

BC3's virtual open house set for May 13

Prospective students can apply free from May 8-17

April 27, 2020

(Butler, PA) Butler County Community College and BC3 @ Cranberry in May will hold a virtual open house intended to introduce prospective students to BC3's 77 programs, its savings compared to Pennsylvania's public four-year universities and its regionwide highest salary-to-cost ratio.

BC3, ranked as the No. 1 community college in Pennsylvania for 2020 by BestColleges.com, will hold its virtual open house at 2 p.m. May 13 for prospective students seeking to enroll at BC3's main campus in Butler Township or at BC3 @ Cranberry in Cranberry Township.

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, BC3 representatives can answer questions about BC3's affordable career, transfer and certificate programs, financial aid, flexible course scheduling options, high school programming, scholarships, and how 70 percent of BC3 graduates are debt-free.



Rosa Grant, 21, of Butler, graduated debt-free in December from BC3 with an associate degree in psychology and transferred to La Roche University through one of BC3's bachelor's degree-completion partnerships.

66% of BC3 students enrolled in transfer programs

BC3's main campus offers associate degrees in 37 career programs and in 19 transfer programs. Its menu also includes 21 certificate or workplace certificate programs that take one year or less to complete. BC3 @ Cranberry's selection features four career programs and six transfer programs.

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

Sixty-six percent of BC3 students this spring are enrolled in transfer programs. Students who complete an associate degree at BC3 in one of 12 select programs can also transfer to any Pennsylvania public four-year university with junior standing.

BC3's 489 outgoing transfer agreements are the third-most among the 14 institutions within the Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges, according to the Pennsylvania Transfer and Articulation Center.

BC3 also offers unique partnerships with four-year colleges and universities that enable students to earn a bachelor's degree on BC3's main campus or online.

Butler County BC3 students can save at least \$6K per year

Full-time BC3 students from Butler County can save \$6,194 annually in tuition and fees compared to the average charged by Pennsylvania's public four-year universities or more than \$31,700 each year compared to the average charged by private institutions.

Tuition and fees for BC3 students from Butler County pursuing 15 credits per semester for one year in 2019-2020 are \$5,100.

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.

"So many kids are at a disadvantage straight out of high school," said Rosa Grant, 21, of Butler, who graduated debt-free from BC3 in December with an associate degree in psychology and transferred to La Roche University through one of BC3's bachelor's degree-completion partnerships. "They go to college and the first thing they hear is 'Hello. Money. Can we get some money from you?' And I am fortunate to not have to deal with that."

Francesca Citrone, 19, of Evans City, will finish her studies in computer science at BC3 @ Cranberry and at BC3's main campus by May 2021 without seeking a student loan.

"I have lots of friends who are deep, deep in debt already," Citrone said. "I feel like my life is so much more stress-free. I can do more things, take care of things beyond paying for school, and not worry about having to pay it back afterward."

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.



Francesca Citrone, 19, of Evans City, will finish her studies in computer science at BC3 @ Cranberry and at BC3's main campus by May 2021 without seeking a student loan.

“It’s a relief that I don’t have to deal with worrying about making enough money to pay back student loans in the future,” Citrone said. “The decision to come here was the best decision of my life. This is a great place where you get an education that is just as good as you could get at any other institution.”

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.

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