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Freshman Choices

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SPRING 2010

Welcome to Bloomsburg University

Let me congratulate you on your decision to attend Bloomsburg University! I have no doubt that we made a good choice selecting you as a member of the Bloomsburg University Community.

This is the first of several newsletters that I will send to you throughout your freshman year with information critical to your success. In this issue, I explain some of the choices that you need to make right now to ensure that you get off to a great start in the Fall Semester.

First, I encourage all new Freshmen to consider joining one of our **Living and Learning Communities**. These are a great way to jump-start your career at Bloomsburg University.

Second, please read inside about our **University Seminar Course** for Freshmen. Over 80% of all new freshmen enroll in this special course designed to provide students with the tools they need for a successful first semester.

Third, although many of your courses will be selected for you based on your major, you need to let us know in advance if you wish to enroll in **Music Lessons**, join a **Music Performance Group** or study a **Foreign Language**.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the choices discussed in this newsletter. There is an index of phone numbers, email and web pages on the last page of this newsletter where you can find more information and have your



Dr. Jonathan M. Lincoln
Dean for Undergraduate
Education

questions answered.

Also, make sure you monitor your **"huskies.bloomu.edu"** email address. I will use this in the coming months to send you important information about your first year.

I look forward to meeting you this summer at orientation and welcoming you as a new student next Fall .

Join a Living and Learning Community

- Live with students who have similar interests
- Special course offerings
- Study groups and tutoring in your residence hall
- Social activities
- Field trips
- Learning outside the classroom
- Community service
- Faculty and student mentors
- Special events
- Success!

These are components of the Living and Learning Community experience at Bloomsburg University. The bottom line is, students in Living and Learning Communities have a successful and satisfying first year.

See your **Freshman Choices** on the next page!

Get the Most Out of Your First Year



Civic Engagement Learning Community Team Building Activity

“ You get to take some small classes with people you know; You feel like you are attending your own private, small college within the University”

Field Trip to Washington, DC with the Frederick Douglass Learning Community



Science and Health Science

Over 100 freshman majoring in the sciences and health sciences choose this learning community each year. In addition to numerous speakers, workshops and field trips scheduled each year, students take advantage of science course tutoring right in the residence hall.

Learn more at

www.bloomu.edu/LLC

Education

Faculty directors and mentors work closely with freshmen in the education majors to guide them through the professional certification process. Workshops and some courses are offered in the residence hall for students in this Learning Community.

Learn more at

www.bloomu.edu/LLC

Business

Live in a residence hall with other Business Majors. Students in this Learning Community all take a special University Seminar designed just for Business Majors. Trips to regional business centers and seminars with business leaders are some of the highlights of this LLC.

Learn more at

www.bloomu.edu/LLC

Learn More! Live More! @ College

Frederick Douglas

This Community, open to all majors, uses the example of Frederick Douglass to provide an academic and social environment where a diverse group of students can learn from each other and from their professors both in and out of the classroom. Students are scheduled into 2 or 3 courses with other students from the community.

Civic Engagement

Are you politically active? Determined to make a difference in your Community? State? Nation? If so, then this LLC, open to all majors, is for you! Students take Seminar and 2 courses together; take trips to Washington, Harrisburg, and New York; and also work on Community Service projects.

Social Justice

Students in this LLC examine contemporary social issues within both local and global communities. You will take some small classes together with people you know. The courses and activities are designed to help students develop better self-awareness and become life-long advocates of social justice.

www.bloomu.edu/LLC

Fine Arts & Humanities

Students in this Community have interests in the fields of music, art, writing, theatre, philosophy and literature. Last year this group visited the Metropolitan Museum of Art, attended plays and concerts, mentored middle school students, and more

International Studies

You do not have to speak a foreign language to join this community; you just need an interest in learning about people and cultures from around the world. Students take 1 or 2 courses together; participate in trips and multi-cultural activities and are encouraged to take a language course (one started in high school or a new language).

Honors: Students who qualify for this LLC receive a separate invitation letter. For more information go to <http://departments.bloomu.edu/honors>

Presidential Leadership: Students who qualify for this LLC receive a separate invitation letter. For more information go to <http://orgs.bloomu.edu/plp>

Languages and Cultures



I encourage you to select a Foreign Language as one of your Freshman Course Choices. Whether you continue a language studied in High School or start a new language, this is a great way to

- Discover new worlds
- Connect with other cultures
- Prepare yourself for the future

You can choose Arabic, Chinese, French, Italian, German, Spanish and Russian courses at Bloomsburg University. Starting a language as a freshman gives you the option of adding a language minor later on. We offer majors and minors in French, German and Spanish.

New this year, we are the only PA State System school where

you can earn a minor in Chinese.

To learn more, check out the department website at :

<http://departments.bloomu.edu/langcult>

Sign up for a language at:

<http://www.bloomu.edu/choices>

If you are studying a language, you might also consider the International Studies Learning Community:

<http://www.bloomu.edu/LLC>

“I couldn’t get all of my work done the first few weeks of class but

University Seminar taught me how to manage my time and find help with the tough courses.”

University Seminar for Freshmen

Nearly 1500 freshmen enroll in University Seminar each Fall semester. You should consider being one of these students.

Freshman seminar is a one credit course that covers subject matter critical to student success. Most seminars include sections on study skills, time management, research skills, library skills, and course and career planning.

If you are a major in Business, Special Education, Elementary Education or any majors in the College of Science and Technology, you will be scheduled in an appropriate seminar course automatically. Students in the Summer Freshman or ACT101/EOP programs are also required to take University Seminar.

For all other majors or if you are undeclared, you need to

sign up for University Seminar.

If you are uncertain about signing up, it might help you to know that students who take seminar have better rates of success at Bloomsburg University.

Put yourself on the path to success—Go to:

<http://www.bloomu.edu/choices>

now and say YES to University Seminar !

Music Opportunities

- Do you play an instrument?
- Like to sing?
- Did you march with your High School band?
- Did you always want to play piano but never got the chance to learn?

Now is the time!

Go to:

<http://www.bloomu.edu/choices>

and let us know of your **Music Interest**.

You do not need to be a music major to take music lessons or participate in music performance groups. Options are available for students at all levels. You can even earn graduation credit for music

lessons and performance groups or you can participate without credit—But you do need to let us know of your interest now.

Fill out the Music Interest form NOW at

<http://www.bloomu.edu/choices>

More music information at:

<http://departments.bloomu.edu/music>



Bloomsburg University Jazz Ensemble

**Bloomsburg University
Office of Undergraduate Education**

Carver Hall
400 East 2nd Street
Bloomsburg, PA 17815

Dr. Jonathan M. Lincoln
Dean for Undergraduate Education
Phone: 570-389-4084
Fax: 570-389-4766
Email: jlincoln@bloomu.edu

Mrs. Sonja Westover
Administrative Assistant
Phone: 570-389-4805
Fax: 570-389-4766
Email: swestove@bloomu.edu

Some additional helpful contacts:

Freshman Orientation 570-389-4014

<http://www.bloomu.edu/orientation>

Registrar 570-389-4263

<http://www.bloomu.edu/registrar>

Academic Advising 570-389-4271

<http://www.bloomu.edu/advisement>

Living & Learning Communities 570-389-5337

<http://www.bloomu.edu/LLC>

Residence Life 570-389-4089

<http://reslife.bloomu.edu>

Admissions 570-389-4316

<http://www.bloomu.edu/admission>

Financial Aid 570-389-4297

<http://www.bloomu.edu/aid>



Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania is committed to affirmative action by way of providing equal educational and employment opportunities for all persons without regard to race, religion, gender, age, national origin, sexual orientation, disability or veteran status.

Your Freshman Schedule

The choices described in this newsletter are only the first steps in building your class schedule for the Fall 2010 semester. Once we receive your Freshman Choices forms for:

- Learning Communities
- University Seminar
- Languages
- Music

we then combine this information with the courses required for each major as well as courses that satisfy general education requirements to place each freshman into a full-time course schedule for the Fall 2008 semester.

If you are undeclared, your schedule will include courses based on your selections and courses that satisfy general education requirements. Living

and Learning Communities and University Seminar are especially good choices if you are undeclared.

You will receive an initial draft of this schedule when you visit Bloomsburg University for the Freshman Preview days in June.

We also use placement



Living and Learning Community Students Outside the Classroom

testing for all freshmen so that we give you the courses that will provide you the best chance of success. You will receive information about placement testing from the admissions office. Placement testing dates are available right now and will continue right through the start of classes. However, taking the placement tests sooner rather than later helps us build you a better initial schedule.

You may also receive an invitation directly from the English Department to take a test to place out of Composition I if you did very well on the verbal SAT.

It is very important that you take advantage of these testing opportunities to ensure that we place you in the right courses.

More on scheduling in the next news letter that I will send to your "huskies.bloomu.edu" email!