounts to family and friends who would like to come see you while you are in Orlando. In addition, they can visit the parks with you for free during their stay. Employees also receive discounts on merchandise and food

Q: What costs are involved in participation in the WDW College Program?

A: A \$100 deposit is required when you accept the position, a \$200 non-refundable housing/recreation deposit and the cost of transportation to and from Orlando is also an expense you will incur. (Disney Land California costs are higher – see the website).