

FALL 2020 at Bladen Community College

In planning for the fall 2020 semester, Bladen Community College has two goals, health and safety on its campus and student success. We must protect the health of the campus community while giving students educational opportunities that lead to good jobs, economic mobility and personal fulfillment. Student centered, future focused is, as always, Bladen Community College's commitment to the community it serves. We want all our students to progress toward and achieve their academic and career goals. A safe and healthy campus community is always a top priority as well, and the COVID-19 pandemic requires us to take extra measures to ensure that everyone, employees and students alike, remain healthy.

With the virus still very prevalent in our community, we must face risks and realities in combating its spread. Students who get sick cannot continue coursework or progress toward completion. Faculty who get sick cannot teach; staff who get sick cannot provide important support services our students and faculty need.

We have a plan for addressing these priorities and meeting the challenges they present. The plan has been developed with the latest data and guidance from local public health officials, state community college leaders, and CDC recommendations. Our plan reflects a semester that will look very different from past fall semesters at Bladen Community College – but one that will enable us to maximize student progress while minimizing health risks and viral spread, within the college and throughout the community.

Bladen Community College's Fall 2020 semester classes will begin, as originally scheduled, on August 17. Academic calendar dates throughout the semester, including exams, breaks and holidays, will not change. Final registration to be held on August 12,13 with faculty and staff available in person to assist current and enrolling students.

Although our plan was developed using the most current information available to date, it is responsive and fluid. Strategies, processes and protocols may be adjusted throughout the semester as new developments warrant and in alignment with the phases delineated within the Governor's executive orders.

Course Options

This fall, degree and non-degree courses will be offered in a hybrid format (blend of in-person and online instruction) or fully online. The online designation signifies that 100% of the course material is delivered online. Students can access their lessons via a web browser. Some online classes may be completed at the students' convenience, while others are synchronous, requiring students to meet virtually with their instructor and classmates at designated times throughout the semester. Hybrid courses take advantage of the best features of both in-person and online instruction. All students should carefully read course comments in Self Service and check their Bladen Community College email for communications from their instructors prior to the start of the semester.

Many of our hands-on applied classes, such as welding, returned to our campuses over the summer in a hybrid format. For the fall semester, classes, labs and shops will meet with typically 1/3 to 1/2 normal student capacity to ensure social distancing. To provide increased opportunities, the college will offer 8 week classes beginning October 15th, in addition to the traditional 16-week semester. Registration for 8 week classes opens September 1st.

With online instruction continuing to be much more predominant than in the past, it's important to note that Bladen Community College continues to be ranked very highly as an online community college across the state and nation. To strengthen our online preparedness, our full-time instructors will have the opportunity for further training before classes start and we have made significant investments to expand technology-based tools such as synchronous video. We will also be offering to eligible students to provide hardware and access support for online learning.

Health and Safety Protocols

Bladen Community Colleges Maintenance department has established cleaning processes and follow public health guidelines to keep our college community safe and healthy. These guidelines that address on-campus interaction include signage emphasizing social distancing, stringent building cleaning, and recommendations for personal hygiene.

- **Social distancing** – Maintaining a safe social distance of at least six-feet apart from one another is a key aspect of this plan. To facilitate this, we will limit capacities in

our buildings and classrooms at any given time so that social distancing can always be maintained.

- **Face coverings** – Face coverings will be required in all public locations including classrooms, shops, labs, hallways or outside locations where people may congregate. Students and employees will be expected to bring their own face coverings, however the college will have a supply of disposable masks on hand if needed.
- **Building Cleaning** – Classrooms and buildings will be cleaned and disinfected at regular intervals throughout the day. Recognizing that staying healthy in a pandemic is a **shared responsibility**, faculty and students may be asked to wipe down their desks and work stations before and after use. Buildings will be sanitized at night.
- **Personal Hygiene** – In addition to wearing face coverings, everyone on campus is asked to wash their hands frequently or use hand sanitizer. Everyone should avoid close contact with one another – no handshakes or hugs. Anyone who feels sick should **stay home** and seek medical care.
- **Direct or Indirect Contact with COVID-19** – Students who have come in contact with the coronavirus, either directly or indirectly, should follow required protocols that can be accessed through the following link.

<https://www.bladencc.edu/web/wpc/uploads/FAQs-for-Students-COVID19-v1.pdf>

Student Services

Bladen Community College has established an Advising Center for students, which is the best and safest way for students and prospective students to receive services such as admissions, financial aid, registration and records, advising, veterans services, career and employment resources, and wellness counseling.

Beginning August 1, the college offers limited on-campus assistance for those who are not able to access virtual services. This assistance will include admissions, advising, financial aid, and registration and records, and will be available on campus.

All visitors will be asked to wear a mask and follow precautions such as social distancing.

Students are encouraged to pay their bill online, but for those who prefer to pay in person, the Cashier's Offices in Administration on campus will also be open. These offices will operate Monday through Friday from 10:00am -2:00pm. Face coverings and social distancing will be required. Online bill payment is easy and convenient on our website and mail in payments are also accepted. Please refer to our websites for deadlines.

Limited on-campus assistance will be available. Additional departments, including the Learning Enhancement Center and those services will continue for fall.

Activities and Events

Bladen Community College will not be having special events or activities on our campuses until further notice. Meetings, trainings and/or assemblies will be conducted in virtual platforms.

Academic Resources

In an effort to provide support for all Bladen Community College students with the academic services and resources needed to support their learning and success, the college will continue offering limited in-person and remote access to advising and tutoring support through its Advising Center and Learning Enhancement Center, reference and research support through its Student Resource Center and online learning and online teaching support through its Distance Learning department. While most academic support needs can be met through web meeting, email, or phone, limited in-person assistance by appointment is available to help with specific special cases. Call or email the department you need. All students who access academic services in person must follow Bladen Community College COVID – 19 protocols including mandatory face coverings and social distancing, and should not come to campus when feeling sick.

In addition, scholarships are available for full and part-time students. Contact the Bladen Community College Foundation for further information at 910.879.5519 or lburney@bladencc.edu

Technology Support

Bladen Community College is committed to providing students with the online technology and resources they need for academic success in an online environment. As a nationally-recognized leader in online education, Bladen Community College offers unparalleled e-learning and technology support to help students reach their goals and advance up the educational ladder into local employment and economic opportunities. Contact 910.879.5542 or rsheppard@bladencc.edu

Additional Student Resources

Information about additional student resources such as our food pantry, mental health support, and others available locally, state-wide, and nationally can be accessed by visiting a dedicated page on our website for COVID-19 Student Resources.

Employees

Staff whose jobs permit will continue to work remotely for much of their work schedule, with staggered work hours when on campus to allow for social distancing in offices. Faculty may conduct office hours virtually and all campus-wide college meetings will be held in a virtual environment. While working on campus, employees will be required to wear face coverings in common areas such as hallways and break rooms. Employees who are at high risk and are scheduled to work on campus should contact Human Resources at 910.879.5513 or tmundy@bladencc.edu Employees who have concerns about working on campus should contact the HR Director. Those who feel sick should stay home, contact their supervisor and seek medical care. Employees who have had direct or indirect contact with COVID-19 should contact their supervisors and the President's office.

Bladen Community College appreciates the cooperation of all members of the college community during this challenging time, and we look forward to resuming campus life when circumstances allow. In the meantime, let's all stay healthy and safe.