

Discover BC3's advantages at April 3 open house

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(Butler, PA) Visitors to Butler County Community College's April 3 open house can learn how 75 percent of BC3 graduates are debt-free, how BC3 has the highest salary-to-cost ratio among 43 regional colleges and universities, according to U.S. Department of Education College Scorecard data, and why BC3 is the No. 1 community college in Pennsylvania in three consecutive rankings by Schools.com.

Those who attend the open house can also learn about BC3 partnerships that allow students to earn a bachelor's degree from BC3's main campus, about BC3's flexible course scheduling options that meet students' needs, and about associate degree programs that enable students to transfer to a four-year college or university or start a career upon graduation.

BC3 will waive its \$25 application fee for those who apply for admission during the open house, scheduled from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in Founders Hall on BC3's main campus in Butler Township.

Information sessions will be held in Succop Theater at 5 p.m. on BC3's healthcare programs and at 6:30 p.m. on financial aid and scholarships.

Eighty percent of BC3 students receive grants and scholarships to help them pay for their education. The U.S. Department of Education's College Scorecard data also show that BC3's tuition is more affordable than that of 42 other regional colleges and universities.

Pennsylvania college students owe an average of \$36,193 in student-loan debt, the highest in the nation, LendEdu reported Aug. 8.

Seventy-five percent of BC3 graduates are debt-free.

Brooke Moore expects to be among them when she receives an associate degree in early childhood education (Pre K-4) in May.

"Graduating debt-free from BC3 is important," said Moore, of Chicora and a Karns City High School graduate, "because I am able to not worry about money and live a less-stressed life."

BC3 offers 56 two-year career and transfer programs and 21 certificate and workplace certificate programs in business, humanities and social science, nursing and allied health and in STEM.

Public, private and online four-year colleges and universities recognize BC3 credits. Students who complete an associate degree at BC3 in one of 12 Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education programs can transfer to any state system institution with junior standing.

Representatives from BC3's most popular transfer destinations will be in attendance at the April 3 open house.

Students can complete bachelor's degree programs on BC3's main campus with La Roche College in information technology and in psychology, and with Clarion University of Pennsylvania in accounting. Courses are taught in face-to-face classes, online or through interactive video – in which an instructor's classroom lesson is delivered to separate sites simultaneously using various technology

Traditional and nontraditional students can capitalize on BC3's 14- and 10-week sessions, and its five-week Fast Tracks, held consecutively throughout the semester and in which students can take three-credit courses that are among the college's more than 100 fully-online classes.

Students in their sophomore or junior years of high school can also learn at BC3's open house how to enroll in a college-level classes and earn transferrable credits through BC3's College Pathways and College Within the High School programs.

Visitors can RSVP to the open house at bc3.edu/open-houses.