

Discover BC3 @ Armstrong's advantages during virtual open house

Prospective students can apply free from May 8-17

April 27, 2020

(Ford City, PA) BC3 @ Armstrong in May will hold a virtual open house intended to introduce prospective students to its transfer 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 @ Armstrong's virtual open house at 2 p.m. May 12.

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 @ Armstrong's affordability, financial aid, flexible course scheduling options, scholarships, support services and how 70 percent of BC3 graduates are debt-free.

Earn an associate degree in BC3 @ Armstrong's transfer programs

BC3 @ Armstrong offers associate degrees in three transfer programs. Students in BC3's transfer programs can apply credits to public, private and online four-year colleges and universities.

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 with junior standing to any Pennsylvania public four-year institution, such as Clarion, Edinboro, Indiana and Slippery Rock universities of Pennsylvania.

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



Sara Peters, 20, of Kittanning, expects to graduate debt-free in May from BC3 @ Armstrong. Peters is one of only two BC3 students in the Class of 2020 who expects to receive a combination of three associate degrees or certificates.

70 percent of BC3 graduates debt-free

Full-time BC3 students from Armstrong 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 Armstrong 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.

BC3 @ Armstrong student Sara Peters, 20, has friends who attend Pennsylvania state-related institutions and said she recognizes the expressions on their faces when discussing student-loan debt.

"It's not very happy," said Peters, of Kittanning, who in May will be among the 70 percent of BC3 graduates who are debt-free.

"It's a stressed look they have. Some of the people I have talked to who are in their late 20s still have school debt. And it's stressful because they work and they pay toward it, but it doesn't seem to get any lower with how much they owe. I have a very happy look on my face because I attended BC3."

Peters, who also attended BC3's main campus and took BC3 courses online, expects to earn associate degrees in business management and in technical trades-cosmetology management option, and a Workplace Certificate in Entrepreneurship.

She is also one of only two students in BC3's Class of 2020 who expects to receive a combination of three associate degrees or certificates.

"When I first started looking into college," Peters said, "I knew I wanted to go to BC3.

"There was no other option I wanted to consider."

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.

Peters, a 2018 Lenape Technical School graduate, works as an assistant and as a stylist at an Armstrong County salon. Graduating debt-free from BC3, she said, will allow her to "move further into my career.

"I can try to open my own salon," she said, "without having to worry about school debt on top of the loans I might have when opening my own business."

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