Q: What is a Utility Line Clearance Arborist?
A: A cousin to lineworkers, line clearance arborists are tasked with clearing space around power generation transmission, and 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 and 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: The summer cohort will begin on June 13, 2022 and last 8 weeks, ending on August 4, 2022. Classes will run Monday through Thursday each week, from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Another cohort is scheduled to be delivered Fall 2022 semester, and will be stretched out to the full semester of 15 weeks. The final Fall schedule is TBD.

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! A job fair/showcase is scheduled for the last day of class (August 4, 2022) and a number of tree service/line clearance businesses have already committed.

Q: How much does it cost, and are there any other hidden costs I should know about?
A: The full program costs $3,600 per person. This fee includes the training plus Pesticide Application license, CPR card, OSHA 10 card, and the cost for one road test for CDL. The student will be responsible for their CDL learners permit (obtained at Secretary of State), 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.

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: Is there housing available?
A: YES! College Park Apartments located on campus has availability for the summer cohort. Complete a housing application on the ACC website.

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.