

BC3 @ LindenPointe's programs, savings to be topics during virtual open house

Prospective students can apply free from May 8-17

April 24, 2020

(Hermitage, PA) BC3 @ LindenPointe in May will hold a virtual open house intended to introduce prospective students to its 16 programs, its savings compared to Pennsylvania's public four-year universities and BC3's regionwide highest salary-to-cost ratio.

BC3, ranked as the No. 1 community college in Pennsylvania for 2020 by BestColleges.com, will hold BC3 @ LindenPointe's virtual open house at 2 p.m. May 15.

Prospective students can register for the event at bc3.edu/open-house, and can also apply free to BC3 from May 8 to May 17 at bc3.edu/apply.

During the virtual open house, prospective students can ask BC3 representatives about BC3 @ LindenPointe's affordable transfer, career and certificate programs, financial aid, flexible course scheduling options, scholarships, support services and how 70 percent of BC3 graduates are debt-free.



Justin Reno, 21, of Mercer, expects to graduate debt-free in May from BC3 @ LindenPointe with an associate degree in business administration.

Associate degrees available in 10 transfer and 5 career programs

BC3 @ LindenPointe offers associate degrees in 10 transfer programs and in five career programs. Its menu also includes a certificate program in medical coding and billing specialist that takes one year or less to complete.

Students in BC3's transfer programs can apply credits to public, private and online four-year colleges and universities. Students in BC3's career programs can develop the skills needed to enter the workforce immediately after graduation.

BC3 @ LindenPointe's selection of two-year transfer programs features business administration, criminology, computer science, communications, early childhood education (Pre K-4), general studies, physical education-sport management option, psychology, secondary education and social work.

Students who complete a BC3 @ LindenPointe degree in business administration, criminology, early childhood education (Pre K-4), psychology and social work can transfer with junior standing to any Pennsylvania public four-year institution, such as Clarion, Edinboro, Indiana and Slippery Rock universities of Pennsylvania.

BC3 @ LindenPointe's menu of two-year career programs includes business management, emergency services-police services option, human resource management, marketing management and technical trades-radiologic technology, held in partnership with Steward Sharon Regional Health System Inc.

Students can also take pre-nursing courses at BC3 @ LindenPointe and finish their degree at BC3's main campus.

70 percent of BC3 graduates debt-free

Full-time BC3 students from Mercer County can save \$3,194 annually in tuition and fees compared to the average charged by Pennsylvania's public four-year universities or nearly \$29,000 each year compared to the average charged by private institutions.

Tuition and fees for BC3 students from Mercer County pursuing 15 credits per semester for one year in 2019-2020 are \$8,100.

Tuition and fees average \$11,294 for students pursuing 15 credits per semester for one year in 2019-2020 at a Pennsylvania public four-year university; \$13,945 at a state-related institution's branch campus; \$16,825 at a state-related institution's main campus; and \$36,801 at a private institution.

The average student-loan debt for the Class of 2018 was \$35,510 in Pennsylvania, according to an Aug. 8 report in LendEDU, a website that provides comparisons for loans, credit cards and other financial products. Two-thirds of graduates from Pennsylvania institutions have student-loan debt, according to LendEDU.

Mercer resident Justin Reno expects to earn an associate degree in business administration from BC3 @ LindenPointe in May and be among the 70 percent of BC3 graduates who are debt-free.

"Most colleges you're going to go, you're going to get your four-year degree and you're going to be anywhere from like \$10,000 to \$100,000 in debt," said Reno, 21.

"That didn't really appeal to me. I feel like you're taking two steps forward but also taking three steps backward. At BC3, you're taking two steps forward. So you're already ahead of where your classmates in other colleges will be."

The BC3 Education Foundation awards more than \$200,000 in scholarships annually.

BC3's salary-to-cost ratio topped 42 other institutions

According to the U.S. Department of Education's 2018 College Scorecard, BC3's salary-to-cost ratio, a measurement of graduates' salaries 10 years after commencement for every dollar a student pays to attend the institution, was 7.45 and the highest among 43 regional colleges and universities.

BC3's top 7.45 salary-to-cost ratio was most closely followed by West Virginia University at 4.79. The highest salary-to-cost ratio among five regional Pennsylvania public four-year universities was 2.61; and among the 21 private institutions, 2.81.

"I know people who went to a big and expensive college and it will take them years and years, even a decade or more, to pay off their debt, which to me was just not acceptable," Reno said. "I don't think there's any reason to do that. BC3 was perfect for me. I could take two steps forward and no steps back."

Prospective BC3 @ LindenPointe students can email questions to admissions@bc3.edu.