



2026-2027 Undergraduate Student Handbook

The contents of the 2026-2027 Student Handbook are subject to change without notification. Students are encouraged to regularly visit this resource. The University reserves the right to alter this handbook. The active version posted on the BU website supersedes all previous handbooks. Substantial changes will be announced via email to the BU Community.

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DEPARTMENTAL DIRECTORY

Academic Center for Excellence (ACE).....	276.326.4606
Academic Affairs.....	276.326.4203
Advancement & Alumni.....	276.326.4458
Athletics.....	276.326.4303
Bluefield Central (Financial Aid/Registrar/Student Accounts)	276.326.4215
Campus Ministries	276-326-4239
Computer Support.....	276.326.4278
Counseling and Wellness Center	276.326.4252
Emergencies.....	911 OR 304.887.8294
Facilities/Maintenance	276.326.4282
Food Service	276.326.4264
RAM Line (Residential Life Assistance).....	304.887.8294
Graduate Admissions	800.872.0175
Housing.....	276.326.4473
International Student Programs	276.326.4458
Library	276.326.4237
Mail.....	276.326.4260
On-Campus Admissions	800.872.0175
Online Admissions.....	800.872.0175
President's Office	276.326.4201
Student Activities.....	276.326.4256
Student Affairs.....	276.326.4207

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to a new year at Bluefield University!

Whether you are just starting your journey with us or continuing toward your degree, I want you to know how thankful I am that you have chosen BU as your home.

At Bluefield, we believe that education is more than the pursuit of knowledge. It is about discovering your calling and preparing to make a meaningful impact in the world. Our faculty, staff, and your fellow students are committed to walking alongside you, encouraging you, and helping you succeed.



This Student Handbook is designed to be a resource and a guide. It reflects not only our policies but also our shared values as a Christ-centered learning community. I encourage you to use it as a reference and as a reminder of the kind of community we strive to be, one marked by integrity, respect, faith, and service.

As you pursue your studies, get involved in campus activities, and prepare for what's ahead, I encourage you to fully embrace this season. And always remember that you are part of something bigger than yourself.

I am praying for your success this year and look forward to all that we will accomplish together.

God Bless you,
Steve Peterson, Ed.D.
President

BLUEFIELD UNIVERSITY

Administration

Dr. Steve Peterson
President

Dr. Jason Craig
Provost

Mr. Corey Mullins
Vice President for Student Development & Athletics

Mr. Travis Roberts
Vice President for Enrollment Management & Marketing

Mr. Harrison Rice
Associate Vice President for Online Enrollment

Mr. Robbie Smith
Executive Director for Information Technology

Mr. Hal Keene
Director for Facilities and Maintenance

Our Mission

Bluefield University is a Christ-centered learning community developing servant leaders to transform the world.

Core Values

Bluefield University is guided by the following core values:

Core Value One

We are Christian in outlook, Baptist in tradition, and welcoming to each person.

Core Value Two

We are committed to academic excellence and life-long inquiry embracing the liberal arts tradition through the study of humanities, sciences, professional studies, and graduate programs.

Core Value Three

We are a diverse community characterized by integrity, mutual respect, support, and encouragement.

Core Value Four

We are passionate in helping students understand their life calling and become compassionate, globally-minded servant leaders.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Office of Student Development: Shott Hall (ext. 4206 or 4207)

Bluefield University students are an integral part of the University and are encouraged to participate in all phases of campus and student life. As a traditional liberal arts institution, Bluefield University recognizes the need for balance between the classroom and the co-curricular experience. The total university experience permeates all aspects of the university community to develop the total person. The student development program at Bluefield University is designed to be an integral part of the education process by supporting and strengthening the educational, social, spiritual, and physical experiences of the student.

The Division of Student Development employs a highly qualified and trained professional staff that works collaboratively with the academic community to create an educational experience which meets the needs and interests of the students and prepares them for both their professional and personal careers. The professional staff includes the Vice President for Student Development and Athletics, Dean of Students, Campus Pastor, Director of the BU Center for Counseling & Wellness Services, Director of Campus Safety & Officers, Director of Residence Life & Resident Directors, and Director of Student Engagement.

Athletics

Vice President of Student Development and Athletics & Coaches: Offices Houses #7 and #8 (ext.4316)

The Division of Athletics provides opportunities for students with exceptional athletic ability to represent the University in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). Through athletics we embrace the NAIA Champions of Character initiative. The University is a member of the Appalachian Athletic Conference. The Director of Athletics reports to the President.

The athletics program is a vital part of the co-curricular student development at Bluefield University. The University offers scholarships in a variety of sports at the varsity and junior varsity level. Bluefield provides football, baseball, basketball, cross country and track, golf, soccer, and marching band for male athletes, and basketball, cheerleading, cross country and track, soccer, softball, volleyball, and marching band for female athletes.

Campus Ministries

Office: Dan MacMillan Center (DMC) (ext. 4471)

The Office of Campus Ministries seeks to minister to the needs of students for spiritual awareness, growth, and service to others. This is accomplished through developing emerging leaders and creating opportunities for students to nurture and grow in their Christian faith.

Bluefield University Student Ministries

To the end of creating opportunities for BU students to experience Jesus Christ, the Campus Pastor and members of the Student Development team work closely with Bluefield University Student Ministries (BUSM), which is open to all students regardless of religious denomination, faith tradition, or no faith. BUSM is led by the BUSM Council, which is comprised of student leaders who have a passion for serving Christ, nurturing other believers, and sharing the Gospel with others. The BUSM Council, under the supervision of the Campus Pastor, plans and implements campus ministry experiences, such as Home worship on Monday evenings, Impact Teams, Bible studies, prayer groups, and FCA. The Council also actively supports mission encounters, typically conducted during the fall and/or spring breaks, that are coordinated by the Director of Mission Outreach and Global Education Initiatives. Students are invited to join the BUSM Council and/or participate in these and other forms of ministry/discipleship/worship events.

Fellowship of Christian Athletes

Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) is a national organization and though it is open to all students, with its primary outreach to athletes. Its stated goal is “to present to athletes and coaches, and all whom they influence, the challenge and adventure of receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, serving Him in their relationships and in the fellowship of the church.” The group attempts to provide its members with the opportunities for Christian growth and fellowship.

Chapel

Chapel is a component of RAMS Life(see also Academic Life). Chapel incorporates both worship and learning events outside the classroom. It is designed to encourage students to approach the world with a larger dimension of self, neighbor, and God. Through RAMS Life, students will be required to attend ten Chapel (worship) services and five academic convocation events each semester that will be focused on a set theme related to the general education core of Inquiry, Character, Citizenship and Wellness.

Chapel Attendance

Every Wednesday morning at 10:30 a.m. students, faculty, and staff gather for worship in Harman Chapel. The Chapel program exists first and foremost to worship God our Creator. It is also an opportunity for students to grow in their faith and broaden their Christian worldview through the spoken word. For those who do not know Jesus Christ, Chapel provides the opportunity to enter into a personal relationship with Jesus as Lord and Savior. Chapel attendance is required and is considered a part of the University's general education requirements.

All full-time students are required to attend ten approved Chapel services per semester. Students who do not meet the required ten Chapels per semester will have a hold placed on their academic transcripts and will not receive their diploma upon completion of all other academic degree requirements. All students will have the ability to monitor their own Chapel through their MyBU account.

Chapel Conduct

The atmosphere of Chapel should be one of worship. It is expected that students will give respect to the speaker by refraining from talking and will stay until the program is dismissed. Cell phones, headphones, newspapers, food, drink, and hats for men are not appropriate in convocation. Male students wearing hats are to remove them before entering Harman Chapel. Students who fail to comply with the standards will be asked to leave and no credit will be given for that convocation.

Chapel Exemptions

Students may request an exemption from Chapel on a semester-by-semester basis. Students must prove that they have a direct conflict with the Chapel hour because of their employment status or class required such as student teaching. All requests for exemptions will be given due consideration. A request does not guarantee an exemption. Decisions may be appealed. The appeal must be submitted in writing by the student to the Vice President for Student Development and Athletics.

Computer Resources Acceptable Use Policy

Bluefield University has started the RAMSConnect program that allows all traditional students to receive an iPad, Smart Keyboard, and Apple Pencil bundle upon entrance into the University. These bundles are given out to new students at the beginning of the fall and spring semesters at either move-in day or orientation day. Before receiving the iPad bundle, students are required to sign an agreement that outlines the policy that governs the RAMSConnect program. Each student is allowed to keep the iPad contingent upon graduating from Bluefield University. If, however, a student should withdrawal from the University, officially or unofficially, before graduation, the student will be required to turn the iPad bundle back into the Office of Technology Services. Failure to do so will result in a hold in the amount of \$1400 added to the student's account. This balance will be subject to all collection policies set forth by the Office of Student Accounts. Students may also purchase the iPad bundle from the University at a prorated cost, determined by the Office of Technology Services.

The hardware and software computer resources of Bluefield University are available to the students, faculty, and staff in support of the educational and administrative goals of the University. It is expected that users of these resources will engage in activities such as conducting research and completing coursework communicating with others, accessing information in the performance of normal University-related job responsibilities, and exploring other information sources. Using the system on an occasional basis for personal use, such as corresponding with friends or family through electronic mail, may also be considered appropriate, but in all cases, usage should defer to university-related activities. The computer system may not be used for commercial or solicitation purposes without the express written consent of appropriate school officials. The computer resources provided by the University are the sole and exclusive property of the University.

It is expected, in return, that users must respect the rights and privacy of others and must obey school policies and state and federal laws that may apply to their activities while using the computer system. Although the University, in

its official capacity, will make every effort to respect the privacy of users of the computer system, it should be understood by all users that the computer systems is owned and operated by a private and Christ-centered university. Bluefield University considers any violation of the acceptable use principles or guidelines to be a serious offense. Any or all systems, and files on these systems, may be intercepted, monitored, recorded, copied, audited, inspected, and disclosed to Bluefield University and law enforcement personnel, as well as authorized officials of other agencies, both domestic and foreign. Bluefield University also reserves the right to protect its network from systems and events that threaten or degrade operation. Bluefield University also reserves the right to determine what is acceptable and not acceptable in the use of computer systems. Violators are subject to disciplinary action as prescribed in the honor codes, in the Student Handbook, and in the Faculty Handbook. Offenders may be prosecuted under the law to its fullest extent.

Bluefield University Information Technology Department may suspend or limit access to its resources for misuse of software, hardware, and/or network services. Other actions may be taken depending on the nature of any misuse including investigating any suspicious activity. Violations may result in loss of access privileges, disciplinary action by student judicial groups, and/or prosecution under civil or criminal laws. By using these systems, you are consenting to follow and submit to all Bluefield University policies concerning appropriate network use. Administrators of individual systems such as the library or computer labs may establish policies that place additional responsibilities upon users.

Counseling Services

Professional counseling services are provided free to all traditional undergraduate students enrolled full-time at Bluefield University through the Counseling & Wellness Center as part of the Division of Student Development. Licensed Professional Counselors and supervised graduate student interns or practicum students provide supportive individual and group counseling designed to assist students in their ability to be more effective and successful in their academic and personal lives.

Counseling offices are in the Science Center on the third floor in suite 304. Appointments can be arranged by calling 276-326-4252 or by visiting the Office of Student Development from 8:30 am-5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Students will provide a name, phone number, and email address for further contact and follow-up. They will receive a confirmation email or text of the appointment once the process is completed. The first appointment will be scheduled as an intake session to assess the nature and severity of student concerns. Emailing is not for emergency or crisis situations. For emergencies, students should contact their on-call Resident Advisor at 304-887-8294.

Faculty and staff may recommend students for individual or group counseling through email (counseling@bluefield.edu). Counselors will contact those referred in a timely manner. Self-referrals from students and referrals from parents are welcome and can be accomplished through email, phone contact, or personal contact with the counseling staff.

Financial Aid

There are a variety of sources and types of assistance available. Students may qualify for federal grants and loans, state grants, institutional scholarships, federal work study jobs as well as scholarships and loans from private and outside sources. We encourage students to apply for outside scholarship opportunities through their church, community, and civic organizations. Students are also encouraged to check their Bluefield e-mail and MyBU accounts for periodic announcements, changes to awards, reminders of deadlines, and scholarship opportunities. Contact the financial aid staff in Bluefield Central at 276-326-4215 to discuss the availability of aid for you, for application procedures and deadlines, and anytime you have a question regarding your financial aid. You may also email us at bluefieldcentral@bluefield.edu.

Food Service

Office: Shott Hall, Dining Hall ext. 4264

Hours of Operation:

Monday - Friday

Hot Breakfast 7:30 – 9:00 a.m.

Continental Breakfast 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Light Lunch..... 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Lunch 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Light Lunch..... 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Dinner 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Late Night 9:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday

Brunch..... 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Dinner 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Chicory Coffee Company

Monday – Friday..... 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

All students on a meal plan have meal replacement options at the Chicory Coffee Company, following Pioneer’s meal replacement guidelines.

The following policies apply to Dining Services:

- All students must present their valid student identification cards when always entering the Dining Hall. Students will not be admitted into the Dining Hall without presenting their student identification card. No student is permitted entrance into the Dining Hall during non-service hours.
- Proper attire is required of all individuals entering the Dining Hall and must be worn in a non-offensive manner. Cleats are not allowed.
- Resident students may not obtain food items for commuting or non-students.
- All Dining Hall utensils (cups, plates, bowls, silverware, etc.) are the property of the Dining Hall. Please do not remove any non-disposable utensils.
- Only food service employees are permitted in the kitchen and in any food preparation areas.
- All other policies and procedures outlined in the Student Handbook apply in the Dining Hall.
- Further information concerning policies and procedures, meal plans, pricing, or special service requests may be obtained from the Director of Dining Services, along with any questions, concerns, suggestions, or comments.

Health Information Services

Student Insurance

Bluefield University has always been committed to ensuring students have access to affordable, quality, and comprehensive health insurance. Bluefield University requires all students to have primary insurance. Bluefield University works closely together with Dissinger Reed, an insurance broker that specializes in college insurance plans. If you do not have insurance or have unacceptable insurance coverage by the time of fall sports starting or Fall Term 1 starting, you will be forced to enroll in a plan through United Health Care Student Resources. The cost of the plan will go onto your tuition bill each semester you need to be covered. Every student is required to go through the waiver process for review of insurance. Your insurance must cover in this region and can not be a short term policy.

International Coverage

Bluefield University requires all international students be enrolled in the Geo Blue insurance through the University. Each international student will be automatically enrolled in the University sponsored health insurance plan and the premium for the plan will be added to their student bill each semester with summer coverage being optional for international students should they return to their home country for the Summer.

Mandatory Accidental Insurance Plan

Each full-time traditional Bluefield University student is enrolled in a student accident insurance plan for the 2022-2023 school year. The effective date of coverage is August 1, 2025, through July 31, 2026. In addition, this plan also covers graduate students participating in athletics.

Benefits are payable for injuries which result directly and independently of all other causes from a covered accident, while coverage is in effect, up to the maximum benefit of \$10,000 per injury. Eligible medical expenses must be incurred within the benefit period, with the first eligible expense incurred within the first 60 days of the date of the accident. Deductible - \$0.

- This is an excess policy only and does not cover any type of illnesses or sickness.
- All claims must be result of a Bluefield University supervised activity.
- Claims must be filed within 60 days of the accident. All students must file with Head Athletic Trainer Erika Bell.
- If away from the University, consult a doctor and follow the doctor’s advice. Notify the Sports Medicine

Department and/or the Office of Student Development within 30 days after the date of the covered accident or as soon thereafter as is reasonably possible.

- All claims must be filed with the primary insurance company before the mandatory student accident plan.
- Staple all primary insurance Estimation of Benefit statements with itemized medical and hospital bills to the claim form and mail to the Claims Administrator: BMI BENEFITS, PO Box 511, Matawan, NJ 07747.

Immunizations and health screenings are available through services provided by the Tazewell County Health Department. There is a minimal fee for some immunizations and health screenings. MedExpress Urgent Care is conveniently located adjacent to Walmart. Bluefield Regional Medical Center is one mile from the campus and may be utilized for emergency services or for after-hour emergencies. Resident students needing care after hours should contact the RHD or RA on duty or call the RAM Line number – 304.887.8294.

Students may obtain first-aid treatment and/or referral to local physicians through the Office of Student Development. Student athletes may obtain first-aid treatment and/or referral to local physicians through the Sports Medicine Department. Students are responsible for all expenses incurred at the doctor's office or hospital.

Identification Card

Information Technology Department (ext. 4286 and 4618)

All students are issued a university identification card. The bar code on the student identification card enables the student to gain access to the library subscription databases and electronic resources from off campus. More information about library resources is available on-line at www.bluefield.edu/library/index.html.

Your student ID card is required for use to:

- Easley Library
- Chicory Coffee Company
- Dining Hall
- Athletic Facilities
- Residence Halls
- Chapel
- Academic Convocation/RAMS Life Events
- Social Events
- Necessary for identification whenever asked by a campus security officer or University official

All student ID cards, whether lost, broken, or misplaced, can be replaced in Bluefield Central on the third floor of Lansdell Hall at a cost of \$20.00. Student ID cards cannot, under any circumstances, be altered, loaned to others, or used to misrepresent you or the University.

Mailboxes

Student mailboxes are in the hallway of Shott Hall and are available for students living on campus. Mailbox assignments are obtained during registration. Mailbox keys do not have to be returned until the student graduates, transfers, or withdraws from the University. Students should check mailboxes at least once a week.

Use the following information when receiving mail:

Bluefield University

Name of Student, # _____

(List actual name of student– do not use PO Box, Post Office Box, or Dorm Room Number in Address)

3000 College Avenue

Bluefield, VA 24605

Store

The University operates a virtual store and can be accessed at:

<https://sideline.bsnsports.com/schools/virginia/bluefield/bluefield-university>

Or go to the University website and click on the “Store” button. During special campus events, a limited assortment of apparel will be available for purchase.

Student Accounts

Office: Bluefield Central, Lansdell Hall, Third Floor (ext. 4215)

Email: bluefieldcentral@bluefield.edu

Hours of operation are from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Please call, email, or stop by to see us if you need any of the following services:

- Make payments on or receive information about student account charges
- Pick up student credit balance checks or work study checks
- Request assistance with tuition assistance programs such as employer pay, employer reimbursement, military, veterans, etc.
- Tuition payment plans
- Cash checks (max. \$50.00 per day)

Students will pick up work-study payroll checks and credit checks in Bluefield Central. If you have questions or concerns, please contact us for assistance.

Student Complaints

Procedures for registering complaints/grievances of a non-grade or non-instructional nature.

Grievance Policy: Formal Complaints

If a student has a serious concern about any specific area of the University, such as a policy or a university official, s/he is obligated first to make an attempt to dialogue with the appropriate individual directly. If the student is unsatisfied with an answer given, s/he may issue a formal complaint in writing, describing the nature of the complaint and desired resolution, to the respective department supervisor. All concerns will be reviewed and, if necessary, an appointment may be initiated by the department supervisor. Formal grievances should be directed to the following departmental supervisors: Department of Residential Life—Director of Residents Life, Assistant Director of Residents Life.

The University prohibits retaliation against any student based upon the student's filing of a grievance or participation in the investigation of any grievance. Any act of retaliation may result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension or expulsion from the University. Students may file a complaint with the Vice President for Student Development and Athletics if they feel that they have been subjected to retaliation.

Student Complaint Procedure:

When a student wishes to register dissatisfaction with a matter, the following procedure should be initiated: Complete the online student grievance form found in in Forms on MyBU under the Student Tab. The Vice President for Student Development and Athletics or the Dean of Students will review the complaint/grievance and follow-up or will direct the individual(s) registering the complaint/grievance to the appropriate person to address the matter. If further review is requested, the individual(s) may request a hearing before the President whose review is final. The Vice President for Student Development or the Dean of Students will retain any documents related to the filing of a complaint/grievance.

Student Engagement

Office: Shott Hall, ext. 4256

The role of Student Engagement is to complement the academic mission of the University and enhance the overall educational experience through the development of, exposure to, and participation in social, cultural, intellectual, recreational, spiritual, and leadership programs.

The Office of Student Engagement coordinates programming to include weekly programs and signature events. The Director of Student Engagement also oversees the day-to-day operations of the Student Center, student organizations, clubs, the Student Government Association (SGA), and the Student Activities Leadership Team (SALT).

SALT works to (1) plan the activities calendar, (2) procure entertainment for special events, and (3) partner with other student clubs and organizations to provide frequent, quality programming to Bluefield University students. It is comprised of students selected by current SALT members in conjunction with the Director of Student Engagement. SALT is responsible for programming and publicizing recreational, cultural, spiritual, social, and informational entertainment events on campus during the school year. Listed below are just a few of the annual campus events hosted by SALT.

Annual Campus Events

Most annual events are hosted by SALT, sometimes in conjunction with other departments, clubs, or student organizations.

Welcome Week activities begin the day returning students move in. The week continues the orientation of the first year and transfer students to campus. SALT provides entertainment to acclimate students who are new to Bluefield University to campus life and welcome back returning students.

Homecoming and Family Weekend (usually held in late October or early November) is when alumni, current students, and their families spend time on campus. Students will have the opportunity to invite their families to campus to show them campus life as well as to participate in all of the Homecoming week festivities. Current students can also meet alumni and can bring their parents to class with them. The weekend is full of programs and activities that include the Homecoming football game, tailgating, the Fall Festival, lunch with faculty on Friday, and the crowning of the Homecoming King & Queen.

Winter Solace is an annual end of the Fall semester event with various indoor activities for the entire student body including food, crafts, massages, and escape rooms. Winter Solace takes place on the day after the last day of classes in the Fall semester.

Mud Pig Day is an annual end of the semester event with various fun, outdoor (weather permitting) activities for the student body including, a giant water slide, mud pit, lunch and more! Mud Pig Day takes place on the day after the last day of classes in the Spring semester.

Jack Marcom Student Center

The Jack Marcom Student Center offers a stage, lounge area, small and large tables for meeting/studying, video game consoles and televisions. The Chicory Coffee Company is also located in the Student Center and offers food and beverages throughout the day.

There are a variety of board games and video games available to check out in the Student Engagement office. You may also check out a set of discs to use on the disc golf course on campus in the Student Engagement office.

Student Clubs and Organizations

The University recognizes the value of belonging to various interest and social organizations. Interaction with other students, faculty, and staff, encourages growth and develops social skills. University clubs and student organizations are open to all students regardless of race, creed, national origin, or religion.

All student organizations and clubs must meet the guidelines, policies, and procedures identified in a separate publication, available in the Student Engagement office, before being recognized as an official club or student organization at Bluefield University.

If you have your own idea about starting a new program or organization, please contact the Student Engagement office for more information. New organizations must develop a constitution, among other things, and have it approved by the Student Government Association, and Campus Ministry (in the case of religious organizations). If you have questions or need assistance, please schedule a meeting with the Director of Student Engagement.

Greek Organizations

Bluefield University has acknowledged that general, local Greek organizations can be a valuable component of the undergraduate experience. These organizations maintain, as their primary purpose, the enhancement of the learning and growing process. Through activities encouraging leadership development, organization management, interpersonal and group dynamics, social awareness, philanthropic spirit, University loyalty, and career orientation, they have earned the privilege of university recognition.

Greek organizations are self-perpetuating fraternities and sororities attempting to fulfill the total co-curricular needs of their members in a self-directed and self-governing manner. Membership in Greek fraternities and sororities is not limited to any department at Bluefield University and is drawn exclusively from the undergraduate student body. Bluefield University is host to one local fraternity and one local sorority. These organizations regularly sponsor service activities, intramural teams, social events, and other programs. The following Greek organizations currently are recognized and sanctioned to operate on the Bluefield University campus:

Alpha Delta sorority - The purpose of this sorority is to create a Christian atmosphere in which sisters can have meaningful fellowship in common purpose, interest, and fulfillment in both academic and extracurricular activities. Alpha Delta's members strive in spiritual and academic areas as well as any other areas necessary for the well-being of the individual and sorority. The organization also accepts the responsibility of uplifting Jesus Christ through actions as well as spreading His word and love.

Beta Chi Delta fraternity - The purpose of this fraternity is to create a Christian atmosphere in which brothers can have meaningful fellowship in a common purpose, interest, and fulfillment in both academic and extracurricular activities. Its members are to strive in spiritual and academic areas as well as any other areas necessary for the wellbeing of the individual and Fraternity. The organization also accepts the responsibility of uplifting Jesus Christ through our actions as well as spreading His word and love.

Mountain Trail Outfitters

Bluefield University has an abundance of outdoor equipment available for student use. Mountain Trail Outfitters (MTO), located on Faculty Row, holds this inventory, which includes, for example, mountain bikes, kayaks, and camping equipment. Please see the Director of Student Engagement if you are interested in reserving gear. All students, staff, and faculty will be required to sign liability release forms when using some of the equipment.

Rampage Student Newspaper

Founded in 1987, *The Rampage*, is the student newspaper of Bluefield University produced entirely by BU students under the supervision of the Division of Language, Literature & Communication. Students are eligible to receive up to three semester hours of credit. For more information, email editor@burampage.com or call (ext. 4548).

ACADEMIC LIFE

Office of Academic Affairs

Office: Lansdell Hall, First Floor (ext. 4203)

The Office of Academic Affairs serves as the link between the student and the educational process. The Provost and Chief Academic Officer oversees this process and assists students and faculty in academic decisions.

Departmental organizations are generally founded by and operate from an academic department at Bluefield University. Often affiliated with chapters of the same name at other colleges and universities, Bluefield University's departmental organizations offer an excellent mix of professional special interest activities, personal contacts, and social events. Contact the Office of Academic Affairs for further details.

Academic Center for Excellence (ACE)

Office: Rish Hall, Lower Level (ext. 4220)

The mission of the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) is to provide resources and services that promote a culture of academic success among all Bluefield University students. The ACE staff are committed to meeting students where they are as learners. They seek to foster in them the skills, strategies, habits, and character necessary to becoming excellent students and transformational leaders. The ACE staff encourages students to take responsibility for both academic choices and achievements and understand that academic planning and development occur during one's undergraduate years as well as throughout their lifetime. Tutoring services, academic coaching, disability services, career counseling, and the testing center for College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) and Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Educational Support [DANTES] Subject Standardized Tests (DSST) assessments are housed in the ACE.

Tutoring services at Bluefield University are designed to help students improve their learning strategies in order to promote independent learning and success. Tutoring in all academic areas is coordinated through the ACE, including face-to-face and online tutoring. Tutoring appointments will be arranged for students in need of tutoring in any discipline as tutors are available.

The ACE offers academic coaching to all students who desire to improve their ability to succeed in their coursework by helping, free of charge, that is tailored to meet their specific academic needs. Academic Coaches can assist you by helping to determine your academic strengths and weaknesses and then aiding you in designing a plan, assistance with study skills and choosing strategies, time management, determining learning styles, test anxiety, and more. Academic Coaches can also assist students with problem-solving as well as provide recommendations for any outside services that may be beneficial. No issue is too big or too small, so don't hesitate to reach out.

The Dean of Academic Support and the ACE directs all ACE services, as well as works with students on academic probation to help them achieve their academic goals. Students placed on academic probation are required to meet with the Dean of Academic Support and the ACE while they are working to improve their scholastic performance.

Academic accommodations are also available for students with documented disabilities. If any student desires assistance, he or she must contact the Assistant Director of the ACE at ace@bluefield.edu. The Assistant Director will consult with the student regarding any appropriate accommodations and their implementation.

CLEP and DSST testing is available for students at Bluefield University, the surrounding community, and general public. Tests are scheduled by individual appointment. To arrange taking a test, contact the ACE at ace@bluefield.edu.

Academic and Grade Appeal Procedure

A student has the right to contest a grade given in any Bluefield University course. Please see Grade Appeal Procedure in the online academic e-catalog on the University website for further details.

Academic Computer Labs

The Science Center houses four computer labs, which are available during the day when there is not a class scheduled. In the evening and during the day on weekends, a lab is open for students to work on assignments, conduct research, and job-search activities. Each lab is equipped with a printer, internet, and a wide variety of software.

Assistance for Students with Disabilities

Office: Rish Hall, lower level (4220)

Students with documented disabilities are eligible to receive services and accommodations based on specific needs. To receive services at Bluefield University, students must provide recent documentation that supports their disability.

Accommodations are made on an individual basis and are for the purpose of providing equal access to educational opportunities as specified in the guidelines of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 define a disability as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, such as walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working.

This definition also includes a person with a record of disability, or a person perceived as having a disability. For more information, contact the ACE (Academic Center for Excellence) at ace@bluefield.edu.

Easley Library

Easley Library was built in 1956. It is named in memory of Frank Smoot Easley and David Milton Easley, both of whom served as inaugural members on the Board of Trustees. The three-story building consists of a main entrance level, a mezzanine or second floor, and a basement or ground level which houses the Education Department.

As an integral part of the educational program of Bluefield University, the library provides instructional resources, services, and facilities to the University community and access to resources and services to off-campus faculty and students. The primary purpose of Easley Library is to provide support for the educational goals of the University, as stated in the mission and catalog of the University, by (1) acquiring and maintaining a well-balanced, up-to-date collection of both print and non-print materials, (2) providing physical facilities and equipment that will ensure the most effective use of library resources, (3) instructing the University community in the effective and efficient use of library resources and services, (4) cooperating with other libraries to develop shared library resources.

On the main floor students will find the circulation area where books (including reserve materials) are checked out. There is also a small leisure reading area and a CD collection. The JRR Tolkien Media Lab and the CS Lewis Collaboration Room have been added to the main floor of Easley Library for students to use for studying with other students or working together on class projects. These room have smart boards and PC computers and the media lab has a green screen wall, as well as a Mac computer. In the west wing on the main floor students find the reference and journal collections and the networked printer/copier.

A reference librarian is always on duty to assist students. Research computers are located on the main level. There students may search the online catalog and electronic databases. On the mezzanine level students will find the circulation book collection as well as numerous study areas.

Overdue materials: Materials should be returned to the library by the “due date.” Notices are sent out to students by e-mail. Fines accumulate after a five day “grace period” at a rate of \$.10 per day up to a maximum of \$10.00 per item. Interlibrary loan book fines are determined by the lending library. After the third notice is sent out, the student is billed for the price of the book or material. If the item is not returned or paid for, the Registrar’s Office is contacted.

Hours of Operation*

Monday – Thursday**	7:45 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.
Friday	7:45 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Saturday	10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Sunday	2:00 p.m. – 10: p.m.

*Hours of operation during Semester breaks and holidays will be posted, or call (276) 326-4238.

*Summer hours are Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**The library is closed every Wednesday during the academic year from 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. for Chapel.

Final Exam Schedule

Class Time	Final Exam Time
MWF 8:00 a.m.	8:00 a.m. Saturday
TR 8:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m. Saturday
T 2:00 p.m.	2:00 p.m. Saturday
TR 2:30 p.m.	2:00 p.m. Saturday
TR 3:00 p.m.	2:00 p.m. Saturday
MWF 9:00 a.m.	8:00 a.m. Monday
TR 9:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m. Monday
MWF 2:00 p.m.	2:00 p.m. Monday
MWF 1:00 p.m.	8:00 a.m. Tuesday
MWF 12:00 noon	11:00 a.m. Tuesday
TR 12:30 p.m.	2:00 p.m. Tuesday
TR 1:00 p.m.	2:00 p.m. Tuesday
TR 11:00 a.m.	8:00 a.m. Wednesday
MWF 11:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m. Wednesday
MWF 3:00 p.m.	2:00 p.m. Wednesday

Final exams for classes beginning at 4:00p.m. or later are to be held at the normal class time during the final exam period.

Global Education

Office: Academic Affairs

Bluefield University is a member of CAPA International Education (www.capa.org), which provides semester abroad study opportunities in London, UK; Dublin, Ireland; Florence, Italy; Sydney, Australia; Madrid or Barcelona, Spain; and Beijing, China. Students can take a variety of courses with faculty members of the cooperating institutions, as well as from qualified professors from the host country. Additionally, Bluefield University is aligned with Consortium for Global Education (CGE). Through this program, students can study abroad in various areas of interest, with short and long-term opportunities, especially as they relate to the learning of the Arabic and Chinese languages (www.cgedu.org). CGE currently offers study abroad experiences in Jordan, Australia, Lithuania, Lebanon, Greece, and Argentina. Our affiliation with the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities' GlobalEd program ([www. https://www.cccuglobaled.org/](https://www.cccuglobaled.org/)) affords students semester study-abroad experiences in India, Northern Ireland, Amman, Jordan; Oxford, England; Costa Rica, and Uganda. Bluefield University also offers enrichment/learning opportunities through international course-related travel, international travel, and cultural immersion. Such opportunities are coordinated with academic coursework completed at the main campus in Bluefield.

Current information can be found under Academics > Global Education > STUDYABROAD on the Bluefield University website. Go on, GO FURTHER!

Honors and Awards

Bluefield University awards students for their academic excellence in various ways including Graduation Honors, President's list, Dean's list, and Who's Who. For more information, please refer to the Honors and Awards section of the academic catalog located on the University website.

Honors Program

Office: Rish Hall, Room 005 Ground Floor (ext. 4270)

The Bluefield University Honors Program is an interdisciplinary curriculum that provides a stimulating academic environment and intellectual challenge for highly motivated students. Students who complete all elements of the Honors Program will receive the designation, "Honors in . . .," inscribed on their transcripts and be recognized as first graduates in the commencement ceremony. The Honors Program, includes opportunities to participate in:

- exclusive, small specially focused general education seminars,
- attend regional and national Honors conferences, and

- participate in an interdisciplinary junior seminar which integrates various areas of knowledge culminating in a significant research project in any area of your interest.

A limited number of scholarships are available to qualified students. Admission to the program for incoming freshmen requires the following: ACT score of 25 or SAT score of 1100 or eligibility for Presidential Scholarship. Submission of an application essay. For more information, visit www.bluefield.edu/honors/.

Program Requirements

Six Honors General Education courses: chosen from English, Social Science, History, Communications, Fine Arts, Christian Studies, Natural Science (w/ lab), and Health: 18 Hours (or 19 w/ lab science).

Honors Freshman Seminar: 1 Hour: small, intellectually stimulating class taught by a distinguished faculty member emphasizing critical interpretation and oral and written communication focused on a variety of stimulating topics concerning what it means to be human.

Honors Junior Seminar: 3 Hours: In-depth interdisciplinary investigation of an issues in students' majors culminating in a term project of the students' design.

Honors Senior Seminar: 1 Hour: Discussion of topic(s) of current interest in our society; a jointly agreed upon "Great Book."

Honor Societies

Bluefield University offers several coeducational organizations with the purpose of promoting professional competency and achievement within a specific academic field. They generally limit their membership to qualified students who are enrolled in a particular degree program and who have obtained a determined minimum academic achievement level.

Eta Beta Rho is a national Hebrew studies honor society founded in 1960 by the National Association of Professors of Hebrew. The Nun chapter at Bluefield University was chartered in March 1995. The purpose of Eta Beta Rho is to recognize outstanding attainments in the study of Hebrew language and literature, to stimulate study and research in this field, and to promote an understanding and appreciation of the culture of Israel.

Kappa Phi is an international recognized student led organization that unifies students of various visual arts.

The Eta Zeta Chapter of Bluefield University, chartered in the spring of 2008, seeks to better and enhance campus, community, world, and self, through visual arts. This is accomplished by doing wall murals, teaching lessons, and volunteering member talents to local area shelters and organizations.

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Collegiate, formerly known as Phi Beta Lambda, is a national business organization. FBLA's mission is to bring business and education together in a positive working relationship through leadership development programs. As a member of FBLA, you will build your resume, meet business leaders in the community, experience the rewards of community service and enjoy travel and special activities.

Pi Delta Kappa is a professional association for current and future educators. PDK's mission is to support education, particularly public education, as the cornerstone of democracy. Its vision is to be the experts in cultivating great educators for tomorrow while continuing to ensure high-quality education for today.

Pi Gamma Mu is the largest international honor society in the social sciences. Chartered in 2001 at Bluefield University, the purpose of the society is to encourage excellence in the social sciences, to inspire an intelligent approach to social problems, and to promote mutual understanding among people of differing opinions. The society recognizes good scholarship and encourages it through enriching programs, a lectureship program, and student- faculty fellowship.

Psi Chi is the national honor society in Psychology. The purpose of Psi Chi is to encourage, stimulate, and maintain excellence in scholarship, as well as to advance the science of Psychology.

Sigma Beta Delta is an international honor society for students in Business, Management, and Administration at schools and colleges with regional accreditation. Membership is limited to business students ranked in the upper twenty percent of the junior and senior class and must be invited to membership by the faculty officers. The purposes of Sigma Beta Delta are to encourage and recognize scholarship and achievement among students of business, management, and

administration, and to encourage the promote personal and professional improvement and a life distinguished by honorable service to mankind.

Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society is one of the largest members of the Association of College Honor Societies. Its central purpose is to confer distinction upon students of the English language and literature in undergraduate, graduate, and professional studies. Sigma Tau Delta also recognizes the accomplishments of professional writers who have contributed to the fields of language and literature.

Theta Alpha Kappa is the only national honor society serving the needs of those involved in the study of religion and/or theology at both the baccalaureate and post-baccalaureate levels of higher education. Honoring excellence in these academic fields is its primary purpose, and it currently hosts over 200 local chapters throughout the United States at institutions both large and small, public, and private. Bluefield University is home to the Alpha Beta Lambda chapter.

Intellectual Property

The University mission is carried out in a learning community that encourages a spirit of intellectual inquiry among faculty, students, and staff. The development of creative and scholarly research, works and inventions, known broadly as intellectual property, will be a natural outgrowth of such activities. The products of this scholarship may create rights and interests on behalf of the creator, author, inventor, sponsor, and the University.

Registrar's Office

The Registrar's Office is in Bluefield Central (BC). BC should be contacted regarding questions in the following areas: Adding/Dropping Classes, Change in Majors/Minor, Change of Address Class Schedule, Graduation Evaluation/Application, Registration, Transcript Request/Transfer Credit, Withdrawal from school request Veteran's Benefits, and Athletic Eligibility Enrollment Verification.

Request for Academic Transcript

Students must complete the transcript request form and submit to BC. Unofficial transcripts are free of charge; however, a fee of \$15 must accompany the request for an official copy. Payment by credit card may be completed on the Transcript Request Form. Transcripts will not be release until payment is received.

Student Communication Policies

Electronic Communication

It is of the utmost importance that students remain informed and connected to the University. Email is the official form of university communication. Additional forms of communication may include printed materials placed in student boxes and notifications sent through RamAlert. Students are expected to check their email daily. All students will be held responsible for any information disseminated via email regardless of whether they have checked their account. Questions related to email access should be directed to IT via the support portal in MyBU.

Posting Policy

All flyers, posters and advertisements must obtain approval from the Office of Student Development before being posted on campus property. Postings may be approved by the Coordinator of Student Care or the Director of Student Engagement. Postings in the residence halls and campus apartments must be approved by the Director of Residence Life. It is the responsibility of the advertising party to take down all postings in a timely fashion after their event. Flyers, posters, and advertisements may be hung on campus bulletin boards or approved locations in the residence halls and campus apartments. No postings should be affixed to glass windows and doors. Postings can be affixed to walls only with the use of "painter's" tape.

Student Records Policy

Notice to Student of Their Privacy Rights

A student's records are maintained under the provision of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA). This act seeks to protect the privacy of student records. FERPA is sometimes also referred to as the student records confidentiality policy.

With certain exceptions, officials of Bluefield University will not disclose personally identifiable information from a student's education records without the student's prior written consent. A student may grant permission for a Bluefield University official to release information about his or her academic progress, conduct, and financial affairs, completing a FERPA Education Record Release form and submitting it to Bluefield Central.

University employees are permitted to release “Directory information,” as listed below, without the student’s prior written consent. Students can restrict how address information is printed in the Campus Directory, or can have all Directory information restricted, by notifying Bluefield Central in writing. Requests for non-disclosure will be honored by the University until removed, in writing, by the student.

- Name
- Jenzabar ID
- Local Address
- Local Telephone Listing
- Grade/Billing (permanent) address
- Grade/Billing (permanent) telephone listing
- High School attended
- Date and place of birth
- County, state, or U.S. territory from which student originally enrolled
- Photograph or video clip
- Major field of study
- Class (junior, senior, etc.)
- Enrollment status (full-time, half-time, part-time)
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Dates of attendance
- Anticipated date of graduation
- Degrees and awards received
- Most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student
- Campus electronic mail address
- Grade point average, in recognition of achievement

What are Educational Records?

Any record maintained by the University that is related to the student with some narrowly defined exceptions:

- Records in the “sole possession of the maker” (e.g., private advising notes)
- Law enforcement records created by a law enforcement agency for that purpose
- Employment records (unless the employment is based on student status). The employment records of student employees (e.g., work-study and wages) are part of their education records.
- Medical/psychological treatment records (e.g., from a health or counseling center)
- Alumni records (i.e., those created after the student has graduated)

Information Students Can See

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act also gives a student the right to inspect his or her education records (hard copy and electronic) and to request amendment of those records if they are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student’s privacy rights. To inspect his or her education records, a student must file a written request with the individual who has custody of the records that the student wishes to inspect, and the request must be honored within 45 days after the records custodian receives it.

To request amendment of his or her records, a student first discusses the matter informally with the records custodian, and if the custodian does not agree to amend the records, he or she will inform the student of applicable appeal rights. Students also have the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education alleging that the institution has not complied with FERPA.

Information Students Cannot See

Students may NOT see parents' financial statements or records and letters of recommendation for which the student waived the right to view. Students may NOT see the personal information of any other student or any information on a student who has a non-disclosure request on record.

Access to Student Data

Departments within the University requesting other than Directory information will be given such information if they have a legitimate educational interest. University officials have a legitimate educational interest if it is necessary or desirable for them to have access to carry out their official duties and/or to implement the policies of Bluefield University, or if it is in the educational interest of the student in question for such officials to have the information. Persons receiving this information (or Directory information prior to its publication) are responsible for protecting the confidentiality of the students involved. They are not permitted to re-release this data to persons, other than University officials with a legitimate educational interest, without the prior written consent of the students involved.

Instances in which student data (even for those records with restrictions and non-disclosure requests) are released:

- to specific internal groups with legitimate educational interest (signed waiver by student not required)
- to specific external groups with legitimate educational interest (signed waiver by student may be required)
- to other agencies not specified above (signed waiver required)
- to satisfy a subpoena or judicial order (signed waiver not required)

RAMS Life

Purpose

RAMS Life is Bluefield University's comprehensive student development program designed to cultivate the character, values, and habits that define a Bluefield RAM. Rooted in the University's Christ-centered mission, RAMS Life provides a structured framework for holistic student formation, intentionally integrating spiritual growth, academic engagement, service, leadership, and campus involvement throughout the student experience.

The program's goal is to ensure that every graduate leaves Bluefield University not only prepared for a career but also equipped to live a life of faith, leadership, integrity, service, and purpose.

The RAMS Life Framework

RAMS Life centers on four developmental pillars that reflect the qualities and expectations of a Bluefield University student:

R – Relationship with Christ

Students develop a vibrant relationship with Jesus Christ through worship, prayer, biblical engagement, discipleship, Christian community, and chapel participation.

A – Academic Enhancement

Students pursue truth through intellectual curiosity, critical thinking, academic excellence, and meaningful engagement with faculty, alumni, guest speakers, advising events, academic forums, and educational enrichment opportunities.

M – Missional Living

Students embrace servant leadership through community service, integrity, compassion, responsibility, and active engagement in meeting the needs of others.

S – Student Engagement

Students actively participate in campus life through student organizations, athletics, arts, wellness initiatives, campus traditions, and leadership opportunities that foster belonging and personal growth.

Student Learning Outcomes

Through participation in RAMS Life, students will:

- Deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Pursue academic excellence and intellectual growth.

- Demonstrate integrity, accountability, and ethical leadership.
- Engage in meaningful service and community involvement.
- Discover their God-given purpose and vocation.
- Graduate as Christ-centered leaders prepared to influence their families, churches, workplaces, and communities.

Program Structure

RAMS Life will be implemented as a non-credit, pass/fail student development requirement tracked through Canvas. Each semester, students will:

- Complete 15 approved RAMS Life experiences (approximately one experience per week).
- Participate in 10 experiences focused on the Relationship with Christ pillar (R).
- Select 5 additional experiences from any RAMS pillar based on their interests, schedules, and developmental goals.
- Monitor participation and progress through the RAMS Life Canvas course.

Examples of eligible experiences include:

- (R) – Chapel, Home, Roots, FCA, and discipleship groups
- (A) – Academic forums, advising events, guest speakers, and senior seminars
- (M) – Community service projects and team-based service initiatives
- (S) – Student Life programming, theater performances, campus arts events, library programs, and wellness activities

Accountability and Assessment

RAMS Life will serve as a graduation requirement for traditional, on campus students (both residential and commuters), ensuring consistent engagement in the formative experiences that distinguish a Bluefield University education.

Students who do not successfully complete program requirements in a given semester will participate in a structured remediation process involving mentoring and additional developmental activities. Repeated failure to engage will result in review through established student conduct and retention processes.

Academic Convocation

All full-time students are required to attend five approved convocation events per semester. Convocation will focus on inquiry, character, citizenship, and wellness. Convocation attendance is required. The attendance policy and schedule of programs are available through the Office of Academic Affairs. All students will have the ability to monitor their attendance through their MyBU account.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Rationale for Community Life

Bluefield University is committed to developing servant leaders who understand their life calling and transform the world. We celebrate and pursue this mission in all we do, both inside and outside the classroom. Our community exists to uncover, study, share, and practice what is true. We strive to understand the world in light of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

As a community, we choose to pursue biblical qualities and habits of the heart that should mark the lives of all believers, such as love that is genuine, abstaining from evil, pursuing good, being fervent in spirit and constant in prayer, hospitality, patience, kindness, living in harmony with one another, humility, and compassion (Romans 12:9-21). We also reject those practices that the Bible teaches are destructive, such as anger, malice, slander, profanity, dishonesty, greed, drunkenness, and sexual impurity (Col. 3:5-8, 1 Cor. 6:9-10).

Relationships are an integral part of our expression of the wisdom and truth contained within the gospel message. Jesus commands us to love God with all of our heart, soul, and mind and to love our neighbors as ourselves (Matthew 22:37-40). We are also commanded to consider the needs of others before our own (Phil. 2:3). These are essential practices of our common life together.

While we live, learn, work, and play together at Bluefield University, we promise to honor a specific set of values and expectations designed to help everyone thrive and succeed. While informed by Scriptures, our Code of Conduct also includes practices that have been adopted by our community because we believe they contribute to the flourishing of all students.

We recognize that Christians may hold divergent views regarding these expectations. However, we believe these values are essential to our time together at Bluefield University. Therefore, all students are responsible for abiding by the Code of Conduct for the entire duration of their enrollment.

Life in community is a worthy, but challenging endeavor. No one does it perfectly. Part of our commitment to students is to walk alongside them through a process of grace-infused accountability. As a community of Christ-followers, we understand that the gift of forgiveness and the offer of a second chance are important realities in the growth process. When a student makes a behavioral choice that does not align with our community values, the student is encouraged to confess and seek assistance and support through the Offices of Student Development and Residence Life.

Definitions

To make the process as clear as possible for all involved, a glossary of terms is provided: “University” refers to Bluefield University.

“Student” includes all persons taking courses at the University, both full- and part-time.

“Faculty member” means any person hired by the University to conduct classroom activity. “University official” includes any person employed by the University.

“University premises” refers to all land, buildings, facilities, and other property in the possession of or owned, leased, used or controlled by the University.

“Policy” is defined as the written regulations of the University found in, but not limited to, the student handbook and University catalogs.

“Violation” refers to any behavior that is unacceptable as described in the Code of Conduct.

“Guests” applies to all guests of BU community members whose hosts may be held accountable for the conduct of said guests.

“Educational records” refers to all records regarding a student’s status at the University, including but not limited to a student’s transcripts and disciplinary file.

Code of Conduct

Bluefield University exists as a voluntary community for the purposes of preparing students to be servant leaders who will transform the world. Students, by virtue of their membership in this community, agree to uphold all regulations of the University outlined in this handbook. All students represent Bluefield University wherever they are, and are expected to abide by community standards, both on- and off-campus, when school is in session and during breaks, from the moment a student is accepted as a student and remains continuously enrolled at the University.

Community standards are in place for the purpose of moving students toward Christian maturity and creating an environment that is conducive to academic learning and personal growth and development. Although specific examples of misconduct are set out below, students are expected to refrain from any conduct which is not consistent with the University's Christian tenets and mission.

Abuse of Campus Processes

Students whose behaviors, active or passive, impede any campus process (including the disciplinary process, admissions process, etc.) will be subject to disciplinary action. Such behaviors may include:

- Failure to obey the summons of a university official.
- Failure to fully disclose all information to a university official (especially during an investigation or the disciplinary process).
- Falsification, lying, hiding, distorting or misrepresentation of information to any staff or faculty member.
- Attempts to influence the testimony of another.
- Attempts to disrupt an individual's participation in the disciplinary process.
- Forgery, alteration or misuse of campus documents, records or identification.

Alcohol

Students are not permitted to possess, use/consume or distribute alcohol or alcohol paraphernalia in the residence halls, or on university-owned or controlled property and official University events. Students who are under 21 are not permitted to possess or use alcohol at any time (including all semester breaks), whether on- or off-campus.

Breaking the Law

Students who break the law, either on- or off-campus, will be subject to investigation and disciplinary action. The University will cooperate fully with law enforcement agencies in the enforcement of the law. Students charged with a crime while continuously enrolled at Bluefield University must report this information to the Vice President for Student Development and Athletics and, if a student-athlete, to the Vice President of Athletics within the first two class days of being charged. Depending on the severity of the offense, students may be placed on an interim suspension pending a formal investigation.

Cohabitation

Students are generally not allowed to live with or engage in overnight stays with members of the opposite sex in the same living arrangements (e.g., same house, apartment, hotel room, etc.). Exceptions may include related students living in the home, international students living with a host family, etc.

Failure to comply with directives of a University Official

Students are expected to comply with directives from any University official acting in accordance with their assigned responsibilities.

Fighting, Violence and Endangerment

Any behavior or conduct which threatens or endangers the health or physical and/or emotional safety of an individually, including oneself, will result in disciplinary action. This includes any threatening or intimidating actions and/or language, whether acted upon or not.

Gambling

All gambling (monetary and/or commodities), on- or off- campus, including online, is prohibited.

Harassment

Harassment or intimidation of a community member or the threat of physical or emotional harm in any communicated form will never be tolerated. Any harassment should be reported to a Resident Advisor, Director of Residence Life, the Dean of Students, the Vice President for Student Development and Athletics, or Title IX coordinator (see section on sexual harassment).

Hazing

Any form of hazing and initiation is illegal, whether voluntary or involuntary and will result in disciplinary action. The University takes any alleged forms of hazing very seriously. The following are some (but certainly not all) forms of hazing:

- All forms of physical activity deemed dangerous or harmful.
- The application of foreign substances to the body.
- Depriving students of sleep.
- Forcing, pressuring, requiring or coercing students to consume alcohol or foreign or unusual amounts of substances.
- Nudity or forcing students to dress in a degrading manner.
- Psychological hazing: any act which is likely to compromise the dignity of a student; cause shame to a student; cause a student to be the object of ridicule or malicious amusement; or inflict psychological or emotional harm.

Hosting Disruptive Gatherings

No student living on- or off-campus may host any disruptive party, gathering or event which disturbs or impacts the peace of another. This includes, but is not limited to, disturbing the peace of others, excessive noise, violent, offensive, disorderly behavior, or quarrelsome conduct. Any host or student who participates in such an activity will be subject to disciplinary action. If alcohol or other intoxicants are involved in such parties, gatherings or events, suspension or expulsion from the University may occur.

Illegal Drugs

Illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia; synthetic forms of drugs, including cannabidiol (CBD) products; prescription drugs for which the student does not have a valid prescription; or any other form of controlled substance at any time while enrolled at Bluefield University (including all semester breaks), both on and off-campus, irrespective of laws that may permit certain drug use in their home states.

Students are not permitted to possess or consume medicinal marijuana, even with a valid prescription or authorization card. Students are not permitted to use cannabidiol (CBD) products, even if legally purchased. Please refer to information on Bluefield University's Substance Abuse Policy & federal compliance with the Drug Free Workplace Act as well as a more thorough explanation of the policy.

Students who provide alcohol or drugs to other students, particularly minor students, may be subject to more severe disciplinary action and possible criminal prosecution.

Inappropriate Computer Usage

The University monitors inappropriate computer and online usage. Activities that are prohibited include viewing pornography, gambling, and piracy. Bluefield University does not condone or tolerate the unauthorized copying of licensed computer software and other media, which is considered a theft and a violation of federal law. Anyone who violates this policy may be subject to disciplinary action and could face additional costly civil or criminal liability.

Inappropriate Dating or Sexual Conduct

Bluefield University is committed to an orthodox, traditional view of biblical marriage and sexuality. Dating and relationship practices should be in line with our Christian view of human sexuality. Students should only engage in sexual contact with a person who is their spouse.

Inappropriate, Lewd, Indecent, or Obscene Behavior or Language

Inappropriate, lewd, indecent, or obscene behavior, language, music or dress will not be tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to, the possession or display of sexually suggestive material, and derogatory, sexist, or racist/xenophobic material in any form on university-owned or leased premises, including computers.

Knowing/Presence Contribution

Community accountability is of the utmost importance at Bluefield University. Students are always encouraged to speak directly with a person who they know is involved in activities that are in violation of the Code of Conduct. If resolve cannot be reached, they are expected to speak with an appropriate staff or faculty member. Students who do not report known violations may be held responsible for participation in the violation (such as being present in a residence hall room as alcohol is being consumed).

Misrepresentation

Students who misrepresent themselves to be an agent of the University or who misrepresent their organization to be an agent of the University will be subject to disciplinary action.

Non-compliance

Students are required to comply with the request of a university official, law enforcement officer, campus safety official, or a Residence Life staff member acting in accordance with their duties.

Pornography

Possession, display, or distribution of pornographic materials or images is prohibited.

Pranks

Participation in any activity, on- or off-campus, that results in damage, endangerment of an individual's well-being, or a general disregard for university or private property, or involves a violation of university policy, is prohibited.

Recording without permission

Any unauthorized use of electronic or other devices to make an audio or video record of a person without his or her prior knowledge or consent when such a recording is likely to cause injury or distress.

Safety Equipment

The illegal use, possession of, or tampering with safety equipment, such as fire alarms, smoke detectors, fire doors, door locks, latches, etc., on university premises, is prohibited and may result in criminal prosecution and a mandatory fine. Related actions such as the propping of locked doors and permitting unauthorized access to another person is also prohibited.

Sexual Assault

Acts of nonconsensual sexual contact, or any attempted acts, are prohibited. For more information, please consult the "Sexual Harassment Policy" under "Additional Policies."

Sexual Harassment

The University is committed to fostering a positive learning, working and living environment. Any type of behavior by staff, faculty or students that constitutes sexual harassment is prohibited. For more information, please consult the "Sexual Harassment Policy" under "Additional Policies."

Skating

Students are not allowed to participate in activities such as skateboarding, roller-skating, or rollerblading anywhere on campus property.

Theft

The taking of property of another without his or her consent is prohibited. This includes the digital or intellectual property of others.

Throwing Objects from Structures

Students are prohibited from unauthorized throwing, propelling, dropping, or otherwise causing objects or substances to fall, from balconies, windows, or rooftops.

Tobacco

The possession of or use of tobacco products including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, hookah, chew, snuff or smoking substitutes (such as clove cigarettes, e-cigarettes, or vaping), and smoking paraphernalia are prohibited on campus, on property owned or controlled by the University, and at all official University activities and events.

Virginia state law prohibits non-military individuals under the age of 21 from using or possessing tobacco products.

Unauthorized and/or Misuse of University Property

Unauthorized entry into, unauthorized use of, or misuse of university property or property belonging to a member of the University community, regardless of the purpose or intent is prohibited.

Unauthorized Motorized Vehicles

No unauthorized motorized recreational vehicles are permitted anywhere on campus grounds. Such vehicles include, but are not limited to, go-carts, mopeds, mini-bikes, or any motorized vehicle or bike not licensed for use on public streets.

Vandalism

Unauthorized alteration of any public or private property is prohibited.

Weapons

The possession of firearms, fireworks, and other weapons are prohibited on campus, University-controlled properties, or at university-sponsored events. This includes, but is not limited to, conventional firearms and ammunition, air or spring-powered weapons, stun guns, combustible materials, dangerous chemicals (with no legitimate academic or common household purpose), hunting bows and arrows, knives with blades longer than 4 inches, martial arts weapons, clubs, or knuckles designed or converted for the purposes of causing injury, etc.

Students found in possession of any of the above will be subject to disciplinary action which may include expulsion.

DISCIPLINARY PROCESS

The disciplinary process at Bluefield University is designed to hold students accountable in a manner that is respectful, developmental, and redemptive. Therefore, all alleged violations of community standards are reviewed through “discipline meetings” with students, and not through efforts intended in any way to mimic court legal proceedings. Decisions made regarding an alleged violation are ultimately based upon what the University considers to be a “reasonable belief” of what occurred, and not upon “rules of evidence” similar to that of a court legal system.

The disciplinary process at Bluefield University consists of three components: 1) investigation; 2) hearing, if necessary; and 3) imposing any applicable sanctions, if found responsible for an offense. At times, the investigation and hearing can occur simultaneously. The Title IX Coordinator reviews all initial complaints that may constitute a possible Title IX violation and, if determined that misconduct may have occurred, forwards the case for investigation. The Director of Residence Life & Director of Campus Safety, under the supervision of the Vice President for Student Development and or Dean of Students conduct all investigations. The Director of Residence Life will conduct hearings for all alleged violations that would not typically result in suspension from the University.

Accusations that could result in suspension are heard by the Student Conduct Committee, a representative body composed of faculty, staff, and students.

Students going through the discipline process are permitted to have an advisor of their choosing. The person may accompany the student at any stage of the student conduct process, including their hearing, but may not actively participate in the investigation or hearing (posing questions, speaking on behalf of accused, etc.). The hearing officer or body reserves the right to dismiss the advisor from the process at any time and reschedule the meeting, if necessary.

The Dean of Students serves as the chief student conduct officer for the University, working with the Director of Residence Life, Director of Campus Safety, Title IX Coordinator, and all hearing and appellate officers and bodies to resolve all disciplinary matters.

Attendance at Hearings

Any accused person may choose not to attend her/his hearing. If the accused does not attend, the hearing will be held in her/his absence. Failure to appear will not be construed as an admission of responsibility for the violation. Rather, a decision will be made based on the available information. Discipline proceedings will occur even if a student has withdrawn from the institution. If the student is found responsible for a violation, sanctions will still be assessed. A hold will be placed on the student’s account and sanctions must be completed before the student can be eligible for reenrollment or receive academic transcripts.

Standard of Proof

Student conduct hearings at institutions of higher education and do not follow the same processes as a criminal or civil court. While criminal courts must prove responsibility beyond a reasonable doubt, universities typically use a simple preponderance of the available evidence. Students will be held responsible for a violation if the hearing officer or hearing body, based on their professional judgment, believes that it is more likely than not that a violation has occurred.

Imposing of Sanctions

The purpose of sanctions is to help students understand their actions in the context of the University and Christian community and to encourage appropriate behavior in the future. Disciplinary personnel are encouraged to decide sanctions that are commensurate with misconduct and are, when appropriate, developmental, and redemptive in nature. Some sanctions may need to be more punitive due to the seriousness of the offense. As a Christian higher education institution, the practices of repentance and forgiveness are essential and necessary to living out our values, particularly as a grace-based community. The student conduct system, by design, recognizes the importance of these values in the reconciliation process. Therefore, two students can experience different resolutions for similar violations, by virtue of their attitude and response throughout the disciplinary process, as determined by the wisdom and professional judgment of the adjudicating person or committee. The following sanctions, or combination of sanctions may be imposed upon any student found to have violated the Code of Conduct (not listed in prescribed order):

Warning: verbal or written warning to the student that s/he has violated the Code of Conduct.

Loss of privileges: denial of specific privileges (including leadership positions) for a designated period.

Fines: financial penalty imposed. In most but not all cases, specific fine amounts are published. Fines that are not published are assessed at the discretion of the hearing officer/body.

Restitution: compensation for damages, loss and/or injuries. This may take the form of appropriate service and/or monetary or material replacement.

Community Service: an assignment of appropriate community service that is both beneficial to the community and likely to assist the individual in understanding the harm caused by his or her misconduct.

Parent/Guardian Notification: notification of parents or guardians in certain cases of alcohol or drug policy violations, abuse or injury to self.

Discretionary Sanctions: participation in classes or assignments designed to address decision-making and consequences of behavioral choices within a Christian educational community; mandatory drug or alcohol assessments, or other related discretionary assignments.

Disciplinary Probation: designated for a specific period of time and includes the probability of suspension or expulsion if the student is found to be in violation of any University policies during the probationary period.

Campus Removal/Non-Suspension: when a student has demonstrated that they cannot, or will not, abide by campus policies, the student can be removed from the campus environment. Such a loss of campus privileges includes being present on campus, on property owned or controlled by the University, and at official University events. Every effort will be made to help ensure the student can complete courses via distance; however, if a student cannot complete a course via distance, the student will be subject to applicable policies for withdrawing from a course and may incur a financial penalty and loss of academic credit. Per the discretion of the Student Conduct Committee and the Office of Academic Affairs, the student may be permitted to continue in online courses after the completion of the semester.

Disciplinary Suspension: complete separation of the student from the University for a specified period (conditions for readmission may be required), including all coursework.

Provisional suspension: imposed immediately when the seriousness of the offense is such that the members of the community, including the accused student, may be threatened by his/her continued presence (this suspension will be for a stated period and followed by a student hearing). Every effort will be made to assist the student in continuing her or his studies as much as possible during the course of a provisional suspension.

Expulsion: permanent separation of the student from the University.

Withholding or Revocation of Degree: withholding conferral of a degree typically occurs when a student has not completed all requirements for graduation, including the completion of disciplinary sanctions.

Revocation of a degree can occur when misrepresentation or fraud was used to complete requirements for graduation from a course of study.

Disciplinary Probation

Students typically may not represent the University in an official capacity while serving on disciplinary probation, including (but not limited to) participation in intercollegiate athletics, music teams and ensembles, student leadership positions, student employment, etc. Students may elect to disclose their probationary status to their immediate supervisor(s) and seek permission to continue in their role. Students who choose to exercise this option agree that their supervisor(s) may contact the Office of Student Development for additional information about the nature of the violation. If approved, the student will be conditionally eligible to continue in their role, provided they remain in good standing during their probationary period.

Disciplinary Suspension & Expulsion

Students who have been removed or suspended from the University are not permitted to access University property, including the main campus and any sites under direct control of the University, or attend official University events and functions, without the expressed, written permission of the Vice President of Student Development and Athletics. In some cases, exceptions may be granted on a case-by-case basis that allow students to access buildings or offices for specific

reasons under limited conditions. Accessing the campus or attending official campus events without permission will be considered criminal trespassing and may be subject to additional sanctions and/or criminal prosecution.

A hearing officer or body, such as the Student Conduct Committee, will often recommend different conditions that a student must meet to be considered for re-admittance to the traditional on-campus program. In such cases, fulfillment of all conditions is necessary but do not automatically guarantee re-admittance. The Student Conduct Committee reserves the right to approve or deny reenrollment, on a case-by-case basis, based on their professional judgment.

Interim Suspension

Whenever there is evidence to support the reasonable belief that 1) a student's behavior poses a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of any part of the campus community, 2) a student's behavior poses a threat of disruption or interference with the normal operations of the University, or 3) the student's own physical or emotional safety or well-being is at serious risk, the student may be placed on interim suspension until a hearing can be arranged. The Vice President for Student Development and Athletics will chair an ad-hoc committee to review the available information and determine if a student should be placed on interim suspension. A student placed on this interim suspension will be restricted from all University locations and events unless given specific prior approval by the Vice President for Student Development and Athletics. An interim suspension does not replace the regular investigation and hearing process. Reasonable accommodation will be made for a student placed on interim suspension to fully participate in the investigation and hearing process, as outlined in this handbook. A student may appeal an interim suspension at any time by submitting a letter outlining the reasons for rescinding an interim suspension, and any supporting information, to the Vice President for Student Development and Athletics.

Failure to Complete Sanctions

Sanctions become a part of the student's record that is maintained in the Office of the Dean of Students. Although transcripts of permanent education records are normally issued to students upon request, they may be withheld when there are unpaid financial obligations or other outstanding sanctions. The Vice President for Student Development and Athletics, or her/his designee, may impose additional sanctions for failure to complete assigned sanctions by the prescribed deadline.

Non-Disciplinary Resolution

Students are encouraged to seek help from all appropriate offices, including the Office of Student Development, for behavior that may constitute a violation of the Code of Conduct without fear of reprisal. Students who seek help on their own volition before an incident is discovered will generally be supported through a non-disciplinary process of support and accountability, except when prohibited by federal or state law. Often referred to as "amnesty," non-disciplinary resolution does not mean that a student will avoid any consequences for their behavior, but the approach taken in cases of non-disciplinary resolution is intended to be more flexible in design, educative, and restorative, rather than strictly punitive in nature.

Sanctions – Appellate Process

Students wishing to appeal a disciplinary decision or sanctions from a sanctioning body must do so in writing within two class days of the date of the decision. Students may appeal for one or more of the following reasons:

1. To determine whether all hearing processes were conducted in conformity with prescribed procedures, or that deviations from the prescribed procedures did not significantly alter the outcome of the case,
2. To consider new information, not available at the time of the original hearing, sufficient to alter a decision, or
3. To determine if sanctions assessed were appropriate or disproportionate to the violation. Student conduct cases are not dismissed due to procedural errors. Rather, students may request an appeal if they believe a procedural error substantially altered the outcome of their case.

Appeal requests should be submitted in writing to the Vice President for Student Development and Athletics as well as the Dean of Students, describing the reason for requesting the appeal and outlining any information supporting the request. The Vice President for Athletics and Student Development hears all appeal requests and may choose to either uphold, modify, or overturn a decision by a hearing officer/body.

Student Conduct Records

Bluefield University has the right to disclose any information from the educational records without prior written consent to a parent of students who are dependent for federal income tax purposes (proof of dependency is required prior to release of records). In addition, the University may disclose to the parents of a student his or her violation of any federal, state, or local law or any University rule governing the possession or use of alcohol or a controlled substance if the student is under age 21. Bluefield University may disclose information from the educational records of a student to his or her parents in connection with an emergency if knowledge of the information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals. Additionally, Virginia state law requires all colleges and universities within the Commonwealth to record suspensions related to violations of Title IX policies on the student's academic transcript.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Office: Cruise Hall, First Floor (ext. 4313) or mobile: (304) 887-1795

The Office of Campus Safety is concerned for the safety of everyone, as well as the community. The OCS is primarily responsible for protecting the people and property of Bluefield University. A safety officer is on duty 24/7 during the semester. In addition, our Bluefield University Criminal Justice intern students and staff will enhance and support our security efforts.

All residents should assist in maintaining adequate protection within the residence halls and on campus. As members of the campus community, you should immediately notify your Resident Assistant, the Resident Director, or the Campus Safety Officer concerning the presence of unauthorized individuals in the residence halls or on the campus. The following explains the campus policies regarding procedures to report criminal actions or other emergencies occurring on campus:

911 should be called first if any violent crime or major injury is witnessed by any student.

On any day, students should report all emergencies or incidents of criminal activity to the safety officer on duty at the time of the activity; if for some unforeseen reason there is not a safety officer on duty, leave a message and the next officer reporting to duty to duty will call you back. If you can do so safely, the students should also report the activity in question to the Resident Assistant, Resident Director, Director of Residence Life, Dean of Students, or the Director of Campus Safety

The Bluefield, Virginia, Police Department and Rescue Squad will respond at any time to calls from individual members of the campus community reporting emergencies or incidents of criminal activity on campus.

A list of emergency phone numbers is included in this student handbook and the campus telephone Directory found on the website. Campus safety requires active cooperation, assistance, and support of the campus community which it serves.

Students are encouraged to say something if they see something suspicious. It is important to report, accurately and promptly, all emergencies and incidents of alleged criminal activity occurring on campus. Furthermore, students are encouraged to report any violations of the Community Living Standards. Students reporting such incidents are ensured access to the campus disciplinary system and/or local police. Students can report such incidents to the OCS, University Administrators, Residence Life staff, or local police. All persons on campus are entitled to courteous and respectful treatment without regard to race, sex, religion, national origin, or handicap.

The Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act of 1990 and A Student's Right to Know, requires that the Campus Safety Department report crimes to the United States Department of Education and that information on certain crimes be made available.

The Annual Fire and Security Reports are published and disseminated to all students, faculty, and staff. Additionally, these reports may be viewed in detail in the Campus Safety Office.

Emergency Numbers

Campus Safety Department	304-887-1795
Bluefield VA Police Department.....	276-326-2621
Bluefield WV Police Department.....	304-327-6101
Virginia Fire Department.....	911 or 276-326-1550
Virginia Rescue Squad.....	911 or 276-326-2621
West Virginia Rescue Squad	or 304-327-7171

Fire Equipment

Fire alarms and fire extinguishers are placed throughout the University buildings for the security of the community. The University will discipline any student who makes unauthorized use of or interferes in any way with the efficient functioning of this equipment, the result of which could jeopardize the safety and lives of other students. The student may also be referred to local law enforcement agencies. Cases of arson or burning personal property are felonies and will be referred to local law enforcement agencies as well as to the appropriate University authority.

Fire Evacuation and Drills

When a fire alarm sounds, all people must immediately exit the building. Each residence hall will hold fire drills on a periodic basis. Evacuation routes are posted in all. Please take the initiative to familiarize yourself with the evacuation plan posted in your room. Failure to respond to an evacuation alarm or interfering in any way with emergency operating procedures is not prohibited.

Inclement Weather

The decision to delay or cancel classes is based on two primary factors: 1) current weather/road conditions, and 2) anticipated changes in weather/road conditions. When classes are cancelled or delayed, the decision is based on what seems best for the campus community.

Commuters are expected to make their effort to attend scheduled classes. If a student is unable to attend classes due to weather, it is the responsibility of the student to contact his or her professor(s) regarding the absence.

For more information on the University's Inclement Weather Policy, log in to MyBU, visit the "Student Life" tab, select "Communication Resources, Policies and Procedures," and click "Inclement Weather Policies & Procedures."

Medical Emergencies

In case of emergency, students are encouraged to find the RD or an RA in their building as soon as possible. If the emergency is life threatening, students should call 911 immediately and then contact the RD or RA. Students are expected to inform the RD as soon as possible of a medical incident, injury, or any time a student is taken to the hospital.

Security Regulations

Bluefield University takes the security of our students very seriously. Students should report any potential security concern, including suspicious people, to the Resident Director of your building or to the Campus Safety Department as soon as possible.

Tailgating Policy

Definition:

Tailgating is defined as parking in a designated location/or area and/or setting up non-permanent facilities (such as tents and tables) to consume food and beverages prior to an officially sanctioned University event to which the public is invited and the event has been approved for tailgating.

Conduct:

Individuals attending events at Bluefield University are expected to conduct themselves in a manner respectful of the nature and character of the University. Persons acting in a disruptive, disrespectful or disorderly manner may be asked to leave the premises or be subject to citation. Students may also be charged with a violation of the code of Student Conduct.

Tailgating Areas/Times:

- Tailgating with food and nonalcoholic beverages is permitted in the following areas:
 - Lotito Park
 - The Dome
 - Tennis Courts
- Tailgating is limited to directly behind your parked vehicle.
- Roadways cannot be blocked for any reason.
- Tailgating sites will be open two hours before the official beginning of the event. Tailgating must be discontinued fifteen minutes prior to the start of the game and throughout the game.

Consumption of Alcohol:

- Bluefield University does not sanction the consumption or possession of any alcoholic beverages by any person on the premises of Lotito Park or any other property of the University or designated area approved for tailgating purposes.
- Kegs and other common containers are not allowed at any time. Glass containers are not allowed. Drinking games, included but not limited to beer pong, and the use of devices intended to accelerate the consumption of alcohol, including but not limited to funnels or beer bongs, are prohibited.

Consumption and Preparation of Food:

- No food may be sold without permission from Department of Athletics or Office of Student Development.
- Propane grills are the only permissible sources of heat for cooking.
- Open flame fires, including fire pits and charcoal grills, are prohibited.

Trash:

All groups and individuals participating in tailgating are responsible for proper disposal of their trash and other debris. Please utilize trash containers that are supplied throughout these areas.

Solicitation:

No sales activities are allowed on the Bluefield University campus, including any/all tailgating areas, without permission from the appropriate University Office (i.e. Student Development, Athletics, Advancement).

Smoking Policy:

- Smoking is not allowed inside Mitchell Stadium.
- If smoking in a designated area, (outside the gates of Mitchell Stadium) smoking residue must be placed in appropriate receptacles.

Vehicle Use Policy

Office of Campus Safety (ext. 4313)

Faculty, staff, students and visitors are responsible for making themselves aware of the regulations pertaining to the operation and parking of vehicles at Bluefield University.

All vehicles must be registered with the Office of Campus Safety. The registration fee for students is included in the student's tuition and fees. All faculty, staff, and students who park, or expect to park, in Bluefield University parking lots, must complete a parking permit application. All information on the application must be kept up-to-date, parking permits must be accurate, and changes made as required. Current parking decals shall be clearly visible on the lower back glass on the driver's side.

In the case of a motorcycle, the permit must be affixed in such a manner as to be clearly visible. Proper display of the parking permit is the user's responsibility. Permit holders must ensure that parking permits are clearly and visibly displayed at all times their vehicle is on the Bluefield University Campus to avoid receiving a parking violation notice. It is the owner's responsibility to ensure the security of their permit at all times.

Due to the demand for parking, the University has implemented designated parking. The parking spaces are color coded depending on your status:

- Blue-Residential and Commuter Students: These spaces are always reserved for residential and commuter students.
- Orange-Visitor: these spaces are reserved for visitors at all times.
- Green-Faculty/Staff: these spaces are reserved for employees of the University between the hours of 8:00am-5:00pm, Monday through Friday. Residents and visitors may park in these areas after 5:00pm and on Saturday and Sunday.
- White-Resident Directors, Maintenance staff, University van, and the President: these spaces are always reserved for these individuals.
- Yellow- Maintenance: These spaces are reserved for maintenance vehicles and maintenance employees' vehicles. Located near the maintenance building.

There are directional signs for parking at each entrance with color-coded designations. You must park in your designated area. The Office of Campus Safety enforces the parking policy by issuing citations for violations.

The on-campus speed limit is always 15 miles per hour. University vehicle parking decals should be always displayed. There is a \$20.00 charge to replace lost or damaged decals or to register an additional vehicle(s). If your vehicle information changes, students, faculty, and staff must re-submit a form to the Campus Safety Department.

Bluefield University reserves the right to ticket for violations or remove from the campus:

- Abandoned vehicles
- Vehicles found without a valid parking permit
- Vehicles with an unauthorized or altered parking permit
- Vehicles without valid license plates
- Vehicles parked in violation of university regulations

Vehicle owners shall be responsible for all costs involved in the removal, impounding and storage of such vehicles. The University reserves the right to limit parking permits. Parking facilities will be supervised by the University according to the fees, terms or other conditions pertaining to their use, as determined by the University. The privilege of parking at Bluefield University may be rescinded for contravention of these traffic and parking regulations.

Campus Safety can place a vehicle immobilization device “boot” on any vehicle for repeat violators.

Bluefield University assumes no responsibility for any damage to a motor vehicle or any loss of the vehicle or its contents while it is driven or parked on campus. Bluefield University is a private property, and the University reserves the right to control vehicular traffic on the campus. The University reserves the right to set or amend parking fees as circumstances dictate. Regulations and fees are reviewed on an annual basis. Any changes that may result from this review become effective at the beginning of the fall semester and supersede any previous regulations and fees. Any person wishing to submit recommendations for consideration may do so in writing to the Offices of Student Development and Campus Safety.

Campus Safety reserves the right to suspend parking privileges on Bluefield University campus. Where a suspension of parking privileges at Bluefield University is applied to any person for contravention of the Regulations, written notice will be given by the Offices of Student Development and/or Campus Safety to the registered owner or the person in custody/care or control of the vehicle stating the reason for, and terms of the suspension, either by mail or personal service.

A service vehicle is a vehicle that is, required to and is in the process of, performing an authorized service for the University. Authorization must be obtained from the proper authority at Bluefield University to maintain or operate a service vehicle on Bluefield University campus.

Those persons desiring to terminate their parking privileges shall do so in person in the Offices of Student Development or Campus Safety. It is a requirement of the Offices of Student Development and Campus Safety that the parking permit be removed from the vehicle.

Parking permits are NOT transferable. It is a criminal offense to duplicate, counterfeit, alter or otherwise use unauthorized Bluefield University parking permits.

Any registered student or employee of the University with temporary physical disabilities may apply to the Offices of Student Development or Campus Safety for a Handicap permit for temporary special (disabled) parking privileges and must be seen by Bluefield University athletic training staff. Any vehicle displaying a handicap license plate or doctor issued handicap placard must be issued to the student, faculty, and/or staff member that is utilizing said vehicle in order for that vehicle to be legally parked in a handicap parking space.

Bluefield University requires that all vehicles be maintained in roadworthy condition so that they may be driven safely on Bluefield University Campus.

No vehicle can display any obscene language or image on any part of the vehicle by any means.

Any person who, through the operation of a vehicle on campus, causes any damage to university property shall be responsible for payment of all costs of repair or replacement. The operator of a vehicle shall immediately report to the Offices of Student Development/ Campus Safety any such damage. Ultimate liability for damage rests with the vehicle owner regardless of the status of the driver at the time of damage.

Bicycles shall be operated with due care and caution, in accordance with all traffic regulations and shall be parked only in bicycle racks where provided. Bicycles are not permitted in university buildings. Roller skates, roller blades, ski devices, skateboards, longboards and like recreational apparatus shall not be operated in university buildings or on university roads, walks, and parking areas.

No vehicle shall be parked on campus other than in a designated parking lot; authorized service vehicles accepted.

No vehicle shall occupy a space in a parking lot other than within the limits set out by lines, curbing, markers, or signs. Any curb that is not yellow but does not clearly have white lines designating a parking space is not a parking space.

No motor vehicle shall be operated on any campus sidewalk, pathway, pedestrian walkway, grassed or landscaped area; approved service vehicles accepted.

No motor vehicle shall be parked within or outside of any parking area, in front of or adjacent to any service access way, in such a manner as to impede or obstruct the continued use of such access way; approved service vehicles accepted.

Pedestrians crossing any roadway/travel lane on campus will always have the right-of-way.

Campus Safety reserves the right to close any parking lot at any time without notice. Every person in charge of a motor vehicle who is directly or indirectly involved in an accident on university property must immediately report the accident to /Campus Safety.

Every person operating a vehicle on the campus shall do so with due care and attention and with reasonable consideration for other persons using the campus.

Appeal Procedure

In the event you believe your vehicle has been ticketed inappropriately, the following appeal procedure must be followed:

1. The recipient should submit an appeal by using the MyBU form and state any circumstances that should be considered. The appeal must be submitted to the Office of Student Development within five class days of the date of the ticketing date.
2. Tickets will not be voided if the tag is presented as an appeal. If no appeal is filed, the ticket amount will be posted on the student's account.
3. All decisions of parking appeals by the Office of Student Development are final.

Unpaid Parking Tickets

- All parking tickets will be posted on the student's account. Students will not be allowed to register for classes until the student's account is paid in full. Students who are graduating or leaving the school will not receive transcripts or their diploma until the student's account has been paid.
- Names of faculty and/or staff who have not settled all parking tickets by the end of the semester will be submitted to the Provost and Vice President for Finance and Administration, respectively.

Whistleblower Policy

If any University student or employee reasonably believes that some policy, practice, or activity of Bluefield University, or of another employee on behalf of the University, is in violation of law, the student or employee immediately should contact the President, Vice President for Finance and Administration, Human Resources Director, Chair of the Finance Committee of the Board of Trustees, or Chair of the Board of Trustees, preferably in writing, so as to assure a clear understanding of the issues raised. The student or employee should be as specific as possible in describing the occurrence or suspicion of irregularity, and the description should be factual rather than speculative or conclusive. The student or employee in this case is commonly referred to as a whistleblower. The whistleblower is not an investigator or finder of fact, nor does the whistleblower determine the appropriate corrective or remedial action that may be warranted. Whistleblower reports also may be made anonymously.

RESIDENCE LIFE

Office: Shott Hall

We recognize that the residence halls play a central role in your total educational experience. It is in the residence hall that some of your most significant personal growth occurs. While the classroom and library are where information is dispersed, the residence hall is where this information is reviewed, studied, discussed, and questioned. The residence hall is also where you learn the fine art of getting along with others. Learning to peacefully and productively coexist with other individuals is fundamental to overall success in life. Living with others involves day-to-day interaction with people of varying backgrounds and values. It gives the opportunity to continue the discussions and debates of the day's classes, a firsthand experience in community development, and the opportunity for developing strong and lasting friendships.

While living as a community member may be difficult at times, we hope you will find it a rewarding experience. As is true in any community, some commonly accepted standards or guidelines are necessary to facilitate the provision of an academically supportive environment and to guarantee mutual respect and dignity among the members.

Central to this concept is the development of a genuine concern for other human beings. We, therefore, seek to provide an environment that is compatible with and supportive of your personal, spiritual, social, physical, and intellectual development. Specifically, the mission of the department of Residence Life is to provide a living and learning environment that is clean, attractive, well-maintained, safe, comfortable, and considered by residents to be a positive and desirable community living arrangement.

Alumni, Cruise, East River, and Rish Halls, along with Bluestone Commons, are overseen by live-in Resident Directors (RD) who are Bluefield University staff members. They are directly responsible for managing the hall and for supervising the residence assistants. Each RD is responsible for the daily management of their residential facility, and they work closely with the Director of Residence Life to provide a community atmosphere within the halls that reflects the mission of the University and the philosophy of Residence Life—a living environment conducive to studying, which is comfortable and safe, and provides opportunities for individual development and growth. At least one Residence Life staff member (either the RD or a Resident Assistant) will be accessible to all of the residents of each residence hall between 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. the next morning. During visitation hours they will be in the office, or making rounds, and in the building at all other times. The staff in your residence hall will be in and out of the building during the day. Call, e-mail, or post a message on their door if you have a problem and/or question and need to get hold of them.

Each floor of each residence hall has at least one Resident Assistant (RA). RAs are residential students holding positions of responsibility within the residence halls. They are carefully selected and appropriately trained undergraduate staff members working directly under the Resident Directors. These students provide direct assistance to the students in their living area by providing information, by helping to ensure that community standards are met (through brief counseling and referral), by fulfilling basic administrative tasks, by helping to organize interesting programs, and by offering their time and friendship to the students. The Residence Life staff of your building are anxious to get to know you personally, so we hope you will take the opportunity to get to know them as well. Your RA is close at hand if you are having difficulties of any kind, need information, or just want to talk. Interested in becoming an RA yourself? For further information, talk to your RD, RA, or the Director of Residence Life.

Residency Requirements

Bluefield University requires all students to reside on campus unless any of the following qualifications of the Residency Exemption Policy are met, which are:

- You are an online student.
- You live at home with a parent or legal guardian within a 45-mile radius of campus.
- You are married or care for a child or a dependent.
- You are 23 years of age or older at the beginning of the current academic year.

If you receive Bluefield University talent scholarship dollars you will be required to reside on campus until graduation, unless you meet one of the exceptions listed above. This is applicable to student-athletes receiving athletic grant-in-kind funds, music, drama, art, or marching band scholarships. All students receiving talent funds must reside in campus provided housing. Failure to adhere to this policy will result in the forfeiture of your Bluefield University talent scholarship dollars.

Students who do not meet the Residency Exemption Policy must live on campus and maintain the minimum required campus meal plan. Students who reside in a traditional residence hall are required to maintain the full meal plan. Students who live in apartments equipped with a kitchen must maintain at least a 165 meals per semester plan. Students with dietary restrictions must request accommodations through our Dining Services provider. If Dining Services cannot reasonably meet a dietary requirement, a student may apply for a reduction or exemption from the meal plan. Every effort will be made to accommodate students' dietary need through Dining Services. The Vice President for Student Development and Athletics or the Dean of Students will review all meal plan exemption requests and determine if reasonable accommodation is available or if a partial or full exemption from the meal plan is appropriate.

Any student who returns to Bluefield University but does not live in the residence halls, will be held accountable for the upcoming semester's room and board charges unless the student receives an approval letter from the Office of Student Development confirming cancellation of the Residence Hall Agreement.

For information regarding residing on or off campus, contact the Office of Student Development.

Off-Campus Housing

Students who desire to live off-campus must complete the following procedures.

1. Submit a Commuter Application Form with the Office of Student Development, available in MyBU in "forms" under the Student Tab.
2. Provide a letter of support from parent or guardian, unless classified as an independent student by Office of Financial Aid.
3. Sign off-campus housing contract. Do NOT enter into a lease or rental agreement until you have received official approval from the Office of Student Development.
4. Maintain good standing with the University. Good standing is defined as not being on academic, Chapel, or disciplinary probation within the six months leading up to application.
5. Confirm with the Financial Aid Office that your aid package is not affected by living off campus.

Expectations

Students who have been extended the privilege of living off campus remain members of the Bluefield University community. They are obligated to honor their commitment to the University's community living standards as outlined in this student handbook. It is expected that students living off campus will be good ambassadors of Christ and of Bluefield University. In addition to representing Bluefield University, as members of this Christian community, we are called to be "salt and light" in the world—this includes our local communities. As such, it is expected that off-campus students will be good neighbors, respectful and considerate of the rights and needs of neighbors, always being sensitive to issues regarding noise, parking, guests, upkeep of dwelling, etc. Regarding these and other "courtesy issues," it is expected that students living off campus will always defer to the needs of their neighbors in addition to parameters outlined by local ordinances and laws. Off-campus students are responsible for the behavior of their guests. Students determined to be responsible for violating University and/or local community standards will have the privilege of living off campus revoked.

Residence Agreement

Residence living is an important part of the University experience. To aid the development of a positive environment for growth and interpersonal relationships, the University details certain rules for campus residential living. By virtue of enrollment, students are accountable to live within the spirit of these guidelines. Possession of a room by a student is subject to the following conditions and governs a student's right to live in a university residence.

- Residence Life staff will inspect residences prior to, during, and prior to termination of occupancy. Students will be assessed for any damage, missing items, or cleaning costs to individual rooms and/or common areas (e.g., floor lounges, hallways, bathrooms, or any other common areas) as appropriate.
- Right of possession is for the time when classes are in session. Charges for occupancy of rooms at any other time may be assessed.
- The University reserves the right to enter and inspect rooms for maintenance needs and health or safety reasons.
- The University reserves the right to enter rooms, apartments, and married student houses for the purpose of enforcing compliance with university policies and/or state and federal laws and to investigate suspected violations thereof.

- If a university official enters a room and views an item that is in violation of a regulation (firearms, drugs, alcohol, animals, obscene materials, weapons, etc.) they may remove such articles without the permission of the owner, even if the University official has entered the room for another purpose. After the removal of such an item, the University official will contact the individual, and/or notify the appropriate office.
- The University does not assume responsibility for student-owned property in any location at any time.
- Occupancy of a University-owned residence does not establish a landlord-tenant relationship between the student and the University.

Room Assignments

Before school closes each year, current students are given the opportunity to make roommate requests for the following academic school year. New student room assignments are made in the summer between academic school years. The Residence Life staff attempts to make room assignments with consideration for mutual roommate requests, special needs made known in advance to the staff, and type of room preferred. Assignments are made based on the date of deposit and every effort is made to assign students with roommates who have compatible living habits and similar goals. Please note that the University cannot guarantee your assignment to a particular room and/or residence hall. The University does not discriminate against any person based on race, color, national origin, ethnic origin, religion, or physical handicap.

Room Changes

Living with a roommate is usually rewarding and results in lasting friendships. However, some roommates will experience times of conflict over such things as values, habits, and personalities. If a room change is requested because of conflict, residents are expected to first work toward reconciliation with the help of the Residence Life staff before a move will be initiated, and in order to encourage roommates to work together through initial conflicts. Room changes within a residence hall may be made with the consent of the Resident Director and the Director of Residence Life. A room change request form can be found in “forms” under the student tab in MyBU and must be completed and filed before final approval is given to move. A room change fee will be charged to students who are granted a change of room. The University reserves the right to move students for appropriate reasons. Once assignments have been made, students are expected to reside in the room to which they have been assigned. Any student who wishes to change rooms needs to start the process by talking to their RA.

Bluefield University freshman and transfer students will be given the opportunity to take part in the Room Swap Process. This process begins one week after classes have started and lasts for two weeks. New students will have a good idea of whether they will get along with the roommate they were assigned. If not, they are encouraged to find a new one. The room change fee will be waived during this period only. Students requesting to move to single/private room or another residence hall after the start of the fourth week of classes will be denied until the start of the new semester.

Room Check-In/Check-Out

Upon checking into a University residence hall room, each resident will be required to complete a Room Inventory Form. This form records the condition of the room. It helps to furnish our maintenance staff with a list of necessary repairs, and it is also used at check-out to determine damage done to the room. This form should be filled out thoroughly and completely. If a resident fails to record a problem with the room at check-in, and that problem is discovered at check-out, the resident will be charged for the repair cost.

Rooms will be checked by a staff member when a student checks out for Thanksgiving, Christmas, spring, and summer breaks. Failure to check out properly when vacating a room, or failure to clean a room, may result in a fine, in addition to labor and damage charges. Students are expected to clean their rooms and check-out with the RD or RA in their building before every break in which the residence hall closes.

Each residence hall will open the day students are required to be on campus. They will close at 5:00 p.m. on the last day of classes for Thanksgiving and spring break, and at 5:00 pm on the last day of finals for Christmas and summer break. Students are expected to regulate arrival and departure times to fall within these hours. If a student needs to come early or stay late, the student must be approved by their Resident Director and the Director of Residence Life. Students must turn Extended Stay Applications in at least two weeks before the scheduled break to have consideration. Students will be charged for these extra days, as University room rates are based strictly on semester occupancy.

The Residence Life staff will make arrangements with the athletics staff for student-athletes, student teachers, international students, and other University-related needs for residential students during breaks.

Room Responsibility Policy

All room furniture belonging to the University must be kept in good condition. Students will be financially responsible for damaged, misplaced, or missing furnishings. Residents may use their own personal items, such as desk chairs and mattresses, in place of university provided items in the residence hall rooms. All University items that have been provided, even if they are not in use, are still the responsibility of the room's occupant(s) and must be left as they were found upon departure from the University.

Students are responsible for damages that occur in their room. This responsibility extends to damages caused by guests. Upon checking into a University residence hall room, each resident will be required to complete a Room Inventory Form. This form records the condition of the room. It helps to furnish our Maintenance staff with a list of necessary repairs, and it is also used at check-out to determine damage done to the room. Items and areas that are damaged due to other than normal wear will be repaired or replaced at the expense of those who caused the damage. Residents are expected to accept the responsibility for the maintenance of their rooms and for damages and replacement of missing items. Public area damage that cannot be attributed to specific individuals or is not the result of normal wear and tear will be divided equally among the residents of the suite, hall, or floor, whichever is appropriate, at the time of the loss or damage.

Single Rooms

Alumni, Bluestone, Cruise, and East River Hall is designed with single occupancy rooms that have an additional charge. When occupancy permits, double rooms in Cruise and Rish Hall are made available as single rooms at the beginning of each semester. The fee for a single room has an additional charge.

When openings occur because of roommate changes after the beginning of the semester, the remaining student will be given the following options.

1. If space permits, the remaining student can maintain the room as a single room by agreeing to pay the single room fee as described above. This option must be exercised within ten business days of the date the roommate vacates the room by submitting a letter to the Director of Residence Life indicating his/her interest in this option.
2. The remaining student may encourage another student to move in with him/her. This option must be exercised within ten business days of the date the roommate vacates the room.
3. The remaining student can be reassigned to another available space, or another student can be assigned to the remaining student's room. Students in such rooms should take care to utilize space and distribute belongings in a manner that would easily accommodate the arrival of a new roommate. The Director of Residence Life will make all final decisions regarding room, residence hall, and roommate assignments and reassignments. Should a situation arise after the 9th week of the semester, the student who is alone in a room will not be required to find another roommate for the remainder of the semester, nor will the student be required to pay the single room fee.

Students with Disabilities

Bluefield University recognizes that students with disabilities may require a specific type of housing to fully participate in the residential component of the University experience. For these students, Bluefield provides disability housing accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act as amended (ADA). A disability is defined under the ADA as any mental or physical impairment that substantially limits the individual in a major life activity compared to the average person. Students wishing to make application for disability housing must present a professional assessment documenting the disability to the Office of Disability Services in the ACE.

General Residence Life Policies and Procedures

On-campus living at Bluefield University offers a unique and valuable opportunity for all students to learn and grow within a Christian community of students from widely varying backgrounds, interests, and Christian traditions. The University desires that all residents live comfortably within this environment, integrate classroom learning with out-of-class experiences, and grow in all aspects of life. To accomplish these goals and better order our life together, we have established certain expectations for living in the community here at Bluefield University. These guidelines are meant for mature, responsible individuals. Some of the policies are designed to create norms of behavior within a large, diverse group of people, while others are meant to preserve the appearance and function of university-owned property. We expect that the members of our community will strive to live within these guidelines. The Residence Life staff reserves the right to confront inappropriate and offensive behavior/attitudes not documented in this handbook that arise during the school year.

Advertising

Advertising is limited to certain areas of the campus and must be approved by the Office of Student Development, either by the Dean of Students or the Director of Residence Life.

Advertisements may be hung on bulletin boards throughout the campus but cannot be taped to windows or walls. With the prior approval of the Director of Dining Services, advertisements may also be placed in the dining facilities.

Air Conditioners

Window units are prohibited in the residence halls with the exception of the RHD apartments and Residence Life offices. Portable units may be used by students with allergies or other medical conditions after special permission has been given to them by the Director of Residence Life.

Babysitting

Babysitting of children is not permitted in the residence halls. Minor children in the residence halls must be accompanied by their parent or legal guardian at all times, unless they are a prospective student on an official registered campus visit with the Office of Admissions.

Bicycles

Students are welcomed to bring and store their bicycles on campus. Bicycle racks are available in areas by each of our residence halls. Students are expected to keep their bicycles outside at all times and locked or chained to the bicycle racks only. Bicycles may not be stored or kept in residence hall rooms.

Car Washing

Washing cars on campus is strictly prohibited.

Common Room Furniture

In an effort to maintain the current quality of our common room furniture, students are asked not to move the furniture in these common areas.

Fines/Community Service/Educational Sanctions

Failure to adhere to university rules, standards, and policies may result in a fine, community service, and/or educational sanction. If a student is issued a fine, he/she will be notified in writing and will be given three business days to appeal the fine. After three business days the fine will be posted on the student's account in the Business Office. The student will need to go to the Business Office in order to pay the fine. The intent of these sanctions is to deter and prevent inappropriate behavior and to provide an avenue for restitution.

Gambling

Gambling, including all forms of wagering and betting, is not permitted on campus, including the residence halls.

Grills

Grills are not permitted on campus or in the residence halls. Students at Bluestone Commons may use the stationary grill located between the two buildings. Students are responsible for removing the charcoals and safely depositing them in the ash container adjacent to the grills. If a student would like to use a grill at another location please reach out to studentlife@bluefield.edu.

Hair cutting

For health reasons, students are not permitted to give haircuts in public areas of the residence halls, including computer labs, hallways, laundry rooms, lounges, restrooms, and stairwells, with the exception of the dedicated barber shop area in the foyer of Rish Hall. Students are expected to clean after themselves when using the barber shop area.

Hall Meetings

Periodically, students will be required to attend residence hall meetings. Attendance at all residence hall meetings is required because of the important information which is communicated. Every effort will be made to announce these meetings as far in advance as possible. Students need to get permission to be absent from a residence hall meeting prior to the meeting by communicating with the RD and/or RA of their building/floor.

Keys

Keys must not be duplicated or given to unauthorized individuals. In the event a key is lost, it is to be reported immediately to an RA or Resident Director. Replacement of lost, stolen, or misplaced keys will be done at a cost of \$50 per key. This charge will offset the cost of replacing the key-core to the lock and issuing replacement keys for other roommates. If a key is broken or bent, it is to be returned to the Office of Residence Life. A new key will be issued at no charge if the old key is returned.

Laundry Facilities

All of our residence halls have a laundry room that offers full-sized smart washers and dryers. Use of the laundry facilities is included in a resident student's room charge; therefore, the laundry machines do not require coins for operation during regular academic semesters. The washers and dryers in the residence hall laundry rooms are to be used exclusively by the residents of each respective residence hall. Clothes that are left in the laundry room for longer than 2 hours will be taken to the RA Office so that other students can use the laundry facilities and to protect from theft. If a machine is found to be out of order, please contact the RA or RD in your building. Bluestone Commons Apartments provide a standard washer and dryer for each apartment unit. Students are expected to report any damage/issues to their RA/RD.

Liability

The University recognizes that certain activities are voluntarily engaged in by students, such as informal athletics contests, jogging, running, sledding, skate boarding, walking on the nature trail, and other activities have some measure of risk involved for the participants. Students and guests who engage in such activities assume the risk of injury or property damage which may result. The University is not responsible or liable for injuries or property damage incurred by students or their guests participating in these and similar activities.

Lounges

The lounges in the residence halls function as an area for relaxing, watching television, engaging in scheduled activities, and studying. If you would like to reserve a residence hall lounge for a scheduled activity, please contact the RD in your building.

Micro Fridge

Each traditional residence hall room is furnished with a micro fridge, a combination microwave oven and refrigerator. Apartments on campus are equipped with full-sized appliances. If you are having problems with the micro fridge in your room, or other appliances in the apartments, please contact an RA or the RD in your building.

Off-limits Areas

Roof tops and construction sites are always considered off-limits.

Overnight Guests

Guests are welcome in the residence halls if they are invited and accompanied by a Bluefield University student. All guests who stay in the residence halls overnight must register with the RD or RA on duty. Failure to register may result in disciplinary action on the part of the residential student. The resident student is responsible for his/her guest as long as he/she is staying with the student. Only overnight guests of the same sex are permitted. All guests must conduct themselves in accordance with the University's regulations. Overnight guests under the age of 18 years of age are not permitted. Guests who fail to adhere to Bluefield University's rules and standards are subject to eviction from the premises. Students requiring a guest to stay more than three nights during a semester will need approval from the Director of Residence Life.

Pets

In the interest of other people in the residence hall, the care and upkeep of university property, and Health Department regulations, fish are the only pets permitted on campus. Aquarium tanks can be no larger than ten gallons. Students who fail to abide by this policy will be held responsible for cleaning and/or pest control charges as well any additional fines for breaking the policy.

Bluefield University is committed to making reasonable accommodations to its rules, policies, and practices as required by law to afford people with disabilities an equal opportunity to access its programs, services, and activities. If a student is in need of a service or support animal while on campus, he or she should apply for this accommodation through the Office of Student Development.

Quiet Hours

In order to preserve a peaceful atmosphere conducive to study and relaxation, Bluefield University has established a period of time when students are expected to maintain a quiet atmosphere. During quiet hours all students and other persons in and around residences are expected to refrain from making or causing noise, or any other disruption, which infringes upon the rights of residents to study, reflect, or sleep. For purposes of clarity, any noise from student rooms which can be heard in adjoining rooms will be considered a violation of the quiet hours policy.

Likewise, any noise in the hallway or outside a residence hall that disturbs someone in a residence hall will be considered a violation of the policy.

Quiet Hours Are

Sunday through Thursday	11:00 p.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Friday and Saturday	12:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Because of the diversity of schedules and lifestyles of students, individual needs for study, reflection, and sleep do not always correspond with enforced quiet hours. In the spirit of courtesy and in light of the academic nature of our institution, the need and/or desire for a quiet atmosphere takes precedence over an atmosphere of noise. Therefore, Bluefield University has also established a twenty-four-hour courtesy period. Students are expected to communicate with one another about their needs when quiet hours are not in effect. In any situation involving differences of opinion regarding quiet and courtesy hours, all parties involved are expected to demonstrate understanding and civility toward one another and attempt to resolve conflicts among themselves prior to involving the Residence Life staff. Please remember that the principle of consideration of other applies at all times. Quiet hours will be in effect 24 hours a day during finals, beginning the evening before study day.

Storage Areas

Bluefield University does not provide storage for student-owned property during summer break. If you need storage space, please check with area storage facilities. Any personal belongings left in rooms will be removed.

Vending Machines

Each residence hall has a beverage vending machine. In the event you lose money in one of these machines, you should complete a Vending Machine Refund Request form available from the RD or RA in your building.

Water Fights/Hallway Sports

Because of potential damage to people and property, water fights and throwing balls or other objects in or near residence halls is prohibited. Throwing water (or any other material) at anyone who is not voluntarily participating in an outdoor activity is also prohibited.

Visitation/Open House Hours

Visitors of the opposite sex must be signed in at all times and may only enter into the residence hall during visitation hours. Guest must stay with their escort at all times during their visit, including when they enter and exit the building, and abide by the guidelines laid out in the handbook. Students must keep the door and blinds open, and the overhead light on at all times when a guest of the opposite sex is visiting. These guidelines apply to students with same sex attraction. With special permission from a Resident Assistant or Resident Director, opposite sex guests may enter into the residence hall before visitation begins, but no earlier than 7:00 a.m. to assist in special activities such as check-in or check-out. Opposite sex guests will not be permitted in the residence hall for any reason after visitation hours have ended until 7:00 a.m. the next morning. Failure to adhere to the Visitation/Open House policy will result in loss of visitation privileges and potentially other sanctions deemed necessary by the Director of Residence Life.

Visitation/Open Room Hours:

Monday - Thursday:	6:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.
Friday:	6:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.
Saturday and Sunday:	2:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m.

Personalizing Rooms

Bluefield University extends the privilege of personalizing individual rooms which enhance an enjoyable living environment consistent with the philosophy of the University community.

Candles, Incense, and Open Flames – Open flames and the use of candles and lighted incense are prohibited in residence halls. In addition, you may not use candles or incense burners as decorations in your room.

Carpets – Students may use carpets and rugs in their residence hall room. Carpets and rugs should be placed on the floor without glue or tacks, and they must be removed prior to room check-out.

Ceilings – No items are to be attached or fastened to the ceiling of residence hall rooms. A fine will be assessed for items that are hung from the ceiling and there will be a charge for damage done to the ceiling. In addition, students may not install ceiling fans in their residence hall room.

Cleaning – Students are expected to keep their rooms clean. Trash cans should be emptied, rooms swept, and bathrooms cleaned on a regular basis. You are expected to maintain a level of cleanliness that does not pose a threat of fire safety or sanitation concern. In addition, food is to be stored in sealed containers to avoid attracting animals and insects.

Christmas Lights – Christmas lights are permitted in the Residence Halls; however, no more than two strands of Christmas lights can be plugged into each other or the same outlet. Christmas lights may be plugged into surge protectors or power strips but should not be plugged into extension cords.

Contact Paper – Students are asked not to install contact paper, decals, or stickers to their room door, walls, mirrors, ceiling, windows, and/or furniture.

Decorations – Items not in keeping with the character of the University are not to be displayed in student rooms or on university property. This includes wall coverings involving nudity or which are otherwise morally objectionable or socially offensive, stolen property, containers for alcoholic beverages, and other alcohol- or drug-related paraphernalia (signs, posters) including advertisements.

Dart Boards – Students may not install or use dart boards in the residence halls.

Doors – Access to the residence halls is controlled by ID cards for the security of the students. Residence hall doors should be kept locked twenty-four (24) hours a day. Propping outside doors poses a serious threat to the safety and security of our students. All students are expected to assist in the maintenance of a secure environment by closing doors when these situations are observed.

Drapery Rods – Students may not install drapery rods or make any other permanent modifications to the walls.

Fire Safety Codes – All personal furnishings brought into a room must comply with fire safety codes. Students may be asked to replace or remove dangerous objects if potential fire hazards exist. In addition, students are not to tamper with electrical wiring, switches, outlets, or fixtures, or to cover their room numbers.

Electrical Appliances – The following appliances are prohibited in the residence halls. Please note that this list is not exhaustive. Therefore, the University reserves the right to amend the list as deemed appropriate and prohibit the possession and use of any item that may present a fire or safety hazard:

- Ceiling Fans
- Space heaters with open coils
- Hot Plates
- Convection Ovens
- Toasters
- George Foreman-type grills
- Instant Pots
- Toaster Ovens
- Halogen lamps
- Window Air Conditioning Units (without advanced approval from the Office of Residence Life)

In addition, cooking in the residence halls is prohibited, except for microwave use and students residing in the East River Hall or Bluestone Commons Apartments.

Firearms, Fireworks, and Weapons – The possession of firearms, fireworks, and other weapons are prohibited on campus, University-controlled properties, or at university-sponsored events. This includes, but is not limited to, conventional firearms and ammunition, air or spring-powered weapons, stun guns and or tasers, combustible materials, dangerous chemicals (with no legitimate academic or common household purpose), hunting bows and arrows, knives with blades longer than 4 inches, martial arts weapons, clubs, or knuckles designed or converted for the purposes of causing injury, etc. Students found in possession of any of the above will be subject to disciplinary action which may include expulsion.

Furniture – Furniture provided for student rooms is to always remain in the room and is not to be taken apart or altered in any way.

Hallways – In accordance with fire codes, all residence hall hallways, stairwells, doorways, and exists are to be completely free of personal items, at all times, including trash and trash bags and door mats.

Lofts – Students may build loft systems in their room, but room furniture is not to be removed or taken apart in any way. In addition, a loft system must be self-supporting and may not rest upon any other piece of furniture, heating unit, or wall for means of support. The University does not assume responsibility for any personal and/or property damage resulting from the use of a loft system.

Mattresses/Waterbeds – Students are expected to keep mattresses on bed frames. Mattresses may not be stored on the floor. Waterbeds and any other excessively heavy items are not permitted in student rooms.

Repairs – It is the responsibility of the student to report any repairs needing to be made in his/her room. Students can report repair needs by filling out a work order form on the University website or by contacting their RA or RD. A student may be fined for damage caused by not reporting repair need. Students are not permitted to perform repair work in any University facility, including residence hall rooms.

Screens – Students may not remove a window screen for any reason. Please report damaged, or missing screens immediately.

Solicitation – Commercial businesses, individual students, and non-University sponsored organizations may canvass, solicit, and sell in the residence halls only with the approval of the Vice President Student Development and Athletics. Students who observe these activities in the halls, or are approached by such persons, should report these activities to a member of the Student Development staff. All student organizations must receive permission for fund-raising from the Director of Student Engagement.

Stolen Property – Removing or destroying state and local highway signs, commercial signs, and/or Bluefield University signs is illegal. Therefore, displaying such items in one's room or hall is inappropriate and is not allowed.

Tapestries – Tapestries are not permitted as they are considered a fire hazard.

Theft – Bluefield University does not carry insurance on the personal possessions of residential students. Residents are encouraged to lock valuables in a safe place or leave them at home. The University will assume no responsibility for lost, damaged, or destroyed property. You are encouraged to report all losses or thefts, regardless of size, to an RA or the RD in your building. While the University takes reasonable measures to prevent theft, individual students must take the responsibility to keep room and bathroom doors locked.

Unauthorized Entry – Copying keys, unauthorized possession of or use of keys, breaking and entering, and unauthorized entry to any University facility or room is prohibited.

Walls – Students are asked to use 3M © only when hanging decorations on their walls. Nails, screws, tape, or other adhesives which cause damage or leave sticky residue on the surface may not be used.

ADDITIONAL POLICIES

Sexual Harassment Policy

Bluefield University affirms a commitment to Christian values and works to provide a campus community environment free from harassment. Bluefield University also is committed to recognizing, upholding, and enforcing the laws of the United States and the Commonwealth of Virginia. Violation of those laws shall not be condoned on the campus or at any activity held off campus by any constituency. It is the policy of the University, in keeping with its efforts to establish an environment in which the dignity and worth of all members of the community are respected, that any sexual harassment of students and employees is unacceptable conduct and will not be tolerated. Sexual harassment may involve the behavior of a person of either sex against a person of the opposite or same sex, when that behavior falls within the definition outlined below. The University's sexual harassment policy applies equally to all individuals classified as a student, faculty, or staff member. Any reported incident of possible sexual harassment or assault will be investigated promptly.

Harassment violates federal and state laws, including, but not limited to, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits harassment in the workplace, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which prohibits harassment of students as a form of discrimination that denies or limits a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the University's programs. Inquiries about the University's sexual harassment policy should be directed to the Title IX Coordinator.

The Title IX Coordinator, Deputy Coordinators, and Investigators are the designated agents of the University with primary responsibility for coordinating Title IX compliance efforts. The Title IX Coordinator's responsibilities are crucial to the development, implementation, and monitoring of meaningful efforts to comply with Title IX legislation. The coordinators are responsible for developing and implementing the grievance procedures recommended by Title IX legislation. Those procedures include notification and investigation of complaints; providing educational materials and training for the campus community; coordinating investigations of complaints; safeguarding a fair and neutral process for all parties; and monitoring all other aspects of the University's Title IX compliance.

Adoption of procedures to provide prompt and equitable resolution of complaints is a critical function of the Title IX Coordinator. The Coordinator can assist persons alleging sexual harassment or discrimination in filing their grievance(s) and/or oversee the step-by-step procedure to be sure that appropriate time frames are met, or such persons may work directly with the university officer who directly handles sexual harassment and discrimination cases.

For those actions that have been determined to meet the specific guidelines of a possible Title IX violation please refer to the Title IX [website \(www.bluefield.edu/title-ix\)](http://www.bluefield.edu/title-ix).

Student Rights

Students have the right to:

1. Be protected from any sex-based discrimination including sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking
2. Equitable and unbiased treatment of complainants (accuser) and respondents (accused)
3. A prompt and reasonable response from the University in light of the known circumstances discuss the availability of supportive measures whether a formal complaint has been filed.
4. Expect immediate action regarding interim measures when there is a threat to life or safety of a victim
5. An explanation of the process for filing a formal complaint
6. Adherence of an established grievance procedure by the University before the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions or other actions that are not supportive measures against a respondent.
7. Be protected from retaliation for reporting or filing a complaint
8. Confidentiality to the extent possible under the law
9. A live hearing with all notifications and rights pertaining to the grievance process and hearing
10. An advisor of the student's choosing for the grievance hearing
11. An appeal

How to report an incident

Any person may report a grievance relating to sex discrimination, including Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence, whether or not the person reporting is the person who may be the victim of conduct being

reported. A report may be made:

- in person during normal business hours,
- at any time during or outside of normal business hours by mail, telephone, or
- at any time using any other means that results in the Title IX Coordinator receiving the verbal or written report.

TITLE IX TEAM CONTACT INFORMATION

Title IX Coordinator:
Emily Coppola – ext. 4341
ecoppola@bluefield.edu

DEPUTY COORDINATORS:

Bethany Justis
Office: 276-326-4201
bjustis@bluefield.edu

Dr. Tracey Stout
Office: 276-326-4245
tstout@bluefield.edu

Dr. Shawn White
Office: 276-326-4249
swhite@bluefield.edu

Judy Pedneau
Office: 276-326-4461
jpeneau@bluefield.edu

Kristen Parker
Office: 276-326-4211
kparker@bluefield.edu

Melanie Hosier
mhosier@bluefield.edu

Joslyn Evans
jlevans@bluefield.edu

CAMPUS SAFETY CONTACT INFORMATION

Gary Ruth – ext. 4313
Office: 304.887.1795
gruth@bluefield.edu

Kim Farmer
Office: 276.326.4224
kfarmer@bluefield.edu

VT Campus Safety – MABS campus
Office: 540.231.6411

CONFIDENTIAL COUNSELORS:

Emily Cook
Office: 276.326.4252

ecook@bluefield.edu

Brandy Smith
Office: 276.326.4307
bsmith@bluefield.edu

Substance Abuse Policy

This section is included to provide students with information on Bluefield University's federal compliance with the Drug-Free Workplace Act. Definitions of intoxicants and illegal substances are given.

Federal Mandate: On November 18, 1988, Congress passed the Drug-Free Workplace Act requiring contractors and grantees of federal agencies to certify that they will provide a drug-free workplace. Compliance with this required certification is a precondition for receiving a contract or grant from a federal agency. The federal government then mandated, on October 1, 1990, that there will be no illegal drug use by students, staff or faculty on university campuses anywhere in the United States.

Pursuant to the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988, it is unlawful to manufacture, distribute, dispense, possess or use controlled substances at university work sites and/or while performing University activities, events or business.

Bluefield University makes every effort to provide and maintain a drug-free campus. Pursuant to the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989, and for the purposes of this handbook, it is unlawful to manufacture, distribute, dispense, possess, use or sell illicit drugs and alcohol on campus or during any school-related business or event. All students are required to comply with this policy as a condition of their continued enrollment. Any student violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, including possible suspension or expulsion.

In addition to sanctions imposed by the University, students may be subject to regulations of civil authorities. Various local, state and federal regulations prohibit the illegal use, possession and distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol. Penalties for violations of such statutes vary depending on the type of drug, the amount of the drug involved, the type of violation involved, and, in the case of alcohol, the age of the person involved.

Alcoholic Beverages - Possession, consumption, and/or distribution of alcoholic beverages are prohibited on the Bluefield University campus. This includes areas of public access within the bounds of the Bluefield University campus or on the grounds of any properties leased or controlled by Bluefield University. As well, these same are prohibited at locations of university-sponsored activities or events. sponsored by any University organization, department or group or by any individual in the name of an organization, department, or group. Underage drinking, both on- and off-campus, is prohibited.

Any student who returns to the campus while intoxicated shall be subject to disciplinary action.

Intoxication is a state in which a person's normal mental and/or physical faculties are impaired by the consumption of alcohol. This includes, but is not limited to, slurred speech, loss of motor coordination, aggression, loss of memory, abusive behavior or behavior that satisfies the criteria for intoxication by blood alcohol content.

Cannabidiol (CBD) products - While CBD products have grown increasingly popular in recent years, misleading medical claims and mislabeling are rampant. Since it is nearly impossible to extract only CBD from the cannabis plant, CBD products are mostly mixtures of CBD and other prohibited cannabinoids, including THC, CBN, CBG, etc. The American Medical Association recently conducted a large study on CBD products and detected THC in 21 percent of the products tested, and the tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) content in some of those products was enough to produce intoxication or impairment. It is impossible to determine if detected THC present in urine test is from CBD products that may contain varying amounts of THC or from marijuana use; therefore, CBD products are prohibited.

Illegal Drugs - Manufacturing, possessing, distributing, and/or using controlled substances including, but not limited to, amphetamines, barbiturates, hallucinogens, narcotics, marijuana, cocaine, crack, anabolic steroids or other intoxicants and/or drug paraphernalia. Students may be asked to be drug tested at the student's expense when there is reasonable suspicion of drug use. Drug tests may be conducted by the Department of Sports Medicine for student athletes or another licensed facility, such as Med Express. A decision will not be made strictly based on the results of a positive or negative

drug test, but rather, in review of all of the available information as a whole. A hearing officer or committee may draw a negative inference from a student's refusal to comply with a drug test.

Possession, consumption, and/or distribution of illegal or illegally obtained drugs are prohibited on the Bluefield University campus. This includes areas of public access within the bounds of the Bluefield University campus or on the grounds of any properties leased or controlled by Bluefield University. As well, these same are prohibited at locations of university-sponsored activities or events sponsored by any MyBU organization, department or group or by any individual in the name of an organization, department, or group. Any student who returns to the campus while under the influence of drugs or in possession of drugs shall be subject to full disciplinary action.

Tobacco use of any kind is prohibited on the Bluefield University campus, including all tobacco products, tobacco paraphernalia, e-cigarettes, and vaping products. Please note, the University desires to assist those who need help with tobacco use. The Director of Counseling Services may refer students to community resources for smoking cessation and/or substance abuse.

Training and counseling resources - The University makes continuous efforts to keep students, faculty, and staff aware of the on-campus and off-campus programs which provide information and professional services on matters related to the abuse of alcohol, illegal drugs, and tobacco products. Students are encouraged to contact the Office of Student Development for information and appropriate referral.

Definitions

The use of illegal drugs and tobacco and the abuse of alcohol may have serious health consequences, including damage to the heart, lungs, and other organs. Alcohol-related accidents are the number one cause of death for persons aged 15-24. The most significant health risk, besides death, is addiction. Chemical dependency is a disease that, if not arrested, is fatal.

Illegal drug use or possession may involve, but is not limited to, the following substances:

Alcohol

Even low doses of alcohol significantly impair the judgment and coordination needed to operate vehicles. Small amounts also lower inhibitions. Moderate to high doses cause marked impairments in higher mental functions, memory, and the ability to learn and recall information. High doses cause respiratory depression and death. Long-term consumption, particularly when combined with poor nutrition, can lead to dependence and permanent damage to vital organs such as the brain and the liver.

If combined with other depressants that affect the central nervous system, even low doses of alcohol will produce adverse effects. Mothers who drink alcohol during pregnancy may give birth to infants with fetal alcohol syndrome and other birth defects.

Anabolic Steroids

Steroid users subject themselves to more than 70 side effects, ranging in severity from acne to liver abnormalities to psychological reactions. The liver and cardiovascular and reproductive systems are most seriously affected by use. In males, use can cause withered testicles, sterility, and impotence. In females, masculine traits can develop along with breast reduction and sterility. Psychological effects in both sexes include aggressive behavior known as "road rage" and depression. While some side effects appear quickly, others, such as heart attacks and strokes, may not show up for years.

The University will conduct a biennial review of its alcohol and drug regulations to determine their effectiveness and will implement changes as needed to ensure that the sanctions developed are consistently enforced.

Cannabis: Marijuana, CBD, THC, Hashish, Hashish Oil, Synthetic Marijuana

Physical effects of cannabis include increased heart rate and appetite, bloodshot eyes, and dry mouth and throat. Use of cannabis may impair or reduce the ability to drive an automobile or perform tasks requiring concentration and coordination. Motivation and cognition may be altered, making the acquisition of new information difficult. Marijuana, hashish, THC, etc., can also produce paranoia and psychosis. Long-term use may result in possible lung damage, reduced sperm count and motility, and may affect ovulation cycles. Cannabis can also be psychologically addictive.

Cocaine/Crack

Cocaine stimulates the central nervous system. Its immediate effects include dilated pupils and elevated blood pressure, heart and respiratory rates, and body temperature. Occasional use can cause nasal irritation; chronic use can ulcerate the mucous membrane of the nose. Crack or freebase rock is extremely addictive. Physical effects also include insomnia, loss of appetite, tactile hallucinations, paranoia, and seizures. The use of cocaine can cause death by cardiac arrest or respiratory failure.

Hallucinogens: PCP, LSD, etc.

Phencyclidine (PCP) interrupts the functions of the neocortex, possibly resulting in self-inflicted injuries. Users may experience a sense of distance and estrangement, loss of muscular coordination, and speech impairment. Large doses may produce convulsions and coma as well as heart and lung failure.

Lysergic Acid Diethylamide (LSD), mescaline, and psilocybin cause delusions and hallucinations. Physical effects may include dilated pupils, elevated body temperature, increased heart rate and blood pressure, loss of appetite, sleeplessness, tremors, and psychological reactions. Users may experience panic, confusion, suspicion, anxiety, and loss of control. Delayed effects or flashbacks can occur even after use has ceased. Use of hallucinogens can cause psychological dependence.

Prescription Drugs (without being authorized by a doctor)

Taking medication prescribed for someone else is never advisable. Because drugs may affect each person differently, it is possible that a drug that works for one person can trigger an adverse reaction in someone else. The most frequently misused medications are: opioid painkillers (e.g., OxyContin and Vicodin); central nervous system (CNS) depressants used for anxiety and sleep disorders (e.g., Valium and Ativan); and stimulants that treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. Opioids can cause choking, changes in mood, decreased cognitive function, interruptions in the menstrual cycle, infertility, slowed breathing, coma, or death if there is a severe slowdown in breathing. CNS depressants — sedatives and tranquilizers — can cause memory problems and lead to seizures. Using some stimulants even in the short term can trigger paranoia; high doses can cause an increase in body temperature and abnormal heartbeat. There is also a risk of cardiovascular problems and fatal seizures. When prescription drugs are misused, the risk of addiction jumps exponentially. Discontinuing the drug results in withdrawal symptoms — physical symptoms like nausea, shaking, sweating and nervousness. Withdrawal from opioids results in symptoms such as bone pain, insomnia, vomiting and uncontrolled leg movements. Stimulant withdrawal can produce depression, exhaustion, and sleep problems. Withdrawal from some sedatives and tranquilizers can lead to life-threatening consequences.

Stimulants: Amphetamines, Crank, Ice, Methamphetamines

Stimulants cause increased heart and respiratory rates, elevated blood pressure, dilated pupils, and decreased appetite. Users may experience sweating, headaches, blurred vision, dizziness, sleeplessness, and anxiety. Extremely high doses can cause rapid or irregular heartbeat, tremors, loss of coordination, and physical collapse. An amphetamine injection creates a sudden increase in blood pressure that can result in stroke, very high fever, or heart failure. In addition to physical effects, feelings of restlessness, anxiety, and moodiness can result. Use of large amounts over a long period of time can cause amphetamine psychosis, including hallucinations, delusions, and paranoia. The use of amphetamines can cause physical and psychological dependence.

Tobacco/Nicotine/Vapors

Immediate effects include relaxation and increased confidence and metabolism. However, smokers are more likely than nonsmokers to contract heart disease. Thirty percent of cancer deaths are linked to smoking. Chronic obstructive lung diseases, such as emphysema and chronic bronchitis, are 10 times more likely to occur among smokers than nonsmokers. Smoking during pregnancy also poses risks such as spontaneous abortion, premature birth, and low birth weight. Fetal and infant deaths are more likely to occur when the pregnant woman is a smoker. Tobacco/nicotine is both psychologically and physically addictive.

Safe Harbor Policy

(Voluntary self-disclosure and request for assistance with substance use)

Definition:

Bluefield University is committed to supporting students in their efforts to make responsible, healthy choices. The Safe Harbor Policy allows a student to proactively seek help for substance use concerns (including drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or other prohibited substances) before they are found in violation of university policy (e.g., before a failed drug test or conduct report).

Policy Guidelines:

- A student may voluntarily report themselves to the Director of Residence Life, Athletic Department, or Student Development Office to request assistance with substance use concerns.
- The student must do so prior to any suspected or known policy violation or before being selected for random testing.
- The student will be temporarily exempt from disciplinary sanctions related to substance use, provided they comply with all required steps in the support plan.

Support Plan Includes:

- Development of an individualized Plan of Care
- Enrollment in counseling, education programs, or treatment services as recommended
- Completion of three (3) consecutive negative drug or alcohol tests
- Regular check-ins with designated university staff member (e.g., coach, RD, or counselor)

Important Notes:

- Students who fail to complete the Safe Harbor plan or violate another policy during the process will be subject to the standard sanction structure, beginning at the Second Offense level.
- Safe Harbor may only be used once during a student's enrollment at Bluefield University.

Disciplinary Responses for Alcohol and Other Drugs

Drug Policy

First Offense

Note: Possession of THC products or like substances automatically advances the student to a Second Offense. Students must complete and pass an approved THC education course.

- 10% suspension from athletic participation (if failed via random drug test) including, band, esports, worship teams, or any other leadership roles on campus.
- \$50 fine
- Completion and passing of an approved THC education course and score 80% or above on
- Required to complete three (3) consecutive negative drug tests
- Development and adherence to an individualized Plan of Care

Second Offense

- 30% suspension from athletic participation including, band, esports, worship teams, or any other leadership roles on campus.
- \$50 fine
- Completion of three (3) consecutive negative drug tests
- 20 hours of community service to be completed within 45 days
- Mandatory appearance before the Student Conduct Committee

Third Offense

- 365 Days suspension from all athletic participation including, band, esports, worship teams, or any other leadership roles on campus.
- \$100 fine
- Completion of three (3) consecutive negative drug tests
- Mandatory medical examination- student athletes only
- Required enrollment in professional counseling and treatment program
- 30 hours of community service
- **Required meeting with the Student Conduct Committee to determine future disciplinary action, which may include continued suspension or permanent expulsion.**

Fourth Offense

- Permanent expulsion from Bluefield University.

Illegal Substance Policy Sanctions (Including Misuse of Prescription Drugs)

First Offense

- 30% suspension from athletic participation, including, band, esports, worship teams, or any other leadership roles on campus.
- \$50
- Completion of three (3) consecutive negative drug tests
- Development and adherence to an individualized Plan of Care
- Referral to the Student Conduct Committee for review and further disciplinary action

Second Offense

- 365-Day suspension from all athletic participation, including, band, esports, worship teams, or any other leadership roles on campus.
- \$100
- Completion of three (3) consecutive negative drug tests
- Required medical examination- Student Athletes
- Mandatory counseling and or treatment program with a licensed provider at student athlete and or parent/guardians expense.
- Continued implementation of a Plan of Care
- **Required meeting with the Student Conduct Committee to determine future disciplinary action, which may include continued suspension or permanent expulsion.**
- **Athletes Only- Upon completion of the above bullets, the student athlete must petition to the reinstatement committee for reinstatement.**

Third Offense

- Permanent expulsion from Bluefield University

Students are prohibited from the illegal distribution, and/or the acquisition of multiple legal prescriptions for the same injury or illness from multiple physicians, misuse of any legal prescription drug, or alteration of any drug prescription. Distribution of drugs includes sale of a drug, trading a drug for another item/drug, or giving their prescription drug to another person. Violation of this law will immediately result in a Second Illegal Substances Offense sanction even if it is an actual first offense. An actual second offense of this nature will result in a Third Illegal Substances drug sanction even though it may only be an actual overall second offense. Depending on the severity of the offense, which will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the Vice President of Student Development, Dean of Students, Director of Residence Life, and Campus Safety Director, those in violation may also be turned over to local law enforcement in addition to the sanctions outlined in the policy. In all these cases a meeting with the student conduct committee will take place and suspension from the institution could result from the actual 1st offense depending on severity and recommendation from the committee.

Alcohol Policy Sanctions

This policy addresses the possession, consumption, or distribution of alcohol in violation of university policy or state law. This includes, but is not limited to, underage drinking (under age 21), providing alcohol to minors, public intoxication, or disruptive behavior related to alcohol. Sanctions are determined based on both the severity of the incident and whether the student is legally permitted to consume alcohol.

First Offense

- 10% suspension from athletic participation (for student-athletes)
- Completion of alcohol education/training:
 - With Erika Bell (athletes)
 - With the Director of Residence Life (non-athletes)
- Community service:
 - 10 hours if the student is 21 or older
 - 15 hours if under 21 or if providing alcohol to someone under 21

Second Offense

- 20% suspension from athletic participation
- Community service:
 - 20 hours if the student is 21 or older
 - 30 hours if under 21 or if providing alcohol to a minor
- Development and adherence to an individualized Plan of Care

Third Offense

- 365-day suspension from all athletic participation
- Mandatory enrollment in outsourced alcohol counseling/treatment at guardian or student expense
 - 20 hours if the student is 21 or older
 - 30 hours if under 21 or if providing alcohol to a minor
- Create plan of care with Dean of Students and ACE
- **Required meeting with the Student Conduct Committee to determine further disciplinary action, which may include extended suspension or expulsion from the university.**

Fourth Offense

- Permanent expulsion from Bluefield University.

Tobacco and Vape Products Policy Sanctions

(Including cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, e-cigarettes, and vape devices)

First Offense

- 10 hours of community service
- \$25 fine
- If vape products or tobacco products are found or being used, you will be subject to a reasonable suspicion drug test.

Second Offense

- 15 hours of community service
- \$50 fine
- If vape products or tobacco products are found or being used, you will be subject to a reasonable suspicion drug test.

Third Offense

- \$75 fine
- If vape products or tobacco products are found or being used, you will be subject to a reasonable suspicion drug

test.

- **Referral to the Student Conduct Committee for further disciplinary review, which may include extended suspension or university expulsion.**

Reasonable Suspicion Drug Testing Policy

Bluefield University maintains a commitment to a safe, healthy, and drug-free campus environment. To support this goal, student-athletes and residential students may be required to submit to drug testing based on reasonable suspicion of substance use or possession.

Reasonable suspicion includes, but is not limited to:

- The presence or discovery of vape devices, tobacco products, or drug paraphernalia
- The odor of marijuana or other illegal substances
- Observable behavior or physical signs consistent with drug or alcohol impairment
- Credible reports or information regarding substance use

If reasonable suspicion arises, the student will be required to undergo a drug test immediately or within a reasonable timeframe as determined by campus officials.

Failure to comply with the drug testing request, or a positive test result, will be considered a violation of university policy and subject to disciplinary sanctions as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.