



CHATFIELD COLLEGE IS TRANSITIONING

Chatfield College is transitioning from a two-year, private liberal arts college to a nonprofit agency focused on supporting postsecondary education attainment, beginning in January 2023. Because this is a big change, we want to provide as many details as possible.

Below are answers to questions we anticipate you may have. Click to scroll.

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About the decision to close

Why is Chatfield College closing?

Chatfield College has been experiencing enrollment declines accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, demographic trends for the near future show the number of high school graduates decreasing, putting further pressure on enrollment. As a result, continuing to operate as a college is not economically sustainable.

Why now? Why isn't Chatfield finishing out the school year?

We need to transition to this new nonprofit model sooner rather than later to preserve our resources so we can provide students in our community with educational support for years to come, even though how we do it will look a little different.

About my role as a student

How does this impact my fall semester classes?

Your current role as a student of Chatfield will not change for the fall 2022 semester. You will complete the fall semester at Chatfield College and receive full credit for classes you are taking, assuming you successfully complete all course requirements.

Am I eligible for a refund?

We will be here for the entire semester to support you. Classes will be taught as usual, and support services will be available to you as requested, keeping with our standard operating practice. Therefore, our existing refund policy will be in effect as stated in the Student Handbook + Course Catalog, available on our website.

I was on track to earn my degree at the end of the school year. Now, what should I do?

Your experience at Chatfield will continue as usual for the fall semester. We will walk alongside you to help identify your best path for degree completion to begin in January 2023. Chatfield has arranged teach-out agreements with Cincinnati State Technical and Community College and Southern State Community College for students expected to graduate in the spring of 2023, so they can complete their degrees on time.

Will the credits I earned at Chatfield transfer to another college?

Generally, the institution you select to transfer to will decide whether to accept all or part of the credits you earned at Chatfield. We will schedule meetings with you to help you enroll in a new college and transfer credits to apply to the same degree you are working to achieve at Chatfield.

How do I transfer to a new school?

We will arrange for visits with transfer counselors at area institutions. They can work with you on enrollment, and we will actively support you in the transition.

How much more is it going to cost to attend another school?

The cost to attend another school depends on many factors, including your degree program, the tuition and fees rates, and other institutional fees. We can help you evaluate what works best for your situation.

How does the closure impact the financial aid I am receiving for this academic year?

Your financial aid award is determined for the academic year regardless of the institution you attend. As you transfer to another school, financial aid not used at Chatfield will be available.

I took out student loans to attend Chatfield. Am I eligible for refunds since the school is closing?

If you have been supported by federal student aid (degree-seeking students only), you have the right to determine if you might be eligible for closed school discharge.

To learn more, visit: <https://studentaid.gov/announcements-events/closed-school>

How does the closure impact scholarships I currently receive from Chatfield?

You will receive your scholarship award for this fall 2022 semester. Assuming you maintain the eligibility requirements, your spring scholarship award will be transferred to your new school.

How do I get a copy of my transcript?

We will provide you with an official copy after the conclusion of the fall 2022 semester. Following this, we will shift transcript requests to another institution or provider. Since we are transforming into another aspect of student service, our website will include links to guide you in making transcript requests.

I was planning on enrolling in spring semester CCP classes at Chatfield. Now, what should I do?

If you are a student supported by Ohio's College Credit Plus (CCP) program, you should speak with your guidance counselor. We will be in touch with your guidance counselor to offer assistance as they work to help you enroll in a new institution for your spring 2023 semester.

What is the process for applying for CCP classes at a new college?

The process is no different than it was for applying to classes at Chatfield. If your new institution uses the ACCUPLACER to determine placement, we will share your testing information upon request. Please work with your guidance counselor.

What is this new nonprofit model that Chatfield is transitioning to and how will it help me?

What has always been unique about Chatfield is the personal assistance every student receives. We care for the whole student – academically, financially, mentally, and spiritually. While we will no longer be teaching or conferring degrees, our new nonprofit, The Chatfield Edge, can provide you with advisors who will maintain many of the support services we provide through Chatfield College today. Services the new agency will offer include some services we provide today, such as college application and FAFSA application assistance, career counseling and mentoring, and scholarship assistance.

Who should I contact at Chatfield College if I have additional questions?

Your site director is your immediate contact for any additional questions you may have.

About my role as an alum

Is my degree from Chatfield still valid?

Yes. If you received your degree prior to December 2022, Chatfield was accredited by the Higher Learning Commission to confer your degree. Although the college will no longer operate, you are still an alum of Chatfield College forever!

Will there still be a Chatfield Alumni Association?

Yes. Our alumni association will continue to operate. If you have not yet joined the Chatfield College Alumni Association, you can do so at any time, free of charge, on our website (chatfield.edu/alumni).

About my contributions as a donor

How will my future contributions be used?

Beginning in January 2023, your contributions will fund services provided by the new nonprofit, The Chatfield Edge. Donations will help cover costs for staffing, program expenses, and scholarships.

Will you still provide scholarships for students?

Yes. Our experience tells us that many students have a gap after various types of financial aid are applied (i.e., scholarships from institutions, grants, loans, and family support). We plan to use the annual draw from our endowment to help students fill the financial gap so they can pursue their educational goals. We will develop supportive relationships with scholarship recipients, requiring them to meet with mentors from The Chatfield Edge throughout the academic year. And, of course, we will share their stories with you, our donors, so you can witness the impact of your generosity.

What if I just want to provide support for scholarships?

Designating your gift to scholarships will help The Chatfield Edge grow the endowment so we can successfully offer scholarships to participants well into the future. As is currently the case, scholarships provide necessary financial assistance that allows participants to complete their education. We will always respect the intention of your gift and direct it according to your wishes.

Will I need to provide new information for my financial advisor/institution to ensure that my donation reaches The Chatfield Edge?

Yes. The name will change to The Chatfield Edge; however, all other account details will remain the same.

Is there a new tax ID number?

No. Our existing tax ID number remains. It is 31-0840763.

Will you use the same broker for stock donations?

Yes. Information about Giving to Chatfield is posted on our website at chatfield.edu/give/ways-to-give/securities.

Are bank routing and account numbers the same for The Chatfield Edge?

Yes.

About the new nonprofit

What is the new nonprofit's name?

The Chatfield Edge is the name of the new nonprofit. Our tagline is “Learning for Life.” We believe that the services we provide will give students an edge in reaching their educational goals. We will help students navigate college, trade school, and certificate programs, while offering opportunities for them to learn life skills like budgeting, preparing for interviews, and knowing how to be successful in the workplace by learning the soft skills that many employers desire.

What will this new nonprofit do?

The Chatfield Edge will focus on supporting first-generation and non-traditional students in attaining education after high school, whether that is through a college degree or trade certification. The Chatfield Edge will serve as a postsecondary guidance counselor through one-on-one mentorship. Many of the support services we offer students today will continue, such as support with college and financial aid applications, career counseling, and mentoring. Students who commit to the program will also be eligible for scholarships to help them bridge the gap in funding at their postsecondary institutions.

Where will it be located?

The home office location will be at our St. Martin campus; however, our goal is to physically meet students where they are throughout Greater Cincinnati. Satellite rooms within target communities will remove transportation and scheduling barriers.

What services will The Chatfield Edge provide?

Our new services fall under three pillars: Education Endeavors, Chatfield Scholars, and Future Now.

- *Education Endeavors* supports students as they choose a field of study, identify the best educational opportunity (college, trade school, or certificate program), complete applications, secure financial aid, and navigate placement testing.
- *Chatfield Scholars* provides close-the-gap financial scholarships to cover tuition, fees, books, and other agreed-upon expenses necessary to attend school.
- *Future Now* offers individual coaching, peer group cohorts, career counseling, skills for life, and spiritual support as students move through their education and beyond.

When does the official change take place?

January 1, 2023.

Who will lead the new nonprofit?

Robert Elmore, current President of Chatfield College, will lead the transition to the new nonprofit. An Executive Director and a Director of Development will be responsible for daily operations and community engagement, and a Facilities Manager will be responsible for property management.

How many people will it employ?

Initially, the new nonprofit will have a small staff of three full-time employees and many volunteers.

How can I be involved in supporting The Chatfield Edge?

There are many ways you can be involved. We will need volunteer mentors to support the students who choose to use our services. You can share what you learned as a student and in your career, especially as students prepare to enter the job market. We will also need financial support, so if you are in a financial position to do so, please consider donating so we can provide services and scholarships.

How will students access these services?

Students can directly contact our office or request information from our website. Additionally, students will be able to access services through our partner agencies that support first-generation and under-resourced students pursuing postsecondary education.