

#### 10.4 TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

The City supports employees who wish to continue their education in order to secure increased responsibility and growth in their professional careers with the City of Crest Hill. This growth can include continuing education courses, certification programs, completion of a GED, and any professional and technical education. In keeping with this philosophy, the City has established reimbursement for educational expenses incurred through various approved institutions of learning.

Any regular full-time employee who has been continuously employed for six (6) months or more (unless directed by the City) who enrolls in a job related course of study at an accredited junior college, college or university within the State of Illinois (or through an accredited online college or university program, whether in-state or out-of-state) may qualify to have the tuition and academic fees (including books) reimbursed by the City. The employee does not need to be registered in a degree program to be eligible for this benefit. Prior written approval must be obtained from the employee's Department Head and the

Personnel Officer for each such course or program of study. The Department Head and the Personnel Officer have complete discretion in determining whether the course(s) is sufficiently related to the employee's work and would improve his performance to justify the tuition reimbursement. The Department Head and the Personnel Officer have the discretion to determine the number of courses that will be taken during any given period. Employees should provide a list of courses and estimated expenses during the preparation of the budget.

Because it is in the City's interests to ensure the employee receives maximum benefit from any such courses taken, tuition reimbursement will be paid at 100% only if the employee receives a Grade "A" or "B". Grade "C" or a "Pass" grade in a Pass/Fail course will be paid at 75%. The employee is responsible for paying the educational expenses upfront. All reimbursements will be made upon proof of payment and submission of the certified transcript of the grade. Any reimbursement paid under this program will be offset by Federal/State financial aid, scholarships, grants, etc. In addition, the employee must be actively employed at the time of reimbursement.

Employees who voluntarily terminate employment, or are terminated for cause will be required to refund the City the reimbursement they received on the following basis:

- a) Prior to one (1) year from the date of reimbursement, one hundred percent (100%) of the amount reimbursed.
- b) After one (1) year but prior to two (2) years from the date of reimbursement, seventy-five (75%) of the amount reimbursed.
- c) After two (2) years but prior to three (3) years from the date of reimbursement, fifty percent (50%) of the amount reimbursed.
- d) After three (3) years from the date of reimbursement (zero percent) 0% of the amount reimbursed.