

# BC3 @ Armstrong's advantages on display during BC3 Bound

Oct. 26, 2020

(Ford City, PA) Prospective students can explore BC3 @ Armstrong's associate degree programs, and learn about the transferability of its credits and its savings compared to Pennsylvania's public four-year and state-related institutions during an in-person tour or virtual visit as part of the college's BC3 Bound Event.

BC3 will also waive its \$25 application fee during the BC3 Bound Event, to be held from Nov. 10-12. Prospective students can schedule an in-person tour or virtual visit to be held between Nov. 10-12 – and apply free by entering the code BC3Bound2021 – at [bc3.edu/bc3bound](http://bc3.edu/bc3bound).

BC3 @ Armstrong is located at 104 Armstrong St., Ford City.

During an in-person tour or virtual visit, prospective students can ask BC3 representatives about financial aid, BC3's five start dates each semester, BC3's 17:1 student-to-faculty ratio, support services, BC3 @ Armstrong's programs of study and how 80 percent of BC3 graduates are debt-free.

BC3 has been ranked as the No. 1 community college in Pennsylvania for 2020 by BestColleges.com. The BC3 Education Foundation in 2020-2021 will award more than \$200,000 in named scholarships which, with financial aid and BC3's affordable tuition, allow 80 percent of BC3 graduates to graduate debt-free.



Hayley Kovach, 22, formerly of Rural Valley, attended BC3 @ Armstrong, earned BC3's president's list honors and expects to graduate debt-free with an associate degree in marketing management from BC3 in December.

BC3 @ Armstrong offers associate degrees in three transfer programs. BC3 @ Armstrong students can apply credits earned toward a bachelor's degree at public, private and online four-year colleges and universities.

Sixty-six percent of BC3 students this fall are enrolled in transfer programs.

## Credits transfer to four-year institutions

BC3 @ Armstrong's selection of two-year transfer programs features business administration, general studies and psychology. Students who complete a BC3 @ Armstrong degree in business administration or in psychology can transfer all credits to a parallel program and with junior standing to any Pennsylvania public four-year institution, such as Clarion, Edinboro, Indiana and Slippery Rock universities of Pennsylvania.

BC3's 486 outgoing transfer agreements with Pennsylvania public four-year universities are the third-most among the 14 institutions within the Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges.

Students who complete a BC3 @ Armstrong degree in business administration, general studies and psychology can transfer all credits to a parallel program to any Penn State University commonwealth campus.

Students can also take most pre-nursing courses at BC3 @ Armstrong and finish their degree in Nursing, R.N., at BC3's main campus. They can also take courses in social work, criminology and business management.

## BC3 savings range from \$3K to \$27K per year

Full-time BC3 students from Armstrong County can save \$3,115 annually in tuition and fees compared to the average charged by Pennsylvania's public four-year universities or \$5,785 compared to the average charged by Pennsylvania's state-related institutions' branch campuses.

Tuition and fees average \$11,215 for students pursuing 15 credits per semester for one year in 2020-2021 at a Pennsylvania public four-year university; \$13,885 at a state-related institution's branch campus; \$16,926 at a state-related institution's main campus; and \$35,087 at a private institution.

Tuition and fees for BC3 students from Armstrong County pursuing 15 credits per semester for one year in 2020-2021 are \$8,100.

The average student-loan debt for the Class of 2019 was \$38,521 in Pennsylvania, according to an Aug. 19 report in LendEDU, a website that provides comparisons for loans, credit cards and

other financial products. Only student borrowers in New Hampshire and Connecticut were reported to have higher student-loan debt.

“I won’t have any student loans to worry about once I graduate,” said Hayley Kovach, 22, who attended BC3 @ Armstrong, earned BC3’s president’s list honors and expects to graduate debt-free with an associate degree in marketing management in December. “It’s nice to know I won’t have any debt. That is definitely a good stress-reliever. It’s nice to wake up each morning knowing that I don’t have to pay any student loans.”

Students who achieve president’s list honors have attained a cumulative grade-point average of 3.75 or higher during a semester in which they have earned at least 12 credits.

Kovach, a former Rural Valley resident who is completing an internship with a national retail outlet in Georgia, said she also benefited from BC3 @ Armstrong’s small student-to-faculty ratio.

“My classes weren’t crowded,” she said. “It was more one-on-one there. When you were there, it felt like you had a lot of friends and family around. You just felt like family. If I needed extra help, the instructors would stay after class.”