

The Salvation Army College for Officer Training
Eastern Territory, USA

Teach-Out Plan

Submitted by:

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Submitted to:

Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges
Western Association of Schools and Colleges

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TEACH-OUT PLAN

A. Circumstances requiring the need for this teach-out plan

The Salvation Army, Eastern Territory, USA, has maintained a College (School) for Officer Training (hereafter, the College or CFOT) continuously since 1888, for both men and women; the principal purpose of this College since its inception has been the education and training of men and women to carry out the Mission of The Salvation Army. Established and known throughout the world and currently active in 132 countries, the Army's Mission Statement is, "The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination." The CFOT seeks to prepare and educate men and women as ministers as a post-secondary educational institution accredited to offer an Associate degree (an Associate in Applied Sciences, AAS – ministry).

The governance and financial support of the CFOT in the 13 northeastern United States, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands, as a 501-c3, Non-profit educational institution, has enabled the training and development of "officers" (ministers), as indicated above, for 134 years. The Associate degree program has been accredited by the New York State Board of Regents and the Commissioner of Education for the past 18 years; however, that agency has decided it can no longer offer this service. This is the sole reason for the new application to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges to accredit the CFOT. Subsequently, as required by ACCJC and the U. S. Department of Education, the sole reason for the CFOT to develop this "Teach-out" Plan is to protect students in training and educational programs in the highly unlikely event of the CFOT closing. Given the long record of functioning, the worldwide support of The Salvation Army, its members and financial supporters, and the expressed need in the world today for healing, peace, and ethical/moral development, we believe the College will continue.

B. Current enrollment at CFOT

The CFOT has a current (2022/23) enrollment of 24 students (nine in their first year of study and 15 in their second year); the College offers only the single degree program of two years in duration – the Associate of Applied Science degree – ministry. This enrollment is well down from the normal 40-plus cadets entering yearly (average of 42.8 over last ten years with a range of 24 to 83) and, we believe, can be partly attributed to the COVID pandemic. Visitation of prospective candidates for enrollment at the College has been impossible for much of 2020 to the present, and the yearly Candidates' Weekend (on-site visit) to the College has been canceled or limited in allowed attendance. Current admission expectations are in the 25 to 30 range of serious candidates anticipated to enroll in the next academic year.

C. Colleges where students could reasonably complete their programs of study

The CFOT currently maintains a teach-out and an Articulation Agreement with Nazarene Bible College (Colorado), lapsing this year but under discussion for renewal. Also, the CFOT has established 22 degree completion programs, at the Bachelor's or Master's degree levels, in an articulation agreement with Asbury University, which has been very successful. Currently, we have 157 of our CFOT graduates enrolled in these programs, 122 in the Bachelor's program, 34 in a Master's, and one in a Doctorate in Ministry program. Of the last CFOT graduating class (22 in June 2021), six students continue in various Master's degree programs, 12 are in Bachelor's degree programs, and four are not enrolled in credit-bearing coursework at this time.

As can be seen above, the majority of CFOT graduates entering Asbury enroll in the Bachelor of Science degree in Ministry Management. Both of the post-secondary educational institutions cited above are accredited by CHEA-approved agencies and offer ministerial training and education degrees consistent and suitable with/for our students. We will pursue additional institutions if instructed by ACCJC. A list of the Asbury programs from one of their brochures accompanies this document, and the enrollment of students from the CFOT graduating class of 2021 is also appended.

D. Verification process for comparable program, structure, scheduling and stability of teach-out institutions

The above-cited institutions are already familiar with the CFOT, Eastern USA, and the reverse is true. As indicated above, we have a long-standing teach-out agreement with Nazarene Bible College (established in 2012 initially). Additionally, other colleges which are similar in academic program, religious doctrine, and spiritual development emphasis and which have established Articulation Agreements with us are Nyack College and Houghton College, both in New York, and the Inter American University of Puerto Rico. The establishment of the articulation agreements involved the review of each participating institution's full curriculum, especially to note general education and academic preparation for future education, by Accreditation Liaison staff and senior Administrative and Curriculum officers at CFOT and Admission offices' staff at the articulating institution. In the extremely unlikely event of the CFOT closing, these same staff members from the combined receiving institution(s) will assist all affected students in making the appropriate continuing educational transfers at the expense of The Salvation Army.

E. Transcript provisions for teach-out students

Currently, all students at the CFOT, Eastern USA, are provided with free transcript copies at the end of each academic term (see page 8 of CFOT Catalog for steps that need to be taken to obtain transfer of credit to other educational programs and/or employment). Additionally, an official electronic copy (and written, upon written request) will be forwarded, for each student, upon notification of the intended closure of the CFOT, to post-secondary educational institutions selected and in agreement with the teach-out program(s). Senior staff at The

Salvation Army Territorial Headquarters, Continuing Education Department, along with the staff of the College will assist in this process.

F. Transfer and advisor personnel for students

As indicated above, the College will assist in advising students in all transfer situations; this includes the Education Officer, Directors of both the Personnel and Curriculum Departments, and the Accreditation Liaison Officer. As indicated above, page 8 of the College Catalog describes the process for obtaining final official transcripts free of charge to the student. In the event of a closure midstream to the study for and awarding of a degree, all tuition and fees required of the student will be covered by The Salvation Army, Eastern Territory, USA, to ensure the completion of that degree program initiated.

Evidence

All evidence will be provided, upon request, for ACCJC. Appended here are the current CFOT College Catalog and a list of the most recent CFOT graduates studying at Asbury University. The current degree-completion programs with Asbury University are based on satisfactory completion of an Associate degree and are described in the current CFOT Catalog (again on page 8 of the Catalog). A copy of the Articulation and Teach-out agreement with Nazarene Bible College, when revised, will be forwarded if requested.