

Q: What is a Utility Line Clearance Arborist?

A: A cousin to line workers, line clearance arborists are tasked with clearing space around power generation transmission, distribution lines and equipment, and perform vegetation (tree) clearance work while climbing or from an aerial lift.

Q: What type of program is this?

A: This is a non-credit, accelerated training program. The vast majority of “class” time will be spent outdoors working on practicing skills associated with tree removal near electrical lines (not energized during training 😊). There are no general education classes and no prerequisites but students should be in good physical health. Licenses and certifications are embedded in the program and are transferrable to many different industries.

Q: Will this program count toward my degree?

A: This is a stand-alone, job training program, designed to quickly & effectively prepare students for employment. The certifications obtained within this program (OSHA 10, CDL, CPR) may articulate to other degrees or programs, both at ACC and beyond.

Q: When does the program start and what is the schedule?

A: This program is a one-semester program. Classes will be held on Thursdays & Fridays from 8am-5pm. Fall semester will begin August 31, 2023.

Q: What if I already have some of the training?

A: Some participants may already have an OSHA 10 card, a valid CPR card, or a CDL license. Those students will be excused from the days this certification(s) is taught, and it will reduce the course fee by \$200 for each previously acquired credential.

Q: What is the likelihood that I will get a job when I’m done with the training?

A: Excellent!

Q: How much does it cost, and what are the other costs I should know about?

A: The full program costs \$4,500 per person. This fee includes the training plus CPR card, OSHA 10 card, and the cost for one road test for CDL.

Additional costs (not included in the \$4,500 course cost) will include the CDL learners permit (available at the Secretary of State office), steel toed boots, a hard hat and safety glasses. **Do not purchase these items ahead of the start of class.** The instructor has discounts available through a local vendor. You may choose to purchase additional climbing gear or equipment, but it is not necessary or required for participation in the program. The approximate cost of these items is \$250.

To be eligible to receive the CDL training, on the first day of class you will need to provide the following documentation (obtained no more than 30 days prior to the start of class - **prices are approximate and may vary by provider**):

- DOT Urine Drug Screen (\$50)
- Breath Alcohol Test (\$25)
- DOT Medical Card/Physical (\$125)

Questions about that process? Call or email us and we will walk you through it!

Q: Is there financial aid available?

A: YES! The Michigan Works system is very supportive of the program and will help you establish eligibility and access to their grant funding. Because this is a non-credit program, traditional financial aid (Pell, GI, etc.) does not apply. The Michigan Works Navigator is located on campus in the WCCT building, accessible to anyone who has questions. Feel free to call 989.306.7790 or email wiltsec@nemcworks.org with questions.

Q: Who do I contact if I have more questions?

A: Reach out to Walt Wiltse, the program director, at 989.358.7284 or wiltsew@alpenacc.edu.