



"Survival Checklist" for the Semester"

Congratulations! You made it to Bluefield University! Although some students may have had an easier "go of it" than others, you're here - and we're glad.

Below are some tips / a checklist of things we've heard were either confusing for students when they arrived or were helpful tips. We wanted to be sure and pass them along to you as a reference so you could have a "few less bumps in the road" as you begin your journey here at Bluefield!

Check MyBU and Your School Email At least Twice a Day

Although the majority of Bluefield University students will check an electronic device several times a day, many will not take the time to visit their MyBU portal or school email address. Unfortunately, this habit can be detrimental for students as many professors and offices on campus communicate using these portals. Please be aware that a response of "I didn't know" or "I don't really check that" is not an acceptable reason for not knowing information sent via these portals. Be sure to check both MyBU and your school email consistently during the semester.

Have a Copy of the Academic Calendar and Bluefield University App

Being aware of what is going on at Bluefield University and when the campus is closed can be really helpful in making plans, being sure to drop/add a class within the appropriate period, etc. Be sure to download a copy and/or bookmark the academic calendar - link included below:
<http://www.bluefield.edu/academics/academic-resources/academic-calendar/>

You will also want to download a copy of the new Bluefield University "app". Simply go to the App Store on your mobile device (Android or Apple), type in Bluefield University, and download. The *app" will provide you with reminders, upcoming events, etc.

Drop by BU Central

Having everything in order for the semester with as few "surprises" as possible can give students a peace of mind about what is going on with their college education. Be sure to drop by BU Central and make sure everything is on file and in order early in the semester for a "check-up".

Attend Chapel and Vocatio Activities

Although academics is a large part of your education at Bluefield University, remember that we're also focused on your spiritual growth and calling when it comes to your career. Remember to go to Chapel consistently (and scan in) as well as attend Vocatio Activities throughout the semester so you can contribute to your growth in these areas as well as have the requisite number of credits when you're ready to graduate!

Remember It's Okay to Ask for Help



One of the scariest things for students is to feel alone while having a problem or issue you are trying to deal with on your own, nothing (or very little) seems to be working, and those you thought would support you when trouble arose are either nowhere to be found or don't know what to do either. During these times, one can feel isolated, overwhelmed, stuck, worried, and/or lack motivation for doing things or being themselves.

If you find yourself in a situation like this or have an issue come up during the semester which is affecting either you, your academics. or both, please DO NOT go at it alone. Find someone with who you can speak with and get help with navigating what is going on. Keep in mind, it is always better to seek assistance EARLY and OFTEN. The Academic Center for Excellence and The Center for Counseling and Wellness are both here to offer you support when you need it!

Know Your Login Information

Although it may seem silly, one of the issues a lot of students run into is not knowing their login information because it is set to "stay signed in" on their devices. Take the time to login again manually and keep this in mind as there are times when you will need the information when getting assistance on campus, trying to print, or complete in-class activities in a computer lab or the library.

Attend Academic Convocation and Advising

Making sure you are on track for graduation and get signed up for the classes you want, often with the "best" schedule (most students do not want an 8:00 o'clock class), can be crucial in helping you to be successful when it comes to the next semester or being exposed to material to help you in your career. Advisors can be instrumental in helping you to plan out courses, review degree progress, deciding to add a major/minor, or how to handle a struggle you may be having or have had in a previous semester with a course.

Get Organized on your iPad

One of the biggest challenges students report in regards to staying organized. Taking notes, keeping track of syllabi and your assignments can be difficult when everything is online. Check out some of Apple's tips for learning on an iPad here: <https://education-static.apple.com/learning-with-apple/apple-quick-guides.pdf>



Make a Schedule



In addition to staying organized, time management is another of the biggest challenges mentioned by students. In creating a helpful schedule, you'll want to be sure to include your course schedule, practice, work times, study time, homework time, and sleep (and nap times ☺). You also should include times for you to have fun. Whether that is time with friends, gaming, binging Netflix, working out, etc. Not sure where to start? Come to the ACE and one of our staff or tutors will be glad to help you get a schedule arranged that will meet your holistic (mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual) needs.

Find a Space to Get Stuff Done

Everyone has different needs when it comes to the space they can get work done in. Ideally, you are able to get work done in your room. However, there are a lot of people in your residence hall. Your study time is someone else's hang-out time, laundry time, etc. You need to find a space on campus that you can sit down and get your work done. If that is in your room, great! Many will find the Library or Computer Lab can provide a quieter space or maybe a hammock outside is more your speed. Whatever it is, find your space and go there when you need to focus.