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**Armstrong High Contemporary Social Problems class**

## Small class? Big plus!

**A**round this 4-foot by 10-foot light-grained wooden table sit tomorrow's registered nurses, dentists and U.S. marshals, journalists, teachers and safety engineers, today's 15- to 17-year-olds who as the evening sun illuminates their notebooks are being enlightened by a roundtable discussion as part of Butler County Community College's College Within the High School program.

Twelve sophomores through seniors assemble for three hours on Thursday

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**Union High General Psychology class**



**"T**hey get the student-to-teacher ratio that is about as perfect as they can get."

**Kevin Shamblin,**  
Union High instructor



**BC3 101:** BC3 is the **No. 1 community college in Pennsylvania** in 3 consecutive rankings! – *Schools.com*. ... BC3's tuition is among the **most affordable** of 43 regional colleges and universities! – *U.S. Department of Education*.



70% of BC3 graduates are **debt-free!**

# Small class? Big plus!

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evenings at this Armstrong Junior-Senior High School library table, investigating social problems and alternative solutions in a course titled Contemporary Social Problems.

The class, which debuted Sept. 5 at Armstrong High in Kittanning, is one of 43 in BC3's College Within the High School program this fall in seven Western Pennsylvania counties, where students can earn and transfer credits to BC3 and to four-year institutions.

BC3's 22-year-old program this fall enrolls 468 students – the fifth consecutive semester of more than 400, according to Erin Cioffi, BC3's assistant director of high school programming. Thirty-one of the 44 classes have 15 or fewer students, mirroring BC3's student-to-faculty ratio of 15:1.

"They get the student-to-teacher ratio that is about as perfect as they can get," said Kevin Shamblin, whose General Psychology class at Union High near New Castle has six students.

Added Union High student Dom Summers: "It is more personable. It is a small class. The professor-student relationship is there that you normally wouldn't get in a high school."

Alyssa Albini says her small class in BC3's course at Armstrong High allows for dialogue with her classmates and with instructor Anita Smith – which helps her to learn.

"I really like being able to have group discussions, and just being able to speak our minds in these classes," said Albini, who hopes to enroll in BC3's Nursing, R.N., program in fall 2020. "We all get to talk about it so we all understand it. There aren't a lot of people in our class, and we all get to talk. I definitely learn a lot better with the dialogue because I am getting input from other students."

By hearing other perspectives, "You open your mind more to things you may not have thought about on your own," said Armstrong student Avery Kaminsky, who plans to become a dentist. "Everybody has a different life and different situations."

### Why they enrolled in BC3's College Within the High School program!



"It is a major opportunity toward my future career ... and a smart financial choice."

**Amorae Waters,  
Union High**



"I want to get a head start on college credits. No matter where I go, these credits will apply."

**Samantha MacDonald,  
Mars High**

### Instructor: Discussions "help them to process the information"

Added Armstrong student Lucas Gawlinski, who envisions a career as a U.S. marshal: "You can discuss a problem more than taking an online course where you just read a little chapter and that's it."

Those discussions "help them to process the information," Smith said.

"It is really important to me with the classes I teach that they experience the class," Smith said. "I always tell them at the beginning of the semester that you can have fun and learn at the same time. So we do a lot of activities and a lot of things for them to experience and to process the information rather than to be just something that they are learning. I think it means more to them that way. I also think they remember it better."

### Teen earns 23 BC3 credits in high school!

**A** student at Grace Christian School in Kittanning took "advantage" of Butler County Community College's high school programming, earned 23 transferable credits and became the fourth-youngest graduate in BC3's Class of 2019.



The early credits helped Courage Houston, who envisions a career as a lawyer, to earn an associate degree in business administration from BC3 at age 19.

"I was really trying to take advantage of that," Houston said. "I am going to be in school for a very long time because I want to get my doctorate degree and that would take seven or eight years. I feel like that time in high school was a little bit more important to me."

Houston earned six credits through BC3's College Within the High School program; and 17 credits through BC3's College Pathway's program, in which high school students can take BC3 classes online or at any BC3 location.

"It is one of those things," Houston said, "that is very good in the long run."

### Spring 2020 Registration Dates for College Pathways Students

**Nov. 4:** Start of class registration for current students.

**Nov. 18:** Start of class registration for new students.

For more information and to register, contact Erin Cioffi, Assistant Director of High School Programming 724-287-8711 Ext. 8254, or [erin.cioffi@bc3.edu](mailto:erin.cioffi@bc3.edu).

# Loan debt ‘a hassle’

Students in BC3 program plan savings for rent, cars

**L**aura Jablunovsky wants to be tested intellectually, not financially. Jablunovsky enrolled in Butler County Community College’s Microeconomics course this fall at Mars High because “I knew I wanted to take some challenging courses this year,” she said. “I knew the College Within the High School classes would let me do that. If I can get credits that will transfer to whatever college I end up going to, that would be important to me as well.”

That college may be BC3, she said, because “I know it is a more affordable option to attend a two-year school instead of wasting money changing around my major at a four-year school. Maybe go to a two-year and then transfer to a four-year school.”

BC3’s tuition is among the most affordable of 43 regional two- and four-institutions. Its credits transfer to public, private and online four-year institutions.

The average student loan debt for the Class of 2018 is \$35,510 in Pennsylvania, the highest among all states except Rhode Island, New Hampshire and Connecticut, according to LendEDU.

Seventy percent of BC3 graduates are debt-free.

Student debt, said Jablunovsky, who may attend BC3’s main campus, “is a hassle. You get out of college and you are free, but you have all this student debt. No one wants to deal with that.”

Nor does Mars High microeconomics classmate Nabil Lahlou, who is considering attending BC3’s main campus and studying “something related to business.”

“Just looking long-term, down the road, money is everything in your life,” Lahlou said. “It is important to live comfortably. You don’t want student debt and student loans.”



**Lauren Jablunovsky, Mars High**



**Nabil Lahlou, Mars High**

Alexandra Buckner, a Union High student in BC3’s General Psychology course, said student-loan debt is “life-changing” and that she would rather spend her income following graduation “renting an apartment. Paying for car insurance.

“I’m going to try to do everything I can to avoid being buried in student debt,” said Buckner, who may attend BC3 @ Lawrence Crossing in New Castle and envisions a career as a nurse.

Said Lucas Gawlinski, an Armstrong High student in BC3’s Contemporary Social Problems course, “I’d rather not pay \$35,000 over 10 years of however many years. That would be one more thing you have to pay off.”

Scott Pfeiffer, a BC3 College Within the High School instructor at Mars High, said it’s important to try to save money when accruing credits because of “the expense of college these days. If you could somehow save some money with that ... the opportunity is awesome.”

As is the chance to do so within a student’s own high school or learning center.

“It’s right in my school,” Mars student Aria Ramanathan said.

“It seamlessly fits into my schedule like any other class,” Mars student Connor Bird said.

“They are doing it here,” Pfeiffer said.

Which, Jablunovsky said, will help her to get there. There, to her career possibly as a journalist, possibly starting as a communications major at BC3 – “I like learning other people’s stories” – while not having her own story focused on student debt.

“I really want to have a great job right out of school where I can make money that I can save for other important things and not be paying it all back to student debt,” Jablunovsky said. “That would be really important and beneficial.”



**Alexandra Buckner, Union High**



**Connor Bird, Mars High**

## Top 5 Reasons to Visit BC3 Open Houses!

1. BC3 offers **14-, 10- and 5-week** courses!
2. BC3 offers **80-plus** online or hybrid courses!
3. BC3’s **credits transfer** to public, private and online 4-year schools!
4. BC3 awards **\$200K in scholarships** each year!
5. BC3 is the **No. 1 community college** in PA in 3 consecutive rankings! – *Schools.com*

## BC3 Open House Dates

**Oct. 16:** BC3 Main Campus, 6-8 p.m.

**Oct. 21:** BC3 @ Brockway, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

**Oct. 23:** BC3 @ Lawrence Crossing, 6-7:30 p.m.

**Oct. 30:** BC3 @ Armstrong, 6-7 p.m.

**Nov. 6:** BC3 @ Linden-Pointe, 6-7:30 p.m.

Apply at an Open House and BC3 will waive the \$25 application fee!

**RSVP Today!**  
[bc3.edu/open-houses](http://bc3.edu/open-houses)

## Your transcript is now free!

**Here’s how:** **1.** Log onto the MyBC3 Portal. **2.** Go to the Self-Service Menu. **3.** Click Academic Profile. **4.** Click Request Transcript. **5.** Click Add New Request. **6.** Complete the form. **7.** Click submit. The request is electronically submitted for processing.

### Fall 2019 College Within the High School Classes

#### Armstrong County

- **Armstrong Junior-Senior High**  
Contemporary Social Problems
- **Lenape Technical School**  
General Psychology

#### Butler County

- **Butler Area Senior High**  
College Writing, General Psychology, Principles of Sociology (2), Technical Math
- **Butler County Vocational-Technical**  
Business Math
- **Mars Area High**  
American National Government, Business Math, Elementary Statistics, General Psychology (2), Marketing, Microeconomics, Productivity Applications, Speech (2)
- **Pittsburgh-Butler Regional Airport**  
College Writing
- **Portersville Christian**  
College Writing, Introduction to Philosophy
- **Seneca Valley High**  
Computer Information Systems, General Psychology, Introduction to Philosophy, Microeconomics, Principles of Sociology, Speech
- **Summit Academy**  
General Psychology, Western Civilization I

#### Clarion County

- **Keystone Junior-Senior High**  
Recent U.S. History

#### Clearfield County

- **DuBois Central Catholic High**  
College Writing (2), Speech

#### Jefferson County

- **Brockway Area Junior-Senior High**  
General Psychology

#### Lawrence County

- **Lawrence County Career & Tech**  
Speech
- **Lincoln High**  
College Writing (2), Speech
- **Riv-Ell Entrepreneurship Program**  
Introduction to Entrepreneurship, The Business Plan
- **Union Area Middle-High**  
General Psychology
- **Wilmington Area High**  
20th-Century World History

#### Mercer County

- **Farrell Area High**  
Macroeconomics
- **Reynolds Junior-Senior High**  
General Psychology

### Corporate donors' gifts benefit high school students!

BC3's College Within the High School program thanks the generous corporate donors for their support through the Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program. Those who contributed through EITC gifts:

- Armstrong, Butler
- Air Physical Therapy and Fitness, Ellwood City
- Baglier Buick Mazda GMC, Butler
- Brayman Construction, Saxonburg
- Buncher Co., Pittsburgh
- Farmers National Bank of Emlenton

- First National Bank, FNB, Hermitage
- Guardian Elder Care, Brockway
- Maher Duessel, Pittsburgh
- NexTier Bank, Butler

The BC3 Education Foundation Inc. is approved by the Commonwealth as an Innovative Education Program under EITC guidelines. If you are interested in supporting BC3's College Within the High School program, email Ruth Purcell, executive director of the BC3 Education Foundation, at [ruth.purcell@bc3.edu](mailto:ruth.purcell@bc3.edu).



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### BC3 Main Campus

BC3 Main Campus 724-287-8711  
BC3 Toll-Free 888-826-2829  
BC3 Extensions  
*Dial 724-287-8711, then*

Admissions	Ext. 8501
BC3 Bookstore	Ext. 8503
Records & Registration	Ext. 8510
Continuing Education	Ext. 8246

### Additional Locations

BC3 @

Armstrong	724-902-7452
Cranberry	724-772-5520
Lawrence Crossing	724-658-1938
LindenPointe	724-346-2073
Brockway	814-265-1810

### Visit BC3!

