



BLAKE | AUSTIN  
**COLLEGE**<sup>®</sup>

*Exceptional Education for Today's Careers*

## 2023 - 2025 Catalog

7/1/2023 - 06/30/2024

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## WELCOME

Centrally located in Solano County, Blake Austin College's Vacaville campuses have easy access from Highway I-80 with ample parking and the right atmosphere that contributes to making our College the ideal learning environment.

Founded in 1996, Blake Austin College started with humble beginnings and support for our community. From administrative and computer technology careers in the 1990s, through the Y2K era, the dot.com bust and evolving to the allied health, dental, and nursing careers offerings today, our career education programs have evolved over several decades. To provide "Exceptional Education for Today's Careers" is our mission- at the forefront of what we strive to give each student. Striving for successful outcomes for each student we remain committed to our core values and the vision they embody.

In April of 2022, Blake Austin College was sold to BMI which was chosen after a nationwide search to continue excellence in education and move the College forward by adopting new programs and expanding campus locations and technologies.

In today's competitive society, it is of the utmost importance that today's workforce be well prepared with basic and practical skills, techniques, and knowledge to help ensure our future. This in turn enables individuals to reach social and economic goals, thereby providing a greater sense of individual security. Blake Austin College's primary emphasis is to keep pace with new technologies and advancements that occur rapidly in today's business and educational areas.

We are honored you are a part of our family and wish to see you succeed in all your academic and personal endeavors.

We want all our students to be able to "Learn Well. Live Well."

On behalf of the entire staff and faculty, we welcome you to Blake Austin College.



# INSTITUTION INFORMATION

## Mission

Exceptional Education for Today's Careers

## Vision

Blake Austin College's mission is to provide each student a quality educational experience in a safe, supportive environment that promotes self-discipline, motivation, and excellence. Our hands-on approach supports the student from the introduction of training through the employment process. We are dedicated to providing educational programs that are relevant to current employment demands. Staff is challenged to administer to each individual and is receptive to their needs, ability, and capacity to learn. To do what is right for the right reason... to help a fellow human being succeed with confidence, respect, and dignity.

## Core Values

- Integrity
- Contribution to and Compassion for Human Welfare
- A Focused Team
- Risk Taking
- Empowerment with Accountability

It is expected that all graduates of Blake Austin College will be able to:

- Demonstrate integrity with self, others, and community;
- Participate as a team member;
- Demonstrate compassion for self, others, and community;
- Perform all actions with accountability;
- Demonstrate risk taking to achieve educational and professional goals.

## Accreditation and Certification:

California State Approval: Blake Austin College is a private institution, that is approved to operate by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (BPPE), [www.bppe.ca.gov](http://www.bppe.ca.gov). Approval to operate means compliance with state standards as set forth by the CEC and 5, CCR.

National Accreditation: Blake Austin College is accredited by Commission of the Council on Occupational Education and is recognized by the United States Department of Education (ED).

7840 Roswell Road, Building 300, Suite 325, Atlanta, GA 30350, Telephone: 770-396-3898 / FAX: 770-396-3790, [www.council.org](http://www.council.org).

Veterans Approval: Blake Austin College is approved for the training of veterans and eligible persons under the provision of Title 38, United States Code.

## Programmatic Approvals:

Blake Austin College's Vocational Nursing Program is approved by the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians, [www.bvnpt.ca.gov](http://www.bvnpt.ca.gov)

Blake Austin College's Phlebotomy course is approved by the State of California, Department of Public Health/Laboratory Field Services (DHS/LFS), [www.cdph.ca.gov](http://www.cdph.ca.gov)

## **Disclosure Statement**

The Institution does not have a pending petition in bankruptcy, is not operating as a debtor in possession, has not filed a petition of bankruptcy in the preceding five years, and has not had a petition filed against it within the preceding five years that resulted in reorganization under Chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code (11 U.S.C. Sec. 1101, et seq.).

## **Catalog Certification**

Blake Austin College (BAC) is a non-public institution and certifies that the information contained in this publication is current and correct, but is subject to change without notice, and does not constitute a binding agreement on the part of BAC. If applicable, an addendum is provided to the catalog with any amendments to the catalog.

While this catalog contains a great deal of information, the Programmatic Student Handbooks is provided to all students at orientation. Programmatic Student Handbooks may exist to complement this information, providing specifics on policies and procedures and is provided to the students at orientation. The Programmatic Student Handbooks are also available on our website [www.blakeaustincollege.edu/consumer-information](http://www.blakeaustincollege.edu/consumer-information)

## **Review and Receipt of Catalog and School Performance Fact Sheet**

As a prospective student, you are encouraged to review this catalog prior to signing an enrollment agreement. You are also encouraged to review the School Performance Fact Sheet, both of which must be provided to you prior to signing an enrollment agreement. Performance Fact Sheets are also available on our website:

[www.blakeaustincollege.edu/consumer-information](http://www.blakeaustincollege.edu/consumer-information)

## **Approval Disclosure Notice**

This institution is a private institution, that is approved to operate by the California Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education. Approval to operate means the institution is in compliance with the state standards as set forth in the CEC and 5, CCR.

## **Consumer Information**

Consumer Information can be found on our website at <http://www.blakeaustincollege.edu/consumer-information>

## **Facility**

Centrally located in Solano County, Blake Austin College campus has easy access from Highway I-80 with ample parking and the right atmosphere that contributes to making our location ideal for learning. The campus, located at 770 Mason Street, Suite 200 and is a 22,700 ft<sup>2</sup> facility equipped of classroom, specific equipment, equipped laboratories, computer labs, learning resources center and offices. Blake Austin College adheres to all compliance regulations pertaining to the Americans with Disabilities Act.

# ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

## Clinical Medical Assistant with Phlebotomy

Classes sessions held at:

770 Mason Street, Suite 200

Vacaville, CA 95688

CIP 51.0801

38 Semester Credits

920 Hours

Classroom Capacity: 45

Lab Ratio: 20 students/instructor

### **Program Description:**

The Clinical Medical Assistant with Phlebotomy (CMAP) Program is designed to give the student the necessary training and skills for an entry level position as Medical Assistant and/or Phlebotomy career. The Clinical Medical Assistant with Phlebotomy program (CMAP) prepares the individual to provide clinical medical support to professional physicians and other medical personnel. Medical assistants perform certain clinical duties. Clinical duties may include taking and recording vital signs and medical histories, preparing patients for examination, drawing blood (phlebotomy), administering medications and injections as directed by physician. Students will also receive training and will be certified in CPR through American Heart Association CPR course ([www.heart.org](http://www.heart.org)).

During the Phlebotomy Technician portion of the program, the student will perform blood collection through venipuncture using vacuum tubes, syringe and winged infusion set (butterfly) will be thoroughly explored and practiced in the laboratory and clinical setting. Emphasis will be placed on regulatory compliance including National Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards (NCCLS), quality assurance practices, collecting an accurate specimen, safety and infection control practices which meet OSHA and blood borne pathogens. The student will be prepared to take the Certified Phlebotomy Technician (CPT1) Exam.

<u>Course Code</u>	<u>Course Name</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Credits</u>
MA101	Introduction to Medical Assisting	20	0.5
MA110	Structural Units of the Body & Integumentary	80	4
MA210	Skeletal & Muscular Systems	80	4
MA310	Nervous System & Special Sense	80	4
MA410	Cardiovascular & Lymphatic Systems	80	3.5
MA510	Respiratory & Endocrine Systems	80	4
MA610	Digestive System & Nutrition	80	4
MA710	Urinary & Reproductive Systems	80	4
MA810	Phlebotomy	60	2.5
MA910	Medical Front Office	80	3.5
EXTMAP	Externship—Phlebotomy	40	0.5
EXTMA	Externship—Medical Assisting	160	3.5

**Licensure Information:** The Phlebotomy course curriculum meets the State of California Department of Public Health/Laboratory Field Services educational requirements for professional licensure. Upon successful completion of the Phlebotomy course, NCCT Examination, and externship course, the student will qualify for licensure for California Certified Phlebotomy Technician 1 (CPT1) offered through the California Department of Public Health/Laboratory Field Services. Application and testing fees are required and are not included in the program fees. Please reference <http://www.cdph.ca.gov> for more information.

**Certification Information:** Graduates qualify to sit for the National certification as a Registered Medical Assistant offered through American Medical Technologist (AMT) Agency. Application and testing fees are required and are not included in the program fees. Please reference <http://www.amt1.com> for more information.

**Equipment:** Equipment used includes centrifuges, glucometers, microscopes, autoclaves, minor surgical instruments, electrocardiograph machines, ambulatory aids, sphygmomanometers, stethoscopes, micro-hematocrit readers, and support devices. Classroom/lab computers are installed with software in the areas of Microsoft Office and Electronic Health Records. Printers are readily accessible to students for college-related assignments.

## Vocational Nursing

Classes sessions held at:  
770 Mason Street, Suite 200  
Vacaville, CA 95688

CIP 51.3901  
1620 Clock Hours  
64 Semester Credits

Capacity: 40 per cohort

Lab & Clinical Capacity: 15/instructor

### Program Description:

The Vocational Nursing (VN) Program is designed to give the student the necessary training and skills for employment as an entry-level health care provider who is responsible for giving basic nursing care to ill, injured, convalescing and disabled individuals. The program consists of 1620 hours of theory, skills and clinical training focusing on patient centered study of nursing concepts that apply to all clinical areas in vocational nursing. Students will also receive training and will be certified in CPR through American Heart Association CPR course ([www.heart.org](http://www.heart.org)).

This instructional course prepares the individual to perform as an entry level Vocational Nurse in various arenas of care. Emphasis is placed on developing proficient entry level nurses while preparing them for the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX).

<u>Course Code</u>	<u>Course Name</u>	<u>Hours/Credits</u>
VN100	Nursing Fundamentals	540/22.0
VN200	Medical-Surgical Nursing	540/21.5
VN300	Nursing Specialties and Leadership	540/20.5

#### Courses Scheduled in three sections – Theory, Skills, & Clinical

VN100	VN100T	Theory Hours	208 hours/13.5 credits
	VN100S	Skills Hours	145 hours/4.5 credits
	VN100C	Clinical Hours	187 hours/4.0 credits
VN200	VN200T	Theory Hours	208 hours/13.5 credits
	VN200S	Skills Hours	60 hours/2.0 credits
	VN200C	Clinical Hours	272 hours/6.0 credits
VN300	VN300T	Theory Hours	208 hours/13.5 credits
	VN300S	Skills Hours	45 hours/1.0 credits
	VN300C	Clinical Hours	287 hours/6.0 credits

The Council on Occupational Education (COE) conversion rate is equivalent to 1 Semester Credit Hour for each of the following:

- 15 clock hours of lecture
- 30 clock hours of laboratory
- 45 clock hours of work-based activity (externship/clinical)

**Licensure Information:** The Nursing Program curriculum meets the State's Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians educational requirements for professional licensure and graduates meet the requirements to sit for the National Council of State Boards of Nursing - Licensed Practical Nurse Examination (NCLEX-LPN) through the State of California. Application and testing fees are required and are not included in program fees, reference [www.bvnpt.ca.gov](http://www.bvnpt.ca.gov) for more information.

Any student enrolling at BAC with Certified Nursing Assistant education or experience in the last five (5) years, interested in transfer credit/hours must submit a Transfer Credit/Hour Form for evaluation and complete a practical testing session. See section Acceptance of Transfer Credit/Hours in the Catalog.

**Equipment:** The Vocational Nursing program utilizes labs to simulate a hospital-style patient care unit. The equipment includes hospital type beds, low- and moderate-fidelity simulation mannequins (such as infant, child and adult simulator), medical charts, medication carts, vital sign equipment, nasogastric feeding and tracheostomy equipment, ambulation equipment, and various body part models to ensure hands on learning. Computer systems available with installed software in the areas of nursing simulation, medication administration, Microsoft Office Suite, and internet search options. Printers are readily accessible to students for college-related assignments.

## Programs Course Descriptions

### **EXTMA** – Externship – Medical Assisting

Course Hours: Lecture 0, Lab 0, Work-Based Activities 160

*Prerequisites:* MA101; MA110; MA210; MA310; MA410; MA510; MA610; MA710; MA910

The externship course is designed to provide practical on-the-job experiences that augment the students' in-class experiences. Students are required to complete 160-hours externship at a work site connected with their field of study, which normally includes health care facilities such as private or group practices and clinics.

### **EXTMAP** - Externship – Phlebotomy

Course Hours: Lecture 0, Lab 0, Work-Based Activities 40

*Prerequisites:* MA810

The externship course is designed to provide practical on-the-job experiences that augment the students' in-class experiences. Students are required to complete 40-hours externship at a work site connected with their field of study, which normally includes clinics, labs, and hospitals.

### **MA101** –Introduction to Medical Assisting

Course Hours: Lecture 10, Lab 10

*Prerequisites:* None

This course provides a general introduction to medical assisting, medical terminology, and abbreviations. Students will also be introduced to laboratory and clinical skills vital signs, handwashing, personal protective equipment, and other medical assistant skills. This course will also provide understanding of HIPAA, OSHA, and health and safety. Professional development skills will be introduced in this course.

### **MA110** –Structural Units of the Body & Integumentary System

Course Hours: Lecture 45, Lab 35

*Prerequisites:* MA101

This course provides a general introduction to the structural units of the body and to human anatomy and physiology underlining the structures, functions, and pathophysiology of the integumentary system. This course also focuses on medical terminology, pharmacology, and in addition, laboratory, and clinical skills procedures as it pertains to the integumentary system and as well as other medical assistant skills. In addition, students will be provided with professional development skills.

### **MA210** – Skeletal & Muscular Systems

Course Hours: Lecture 45, Lab 35

*Prerequisites:* MA101

This course provides a general introduction to human anatomy and physiology underlining the structures, functions, and pathophysiology of the skeletal and muscular system. This course also focuses on medical terminology, pharmacology, and in addition, laboratory, and clinical skills procedures as it pertains to the musculoskeletal systems and medical assistants. In addition, students will be provided with professional development skills.

### **MA310** – Nervous System & Special Senses

Course Hours: Lecture 45, Lab 35

*Prerequisites:* MA101

This course provides a general introduction to human anatomy and physiology underlining the structures, functions and pathophysiology of the nervous system and special senses. This course covers medical terminology, pharmacology, and in addition, laboratory, and clinical skills procedures as it pertains to the nervous system and special senses and as well as other medical assistant skills. In addition, students will be provided with professional development skills.

#### **MA410 – Cardiovascular & Lymphatic Systems**

Course Hours: Lecture 40, Lab 40

*Prerequisites: MA101*

This course provides a general introduction to human anatomy and physiology underlining the structures, functions, and pathophysiology of the cardiovascular and lymphatic systems. The student will also be introduced to electrocardiography. This course covers medical terminology, pharmacology, and in addition, laboratory, and clinical skills procedures as it pertains to the cardiovascular and lymphatic systems and as well as other medical assistant skills. In addition, students will be provided with professional development skills.

#### **MA510 – Respiratory & Endocrine Systems**

Course Hours: Lecture 45, Lab 35

*Prerequisites: MA101*

This course provides a general introduction to human anatomy and physiology underlining the structures, functions, and pathophysiology of the respiratory and endocrine systems. This course covers medical terminology, pharmacology, and in addition, laboratory, and clinical skills procedures as it pertains to the respiratory and endocrine systems and as well as other medical assistant skills. In addition, students will be provided with professional development skills.

#### **MA610 – Digestive System & Nutrition**

Course Hours: Lecture 45, Lab 35

*Prerequisites: MA101*

This course provides a general introduction to human anatomy and physiology underlining the structures, functions, and pathophysiology of the digestive system. Nutrition to include the relationship of nutrition and health – the role of foods and the nutrients they contain, with regard to the physiological, psychological, and sociological well-being of the individual, practical analysis of food records and application of nutritional knowledge in planning a healthy diet. This course covers medical terminology, pharmacology, and in addition, laboratory, and clinical skills procedures as it pertains to the digestive system and as well as other medical assistant skills. In addition, students will be provided with professional development skills.

#### **MA710 – Urinary & Reproductive Systems**

Course Hours: Lecture 45, Lab 35

*Prerequisites: MA101*

This course provides a general introduction to human anatomy and physiology underlining the structures, functions, and pathophysiology of the urinary and reproductive systems. This course covers medical terminology, pharmacology, and in addition, laboratory, and clinical skills procedures as it pertains to the Urinary and Reproductive systems as well as other medical assistant skills. In addition, students will be provided with professional development skills.

#### **MA810 – Phlebotomy**

Course Hours: Lecture 40, Lab 20

*Prerequisites: MA101*



Students will learn the collection of blood by the multi-skilled healthcare provider through venipuncture using the evacuated tube method, winged infusion sets, syringe with needle and micro-collection techniques. These techniques will be thoroughly explored and practiced in both the classroom and in the laboratory clinical setting with emphasis on safety using universal precautions and infection control, regulatory compliance including quality assurance practices, collecting, and processing accurate specimens.

### **MA910** – Medical Front Office

Course Hours: Lecture 40, Lab 40

*Prerequisites:* MA101

This course focuses on the administrative medical assistant aspects of the profession. Students will be introduced to the skill set and knowledge of daily operations of a medical office, communication, law and ethics, telephone techniques appointment setting and correspondence. In this course, students will also work on Electronic Health Records information management system, basics of coding, health insurance, fees, and bookkeeping. In addition, students will be provided with professional development skills.

### **VN100** – Nursing Fundamentals

Course Hours: Lecture 208, Lab 145, Work-Based Activities 187

*Prerequisites:* None

The Fundamentals of Nursing course provides students with theoretical knowledge and foundational concepts related to the practice and science of nursing. Students will be introduced to the basic principles of self-care, health and wellness, medical terminology, medication calculations, client diversity, and how to apply these principles to the nursing process. Students will learn basic skills in the laboratory setting. Clinical experiences will provide the venue to further demonstrate the application of learned knowledge and skills while socializing them to the culture of nursing.

### **VN200** – Medical-Surgical Nursing

Course Hours: Lecture 208, Lab 60, Work-Based Activities 272

*Prerequisites:* VN100

Students utilize clinical reasoning and the nursing process in learning about fundamental pathophysiological conditions and the VN's role in prevention of illness, treatment of disease, and the restoration of health in the adult and geriatric client. Concepts related to safety, cultural sensitivity and diversity, communication, client teaching, nutrition, and pharmacology are integrated throughout the course. Students utilize the nursing laboratory to enhance their psychomotor and clinical reasoning skills in practicing advanced nursing skills. Clinical experiences provide opportunities for students to apply theory/lab.

### **VN300** – Nursing Specialties and Leadership

Course Hours: Lecture 208, Lab 45, Work-Based Activities 287

*Prerequisites:* VN100, VN200

This course will further the student's knowledge in the care of medical/surgical client. The body systems approach will continue to be used and new body systems will be introduced. More advanced deviations are introduced and self-care concepts continue to be the basis for the Nursing Care Plan. Anatomy and physiology will be addressed as it applies to each body system. Common deficits and limitations, diagnostic exams, medical/surgical management, pathophysiology, nutritional needs, pharmacological agents and psychosocial needs will be discussed. The student will be introduced to home health care concepts and the client with mental deficits. Theories on leadership and supervision are introduced and followed by a clinical preceptorship. The student will care for the client with self-care deficits and limitations. They will use the nursing process for the basis of care.

## ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

### Admissions Requirements and Conditions

Prospective students must meet the following minimum requirements for admission into all Blake Austin College programs:

- U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen (Visa services are not provided, BAC will not vouch for any student status and any associated fees.)
- At a Minimum:
  - High School Graduate, Successful completion of High School equivalency (GED), or Official Home Study Transcripts from a Home Study Program that is equivalent to the High School level and is recognized by the student's home state.
    - Transcripts must be verified that the High School is accredited by a Department of Education recognized accrediting agency.
- Complete Blake Austin College Application for Admission
- Take and pass Entrance Assessments
  - Math
  - Reading Comprehension
  - Vocabulary
- Completion of Financial Aid requirements
- Attend the institution's General Student Orientation

NOTE: BAC does not admit Ability-To-Benefit students.

### Entrance Assessment Score Requirement

Program	Math %	Reading Comp %	Vocabulary %
Clinical Medical Assistant with Phlebotomy	80	75	75
Vocational Nursing	80	HESI Exam*: 65	HESI Exam*: 65

\*The HESI Exams first attempt is provided by Blake Austin College. Additional exam attempts are paid for by applicant.

The Entrance Assessment may be taken more than once if the assessment requirements are not met on the first attempt. The timeframe between attempts are provided below:

- Second Attempt may be taken 24 hours after completing the first attempt
- The third and final attempt may be taken 1 week from the second attempt

Three attempts may be made within a 4-week period.

The Academic Department may allow additional testing if extenuating circumstances exist.

### Additional Admissions Requirements

#### Immunizations, Background and Drug Screening

Prospective students will be required to verify that certain immunizations have been received as well as complete a Drug and Background Screening. The goal is to provide safety to our students, clients, and community partners. To successfully meet the requirements of each program, students must participate in an externship, clinical experience, or perform client services.

## **Required Immunizations**

Hepatitis B series, Measles/Mumps/Rubella series, Varicella series, Tetanus, COVID series, and Flu Vaccine (seasonal). A Tuberculosis Skin Test and/or chest x-ray is also required. Immunization record must be received by the 7<sup>th</sup> day or enrollment will be cancelled by Blake Austin College.

## **Background Screening**

Results of the background must be received by Blake Austin College by the 7<sup>th</sup> day of enrollment. If results are not received by the 7<sup>th</sup> day, the student's enrollment will be cancelled. Your admissions representative will provide agency contractor and procedure information for obtaining the background screen. If the background screen exhibits a felony conviction the student will be denied admission. Other convictions will require review by the academic department. Acceptance will be determined based on individual programmatic externship and clinical agency requirements.

Students who knowingly falsify their criminal history are withdrawn from school and are responsible for all fees related to their background screening.

California programmatic Boards may require students to disclose Criminal Pleas/Convictions during the application for licensure process.

## **Drug Screening**

A "Clear" drug screen is required to ensure consumer protection. A "Clear" drug screen is defined as negative findings in all screened classifications. Results of the drug screen must be received by Blake Austin College by the 7<sup>th</sup> day of enrollment. If results are not received by the 7<sup>th</sup> day, the student's enrollment will be cancelled.

Additionally, Blake Austin College reserves the right to perform additional drug screening at any time within the students' program and as required by our community partners. Additional drug screens are at the cost of the college, however if a student has incurred a previous positive result additional screens will be at the student's expense.

NOTE: The drug and background screen will be performed by an independent contractor. The cost is bundled for the drug screen and background screen is the responsibility of the prospective student. Information regarding the cost is provided to all prospective students during their initial meeting with the admissions department.

## **Vocational Nursing Additional Admissions Requirements**

- Health Screening
- VN Program Interview
  - Dress professionally as you would for an interview
  - Interview conducted by Academic Department
  - Must meet entrance exam requirements to interview
- Vocational Nursing Orientation
  - Scheduled with General Student Orientation

## Acceptance of Transfer Credits/Hours

A petition for previously earned credits/hours will be evaluated by the Academic Department. Official transcripts and course descriptions are required to determine applicable credit. A minimum grade of “C” from a Department of Education approved accredited school must be achieved for the course to be considered for transfer credit/hours. Additionally, for clock hour programs, documentation supporting successfully completed hours must be included with the official transcript.

A student must complete at least 50% of the course requirements at BAC. Transferred credits will be documented in the student’s record indicating what units/hours were transferred and the student financial obligations will be adjusted accordingly. Credit/hour transfer approvals must be made before the first day of class.

\*BAC does not accept hours or credits earned through Achievement Tests or Experiential Learning. Challenge Exams may be considered if the applicant has similar coursework, college degree, or Military training. The Academic Department will review and provide recommendations.

## Student Transfer between BAC Programs

If a student requests to transfer from one BAC program to another BAC program, the student must meet with the Academic Department to complete the Student Status Change Form noting that the student chooses to withdraw from his/her currently enrolled program and is requesting new enrollment into a different BAC program. The student will be required to meet all admission criteria into the new program and meet with the Admissions and Financial Aid Department.

The transfer-of-credit award is based on:

- courses that have a grade of C or better;
- course descriptions, objectives, or outcomes;
- core/major courses must apply to the program; and
- conversions from quarter to semester credit systems, or vice versa, will follow common practices for academic credit conversions.

Course-to-course transfers based on course objectives or outcomes can be made in lieu of the academic credit conversions. If the student is enrolled in a course or program that requires a minimum grade to pass, the student must receive the required score or grade to receive credit. Credit cannot be transferred until an official transcript is submitted to the Institution evaluating the transfer credit. Students who want to enroll in a degree program are encouraged to consult with the Director of Academics before the end of their certificate program.

Program transfers may substantially impact financial aid eligibility, and additional charges due to a program transfer may be assessed. Program transfer students must meet with the Financial Aid Department prior to acceptance into the new program. All coursework from previous programs that applies toward the new program will be used in calculating Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP).

Students transferring to a new program must complete a new enrollment agreement and will be charged the current tuition rate for the newly selected program. All prior charges from the previous program must be cleared prior to entering the new program.

A student may have to wait up to 180 days to enroll in a different program.

## **Notice Concerning Transferability of Credits and Credentials Earned at Our Institution**

The transferability of credits you earn at BAC is at the complete discretion of an institution to which you may seek to transfer. Acceptance of the certificate/diploma you earn in the educational program from BAC is also at the complete discretion of the institution to which you may seek to transfer. If the credits or certificate/diploma you earn at this institution are not accepted at the institution to which you seek to transfer, you may be required to repeat some or all your coursework at that institution. For this reason, you should make certain that your attendance at this institution will meet your educational goals. This may include contacting an institution to which you may seek to transfer after attending BAC to determine if your credits or certificate/diploma will transfer.

This institution maintains a written record of previous education and training of the Veteran or eligible person which clearly indicates that appropriate credit has been given by the institution for previous education and training, with the training period (or length of degree program) shortened proportionately, and the Veteran notified accordingly CFR 21.4253(d)(3).

BAC has not entered into an articulation agreement or transfer agreement with any other College or University at this time.

## **Arbitration and Class Action Waiver Disclosure**

Blake Austin College requires each student to agree to a pre-dispute arbitration agreement and a class action waiver as a condition of enrollment (“Arbitration Agreement”). The Arbitration Agreement does not, in any way, limit, relinquish, or waive a student’s ability to pursue filing a borrower defense claim, pursuant to 34 C.F.R. § 685.206(e) at any time. The Arbitration Agreement does not require that the student participate in arbitration, or any internal dispute resolution process offered by the College prior to filing a borrower defense to repayment application with the U.S. Department of Education pursuant to 34 C.F.R. § 685.206(e). Any arbitration, required by the Arbitration Agreement, tolls (pauses) the limitations period for filing a borrower defense to repayment application pursuant to 34 C.F.R. § 685.206(e)(6)(ii) for the length of time that the arbitration proceeding is under way. Any questions about the Arbitration Agreement or a dispute relating to a student’s Title IV Federal student loans or to the provision of educational services for which the loans were provided should be directed to the Campus Director and/or Director of Financial Aid.

## **STUDENT INFORMATION AND SERVICES**

### **Learning Resources**

Blake Austin College is committed to student success and therefore offers various learning resources to all students. All campuses are equipped with learning resources specific to programs offered and include reference library, online research tools, program specific resources, computers, tutoring/remediation, and hands-on practice laboratories.

All students receive information about Learning Resources during orientation. The orientation includes instruction regarding sign-in procedures to obtain access and use of specific web-based resources. Student access to on-campus resources may be obtained through his/her instructor or the front desk.

Learning Resources are reviewed on an annual basis in conjunction with individual program reviews to ensure that available resources align with expected student outcomes.

## **Advising**

### **Student Advising**

Students may experience educational, personal, or financial problems during their enrollment. The Institution welcomes the opportunity to assist students in working out solutions to these problems. Students experiencing difficulties in these areas are advised to contact the Academic Department. Students requiring other types of professional assistance beyond that offered by the Institution will be referred to the appropriate agencies within the community.

### **Academic Advising**

Students who may be experiencing academic challenges are advised to contact their instructor, Program Director or Coordinator, Lead Instructor, or the Director of Academics. Academic Advising will be conducted at specific evaluation points within their program of study. At this time, the student and instructor will have an opportunity to discuss academic challenges and successes.

### **Tutoring/Remediation**

Students who need extra assistance because of academic difficulties may arrange tutoring/remediation through contacting their instructor, Program Director or Coordinator, Lead Instructor, or the Academic Department. If at the evaluation points it is determined that a student has not met the specified criteria for the program, tutoring/remediation may be required as part of the student success plan.

## **Rules and Regulations**

While on school grounds, all students shall conduct themselves in an appropriate adult manner and shall be prepared for class. Consideration and respect should be given to all people, including other students and staff. Inappropriate behavior resulting in a violation of the Student Code of Conduct is grounds for suspension and/or dismissal.

### **Student Code Conduct**

The Institution is proud of its academic standards and code of student conduct. In today's competitive job market, professional conduct is a crucial factor in obtaining and keeping a job. Emphasis is continually placed on regular attendance, promptness, honesty, and a positive attitude. Students will be held accountable for and should report the following violations while on campus or in the externship, clinical, or preceptor setting:

- All forms of dishonesty including cheating, plagiarism, forgery, and intent to defraud through falsification, alteration, or misuse of the Institution's documents. Examples of dishonesty and/or plagiarism include, but are not limited to, copying work or written text from any source, including the Internet, without properly crediting the source of information; cheating on examinations and/or coursework in any form; and completing and submitting an assignment partially or wholly originated by another person.
- Theft, deliberate destruction, damage, misuse, or abuse of Institution property or the private property of individuals associated with the Institution.
- Inappropriate behavior or misconduct that causes a disruption of teaching, research, administration, disciplinary proceedings, or other Institution activities.
- Being under the influence and/or the use of alcoholic beverages or controlled substances on Institution or externship/practicum, clinical, or fieldwork property, including the purchase, consumption, possession, or sale of such items.
- The use of any tobacco products in the Institution's buildings and eating or drinking in the classrooms, or any location other than designated areas.

- Bringing animals to the Institution or externship/practicum, clinical, or fieldwork property. No animals are allowed on the premises unless they are assisting the physically impaired or are being used as classroom subjects.
- Bringing unattended children into the Institution's academic areas; children are not allowed into the classroom during class session unless otherwise authorized
- The Institution does not provide childcare services and cannot assume responsibility for children's health and safety.
- Failure to comply with all emergency evacuation procedures, disregarding safety practices, tampering with fire protection equipment, or violation of any other health and safety rules or regulations.
- Failure to comply with any regulation not contained in official Institution publications but announced as an administrative policy by an Institution official or other person authorized by the Campus President/Executive Director of the Institution.
- Bringing dangerous items such as explosives, firearms, or other weapons, either concealed or exposed, onto the Institution's property or externship/practicum, clinical, or fieldwork property.
- Violence or threats of violence toward persons or property of students, faculty, staff, or the Institution.
- Improper use of e-mail and Internet access. Please see the Intellectual Property Protection and Ownership section for additional information.
- Failure to comply with federal software piracy statutes forbidding the copying of licensed computer programs.
- Inappropriate use of cell phones or other electronic devices. All electronic devices must be in the "off or silent" position while in the classroom.
- Audio or video recording of any kind at externship/clinical rotations/preceptor sites is not permitted, unless otherwise allowed on an individual basis due to an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Physical abuse, verbal abuse, intimidation, harassment, coercion, stalking, or any conduct that threatens or endangers the physical or psychological health/safety of another person.
- Rape, including acquaintance rape and/or sexual assault, in any form.
- Unauthorized presence in, or forcible entry into, an Institution facility or Institution-related premises.
- All forms of gambling.
- Being in the presence of or aiding/abetting any of the conduct violations.

A student found responsible for involvement in any of the violations listed above may be sanctioned accordingly. Sanctions range from a written letter of reprimand up to immediate dismissal from the Institution. Nursing students have additional conduct expectations outlined in the Nursing Student Handbook. Students dismissed for conduct violations will not be readmitted.

## **Student Interaction**

Student interaction is an important component of the academic experience at the Institution. Both the facility and class organizations are designed to encourage opportunities for student communication. Class assignments include group work and cooperative learning activities. Students are encouraged to collaborate with their fellow student peers to develop study groups. If the student requires assistance, please contact the course instructor or Academic Department.

## **Personal Appearance**

Student dress code is provided in the programmatic student handbook. Students are required to dress in their college uniform while on campus and at the assigned externship or clinical location. Students should show concern for the

appropriateness of dress while attending the Institution and be guided by the principle that what is proper for the workplace is proper for the Institution.

Professional appearance is as important as the development of professional skills. All students are expected to abide by the dress code. Students are expected to practice good personal hygiene habits and maintain a clean, neat, and professional appearance at all times. Students failing to meet the dress requirements will not be admitted to class.

Faculty and administration are responsible for enforcing the dress code. Students dressed inappropriately will be sent home, and time missed will be recorded as an absence. Please reference the student handbook for detailed information regarding the Institution dress code.

## **Intellectual Property Protection and Ownership**

The Institution respects intellectual property rights and ownership. These policies ensure against unauthorized use of copyrighted material and information technology systems and provide clear guidance as to ownership of intellectual property.

### **Copyright Infringement and Protection**

The Institution requires its students to respect the rights of others, including intellectual property rights. Copyright infringement is the act of exercising, without permission or legal authority, one or more of the exclusive rights granted to the copyright owner under section 106 of the Copyright Act (Title 17 of the United States Code). These rights include reproducing or distribute a copyrighted work, including unauthorized peer-to-peer file sharing, In the file-sharing context, downloading or uploading substantial parts of a copyrighted work without authority constitutes an infringement.

Penalties for copyright infringement include civil and criminal penalties. In general, anyone found liable for civil copyright infringement may be ordered to pay either actual damages or statutory damages affixed at not less than \$750 and not more than \$30,000 per work infringed. For “willful” infringement, a court may award up to \$150,000 per work infringed. A court can, in its discretion, also assess costs and attorneys’ fees. For details, see Title 17, United States Code, Sections 504, 505.

Willful copyright infringement can also result in criminal penalties, including imprisonment of up to five years and fines of up to \$250,000 per offense. For more information, please see the website of the U.S. Copyright Office at [www.copyright.gov](http://www.copyright.gov).

### **Use of Institutional Information Technology Resources**

The Institution provides its students with access to computer equipment, e-mail accounts and the Internet, exclusively for educational activities. The Institution's students are prohibited from using any of the foregoing, or any of the other Institution's information technology systems, for the unauthorized copying or distribution of copyrighted materials, including but not limited to unauthorized peer-to-peer file sharing of copyrighted materials. Downloading, viewing, distributing, or sending pornographic or obscene materials, is also prohibited. This prohibited conduct includes bookmarking any pornographic or obscene Web sites or Web sites intended or used for the distribution of unauthorized copies of copyrighted materials, or knowingly opening or forwarding any e-mail, fax, or voice mail messages containing unauthorized copies of copyrighted materials, or any pornographic or obscene materials. Any violation of these policies may result in disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the Institution.

Any communications by students via e-mail, instant messenger, voice mail, or fax that may constitute slander or defamation or may be considered abusive, offensive, harassing, vulgar, obscene, or threatening are prohibited. This



content includes, but is not limited to, sexual comments or images, racial slurs, gender-specific comments, or any other comments that would offend someone based on age, race, sex, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, physical challenge, sexual orientation, or veteran status. Any individual with a complaint about such communications should refer to the Policy of Nondiscrimination.

Students should not expect computer files, e-mail, voice mail, or Internet bookmarks to be either confidential or private. The Institution employs a number of technology-based and other means to detect and deter unauthorized copying and distribution of copyrighted materials. Students should have no expectation of privacy whatsoever related to their use of the Institution's systems. Even when a message or file is erased, it is still possible to recover the message or file, and therefore privacy of messages and computer files cannot be ensured to anyone. Any computer-generated correspondence, the contents of all computers hard drives on the Institution's premises, and saved voice mail messages are the sole property of the Institution, may be considered business records, and could be used in administrative, judicial, or other proceedings. The Institution licenses software to support its educational processes. Students are not permitted to copy, remove, or install software. By using the computer equipment, software, and communications devices, all students knowingly and voluntarily consent to being monitored and acknowledge the Institution's right to conduct such monitoring. The equipment is intended for educational purposes only and any other use by students, including but not limited to any of the prohibited conduct described herein, will be treated under the Conduct section of this Catalog, and may result in disciplinary action up to and including permanent dismissal from the Institution.

Audio or video recording of any class or lecture offered at the Institution or at its externship/practicum, clinical, or fieldwork sites is not permitted, unless otherwise allowed on an individual basis due to an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

### **Ownership of Student and Third-Party Intellectual Property**

The Institution recognizes an author/inventor's ownership in his or her creative intellectual property. The Institution also encourages scholarship and research opportunities, many of which may result in the creation of intellectual property in the form of research papers, publications, or supplemental course materials such as lecture notes, bibliographies, additional assignments, and other non-institutional course content.

All students at the Institution own the exclusive rights to the intellectual property they create, except under any of the following circumstances:

- The intellectual property created as a result of material support from the Institution, which for this purpose is defined as significant financial support directly or indirectly from the Institution, use of the Institution facilities beyond the normal curricula, or any other significant expenditure of resources by the Institution beyond what is customary among higher education institutions; or
- The student and the Institution enter into an agreement regarding ownership of the intellectual property; or
- The student creates the intellectual property in conjunction with a faculty member or other employee of the Institution.

The Institution will own any and all rights to intellectual property created by third parties for use by the Institution; any other allocation of rights between the Institution and the third party must be defined in a written agreement between the parties.

## Career Services

The Institution offers career services to all eligible graduates. An eligible graduate is any student who has successfully completed all graduation requirements as stated in the Graduation Requirements section of this catalog. Many students desire to obtain employment on their own. The Institution supports and encourages this effort and will provide techniques on seeking and securing employment. Students are responsible for informing the Institution of their employment information.

The Institution's Career Services Department will assist students in their job search. Career services include assistance with resume writing, interviewing, identifying job openings, and other job search activities. Career services offered by the Institution are not an obligation or guarantee of employment. If a student fails to attend a job interview arranged by the Career Services Department, the service may no longer be available to that student.

Although average wage information based on data received from employers and graduates may be available to prospective students, no employee of the Institution can guarantee that a graduate will earn any specific amount. Each student's program of study, academic performance, employer needs and location, current economic conditions, and other factors may affect wage levels and career prospects.

Continuous career services are available to all eligible graduates. Graduates who require additional assistance after their initial employment can contact the Institution to provide updated resume information and are encouraged to use the resources available in the Career Services Department.

### Part-time Jobs

Many students work on a part-time basis during their training to help with their education costs. If students require assistance in securing part-time employment while attending classes, the Career Services Department will make a reasonable effort to assist them in their search.

## OCCUPATIONAL OUTCOMES

### Clinical Medical Assistant with Phlebotomy

#### **31-9092.00: Medical Assistants**

Perform administrative and certain clinical duties under the direction of a physician. Administrative duties may include scheduling appointments, maintain medical records, billing and coding information for insurance purposes. Clinical duties may include taking and recording vital signs and medical histories, preparing patients for examination, drawing blood, and administering medications as directed by physician

Sample of reported job titles: Certified Medical Assistant (CMA), chiropractor assistant, doctor's assistant, medical assistant, medical office assistant, ophthalmic technician, optometric assistant, optometric technician, Registered Medical Assistant (RMA).

#### **31-9097.00: Phlebotomists**

Draw blood for tests, transfusions, donations or research. May explain the procedure to the patients and assist in the recovery of patients with adverse reactions.

Sample of reported job titles: lab asst, patient service technician, phlebotomist, phlebotomist supervisor, medical lab assistant, phlebotomy director, phlebotomy program coordinator, phlebotomy supervisor, Certified Phlebotomy Technical-1 (CPT-1).

## Vocational Nursing

### 29-2061.00: Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses

Care for ill, injured or convalescing patients or persons with disabilities in hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, private homes, group homes and similar institutions.

Sample of reported job titles: charge nurse, clinical licensed practical nurse (clinical LPN), clinic nurse, licensed practical nurse (LPN), licensed vocational nurse (LVN), office nurse, pediatric licensed practical nurse, private duty nurse, triage licensed practical nurse.

The O\*NET program is the nation's primary source of occupational information. Central to the project is the O\*NET database, containing information on hundreds of standardized and occupation-specific descriptors. The database, which is available to the public at no cost, is continually updated by surveying a broad range of workers from each occupation. Information from this database forms the heart of O\*NET Online, an interactive application for exploring and searching occupations. The database also provides the basis for our Career Exploration Tools, a set of valuable assessment instruments for workers and students looking to find or change careers, <https://www.onetcenter.org/>

## ACADEMIC INFORMATION

### Credit Hour Conversion

The Council on Occupational Education (COE) conversion rate is equivalent to 1 Semester Credit Hour for each of the following:

- 15 clock hours of lecture
- 30 clock hours of laboratory
- 45 clock hours of work-based activity (externship/clinical)

### Hours of Operation

#### Class Hours

Mon-Fri	8:00 am – 10:00 pm
Sat/Sun	6:00 am – 5:00 pm (as schedule dictates)

#### Administrative Hours

Mon – Fri	8:30 am – 5:00 pm
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### Out-Of-Class Learning Activities

Blake Austin College does not currently offer programs with out-of-class learning activities.

For Title IV Programs the federal government has issued the following definitions for the purposes of calculating Title IV funding:

**Credit Hour:** An amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutionally established equivalency that reasonably approximates:

Not less than one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours out-of-class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester hour of credit, or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time; or

At least an equivalent amount of work as required outlined in item 1 above for other academic activities as established by the institution including laboratory work, internships, practical, studio work, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours.

### **Conversion Rate – Financial Aid Title IV**

1. One semester credit hour is equal to 37.5 clock hours.

To comply with the definitions and equivalencies identified above, the Institution has established the following policy for Title IV eligible programs.

1. One semester credit shall consist of 37.5 hours of instruction.
2. Each semester credit in an externship course shall consist of 37.5 clock hours of direct clinical instruction. This instruction must all occur in the clinical/lab setting and cannot include any out-of-class work.
3. Each semester credit in an externship course must include a minimum of 30 clock hours of direct instruction. This instruction may occur in a classroom or on-line. The remaining clock hours may include acceptable and documented student out-of-class work. No more than 7.5 hours of out-of-class work can be counted for each 30 clock hours of direct instruction.

### **Distance Education Courses**

Distance Education (DE) means online education. Blake Austin College does not currently offer Distance Education programs and/or courses.

### **Changes in Programs or Policies**

The institution has the right, at its discretion, to make reasonable changes in program content, materials, schedules, sequencing of courses in programs, or locations in the interest of improving the students' education, or where deemed necessary due to industry changes, academic scheduling, or professional requirements.

The institution is required to make changes in programs or policies when ongoing federal, state, or accrediting changes affect students currently in attendance.

### **English as a Second Language Instruction**

The institution does not offer English as a second language instruction. All instruction is provided in English. Level of English language proficiency is confirmed through the Reading Comprehension and Vocabulary Entrance Assessment Exams requirements per program, under the Admissions Requirements section of the Catalog.

### **Attendance/Tardy Policy**

Regular daily attendance is intended to ensure a high level of effectiveness, professionalism, and integrity in the institutional education programs. BAC must be able to confirm to potential employers that a student will be a reliable employee. Punctual attendance is required in all courses. Attendance is a crucial part of the education program and a requirement for graduation. The student's commitment to regular attendance is especially important to meet our institutional requirements, accrediting agencies, and licensing boards.

Students arriving late for class or leaving early are considered tardy. Continued excessive tardiness or absences in any course could lead to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal. For additional information, refer to the programmatic student handbook.

New students must attend the first day of class of their first course to be considered “enrolled”. This also applies to students who re-enter.

For program specific attendance and make-up policies, please reference the programmatic student handbook.

### **Dismissal Policy for Non-Attendance**

The specific requirements relating to dismissal from the program due to nonattendance are:

- Students who are absent from the institution for fourteen (14) consecutive calendar days (excluding the institution’s holidays, breaks, and emergency closures due to unforeseen circumstances such as weather) will be dismissed from the program.
- If a break of five (5) days or greater occurs, the student will be dismissed from the Institution if s/he fails to return within three (3) business days after the holiday, break or emergency closure.
- Students may follow the process presented in the grievance outlined in the institutional catalog if they feel an error has been made in their attendance calculation.

### **Probation, Suspension and Dismissal**

All students are expected to conduct themselves as responsible adults, to attend classes regularly, and to maintain a satisfactory level of academic achievement. The institution reserves the right to place a student on probation, suspend or dismiss a student who:

- Exhibits conduct found to be detrimental to fellow students, other individuals, the community, or the institution, as addressed in the Conduct section of this catalog;
- Fails to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP);
- Fails to meet attendance standards; or
- Fails to meet financial obligations to the institution.

Time on suspension will be counted as an absence from the institution and cannot exceed the allowable absences stated in the attendance policy.

### **Externship, Clinical Rotations, or Preceptorship**

Programs offered include externship, clinical rotations, and/or preceptorship that is completed without compensation. Although students are supervised by professionals at their site, they must continue to maintain contact with the Institution’s Academic Team on a regular basis.

The following academic requirements must be met prior to starting the externship, clinical rotations, and preceptorship:

- Student must have passed all required prerequisite courses as indicated in the catalog;
- Student may not have any incomplete grades for any prerequisites;
- Student may not have any pending disciplinary actions;
- Student is required to have a minimum 2.0 CGPA; and
- Student must be current with all financial obligations with the institution

The Institution may have program-specific eligibility requirements. Student should talk to their Program Director or Director of Academics.

Many programs require an orientation and/or preparation class prior to students being placed at an externship, clinical rotation, and/or preceptorship. This will provide the students with the information and applicable documents necessary for externship, clinical rotation, and/or preceptorship.

During externship, clinical rotations, and/or preceptorship, students are expected to perform in an ethical, safe, and professional manner, and to assist in all matters appropriate to the scope of practice. Failure to do so may result in course failure, dismissal from the program, and failure to graduate.

Externship, clinical rotations, and/or preceptorship hours may be scheduled during the day and are typically full-time. This will require night students to complete externship, clinical rotations, and/or preceptorship hours during the day. Students must not count on the possibility of working in the evening may be required to make arrangements to complete the externship, clinical rotations, and/or preceptorship during daytime work hours. Successful completion of the externship, clinical rotations, and/or preceptorship is a requirement of graduation.

Due to unforeseen situations that may develop at a particular organization outside the Institution, scheduling issues may result in an occasional delay between course start date and the beginning of an externship, clinical rotations, and/or preceptorship. All externship, clinical rotations, and preceptorship sites are carefully selected based on an evaluation of site personnel, facilities, geographic location, availability, and type of learning experience provided. The Institution maintains affiliation agreements with a variety of facilities to provide students with externship, clinical rotations, or preceptorship opportunities. Students should be aware that some facilities may have additional requirements that must be met prior to placement. If a student has a particular interest in a facility with which the Institution is not affiliated, the student may bring this to the attention, at least 60-days prior, of the Program Director/Coordinator so the site may be evaluated.

The externship, clinical rotation, and/or preceptorship facility will submit evaluations of the student's performance based on the standards set by the Institution. Students must satisfactorily complete the externship, clinical rotations, and/or preceptorship assignment and submit an approved verification of time completed in order to graduate. All required hours for externship, clinical rotations, and/or preceptorship must be completed.

A reassignment of the externship, clinical rotations, and/or preceptorship training will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and may result in additional charges. Any costs associated with additional screenings for externship, clinical rotations, and/or preceptorships are the responsibility of the student.

## **Graduation Requirements**

- Earn the required total number of clock or credit hours for the program;
- Pass all required courses with a 75% and meet all objectives of the program;
- Pass a comprehensive exit examination (if applicable);
- Return all property belonging to the institution;
- Current with all financial obligations to the institution;
- Attend a Career Services exit interview; and,
- Attend a Financial Aid exit interview.

If graduation requirements are not met, graduation credential/certificates and licensure documents will be held until graduation requirements are met.

## **Licensure and Certification**

Blake Austin College prepares students to take appropriate certification and licensure exams related to their individual program of study. The College does not guarantee students will successfully pass these exams or be certified or licensed as a result of completing the program.

## **Graduation Ceremonies**

Graduation ceremonies take place twice a year. All graduates are encouraged to participate in official Blake Austin College ceremonies. Notification for the graduation ceremony will be provided by Career Services Department. To participate in the graduation ceremony, all graduation requirements must be met.

## **Transcripts**

Current or former students may request a copy of their transcripts by submitting a Transcript Request Form to the Institution's Registrar. Unofficial transcripts are at no charge and will be marked to indicate they are unofficial copies. A \$15 fee is required for official transcripts.

# ACADEMIC STANDARDS

## Standard Grading System

- Pass:** This grade will count as credit attempted and earned and will count towards maximum time frame (MTF) and pace of completion (POC), but not affect the students' cumulative GPA (CGPA).
- Fail:** This grade will count as credit attempted and not earned and will count towards maximum time frame (MTF) and pace of completion (POC), but not affect the students' cumulative GPA (CGPA).
- Incomplete (I):** The grade assigned for incomplete course work that must be completed within a specified amount of time. The "I" grade counts as credits attempted but not earned, and will not impact MTF, POC, or CGPA.
- Transfer Credit (TC):** Students transferring from another institution may be eligible for credit for courses they have already taken and assigned credits of "TC". Transfer credit is counted as credits attempted and earned, and will count towards, MTF and POC, but will not affect the student's CGPA.
- Withdrawal (W):** Students receive a "W" if they withdraw or are dropped from the course. This grade counts as credits attempted but not earned and will count towards MTF and POC, but not towards CGPA.
- Repeat (FR):** If a student fails and repeats a course, the previous attempt will convert to an "FR" upon completion of the additional attempt(s). This grade counts as credits attempted but not earned and will count towards MTF and POC, but not towards CGPA.

Must pass all courses with a minimum of 75%. Final course grades are not rounded.

% Equivalent	GPA	Grade
100	4.00	A
99-96	3.90	
95-93	3.80	
92-90	3.70	
89-88	3.60	
87-85	3.50	B
84	3.40	
83	3.30	
82	3.20	
81	3.10	
80	3.00	
79	2.90	
78	2.80	C
77	2.70	
76	2.60	
75	2.50	
74	2.40	
73	2.30	
72	2.20	

% Equivalent	GPA	Grade
71	2.10	C
70	2.00	
69	1.90	D
68	1.80	
67	1.70	
66	1.60	
65	1.50	
64	1.40	
63	1.30	
62	1.20	
61	1.10	
60	1.00	
<60	0.00	F
Pass		Pass
Fail		Fail
Incomplete		I
Transfer Credit		TC
Withdrawal		W
Repeat		FR



## Program Re-Entry and Course Repeat

A student who earns a less than 75% in a course of his/her program of study must repeat the course. When a course is repeated, the original grade will be replaced by "FR" and is designated as a repeat course. All repeated courses count as credit/hours attempted in the maximum time frame evaluation for SAP.

Students who wish to return to their program of study after:

1. A period of inactive enrollment 180 days or less, or
2. A period of inactive enrollment greater than 180 days or
3. A failed course leading to a drop or withdrawal

Are subject to the following:

1. Admission to the program/course will be on a space available basis.
2. Re-enter students contact admissions department to begin the re-enter process.
3. Students must be in good standing to re-enter or repeat.
4. Repeat students will be evaluated for the ability to succeed by the Academic Department.
5. Students must have approval from the Academic Department prior to repeating a course.
6. If the readmission timeframe is greater than 16 weeks, the student may be required to demonstrate proficiency in previously learned content. Demonstration may be evaluated through return demonstrations and/or written examinations.
7. Students may only attempt a course 3 times, with a maximum of two enrollments; VN program course may only be attempted twice. All students are to complete their program of study in a period not to exceed 1.5 times (150%) the normal duration of the program as measured in credit/clock hours attempted.
8. A student may wait up to 180 days to enroll in a different program.

See Miscellaneous Fees section under Schedule of Fees for repeat fees. Please contact the Business Office for additional information.

## Satisfactory Academic Progress

Satisfactory academic progress (SAP) standards apply to all students at the Institution.

### Maximum Time Frame

All students are to complete their program of study in a period not to exceed 1.5 times (150%) the normal duration of the program as measured in credit hours attempted. For example, if a program requires successful completion of 60 credit hours, the student may not attempt more than 90 credit hours ( $1.5 \times 60$ ) in the completion of his or her program.

### Pace of Completion

Pace of completion is defined as the number of credits or hours earned divided by the number of credits or hours attempted. You must earn credit or hours for at least 67% of the credits or hours attempted. If your aggregate percentage falls below 67%, you will not meet Satisfactory Academic Progress.

### Required Evaluation Schedule

The evaluation period for determining satisfactory academic progress for all students will be each payment period. The evaluation will occur at the end of each payment period and be based on all credit or clock hours attempted and earned.

The following credits are counted as credits or clock hours attempted and earned and will count toward the maximum timeframe and pace of completion but are not counted in the CGPA: Transfer Credit (TC) and Pass (P). All coursework from previous programs that applies toward the new program will be used in calculating satisfactory academic progress.

Incomplete grades (I) will count as credits or clock hours attempted but not earned and will not count towards the CGPA until the final grade has been posted.

Repeated (FR) courses and Withdrawal (W) grades count as credits or clock hours attempted but not earned, and count towards maximum timeframe and pace of completion, but do not count towards CGPA. The final grade received on the last repeat of a course is used in the CGPA calculation.

If a student transfers to a different program or seeks to earn an additional credential, all credits attempted and earned that count towards the new program also count in maximum time frame, pace of completion and CGPA.

Required SAP minimums are outlined in the table below.

<b>Minimum CGPA</b>	<b>Minimum Pace of Completion (POC)</b>
2.0	67%

If, at any time, it is determined that it is impossible for a student to successfully complete the program in the maximum timeframe, pace of completion or CGPA, the student will be dismissed and will not be permitted to reapply in the same program.

### **Financial Aid Warning**

Students failing to meet the required SAP minimums will be placed on Financial Aid Warning. Students on Financial Aid Warning will remain eligible for Title IV Federal Financial Aid. Students on Financial Aid Warning will receive academic advisement to assist them in improving their academic progress. Students may only remain on Financial Aid Warning for one payment period. Students who achieve the required SAP minimums at the end of the payment period will be placed back in good standing. Students who do not achieve the required SAP minimums at the end of the payment period may appeal to be placed in Financial Aid Probation; otherwise, they will be dismissed.

### **Financial Aid Probation**

Students who are granted a satisfactory academic progress appeal will be placed on Financial Aid Probation. Students on Financial Aid Probation will be placed on an Academic Improvement Plan to ensure that the student is able to meet Satisfactory Academic Progress. Students on Financial Aid Probation will remain eligible for Title IV Federal Financial Aid.

### **Financial Aid Probation**

Students may only remain in Financial Aid Probation for one payment period. A student who achieves the required SAP minimums at the end of the payment period that s/he is in Financial Aid Probation will be placed back into good standing. A student who does not achieve the required SAP minimums at the end of the payment period that s/he is on Financial Aid Probation will be dismissed; however, he or may appeal to be placed in Non-Title IV Eligible status to continue the program if the appeal is approved.

### **Non-Title IV Eligible**

Students must appeal to be placed in Non-Title IV Eligible status if they fail to meet the minimum SAP standards while on Financial Aid Probation. Students in Non-Title IV Eligible are not eligible for Title IV Federal Financial Aid. Students in Non-Title IV Eligible will receive academic advisement and an academic plan to assist them in improving their academic progress. All credits attempted during Non-Title IV Eligible count toward the maximum timeframe.

### **Non-Title IV Eligible**

Students may only remain in Non-Title IV Eligible status for one payment period. A student who achieves the required SAP minimums at the end of the payment period that s/he is in Non-Title IV Eligible will be placed back into good standing. A

student who does not achieve the required SAP minimums at the end of the payment period that s/he is in Non-Title IV Eligible status will be dismissed.

### **SAP Appeal**

Students who are on Financial Aid Warning (or Financial Aid Probation) and will not successfully meet the standards at the end of the payment period can appeal to be placed on Financial Aid Probation (or Non-Title IV Eligible). Students can begin the appeal process prior to the end of the payment period. Students who wish to avoid a disruption of their enrollment status must submit a complete appeal packet, including all required documentation, by the last day of the payment period. Students who do not submit the appeal packet by the last day of the payment period can still appeal; however, they will be dismissed in the interim period while their appeal is reviewed.

The criteria on which a student may file an appeal are death of a relative, an injury or illness of the student, or other special circumstances. The student must submit specific information regarding why s/he failed to make satisfactory academic progress and what has changed in the student's situation that will allow the student to progress at the next evaluation. The student must include official documentation of the special circumstances with the appeal packet, such as a doctor's note, an obituary for a deceased family member, or other relevant supporting information.

The appeal will also be reviewed to determine if it is mathematically possible for the student to meet the necessary evaluation period benchmarks to be in good standing in the required amount of time and to complete all remaining coursework within the maximum timeframe. The Institution will determine as part of the appeals process whether it is necessary to create a customized academic plan for the student.

Students who have submitted their appeal prior to the end of the payment period, and whose appeal is granted, will be allowed to move to Financial Aid Probation (or Non-Title IV Eligible). Students who have submitted their appeal prior to the end of the payment period, and whose appeal is denied, will be dismissed. Students who did not submit their appeal prior to the end of the payment period, and whose appeal is granted, will be informed when it is possible for them to return to school based on scheduling and course availability. Students will be notified in writing of the final appeal decision.

### **SAP Appeals Procedure**

Within 10 business days of notification of dismissal, the student may appeal the decision by submitting a written appeal to the Grievance Committee (GC). The appeal should explain the circumstances that the student believes would have a bearing on the reinstatement.

The Committee will review the student's appeal, the student's academic record, and the student's attendance record, and may call upon the student's instructors to determine relevant information.

Based on this review, the Committee will determine if the student will be reinstated. The student will be notified in writing within five business days of the Grievance Committee's final decision.

### **Student Evaluation Points**

Students are evaluated at certain points during their program of study. The purpose of these evaluation points is to ensure student success. Students who are receiving Veterans' benefits may not be on probation longer than two (2) evaluation point periods, except for the Vocational Nursing program which will be limited to one (1) probationary period only. If the probation is extended past the second evaluation period, the student will lose any future Veterans' funding for that enrollment. The programmatic evaluation points are:

- CMA-P: day 8 (4-week courses)
- VN: week 8 (16-week courses)

The BAC Student Handbook provides the criteria for the programmatic evaluation points. If the student does not meet any of the criteria listed for his/her program at the time of evaluation, the following steps will be implemented:

- Complete advisement, Student Success Plan
  - 1st offense: At-Risk status
  - 2nd offense: Probation status
  - 3rd offense: Dismissal from the program

If the student meets the criteria at the evaluation point, the student is taken off At-Risk/Probation status.

## **Record Retention Statement**

Blake Austin College maintains current student records for a period of not less than five years. Student transcripts will be kept indefinitely. BAC complies with all Federal, State, Accreditation, and Certification bodies. For copies or inquiries please contact the campus registrar.

Blake Austin College  
770 Mason Street, Suite 200  
Vacaville, CA 95688

## **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

Blake Austin College (BAC) understands that in many circumstances individuals and their families are not able to meet the entire cost of education. BAC endeavors to provide excellent service to deliver financial aid information to prospective, current, and former students and their families. BAC Information includes federal, state, and institutional options to cover educational costs. Financial Aid (FA) staff assist in the completion of required documents and process all financial aid awards. The focus of the FA department is to assist students in the understanding of available financial options to assist them in reaching their goals and careers. Through this process, BAC works as a partner with the student helping students alleviate or eliminate financial barriers and maximizing all available resources to help meet each student's financial needs. The FA department works with students in a variety of ways throughout the enrollment process and while attending BAC.

### **Overview**

Financial Aid is money that can be used to cover the costs associated with attending BAC. This money can be in the form of grants, scholarships, and federal loans. All loans must be repaid. All financial aid at BAC is administered in accordance with the policies and procedures of the U.S. Department of Education. The basis of such programs is that students and their parents have the primary responsibility to meet educational costs and that financial aid is available only to fill the gap between the families and/or student's contribution and allowable educational expenses.

The amount of expected student or family contribution is determined by an analysis of financial strength: income and net assets, which the family may have versus the allowable expenses. The student's actual eligibility amounts will be determined from the information reported on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Educational expenses that are considered a basis for establishing student needs include tuition, fees, books and supplies, room, board, transportation, and personal expenses. The BAC Financial Aid office has established standard student budgets to reflect the costs of each of these items based on a statewide cost survey and local cost data.

We understand that the rules that govern the financial aid programs can sometimes be complicated. However, the staff in BAC's Financial Aid department are available to answer questions and provide special assistance as needed. The FA staff is the designated official at the college for consumer information in relation to financial assistance, and students or parents

with questions should not hesitate to contact the FA Department by calling the college, located on the college website, and ask to be connected to the Financial Aid Department.

The Financial Aid Department at BAC is available to assist federal loan borrowers with student loan questions or concerns. If an issue exists, borrowers should first attempt to resolve the issue by contacting the Financial Aid Office. If the borrower has made a reasonable effort to resolve the issue through normal processes and has not been successful, s/he should contact the Federal Student Aid (FSA) Ombudsman. The FSA Ombudsman will informally research a borrower's issue and make suggestions for resolution. The FSA Ombudsman contact information is listed below:

Online: <http://studentaid.gov/repay-loans/disputes/prepare>  
Telephone: 877.557.2575 Fax: 606.396.4821  
Mail: FSA Ombudsman Group  
P.O. Box 1843  
Monticello, KY 42633

## Student Finance Policies

Student responsibilities for applying for and receiving financial aid at BAC are as follows:

1. Complete all requested forms for financial aid accurately
2. Use all financial aid received solely for expense related to attending BAC
  - a) Students that apply for financial aid understand that costs related to attending school are defined in the cost of attendance budget
3. Submit in a timely manner all additional documentation requested by Financial Aid.
  - a) These documents can include tax forms and household information.

## Eligibility

Eligibility for Federal Student Aid is based on financial need and several other factors. Generally, to be eligible for Federal Student Aid, a student must:

- Be past the age for compulsory school attendance in California (over 18 years old) and not concurrently enrolled in high school, an elementary or secondary school program, or taking college credit to earn a high school diploma or GED. California compulsory education law requires everyone age 6-18 to attend school until graduation from high school or passing the California High School Proficiency Exam (CHSPE).
- Have a high school diploma or a General Education Development (GED) certificate or state-specific equivalency credential or complete a high school education in a home school setting that is treated as such under-state law.
- Demonstrate financial need (except for certain loans).
- Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a regular student working toward a degree or certificate in an eligible program.
- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen.
- Have a valid Social Security Number.
- Register with the Selective Service if required. A student can use the paper or electronic FAFSA<sup>SM</sup> to register, register at [www.sss.gov](http://www.sss.gov), or call 1-847-688-6888, or call Toll Free 1-888-655-1825. (TTY users can call 1-847-688-2567.)
- Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress as published in the catalog.
- Certify that s/he is not in default on a federal student loan and does not owe money on a federal student grant.
- Certify that s/he will use Federal Student Aid only for educational purposes.

Applicants who are incarcerated and students who become incarcerated must immediately report this information to the student financial aid office.

Some financial aid resources require a student to submit additional application materials; scholarships, for example, might have a separate form to submit to the funding agency. The Financial Aid Office is not responsible for the application process of outside resources, non-BAC scholarships, although all students are encouraged to apply for scholarships that might contribute to their financial resources while attending college.

Prior to release of any eligible FSA Title IV funds, and at the time awards are to be paid, the Financial Aid Office will check a student's enrollment and continued eligibility through the Registrar's Office. Changes in a student's enrollment or program may cause delays or removals of any scheduled disbursement(s). All awards will be posted to the student's account ledger at BAC, and, any monies that are posted above the student's outstanding current school charges, resulting in a credit balance will be distributed to the student per BAC's Credit Balance policy. It is important to keep the Business Office, the Registrar and the Financial Aid Office updated with current address and phone number. Money will not be requested for payment of tuition or other charges earlier than 30 days after the start of the first payment period. The student's actual eligibility amounts will be determined from the information reported on the FAFSA.

### **Student Financial Aid Rights:**

1. The right to know how financial need was determined.
2. The right to know how financial aid will be distributed.
3. The right to request an explanation of programs in the financial aid package.
4. The right to refuse any aid offered.
5. The right to request an explanation of BAC refund policy.
6. The right to know what portion of financial aid must be repaid and what portion is a grant.
  - a. If a loan has been received, have the right to know the interest rate and loan repayment options and procedures.
7. The right to examine the contents of financial aid records, with a written request submitted to the Financial Aid Department.
  - a. Students may not review confidential records submitted by parents without the written consent of the parent whose information has been submitted.

### **Program Availability**

BAC makes financial aid resources available to its students including federal and alternative loans or payment plans. Some funds are need-based, meaning the funds go to students who have the most financial need as determined by the U.S Department of Education standards. There are also non-need-based funds that are available to any students who qualify for the programs regardless of their income or that of their parents. Need-based programs that BAC currently offers include the Federal Pell Grant and Federal Direct subsidized student loans. Non-need-based programs include unsubsidized student loans, parent loans, alternative loans, and some scholarships.

### **Need-Based Eligibility**

To be eligible to receive need-based Federal assistance, a student must:

1. Be enrolled in an eligible program of study as a part-time or full-time student.
2. Be a U.S. citizen, U.S. national, or U.S. permanent resident or reside in the United States for other than a temporary purpose (supportive documentation may be required to verify residency or citizenship status).
3. Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress in their program of study.
4. Not be in default of any loan or owe a repayment on a Federal Pell Grant, FSEOG, or State Grant.
5. Demonstrate financial need.

## Definition of Financial Need

Students are packaged for financial aid based on the student's financial need. Financial need is determined by subtracting student's Expected Family Contribution (EFC) to BAC's Cost of Attendance (COA). Aid from most Federal aid programs is awarded based on financial need. The information a student reports on his/her Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is used to calculate each specific student's "Expected Family Contribution" (EFC). Eligibility for the Pell Grant Program is determined by the student's EFC. If the student's EFC is too high, students would not be eligible for Pell Grant. To ensure compliance with federal regulations, BAC defines the students with the highest need as those students with an EFC equal to "0" (zero).

Financial aid packages are awarded as follows:

- The Pell Grant is awarded to students who meet the federal criteria including the student's EFC. Award amounts vary.
- The Federal Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans are awarded to all eligible students based upon their academic grade level, the amount of eligibility available for the student(s) based on prior borrowing, and the remaining need.

Loan amounts cannot exceed the remaining of a student's annual loan limit at the grade level associated with their training program.

## Packaging

Financial aid funds usually come from more than one source. This combination of financial resources is referred to as packaging. State programs are always subject to an approved State budget. Financial aid funds may be categorized into four basic sources: federal, state, institutional, and private. Due to the vast opportunities for private sources, students are encouraged to pursue private loans at the financial institution of their choice. Blake Austin primarily utilizes the following federal sources, if the student is eligible to participate:

- Federal Pell Grant
- Federal Direct Subsidized Loan
- Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan
- Federal Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS)
- Campus Based Aid – Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)

## Federal Financial Aid Sources

### Grants

#### Federal Pell Grant

The Pell grant is gift assistance that does not have to be repaid. Pell grants are awarded to students who have a financial need as determined by the U.S. Department of Education standards. Annually, the U.S. Department of Education determines student eligibility for this grant. For the 2023-2024 award year, the minimum grant for a full-time student is \$750 and the maximum grant is \$7,395.00.

A student is eligible to receive a Pell grant for up to 12 semesters or the equivalent. If a student has exceeded the 12-semester maximum, s/he will lose eligibility for additional Pell grants. Equivalency is calculated by adding together the percentage of Pell eligibility that s/he received each year to determine whether the total amount exceeds 600%.

## **Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant**

The Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) is gift assistance that does not have to be repaid. The FSEOG is awarded to students who have the most financial need as determined by the U.S. Department of Education standards.

The Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity program is administered directly by the Financial Aid Office at each participating school and is therefore called “campus-based” aid.

## **Federal Loans**

Federal student loans are required by law to provide a range of flexible repayment options, including, but not limited to, income-based repayment, income-contingent repayment plans, and loan forgiveness benefits, which other student loans are not required to provide. The Federal loan programs provide funds to undergraduate and graduate students to assist them in meeting their educational expenses. Interest rates for federal student loans are subject to change by the U.S. Department of Education at any time.

## **Federal Direct Loans**

- The student (parent in the case of PLUS loans) must complete and sign a valid Master Promissory Note.
- The student must be enrolled at least half-time to receive Direct Loan program funds. A student whose enrollment status is below half-time is not eligible for Direct Loan program funds. If eligibility is lost due to being enrolled less than half-time, a student can regain eligibility if enrolled at least half-time during a subsequent period of enrollment.
- A student who is borrowing a loan for the first time is required to participate in loan entrance counseling prior to the first disbursement of the loan. The first disbursement of a loan cannot be made earlier than 30 days after the start of the program or period of enrollment. Exceptions can be made if the school meets certain Default Prevention criteria based on a 3-yr default percentage.
- Financial Aid staff may not perform credit checks on students when awarding Direct Loan program funds, except in cases of undergraduate PLUS loans.
- A student borrower who is in default on a Federal student loan is not eligible for additional Direct Loan funds unless eligibility is regained by resolving the existing default.

Federal Direct loans are available to students regardless of income. Before taking out loans, students should visit the Department of Education’s Federal Student Aid website at <http://studentaid.ed.gov/types/loans>

## **Subsidized Federal Direct Loan**

The Subsidized Federal Direct Loan program provides low interest loans through the U.S. Department of Education’s Direct Loan Program. The maximum annual loan amount for undergraduate students is \$3,500 for the first academic year, less origination and other fees (if applicable). The Federal government pays the interest while the student is in school, in-grace, and during deferment periods. Interest begins accruing on these loans when the student graduates or drops below half-time enrollment status. Loan repayment plans are outlined in the loan counseling materials. Payments are based on the repayment plan selected by the student. For undergraduate subsidized loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2023, the interest rate is fixed at 5.50%. Borrowers with other outstanding loans may be able to consolidate eligible loans and make only one monthly payment. For additional information, please refer to the loan entrance counseling materials found at <https://studentaid.gov/>

## **Unsubsidized Federal Direct Loan**

The Unsubsidized Federal Direct Loan program provides additional loan funding to students who do not qualify for a full subsidized loan or who need additional loan funding. The Federal government does not pay the interest on unsubsidized loans while the student is in school, in-grace, and during deferment periods. Student loan borrowers are responsible for all



interest that accrues on the loan while in school, in-grace, and during deferment periods. The student may elect to make interest payments while in school to avoid the capitalization of interest and to lower the overall repayment debt. Typically loan repayment will begin six months after the student leaves school or attends less than half time. Undergraduate independent students can borrow up to \$9,500 (subsidized and unsubsidized combined) for the first academic year, of which no more than \$3,500 can be subsidized. Undergraduate dependent students can borrow up to \$5,500 (subsidized and unsubsidized combined) for the first academic year, of which no more than \$3,500 can be subsidized. For undergraduate unsubsidized loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2023, the interest rate is fixed at 5.05%.

### **Subsidized and Unsubsidized Master Promissory Note (MPN)**

Students can obtain loan funds not exceeding the established loan limits through the Subsidized and Unsubsidized Federal Direct Loan program without having to sign a new Master Promissory Note (MPN) for each academic year. The school will notify the borrower of the loan amounts awarded through the Estimated Financial Aid Award Letter. If the borrower decides to decline or adjust the type or the amount of the loan, they must contact the Financial Aid Office.

### **Federal Direct PLUS Loan**

The Federal PLUS loan is a credit-based loan, available to parents who wish to apply for additional assistance for their dependent child's education. The amount of the PLUS loan cannot exceed the student's cost of attendance less other student aid awarded. PLUS loans through the Direct Loan Program first disbursed on or after July 1, 2023 will have a fixed interest rate of 8.05%. The first payment will be due within 60 days after the final loan disbursement. Payments will include both principal and accumulated interest.

Exception to FAFSA filing requirement:

If a dependent student only wants to receive a Federal Direct PLUS loan, s/he doesn't have to complete a FAFSA (though many schools still require it), but one parent will need to complete a loan application and promissory note.

The regulations that govern the loan programs require the financial aid office at the school to document an active confirmation of PLUS loan funds via an estimated award letter. The confirmation process is to provide a means for the parent borrower to accept or decline a PLUS loan made for a student's subsequent academic year. This assists in providing the parent borrower with greater control and understanding of PLUS loan debt. Active confirmation can be completed with a signed award letter, a signed Parent Loan Data and Confirmation (PLDC) Form or documented electronically.

### **Disclosure Information**

Additional consumer and disclosure information regarding placement rates, median loan debt, cost of programs, etc. is at the Blake Austin College website <http://www.blakeaustincollege.edu/consumer-information/>

### **Disseminating Consumer Information**

The primary method of disseminating consumer information to college students is through the College Catalog and website at <http://www.blakeaustincollege.edu/consumer-information/>. In addition, financial aid information is distributed through the Financial Aid Award Letter.

### **Applying for Financial Aid**

Students must apply for financial aid using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) found at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). *The school code for Blake Austin College is 0400330*

If the FAFSA was previously completed for the current award year, the student can provide a copy of the Student Aid Report (SAR) to the Financial Aid Department. This information will be used to determine the student's financial aid eligibility.

There are many forms which may be required to evaluate student aid eligibility. However, a student need only apply for admission and file the Federal Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to begin the financial packaging process.

A student's application may be selected for a process known as verification. The verification process is the school use to confirm that the data reported on the FAFSA is accurate. Financial assistance will not be awarded until the verification process has been completed. Students will be notified personally, via email or phone/text message if additional documents are required. Documents that may be requested to complete processing of the verification are:

- Proof of citizenship
- Proof of selective service registration
- Marriage certificate
- Verification Worksheet
- Tax returns (parent and student and/or spouse)

Students should refer to <http://studentaid.ed.gov/> sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education for more detailed information.

## Documentation of Citizenship

To be eligible to receive Title IV, Higher Education Act assistance a student must:

1. Be a citizen or national of the United States, or
2. Provide evidence from the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service that they are:
  - a. A permanent resident of the United States with Permanent Resident Card
  - b. Classified as one of the eligible non-citizen categories:
    - i. Refugees
    - ii. Victims of human trafficking
    - iii. Persons granted asylum
    - iv. Persons paroled into the United States for at least one year
    - v. Some persons under the Violence Against Women Act
    - vi. Cuban Haitian entrants

## Federal Student Loan Management

Federal regulations require all first-time Federal Direct Student Loan borrowers, prior to receiving the first disbursement of their loan proceeds, to complete loan entrance counseling conducted individually, in a group, or online. The interview will include an explanation of the use of a Master Promissory Note (MPN), the importance of the repayment obligation, a description of the consequences of default, sample repayment schedules, information about borrower's rights and responsibilities, as well as other terms and conditions.

Upcoming graduates, students who officially withdraw, or students who cease to attend at least half-time will be required to complete the exit counseling session. Students who leave school without attending an exit counseling session will receive an exit counseling package mailed by the campus. Exit counseling addresses topics such as the requirement to repay the loan, repayment plans, updating contact and demographic information, the consequences of default. Please see The Financial Aid Loan Exit Counseling section for additional information. If instructed by the Financial Aid Department to complete online Entrance or Exit Loan Counseling, please visit the following links:

Entrance Counseling Session: <https://studentaid.gov>

Exit Counseling Session: <https://studentaid.gov>

Follow the instructions carefully, complete all sections, and provide the completed counseling confirmation in person or email to the Financial Aid department.

### **Financial Aid Loan Entrance Counseling**

The following information will be included in the Loan Entrance Counseling that is available online at <http://Studentaid.gov>. First-time student borrowers will be directed to complete entrance counseling prior to the first disbursement of loan funds.

- Explanation and use of the Master Promissory Note (MPN).
- Effect of accepting the loan on eligibility for other aid.
- Seriousness and importance of the repayment obligation.
- Option of paying interest on Unsubsidized and Undergraduate PLUS loans while in school.
- Interest accrual process and interest capitalization when a borrower elects not to pay interest or if the interest is not paid by the U.S. Department of Education.
- Definition of half-time enrollment.
- Consequences of not maintaining at least half-time enrollment.
- Importance of contacting the appropriate office at the school if the student plans to withdraw before completing the academic program to allow the school to provide exit counseling to the borrower.
- Obligation to repay the loans even if: the borrower does not complete the program or does not complete the program within the regular time for completion, is unable to find employment, is dissatisfied with the school/program, or does not receive the services purchased from the school.
- The importance of repayment and the consequences of default, including adverse credit reports, Federal offset, and other Federal delinquent debt collection procedures and litigation.
- Sample monthly repayment amounts based on a range of levels of indebtedness or the average cumulative indebtedness of other loan borrowers within the same academic program as the borrower.
- Information regarding the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) and how a borrower can access and monitor his or her loan records.
- Name and contact information of the person the student can contact questions regarding rights and responsibilities or loan terms and conditions.
- For first-time borrowers, explanation of the limitation on eligibility for Direct Subsidized Loans and possible borrower responsibility for accruing interest, including:
  - the possible loss of eligibility for additional Direct Subsidized Loans;
  - how a borrower's maximum eligibility period, remaining eligibility period, and subsidized usage period are calculated;
  - the possibility that the borrower could become responsible for accruing interest on previously received Direct Subsidized Loans and the portion of a Direct Consolidation Loan that repaid a Direct Subsidized Loan during in-school status, the grace period, authorized periods of deferment, and certain periods under the Income-Based Repayment and Pay as You Earn Repayment plans; and
  - the impact of borrower responsibility for accruing interest in the borrower's total debt.

### **Financial Aid Loan Exit Counseling**

Students are required to attend a financial aid loan exit counseling session prior to graduating or shortly before ceasing enrollment of at least half-time study. Students who seek withdrawal from the school should see the Financial Aid department to obtain exit counseling. Several topics presented at the entrance counseling session are again presented at the exit counseling. Exit counseling is required for all graduated, withdrawn, or dismissed students prior to exiting the institution as well when a student ceases to attend at least half-time. If a student leaves school or chooses to postpone their education, the student should meet with the Financial Aid department to understand the financial impact of this decision and to attend loan exit counseling. Exit counseling includes the following information:

- Explanation of all repayment plans available.
- Comparison of each type of repayment plan, including average projected monthly payments and the difference in interest and total payments.
- Explanation of the terms and conditions to obtain full or partial loan forgiveness or discharge.
- Explanation of the terms and conditions under which a borrower may obtain a deferment or forbearance.
- Debt management strategies to assist the student in successful loan repayment.
- Information regarding the average anticipated monthly repayment amount based on the student loan borrower's actual indebtedness or the average indebtedness of student borrowers in the same academic program receiving the same types of loans.
- A review of the Master Promissory Note (MPN) and the student's obligation to repay the loan.
- Explanation of the student's responsibility to repay the loan even if the student did not complete the program, did not complete the program within the regular completion time for that program, is unable to obtain employment, or is dissatisfied with the education received.
- Explanation regarding the consequences of default, including adverse credit reports, Federal offset, other Federal delinquent debt collection procedures and litigation under Federal law.
- Effects of loan consolidation, including the effect on total interest and fees to be paid, length of the repayment term, effect on borrower benefits on underlying loans (grace periods, deferment, loan forgiveness, and loan discharge), option to prepay or change repayment plans, and how borrower benefits may differ between lenders.
- Explanation of the tax benefits available to the student.
- Information concerning the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) and how the student can use NSLDS to access his or her records.
- Information regarding the services offered by the student loan Ombudsman's Office.
- Information containing:
  - descriptions of federal student assistance programs,
  - the rights and responsibilities of student and institutional participants,
  - ways in which students and prospective students can assess the debt burden and monthly and total e-payment obligations for their loans.
- For first-time borrowers, explanations of
  - how a borrower's maximum eligibility period, remaining eligibility period, and subsidized usage period are calculated;
  - the sum of the borrower's subsidized usage periods at the time of exit counseling;
  - the consequences of continued borrowing or enrollment including:
    - the possible loss of eligibility for additional Direct Subsidized Loans and
    - the possibility that the borrower could become responsible for accruing interest on previously received Direct Subsidized Loans and the portion of a Direct Consolidation Loan that repaid a Direct Subsidized Loan during in-school status, the grace period, authorized periods of deferment, and certain periods under the Income-Based Repayment and Pay as You Earn Repayment plans;
  - the impact of borrower becoming responsible for accruing interest on total student debt; and
  - the Department of Education will notify the student borrower whether s/he is responsible for accruing interest on his or her Direct Subsidized Loans.

The Financial Aid Department is responsible to collect the following information as part of the exit counseling and provide the information to the U.S. Secretary of Education within 60 days of receipt:

- Name
- Address
- Social Security Number
- References
- Driver's License Number and State issued
- Expected Permanent Address
- Name and Address of Next-of-Kin
- Name and Address of Known or Expected Employer

### **Loan Deferments for Borrowers**

Student loan borrowers should contact the Financial Aid Department for the terms and conditions under which they may obtain a deferment for repaying student loan debt.

### **Loan Deferments for Certain Individuals**

Loan deferment terms and conditions are further defined for those serving in the Peace Corps; under the Domestic Volunteer Service Act; and as a volunteer for a tax-exempt organization of demonstrated effectiveness in the field of community service. These individuals should visit the Financial Aid department for additional information.

### **Loan Repayment Obligation and Repayment Options**

BAC employs an on-site Default Prevention Coordinator to work with any student that has received student loans, both federal and institutional, to provide a partnership/liaison to assist in the coordination of initiating communication between the student and lender/servicer and to prevent delinquency and/or default.

Students who receive Federal student loans sign a Master Promissory Note (MPN) which states the student is obligated to repay the student loan funds regardless of the student's graduation, withdrawal from school, or inability to obtain employment. The Federal Direct Loan program offers students many different repayment options. Students are responsible for selecting the appropriate payment plan to suit their needs. The school's Default Prevention Coordinator is available to review the different repayment options. If at any time a student becomes delinquent on a loan, it is the student's responsibility to contact the school or lender to determine what options are available to the student.

### **Financial Responsibility**

Students who obtain loans for their program of instruction are responsible for full repayment of these loans plus any accrued interest less the amount of any refund. Students must repay loans even if they do not complete their educational programs or are unable or choose not to get jobs after graduation. Students who fail to repay a loan will be considered in default. The federal and state government or a loan guarantee agency may act against such a student, including applying any income tax refund to which the person is entitled to reduce the balance owned on the loan. The student may not be eligible for any other federal student financial aid at another institution or government assistance until the loan is repaid. Students receiving federal financial aid may be entitled to a refund of funds not paid from federal financial aid funds.

### **Delinquency & Default**

Students who experience a financial hardship and/or have difficulty making their monthly student loan payments are advised to contact the Direct Loan Servicing Center immediately to discuss their financial situation, other repayment options and determine eligibility for loan deferment or forbearance. Payments received after the due date will be considered delinquent. Default occurs when delinquent payments are not received for 270 days. Students who default on a federal student loan are not eligible for additional federal financial aid, the entire unpaid amount is due immediately, and the

default(s) are reported to the national credit agencies; additional repercussions could occur. Students are encouraged to contact their Loan Servicer to work to resolve the default status.

## **National Student Loan Data System**

National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) is the U. S. Department of Education’s central database for Federal Student Aid. Student financial aid information is submitted to the NSLDS from schools, guaranty agencies, the Direct Loan program, the Pell grant program, and other U.S. Department of Education programs. NSLDS Student Access provides a centralized, integrated view of Federal Student Aid loans and grants so that recipients of funds from these programs can access and inquire about the Federal Student Aid loans and/or grant data. Once a student’s data is reported to NSLDS, this site and all the student’s information contained within is accessible to Financial Aid Staff, and guaranty agencies. In addition, students may access their own financial aid information by visiting this site. All users must sign-in and be an authorized user. To access the site, visit [www.nsls.ed.gov](http://www.nsls.ed.gov)

## **Disbursement of Financial Aid**

### **Programs Not Using Standard Academic Terms (“Non-Term” or “Clock-Hour”)**

Disbursement of aid varies depending on the type of assistance.

Financial aid is awarded based on an academic year as defined on a program-by-program basis at BAC. An academic year is defined as a minimum of 24 credits or 900 hours, as measured based on the federal credit hour calculation and a minimum of 27 weeks in length. A payment period is one half of an academic year (12 credits minimum or 450 hours) or one half of the program length if the program is less than 24 credits or 900 hours.

Providing all other eligibility requirements are met, qualifying students will have a portion of the Federal Pell grant and the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant credited to their accounts twice during the academic year. The accounts are credited at the beginning and at the mid-point of the academic year as measured in credit or clock hours earned and weeks of instructional time completed to satisfy the student’s tuition and fees. Eligible Title IV and other Financial Aid funds will first be used to reduce any tuition and fee obligations charged by the BAC, the student may receive the excess amount of Federal Student Aid that creates a credit on the account.

A first-year, first-time borrower’s account will not be credited with Federal Direct loans until the following two conditions have been met:

1. Loan entrance counseling, and
2. 30 days have passed since the first day of class

To receive subsequent disbursements, the student must complete entire payment periods and must be maintaining Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) in accordance with these standards. Repeating courses and Leave of Absences will extend the payment period.

The U.S. Department of Education requires that for all first-time loan borrowers a 30-day delay from the start of their program be put in place. For alternative loans, the credit balance created by the loan is disbursed as the credit balance is created, in accordance with timeline regulations as set forth by the Financial Student Aid (FSA) and Department of Education guidelines.

### **Exceptions to disbursement rules for schools with low default rates**

Per Section 428 G (a)(3) and (b)(1) of the HEA, Direct Loans 34 CFR 685.303 (d)(6) of the FSA Handbook, schools with cohort default rates of less than 15 percent for each of the three most recent fiscal years for which data are available, including eligible foreign schools, may disburse, in a single installment, loans that are made for one semester, one trimester, one

quarter, of a four-month period. Such schools also are not required to delay the delivery or disbursement of a first disbursement of a loan for 30 days for first-time, first-year undergraduate borrowers.

## **FSA Credit Balance**

A Title IV Federal Financial Aid credit balance occurs whenever the amount of Title IV funds credited to a student's account for a payment period exceeds the amount assessed the student for allowable charges associated with that payment period. If FSA disbursements to the student's account at the school create an FSA credit balance, BAC will pay the credit balance directly to the student or parent as soon as possible but no later than 14 days after:

- the first day of class of a payment period if the credit balance occurred on or before the first day of class of that payment period;
- the balance occurred if the credit balance occurred after the first day of class of a payment period.

The law requires that any excess PLUS Loan funds be returned to the parent. Therefore, if PLUS Loan funds create a credit balance, the credit balance would have to be given to the parent. However, the parent may authorize BAC (in writing or through StudentLoans.gov) to transfer the proceeds of a PLUS Loan credit balance directly to the student for whom the loan is made. The U.S. Department of Education does not specify how a school must determine which FSA funds create an FSA credit balance.

## **Paying FSA Credit Balances**

Refunds, when due, are made without requiring a request from the student. A school may pay a credit balance by issuing a check payable to and requiring the endorsement of the student or parent. A school is considered to have issued the check on the date that it:

- mails the check to the student or parent; or
- notifies the student that the check is available for immediate pickup and provides the specific location.

A school that is paying a student his or her credit balance with a direct disbursement must pay the student within the 14-day time frame. A school can, within that 14-day period, do many things, including sending a notice to the student that his or her money is available. A school that does that is considered to have met the 14-day requirement to give the student his or her credit balance, if the school's process complies with the rest of the regulation. That is, the school must be able to give the student a check when the student comes to the Business Office within the 14-day time frame.

If a student is told (within the 14-day period) to come to the Business Office to pick up his or her credit balance, the student must be able to leave the business office with the funds in some form (e.g., a check, cash, or an appropriate stored-value card), and not be told that a check will be mailed to him or her.

A school may hold the check for up to 21 days after the date it notifies the student. If the student does not pick up the check within this 21-day period, the institution will mail the check to the student or parent, to the address on file, or return the funds to the appropriate FSA program.

The college will cease all attempts to disburse the funds and return them no later than 240 days after the date it issued the first check. All unclaimed credit balances will be returned to the appropriate FSA program.

The Title IV and Cal Grant Student Authorization Form, which authorization a student is giving BAC as it relates to excess funds, is provided to students by the Financial Aid Department. Students and parents (of a dependent student applying for PLUS loans) review the form, select the appropriate authorization categories, and provide the signed form to the Financial Aid Department. For continuing students who previously signed this statement, the initial authorization will continue to be

valid for subsequent award years or enrollment periods. The authorization categories available for student/parent selection are as follows:

- Based on student's authorization, the school will retain any existing credit balance on the account to be applied to allowable future charges to assist students in managing those funds or to be disbursed at their request.
- If funds are not requested prior to leaving the school, the student or parent can authorize the school to return the credit balance to the lender as prepayment of the student loan.
- The school will retain interest earned on the credit balance while the funds remain on the account.
- A student or parent may modify their authorization at any time by visiting the financial aid office and completing a new form.

## **Withholding Aid**

BAC reserves the right to withhold aid from any student, at any time, which has:

1. not met the eligibility requirements or resolved the conflicts in information as it pertains to their financial aid awards;
2. not completed mandatory entrance counseling and signed the MPN/Plus MPN
3. not performed satisfactorily at the published minimal academic standards, or, due to an attendance pattern, appears to abuse the financial assistance programs. For example, financial aid could be withheld from any student who, withdraws from two consecutive programs, or who has previously attended two or more institutions and who has not progressed satisfactorily, or, who does not appear to be pursuing degree/diploma/certificate completion, etc.

## **State, Local Aid and School Aid Programs**

BAC is approved to work with other agencies such as:

- Veterans Administration Benefits (VA)
- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
- Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts (MyCAA)
- California Student Aid Commission – Cal Grant

Students should visit the financial aid department to obtain additional information regarding eligibility criteria.

### **State Aid**

State Aid is distributed to students who meet the eligibility criteria as described in the specific state aid program requirements. Students should visit the financial aid department for additional information on available state aid programs.

### **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Benefits**

As an institution that has agreed to comply with the Principles of Excellence for Educational Institutions Serving Service Members, Veterans, Spouses, and Other Family Members, Blake Austin College is honored to work with our Veterans and their families. Veterans' educational benefits may extend to students enrolled in BAC. More information may be obtained from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs office that has possession of applicant's records. In all cases the Financial Aid Department is responsible for certifying the registration of veterans.

Students who may qualify for veterans' education benefits should notify their Blake Austin College admissions representative and meet with the BAC's Veterans Certifying Official regarding eligibility as far in advance of their scheduled class start date as possible.

When assisting veterans with possible financial options available to them, the following documentation will be required by the financial aid department to provide accurate financial packaging information:



- Veterans and all eligible military must submit all transcripts from colleges, universities, or other training institutions for consideration of possible transfer credit within 30 days of the first date of their program (required by the U.S. Department of Veteran’s Affairs). Note: Transcripts can be unofficial for review, however BAC reserves the right to request official transcripts for any credit that are authorized for transfer credit(s).
- Certificate of Eligibility
- DD214 (if the student is the veteran)

The following forms will be provided to the veteran by the Financial Aid department, prior to enrollment:

- Student Bill of Rights
- Educational and Training program (MyCAA)
- Shopping Sheet

All veterans interested in attending a BAC program are encouraged to complete the FAFSA, so that the financial aid staff can discuss all available options of federal funding, both direct loans and grants, that the veteran may be eligible for. Federal Title IV options will be presented prior to discussion of an institutional payment plan, only after all favorable choices for the veteran have been exhausted.

GI Bill® and VR&E beneficiaries (Chapter 33 and Chapter 31 beneficiaries) may attend a course of education or training for up to 90 days from the date the beneficiary provides a certificate of eligibility, or valid VAF 28-1905. This allows a student to attend the course until VA provides payment to the institution. BAC will not impose a penalty, or require the beneficiary to borrow additional funds to cover tuition and fees due to late payments from VA. Please see the Financial Aid department for additional information.

The VA awarding cycle is August 1<sup>st</sup> – July 31<sup>st</sup> of each calendar year.

In addition to meeting Blake Austin College’s standard of academic progress requirements, students receiving veteran’s education benefits must also meet Veterans Administration standards of academic progress requirements. Failure to do so may result in loss of benefit eligibility until deficiencies are corrected. Students receiving VA benefits should see Additional Standards of Academic Progress Information for students receiving Veterans Education Benefits. Questions regarding these requirements should be directed to the college’s veterans certifying official.

BAC limits student enrollment to 85% veteran enrollment per program of study in accordance with U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. If a veteran is interested in enrolling in a program that already reached the 85% cap, s/he may do that but will not be eligible for VA funding. Chapter 35 students may still enroll even if the 85% has been realized.

## **Educational Benefits available to Veterans through Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense**

If you served on Active Duty, you might be eligible for education benefits offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs. For example, the Post-9/11 GI Bill® provides financial support for educational and housing expenses to individuals with at least 90 days of aggregate service after September 10, 2001, or individuals discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days. You must have received an honorable discharge to be eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill®.

If you are currently serving in the military, you be eligible for funding offered through the Department of Defense Tuition Assistance program. You can check your eligibility status and the amount for which you qualify for your Service prior to enrolling.

If you are the spouse of a child of a service member who is serving on active-duty Title 10 orders in the paygrades of E1-E5, O1-O2, or W1-W2, you may be eligible for financial assistance from the Department of Defense for education, training and/or the occupational license and credentials necessary for a portable career.

If you are the spouse of the child of a service member, you may be eligible for transfer of the service member's Post-9/11 GI Bill® benefits to you.

In accordance with Title 38 US Code 3679 subsection (e), this school adopts the following additional provisions for any students using U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Post 9/11 GI Bill® (Ch. 33) or Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Ch. 31) benefits, while payment to the institution is pending from VA. This school will not:

- Prevent a students' enrollment;
- Assess a late penalty fee to;
- Require student to secure alternative or additional funding;
- Deny their access to any resources (access to classes, libraries, or other institutional facilities) available to other students who have satisfied their tuition and fee bills to the institution.

However, to qualify for this provision, such students may be required to:

- Produce the Certificate of Eligibility by the first day of class;
- Provide written request to be certified;
- Provide additional information needed to properly certify the enrollment as described in other institutional policies

### **GI Bill®**

Benefits may be awarded for pursuit of associate, bachelor, or graduate degrees from colleges and universities as well as courses leading to a certificate or diploma from a technical or vocational school.

GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the official U.S. government website, <https://www.va.gov/service-member-benefits/>

### **MONTGOMERY GI Bill ® (Chapter 30)**

This program offers educational benefits for students with a high school diploma, GED, or 12-hours of college credit, entered active duty for the first time after June 30, 1985, and had military pay reduced by \$100 a month for the first 12 months of service, and meeting other criteria as determined by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This benefit pays a monthly stipend based on enrollment status while the student attends school.

### **SELECTED Reserve (Chapter 1606)**

This program offers educational benefits for reservists in the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard. This benefit pays a monthly stipend based on enrollment status while the student attends school.

### **DEPENDENT'S Education Assistance (Chapter 35)**

This program offers educational benefits for spouses and children of veterans who have died or are permanently and totally disabled. This benefit pays a monthly stipend based on enrollment status while the student attends school.

### **POST-9/11 (Chapter 33)**

This program offers educational benefits for active duty, veterans, and their family members who served after September 10, 2001. Based on the student's percentage of eligibility, this benefit pays tuition, fees, books, and a Monthly Allowance for Housing while the student attends school. GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the official U.S. government Web site at [www.benefits.va.gov/gibill](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill) Students may also contact the Veterans Affairs Education Office at 1-888-442-4551.

## California Student Aid Commission

The California Student Aid Commission provides financial aid policy analysis and leadership, in partnership with California's colleges, universities, financial institutions and financial aid associates. Qualifying institutions of higher education must fulfill the statutory and regulatory requirements to participate in the Cal Grant Programs. Blake Austin College is a qualified institution to participate in the Cal Grant Programs.

### Cal Grant B

Cal Grant B Program recipients must be pursuing an undergraduate Associate's, or bachelor's degree or occupational training certificate. This Grant is an award offered to low-income students who meet all Cal Grant requirements, demonstrate financial need, and meet the income and asset ceilings established by the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC).

### Cal Grant C

Cal Grant C Program recipients may only be pursuing an occupational training certificate or degree and meet all Cal Grant requirements. Initial Cal Grant C award selection is made from students not selected for Cal Grant B and have stated their degree goal on the FAGSA as "Occupational or Technical."

### CA Chafee Grant

Cal Chafee Grant was established in 2001 by Congress as part of a reauthorization of the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Act. The Act amended the Foster Care Independence Act (FCIA) of 1999 by adding the Chafee Educational and training Voucher (ETV) Program as the sixth purpose of the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP). The Chafee Grant is implemented through an interagency agreement between the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and the Commission.

### General Cal Grant Requirements:

- Be a U.S. citizen/national or eligible noncitizen, or AB 540 eligible
- Have met the U.S. Selective Service requirements
- Not be incarcerated
- Not in default on Title IV federal student loan and not owe a refund of any Title IV or state grant
- Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress
- Be a California Resident
- Not have a bachelor's or professional degree before receiving Cal Grant
- Attend a qualifying institution participating in the Cal Grant programs at least half-time
- Be in a program leading to an undergraduate degree, certificate, or first professional degree

Cal Grant B and Cal Grant C recipients may elect to receive the full disbursement of their "Access or "Book and Supplies" awards to use towards educational expenses or have it applied to outstanding balances on the student's account. By choosing the first option, Cal Grant B and Cal Grant C recipients are responsible to resolve any account balances with their institution. Please see the Financial Aid Department for more information.

Cal Grant application, deadlines, and additional information is provided by the Financial Aid Department. For more information visit California Student Aid Commission at <https://www.csac.ca.gov/cal-grants>.

## Payment Options

### Institutional Payment Plans:

Blake Austin College payment plans will not result in loan proceeds being paid to the borrowers or any outside agency.

All borrowers approved for the following payment options are required to complete/provide:

- Retail Installment contract,

- All state, federal and Fair lending disclosures
- Self-Certification form
- Driver's license or State issued Identification card
- Verification of social security number

Payment plan offers extended to students are an alternative option to assist in the funding of their program. The student is under no obligation to execute a loan payment agreement with Blake Austin College. Students are encouraged to research all other options that would be more beneficial to the student prior to electing to enter into a payment agreement for BAC payment plans. Blake Austin College payment plans are offered only for the difference in the balances remaining after all other federal loans options have been awarded.

Blake Austin College does not participate with any private loan companies. Financial Aid Staff is prohibited from providing information regarding any private loan lender and does not provide a list of preferred lenders to the student.

### **Institutional Loan Program (ILP)**

BAC offers an alternative option to cover the difference between the amount of program costs covered by financial aid and other sources and the cost of the program. Students are eligible to apply for this loan. An application is required that must reflect the ability of the student borrower to repay the loan according to the agreed upon terms. The financial aid staff can provide information regarding the eligibility requirements. A cosigner may be required.

The first payment is due on the first day of class and is paid directly to the college. Your payment plan is serviced by Blake Austin College, however, may be transferred to a third-party servicer at BAC's sole discretion.

Automatic payments should be set up in the Financial Aid department. Monthly payments vary according to down payment, applicable fees, any interest accrued, and the term (number of months) defined in the payment contract. This is a fixed rate loan.

In the event of default on BAC Institutional payment plans, by students no longer in attendance, delinquent balances will be referred to a national credit reporting agency, that will attempt to collect the debt and will result in negative reporting of the account to all three major credit bureaus. Additional fees imposed by the third-party collection company may impact the balance due on the loan. For additional information, please refer to the BAC Default Coordinator.

### **Institutional Scholarships**

In the event of an offer of Institutional scholarship by Blake Austin College, the scholarship cannot be used in conjunction with any tuition reduction programs or create a credit balance on any student's account. In the event a credit balance is created resulting from the scholarship, the scholarship will be reduced to remove the credit balance. Applications for scholarships will be completed during the enrollment process. All scholarship amounts are awarded based on successful completion of the program.

### **Collection of Fees**

The financial aid office confirms that student finances are current at the end of the payment period for federal financial aid.

In the case of an active student being delinquent on their Institutional payment(s), the following may occur (Note: Fair Lending regulations are strictly adhered to regarding any communication involving delinquent debt):

- 1) Phone call
- 2) Email to the student's personal and/or student email
- 3) Request the student report to the business office, sent to their instructor

4) If no payment arrangement has been made within 30 days of the original payment due date or the student does not fulfill the terms of the payment arrangement, the student may be dropped from the program.

## **Student Financial Obligation**

The student is responsible for satisfying all financial obligations to BAC, which may have accrued in the student's account including amounts from prior education and accrued interest. In a situation where the student fails to satisfy current or prior obligations, the student will be dropped from the program.

BAC reserves the right to terminate student's enrollment, withhold certificate of completion, assistance in board applications and/or securing of externships if student fails to meet any past, present and/or future scheduled financial obligations to BAC. BAC shall not be held liable if a student fails to secure any third-party funding source. Students acknowledge their financial obligations are strictly the responsibility of student and/or any cosigner but never BAC. Furthermore, BAC is not responsible for providing students with reminders and/or invoices of upcoming due dates for payments on student's account. Any invoices and/or reminders sent to students by BAC College are sent as a nonobligatory courtesy.

## **Notification of Changes**

You must notify the financial aid department or business office of any changes in your financial status, name, address, social security number, telephone number, or other changes in information originally reported on your financial aid application. You must also notify the financial aid office of any other aid you may be receiving or aid you will receive that you did not include in your financial aid application. Failure to notify the financial aid office of any changes may result in the lowering or canceling and/or immediate repayment of financial aid awards.

## **Misrepresentation & Fraud**

Any student found or suspected to have misreported information and/or altered documentation to increase his/her student aid eligibility or to fraudulently obtain federal funds may face loss of participation in federal financial aid programs for the current academic year and/or the remaining period of enrollment.

BAC will investigate any allegations of misrepresentation. As per federal regulation 668.14(g), a case of fraud will be referred to the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Education, and if appropriate, to the state or local law enforcement agency having jurisdiction to investigate the matter.

Financial Aid Staff administering Title IV programs and funds are obligated to ensure processes are in place to protect against fraud by applicants or staff. The Financial Aid Department has procedures for handling actual or suspected cases of fraud or abuse. Individuals who submit fraudulent information or documentation to obtain financial aid funds will be investigated and all cases of fraud and abuse will be reported to the proper authorities. Regulations require only that the college refer the suspected case for investigation, not that a conclusion be reached about the propriety of the conduct.

## **Procedures for Fraud**

If a Financial Aid Officer suspects or determines intentional misrepresentation of facts, false statements, or altered documents which resulted or could result in the awarding or disbursement of funds for which the student is not eligible, the information shall be reported to the Director of Financial Aid for further review and possible disciplinary action. If the Director of Financial Aid determines or suspects fraud, all information will be forwarded to the Campus President, Chief Executive Officer, the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Education, and/or the local law enforcement agency.

The Financial Aid Office must identify and resolve discrepancies in the information received from different sources with respect to a student's application for Title IV aid. These items include, but are not limited to:

- Student aid applications
- Needs analysis documents e.g., Institutional Student Information Records (ISIRs,) Student Aid Reports (SARs)
- Federal income tax returns
- Documents and information related to a student's citizenship
- School credentials – e.g., high school transcripts
- Documentation of the student's Social Security Number (SSN)
- Compliance with the Selective Service registration requirement
- Other factors related to students' eligibility for Title IV funds

Some forms of financial aid fraud include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Forged signatures on an application, verification documentation or master promissory notes
- Falsified documents - including reporting members that are not part of your household
- False statements of income
- False statements of citizenship
- Use of fictitious names, addresses, SSNs
- False claims of independent status

Cases of fraud will be reported to the Office of Inspector General (OIG):

Inspector General's Hotline: 1-800-MIS-USED <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oig/hotline.html>

Office of Inspector General  
US Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue  
SW Washington, DC 20202-1510

## Refunds

### Institution Refund Policy

For determining the amount of a refund, the date of the student's withdrawal shall be deemed the last date of recorded attendance. If the student has completed more than 60% of the program for which the student was charged, the total cost of the program is considered earned and the student is responsible for any balance owed to the college. If the student has completed 60% or less of the scheduled days (or hours) period of attendance of the program through the last day of attendance. The amount owed equals the daily charge for the program (total institutional charge, minus non-refundable fees, divided by the number of hours in the program), multiplied by the number of hours scheduled to attend, prior to withdrawal. The Business Office will process any refund due to the student and will provide the refund within 30 days. Refunds, when due, are made without requiring a request from the student.

The amount of the refund more than the unpaid balance of the loan shall be first used to repay any student financial aid programs from which the student received benefits, in proportion to the amount of the benefits received, and any remaining amount shall be paid to the student. If the student has received federal student financial aid funds, the student is entitled to a refund of money not paid from federal student financial aid program funds.

### Return to Title IV Funding

Title IV funds are awarded to a student under the assumption that the student will attend school for the entire period for which the assistance is awarded. When a student withdraws or is dropped from the program, after the cancellation period, the student may no longer be eligible for the full amount of Title IV funds that the student was originally scheduled to

receive. If a recipient of Title IV grant or loan funds withdraws from a school after beginning attendance, the amount of Title IV grant or loan assistance earned by the student must be determined.

For the purpose of determining Date of Determination for a refund under this section, a student shall be deemed to have withdrawn from a program of instruction when any of the following occurs:

- failure to abide by the rules and regulations of the institution
- violation of the Student Code of Conduct
- absences more than maximum set forth by the institution
- failure to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)
- failure to meet the terms of a Student Success Plan
- failure to meet financial obligations to the College
- the student has failed to attend class for fourteen (14) consecutive calendar days

The last date of recorded attendance will be used when calculating the refund. The refund of federal Title IV funds must be returned 45 days from the date of determination. For programs beyond the current “payment period,” if a student withdraws prior to the next payment period, all charges collected for the next period will be refunded to Title IV.

If the student has received any Federal Title IV financial aid funds, the school is obligated to do a “Return to Title IV” (R2T4) even if a credit balance has already been issued. At the time of enrollment, the student must indicate via the Title IV and Cal Grant Student Authorization form which authorization a student is giving BAC as it relates to excess funds. The choices include the following:

- Authorizing BAC to retain and apply any credit balance to future charges and send student any credit balance resulting from excessive funding after tuition has been paid in full.
- Authorizing BAC to return all credit balance remaining on students’ account to lender and not authorizing BAC to apply any credit balance to future charges. Furthermore, understanding that this option will make student responsible for any debt to BAC.
- Authorizing BAC to send student all credit balance remaining on their account. Furthermore, understanding that this option will make student responsible for any debt to BAC.

BAC is required to complete an R2T4 calculation even if a credit balance was already issued. If a balance due results from the R2T4 calculation, the student will be responsible for the unpaid balance. For programs beyond the current payment period, if a student withdraws prior to the next payment period then all charges collected for the next period will be refunded. For more information on refund policies relating to Title IV funding see [https://www.nslds.ed.gov/nslds\\_SA](https://www.nslds.ed.gov/nslds_SA)

This calculation concerning federal financial aid is separate and distinct from the Institution Refund Policy and may result in the student owing additional funds to the Institution to cover tuition and fee charges previously paid by federal financial aid, prior to the student withdrawal. If a student plans to withdraw, the student should notify the Institution. After notification of the student withdrawal from the Academic department, the financial aid department will contact the student to schedule an appointment to complete the exit counseling and review the amount of funds that must be returned on the student's behalf (if applicable) and/or any balance owed. The financial aid department will work with the students to develop a repayment plan for any balance owed to the college.

If the amount disbursed to the student is greater than the amount the student earned, the unearned funds must be returned. If the amount disbursed to the student is less than the amount the student earned, and for which the student is otherwise eligible, s/he is eligible to receive a post withdrawal disbursement of the earned aid that was not received. BAC adheres to the required 30-day notification of eligibility for a post withdrawal disbursement and will request written authorization from the student and /or parent (PLUS) within that timeframe. Once BAC has received confirmation form a

student, or parent in case of a Direct PLUS Loan, that he or she wants to receive the post-withdrawal disbursement of Title IV loan proceeds as soon as possible but no later than 180 days after the date of determination.

The school is required to determine the earned and unearned portions of Title IV aid as of the date the student ceased attendance based on the amount of time the student spent in attendance or, in the case of a clock-hour program, was scheduled to be in attendance.

- Up through the 60% point in each payment period or period of enrollment, a pro rata schedule is used to determine the amount of Title IV funds the student has earned at the time of withdrawal.
- After the 60% point in the payment period or period of enrollment, a student has earned 100% of the Title IV funds s/he was scheduled to receive during the period.
- For a student who withdraws after the 60% point-in-time, there are no unearned funds. However, a school must still determine whether the student is eligible for a post-withdrawal disbursement (PWD).
- The student may be required to return a portion of the funds as well.
- When funds are returned it may result in a tuition balance owed by the student.
- Non-refundable fees include and may not be limited to:
  - Registration fee of \$100.00
  - Student Tuition Recovery Fund (STRF) fee – varies by program

Hypothetical refund example: Assume that a student, upon enrollment in a 400-hour course, paid \$4,600.00 for tuition and \$300.00, documented cost to school, for equipment as specified in the enrollment agreement and withdraws after completing 100 hours without returning the equipment s/he obtained. The pro-rated refund to the student would be \$3,450 based on:

\$4,900	Minus	\$300 documented cost of the amount of unreturned equipment)	= \$4,600 total refundable
\$4,600	Divided by	400 hours in the course	= \$11.50 hourly charge for the course
\$11.50	Multiplied	100 hours of instruction scheduled to attend	= \$1150.00 owed by the student for instruction received

Refunds are then allocated in the following order:

1. Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans
2. Federal Direct Subsidized Loans
3. Federal Direct PLUS loans
4. Federal Pell Grant
5. Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant
6. State Grants, and/or Private or Other Institutional Aid

If a student received excess funds that must be returned, the institution must return a portion of the funds. If the institution is not required to return all the excess funds, the student must return the remaining. Any loan funds that are required to be returned must be repaid in accordance with the terms of the promissory note. That is, the student or Parent (PLUS) will make scheduled payments to the holder of the loan over a period.

If the student used personal funds to pay the difference between program cost and financial aid received, and all financial aid sources have been refunded in full, any remaining refund will be given to the student. The refund will be disbursed to the student within 45 days.



## Over-awards and Overpayments

An over-award or overpayment may occur when:

- You receive other aid that was not considered when making your award, and this other aid caused your aid package to exceed your financial need; or
- You made an error in reporting information on your financial aid application; or
- The school made an error in calculating your need in your award.

If after making necessary corrections or award adjustments, the over award cannot be sufficiently corrected, the student will be responsible for repaying the over-award or overpayment. Failure to repay an overpayment or over-award can result in ineligibility for financial aid in the future and can result in a hold on student school records. Contact the financial aid department for detailed information concerning over-awards and overpayments.

## Cancellations, Withdrawals, and Drops

### Students Right to Cancel

- A student has the right to cancel his or her enrollment agreement and obtain a refund of charges paid through attendance at the first-class session, or the seventh day after enrollment, whichever is later.
- Cancellation may occur when the student gives written notice of cancellation at either of the following addresses by mail, email or hand delivery.

Blake Austin College  
770 Mason Street, Suite 200  
Vacaville, CA 95688

- The written notice of cancellation, if sent by mail, is effective when deposited in the mail (postmarked), properly addressed with postage paid.
- The written notice of cancellation need not take any particular form, however, must express that the student no longer wishes to be bound by the Enrollment Agreement.
- If the Enrollment Agreement is cancelled the school shall refund the student any charges paid within 45 days after the notice of cancellation is received, less a registration fee not to exceed \$100.00. NOTE: Per VA regulations, the non-refundable registration fee cannot exceed \$10.00 for any student funded through VA.
- Any equipment or other materials provided to the student within the first seven (7) calendar days is the financial responsibility of the student. Students will receive all required resources to accomplish the objectives of the first seven calendar days of their program. Remaining resources will be distributed after the 7<sup>th</sup> calendar day.
- Subject to certain limitations, payments made by the student will be refunded within 45 days following receipt of the notice of cancellation.
- If fees are collected in advance of the start date of a program and BAC cancels the class, 100% of the tuition and fees collected will be refunded within 45 days of the notice of the class cancellation.

### Institution Right to Cancel

- The Institution has the right to cancel the student's enrollment agreement for the program of instruction if the student does not attend after the 7<sup>th</sup> calendar day of enrollment.
- The Institution has the right to cancel the student's enrollment agreement for the program of instruction if the student does not meet the additional programmatic enrollment requirements by the 7<sup>th</sup> calendar day of enrollment.

### **Withdrawal after Cancellation Period (Student Initiated)**

A student may withdraw from the college at any time after the cancellation period and receive a pro-rata refund of program costs if s/he has completed 60% or less of the scheduled days (or hours) period of attendance of the program through the last day of attendance. If the student has completed more than 60% of the program for which the student was charged, the total cost of the program is considered earned and the student is responsible for any balance owed to the college. The student's financial aid will be processed according to BAC's Institutional and Return to Title IV policies.

Students must complete the following to officially withdraw:

- The student must notify the institution in writing of their intent to withdraw.
- The institution will make a reasonable effort to assist students continuing their education.
- The Academic Department will process the student's status change form, which includes the student's last day of attendance, and will be signed by the student (for in-person withdrawals).
- The student should meet with the Financial Aid Department. The Financial Aid Department can answer questions regarding financial obligations due to the institution and student loan repayment responsibilities.
- If the Financial Aid department is unable to reach the student to schedule an appointment to complete the exit counseling, the financial aid department will send notification to the student via mail of:
  - Financial Summary
    - Refund amount (if applicable)
    - Charges due the school (if applicable)
    - Dates Attended
  - Exit Information
    - Federal Title IV loan amounts and Loan Servicer Contact information
    - Online website to complete Exit Counseling

### **BAC Initiated DROP**

If the institution has determined to drop a student from his or her program after the cancellation period, the following steps will occur:

- The student will be notified either in person or in writing of the rationale for drop.
  - A letter will be provided to the student as verification of the drop
- The institution will make a reasonable effort to assist students continuing their education.
- The Academic Department will process the student's status change form, which will include the student's last day of attendance.
- The student should meet with the Financial Aid Department. The Financial Aid Department can answer questions regarding financial obligations due to the institution and student loan repayment responsibilities.
- If the Financial Aid department is unable to reach the student to schedule an appointment to complete the exit counseling, the financial aid department will send notification to the student via mail of:
  - Financial Summary
    - Refund amount (if applicable)
    - Charges due the school (if applicable)
    - Dates Attended
  - Exit Information
    - Federal Title IV loan amounts and Loan Servicer Contact information
    - Online website to complete Exit Counseling

When a student is dropped from his or her program, the student is eligible to receive a pro-rata refund of program costs if s/he has completed 60% or less of the scheduled days (or hours) period of attendance of the program through the last day of attendance. If the student has completed more than 60% of the program for which the student was charged, the total

cost of the program is considered earned and the student is responsible for any balance owed to the college. The student's financial aid will be processed according to BAC's Institutional and Return to Title IV policies.

The institution may drop a student from their program for the following reasons:

- Failure to abide by the rules and regulations of the institution
- Violation of the Student Code of Conduct
- Absences exceeding the maximum set forth by the institution
- Failure to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)
- Failure to meet the terms of a Student Success Plan
- Failure to meet financial obligations to the School
- The student has failed to attend class for fourteen (14) consecutive Calendar days

## SCHEDULE OF FEES

Program Name	Hours	Weeks	Total Cost of Program*
Clinical Medical Assistant with Phlebotomy	920	46	\$20,193
Vocational Nursing	1620	50	\$37,035

\*Tuition, books, supplies, technology fee, and lab materials are included in Total Cost. Total cost/charges for the period of attendance and an estimated schedule of total charges for the entire educational program are the same dollar amount.

Registration Fee: \$100.00, not included in the Total Cost of Program.

Student Tuition Recovery Fund, STRF, fee: Institution shall collect an assessment of two dollars and fifty cents (\$2.50) per one thousand dollars (\$1000.00) of institutional charges, rounded to the nearest thousand dollars, from each student in an educational program who is a California resident or is enrolled in a residency program. STRF is assessed at time of enrollment and is not included in the Total Cost of Program.

Registration Fee and STRF fee are non-refundable

### Additional/Miscellaneous Fees

Checks returned for insufficient funds - \$25

Late Payment Fee - \$5

Institutional Loan Processing Fee - \$375

Interest – varies, provided by the Financial Aid Department

Official Transcript Fee – \$15

VN Course Repeat Fee - \$2400

### Tuition and Fees

Tuition and fees are due and payable on the first day of class. Payments are accepted by cash, check, money order or credit card. For those students using financial aid, payments are due when the aid is received at the College. For those students not using any outside funding options, the College will accept cash payments based on the length of the program not to exceed four months of advance payment of tuition at a time. When 50% of the program has been completed the College

may require full payment. Students who do not make payment arrangements or fail to make their scheduled payments, may be subject to any of the following:

- Suspension,
- Termination, and/or
- Turned over to collections

The student is responsible for all contracted tuition, registration, and fees before final paperwork is released unless the student has a signed installment contract for tuition payments that extend beyond graduation.

### **Student Tuition Recovery Fund (STRF)**

The State of California established the Student Tuition Recovery Fund (STRF) to relieve or mitigate economic loss suffered by a student in an educational program at a qualifying institution, who is or was a California resident while enrolled, or was enrolled in a residency program, if the student enrolled in the institution, prepaid tuition, and suffered an economic loss. Unless relieved of the obligation to do so, you must pay the state-imposed assessment for the STRF, or it must be paid on your behalf, if you are a student in an educational program, who is a California resident, or are enrolled in a residency program, and prepay all or part of your tuition.

You are not eligible for protection from the STRF and you are not required to pay the STRF assessment, if you are not a California resident, or are not enrolled in a residency program.

It is important that you keep copies of your enrollment agreement, financial aid documents, receipts, or any other information that documents the amount you paid to the school. Questions regarding the STRF may be directed to the:

Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education  
1747 North Market, Suite 225  
Sacramento, CA 95834  
(916) 574-8900 or (888) 370-7589

To be eligible for STRF, you must be a California resident or are enrolled in a residency program, prepaid tuition, paid or deemed to have paid the STRF assessment, and suffered an economic loss as a result of any of the following:

- The institution, a location of the institution, or an educational program offered by the institution was closed or discontinued, and you did not choose to participate in a teach-out plan approved by the Bureau or did not complete a chosen teach-out plan approved by the Bureau.
- You were enrolled at an institution or a location of the institution within the 120 days period before the closure of the institution or location of the institution or were enrolled in an educational program within the 120 days period before the program was discontinued.
- You were enrolled at an institution or a location of the institution more than 120 days before the closure of the institution as to which the Bureau determined there was a significant decline in the quality or value of the program more than 120 days before closure.
- The institution has been ordered to pay a refund by the Bureau but has failed to do so.
- The institution has failed to pay or reimburse loan proceeds under a federal student loan program as required by the law or has failed to pay or reimburse proceeds received by the institution in excess of tuition and other costs.
- You have been awarded restitution, a refund, or other monetary award by an arbitrator or court, based on a violation of this chapter by an institution or representative of an institution, but have been unable to collect the award from the institution.
- You sought legal counsel that resulted in the cancellation of one or more of your student loans and have an invoice for services rendered and evidence of the cancellation of the student loan or loans.

To qualify for STRF reimbursement, the application must be received within four (4) years from the date of the action or event that made the student eligible for recovery from STRF.

A student whose loan is revived by a loan holder or debt collector after a period of non-collection may, at any time, file a written application for recovery from STRF for the debt that would have otherwise been eligible for recovery. If it has been more than four (4) years since the action or event that made the student eligible, the student must have filed a written application for recovery within the original four (4) year period, unless the period has been extended by another act of law.

However, no claim can be paid to any student without a social security number or a taxpayer identification number.

## REGULATIONS

### Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords eligible students certain rights with respect to their education records. (An “eligible student” under FERPA is a student who is 18 years of age or older or who attends a postsecondary institution at any age.) These rights include:

- The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days after the day the Blake Austin College (BAC) receives a request for access. A student should submit to the registrar a written request that identifies the record(s) the student wishes to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. If the records are not maintained by the school official to whom the request was submitted, that official shall advise the student of the correct official to whom the request should be addressed.
- The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the student believes is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA.

A student who wishes to ask BAC to amend a record should write to the Director of Academics, clearly identify the part of the record the student wants changed and specify why it should be changed.

If BAC decides not to amend the record as requested, BAC will notify the student in writing of the decision and the student's right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the student when notified of the right to a hearing.

- The right to provide written consent before BAC discloses personally identifiable information (PII) from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

BAC discloses education records without a student's prior written consent under the FERPA exception for disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official typically includes a person employed by the BAC in an administrative, supervisory, academic, or support staff; a person serving on the board of trustees; or a student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee. A school official also may include a volunteer or contractor outside of the BAC who performs an institutional service of function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, auditor, or collection agent or a student volunteering to assist another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official typically has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibilities for the BAC.

Disclosure of education records to another school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll must be initiated by the student.

- The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the BAC to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202

FERPA permits the disclosure of PII from students' education records, without consent of the student, if the disclosure meets certain conditions found in § 99.31 of the FERPA regulations. Except for disclosures to school officials, disclosures related to some judicial orders or lawfully issued subpoenas, disclosures of directory information, and disclosures to the student, § 99.32 of FERPA regulations requires the institution to record the disclosure. Eligible students have a right to inspect and review the record of disclosures. A postsecondary institution may disclose PII from the education records without obtaining prior written consent of the student

- School officials with legitimate educational interest;
- Other schools to which a student seeks or intends to enroll or is already enrolled;
- Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;
- Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;
- Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;
- Accrediting organizations;
- To parents of an eligible student if the student is a dependent for IRS tax purposes;
- To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;
- Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies;
- Information the school has designated as "directory information";
- To a victim of an alleged perpetrator of a crime of violence or a non-forcible sex offense;
- To the public, the final results of a disciplinary proceeding; and
- State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law.

Schools may disclose, without consent, "directory" information such as a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, honors and awards, and dates of attendance. Each year the institution must provide to all enrolled students the availability of FERPA notification.

## **Harassment and Nondiscrimination Policy**

Blake Austin College (BAC) is an equal opportunity institution. BAC is committed to providing an educational environment free of harassment, discrimination, retaliation and disrespectful or other unprofessional conduct based on sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding or related medical conditions), race, religion (including religious dress and grooming practices), color, gender (including gender identity and gender expression), national origin (including language use restrictions and possession of a driver's license issued under Vehicle Code section 12801.9), ancestry, physical or mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, registered domestic partner status, age, sexual orientation, military and veteran status or any other basis protected by federal, state or local law or ordinance or regulation. It also prohibits discrimination, harassment, disrespectful or unprofessional conduct based on the perception that anyone has any of those characteristics or is associated with a person who has or is perceived as having any of those characteristics.

In addition, BAC prohibits retaliation against individuals who raise complaints of discrimination or harassment or who participate in workplace investigations.

All such conduct violates BAC policy.

## **Harassment Prevention**

BAC's policy prohibiting harassment applies to all persons involved in the operation of BAC. BAC prohibits harassment disrespectful or unprofessional conduct by any employee or student of BAC, including supervisors, managers, co-workers, or students. BAC's anti-harassment policy also applies to vendors, customers, independent contractors, unpaid interns, volunteers, persons providing services pursuant to a contract and other persons with whom you come into contact while working or attending BAC programs.

Prohibited harassment, disrespectful or unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following behavior:

- Verbal conduct such as epithets, derogatory jokes or comments, slurs or unwanted sexual advances, invitations, comments, posts or messages;
- Visual displays such as derogatory and/or sexually-oriented posters, photography, cartoons, drawings or gestures;
- Physical conduct including assault, unwanted touching, intentionally blocking normal movement or interfering with work because of sex, race or any other protected basis;
- Threats and demands to submit to sexual requests or sexual advances as a condition of continued employment, or to avoid some other loss and offers of employment benefits in return for sexual favors;
- Retaliation for reporting or threatening to report harassment; and
- Communication via electronic media of any type that includes any conduct that is prohibited by state and/or federal law or by BAC policy.

Sexual harassment does not need to be motivated by sexual desire to be unlawful or to violate this policy. For example, hostile acts toward an employee because of his/her gender can amount to sexual harassment, regardless of whether the treatment is motivated by sexual desire.

Prohibited harassment is not just sexual harassment, but harassment based on any protected category.

## **Non-Discrimination**

BAC is committed to compliance with all applicable laws providing equal employment opportunities. This commitment applies to all people involved in BAC operations. BAC prohibits unlawful discrimination against any student, job applicant, or by any employee of BAC, including faculty and staff.

## **Anti-Retaliation**

The institution will not retaliate against any individual who makes a report of perceived harassment or discrimination, nor will it permit such behavior by any person at the Institution. Retaliation is a serious violation of the Institution's policy, and those who feel they have been subjected to any acts of retaliation should immediately report such conduct to the Campus Administrator or follow the General Student Complaint Procedure / Grievance Policy in the BAC Catalog.

## **Reasonable Accommodation**

Discrimination can also include failing to reasonably accommodate religious practices or qualified individuals with disabilities where the accommodation does not pose an undue hardship.

To comply with applicable laws ensuring equal opportunities to qualified individuals with a disability, BAC will make reasonable accommodations for the known physical or mental limitations of an otherwise qualified individual with a disability who is a student or an employee, unless undue hardship would result.

BAC will not retaliate against individuals for requesting a reasonable accommodation and will not knowingly tolerate or permit retaliation by management, staff, and faculty.

## Complaint Process

If you believe that you have been the subject of harassment, discrimination, retaliation, or other prohibited conduct, follow the General Student Complaint Procedure/Grievance Policy.

## Title IX Compliance

Blake Austin College is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy educational and work environment in which no member of the College community is, on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity, excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination in any College program or activity. Gender-based and sexual harassment, including sexual violence, are forms of sex discrimination in that they deny or limit an individual's ability to participate in or benefit from College programs or activities.

Each student is provided a Sexual and Gender-Based Harassment Policy upon Orientation. This Policy is designed to ensure a safe and non-discriminatory educational and work environment and to meet legal requirements, including: Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in the College's programs or activities; relevant sections of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in employment; and California laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity. It does not preclude application or enforcement of other College or School policies.

Retaliation against an individual for raising an allegation of sexual or gender-based harassment, for cooperating in an investigation of such a complaint, or for opposing discriminatory practices is prohibited. Submitting a complaint that is not in good faith or providing false or misleading information in any investigation of complaints is also prohibited.

Additional Information can be found at Blake Austin College's website: <https://www.blakeaustincollege.edu/student-services/sexual-assault/>

The College encourages all individuals to report misconduct to:

### **Cheryl Fleming**

Operations Director

Title IX Coordinator

770 Mason Street, Suite 200

Vacaville, CA 95688

(707) 455-0557

[Cheryl@blakeaustincollege.edu](mailto:Cheryl@blakeaustincollege.edu)

Available Monday to Friday: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

## Students with Disabilities

Blake Austin College (BAC) recognizes and supports the standards set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, as amended, and similar state laws, which are designed to eliminate discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities. Disabilities may include physical or mental impairments which substantially limit one or more of a person's major life activities, and which necessitate modifications to the facilities, programs, or services of the College. BAC is committed to making reasonable accommodations for qualifying students, faculty, and employees with disabilities as required by applicable laws. The College cannot make accommodations that are unreasonable, unduly burdensome or that fundamentally alter the nature of the College's programs.

The student must initiate a written statement of the disability and list specific accommodations on the ADA Request for Accommodations Form. The ADA Student Handbook is available on campus at the reception desk or on the Blake Austin College website <http://www.blakeaustincollege.edu/consumer-information>. The College requires appropriately current



documentation of any or all disabilities for which accommodation is requested, provided at the expense of the student requesting accommodation, prior to determining what services and accommodations may be undertaken for students with qualifying disabilities. Documentation of disability furnished by the student and/or developed by the ADA Committee will be kept confidential and will be shared only with College's personnel involved with the coordination and facilitation of services and accommodations, except as is otherwise required by law or a health or safety issue.

Since insufficient information may jeopardize the accommodations process, the College reserves the right to request additional documentation considered necessary to the formulation of a reasonable and appropriate accommodation plan. The cost of obtaining any such additional documentation shall be the responsibility of the student. The College also reserves the right to request an independent evaluation by a professional of its choosing. The cost of obtaining any such independent evaluation shall be borne by the College.

Students should note that documentation supplied voluntarily as part of the process of applying to BAC is not part of the student's permanent record and is not ordinarily made available to the ADA Committee.

While responsibility for the accommodation of students with qualifying disabilities must be assumed and shared by all members of the College, the College has established a process that is designed to facilitate the reasonable accommodation of students with disabilities. An ADA Committee of faculty and staff certifies eligibility for accommodation under the ADA for students presenting documented evidence of qualifying disabilities, and reviews and acts upon all student requests for reasonable accommodations. Further, the ADA Committee, in consultation with appropriate campus personnel, facilitates the implementation of accommodations that have been deemed reasonable and appropriate considering the nature of a student's disability and in consideration of the individual's program requirements. The ADA Committee also serves as a resource to students and faculty on issues of accommodation.

A student may request temporary accommodation for a self-limiting injury through the same process and guidelines outlined above. Though this may not fall within the described ADA or Rehabilitation Act, it is our goal to meet the needs of our students to ensure timely graduation and a positive learning experience.

### **Commitment to Drug-Free Schools**

In compliance with the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 (Public Law 101-690) and the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989 (Public Law 101-226), the Institution provides a Drug-Free Schools and Workplaces disclosure to each student during the admission process. This disclosure gives instruction on how to obtain the descriptions of the legal sanctions under local, state, and federal law for unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illegal drugs and alcohol; health risks associated with the use of illegal drugs and the abuse of alcohol; and a list of any drug and alcohol counseling, treatment, and rehabilitation programs that are available to the students.

Regardless of a student's status as a medical marijuana license holder, the possession and use of marijuana is not allowed on the premises of Blake Austin College or at any college sponsored function. While the use of medical marijuana in conjunction with the possession of a medical marijuana license is legal in California, the law does not limit the ability of the college to establish, continue, or enforce a drug-free school and workplace program or policy. Marijuana is a prohibited controlled substance under federal law, regardless of the use being for medical purposes. Accordingly, the possession and use of marijuana by any individual, notwithstanding the possession of a medical marijuana license, is strictly prohibited while on the premises of BAC, going to and from and attending BAC sponsored functions (either on or off campus), events, and clinicals. If a student is found to have used, possess or to have possessed marijuana in any of the instances stated above, BAC will proceed with all actions and consequences that are afforded under any state or federal law, BAC's drug policy, or any other authority applicable to or adopted by BAC.

In accordance with this goal, the College reserves the right to investigate students suspected of drug or alcohol use upon reasonable cause. Such investigation may require students to submit to a drug or alcohol test. Students must consent to provide blood, saliva, breath, and/or urine samples, upon request by an authorized representative of the College, to determine whether they are under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or other chemical intoxicants. Students must agree to fully cooperate with the College, its representatives, agents, medical review officer (if any), and any representative or agent of a clinic, laboratory, and/or hospital involved in sample collection, testing, evaluation, reporting, and confirmation. Students must further consent to and authorize the release of all information generated by or obtained from the substance test to the College, its agents, representatives, insurers, and appropriate agencies. Refusal to comply with an investigation or a positive test result may be grounds for disciplinary action up to dismissal without ability to re-enter.

Candidates who fail the preadmission drug screening are ineligible for admission, but they may reapply after three months.

In addition, Blake Austin College students may be required to submit to random drug screening based either on reasonable suspicion that the student is in violation of the Code of Conduct, or because of drug screen requirements of our clinical affiliates.

### **Student Health Information and Immunizations**

Students are required to submit immunizations and flu vaccination record. Students will be taught workplace safety practices to limit their risk of injury or illness as part of their curriculum and required to take standard precautions at all times to minimize risk of exposure to communicable diseases such as hepatitis, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS. Students are responsible for all costs associated with health screenings and immunizations.

Certain courses require students to routinely perform diagnostic tests and practice clinical skills on one another, or expose themselves to clients. When such classroom or clinic practices are required as part of the curriculum, students are required to participate in the activities to meet the objectives and ultimately graduating from their program of study.

The Institution does not provide health services for students. In the event of a student medical emergency, an alerted staff member will dial 911 for medical services. Students requiring nonemergency medical care will be given information about medical services or agencies they may contact. Any costs incurred for medical services will be the student's responsibility.

### **Housing**

The Institution does not offer housing facilities and assistance to find housing. The Institution does not have dormitory facilities under its control. The average price of a one-bedroom apartment in Solano County is \$2056.00, per data provided from apartmentlist.com.

### **Campus Safety and Security**

The institution's Annual Campus Security Report is published in compliance with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act ("Clery Act") and the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (VAWA). This report constitutes the Institution's program to inform students and employees about security procedures and practices. It also includes campus crime statistics which are a compilation of the Incident Log and the statistics provided by local law enforcement agencies. The Campus Operations Officer prepares the annual report with the support of the campus community and information obtained from local law enforcement and agencies.

Statistics are reported on the last three calendar years and are published by October 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. A campus is exempt from reporting the statistics, however, if it became Title IV eligible after January 31<sup>st</sup> of the last year to report. BAC does not have any off-campus student organization, housing, or athletic programs.

Should students be witnesses to or victims of a crime, they should immediately report the incident to the local law enforcement agency and to campus administration.

All campuses will still comply with all other Higher Education Act (HEA) safety and security related requirements. You may go to the Department of Education's web site at <http://ope.ed.gov/security> to view other campuses' statistics. On this site, you will also find a glossary of definitions for items described in this policy.

## **Social Media Policy**

The social media sites represented on the Blake Austin College home page (Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, tec.) are produced and maintained by Blake Austin College. Links to content or other internet sites should not be construed as an endorsement of the organizations, entities, views, or content contained therein. Blake Austin College is not responsible for the content of those external web sites.

While Blake Austin College does not regularly review content posted to social media sites, it shall have the right to remove any content for any reason including, but not limited to, content that it deems threatening, profane, obscene, a violation of intellectual property rights or privacy laws, off-topic commercial or promotion of organizations or programs not related to or affiliated with the college, or otherwise injurious or illegal. Users are fully responsible for the content they load on any of Blake Austin College's social media sites.

By submitting content to any of Blake Austin College's social media sites, users understand and acknowledge that this information is available to the public, and that Blake Austin College may use this information for internal and external promotional purposes. Please note that other participants may use posted information beyond the control of Blake Austin College. Users who do not wish to have information they have made available via these sites used published, copied, and/or reprinted, should not post on the social media sites.

## **Constitution Day**

The Assistant Deputy Secretary for Innovation and Improvement took action, pursuant to legislation passed by Congress, educational institutions receiving Federal funding are required to hold an educational program pertaining to the United States Constitution on September 17 of each year. This notice implements this provision as it applies to educational institutions receiving Federal funding from the Department of Education (Department).

For purposes of the Department's implementation of this requirement, "educational institutions" includes but is not limited to "local educational agencies" and "institutions of higher education" receiving Federal funding from the Department. Section 111 applies to all educational institutions receiving Federal funding, not only those receiving Federal funding from the Department. However, the Department's authority only extends to those educational institutions receiving funding from the Department, and consequently the Department can only regulate with regard to those institutions. Section 111 requires that Constitution Day be held on September 17 of each year, commemorating the September 17, 1787, signing of the Constitution. However, when September 17 falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, Constitution Day shall be held during the preceding or following week.

## **Disciplinary Action**

Students who breach school rules or conduct standards are referred to the appropriate academic administrator, who will investigate the facts surrounding the situation. Disciplinary action varies by violation and may be appealed. Please review the Student Code of Conduct and the Grievance/Appeal Procedure.

## **Academic Freedom Policy**

Educational institutions exist to transmit knowledge, to contribute to the development of students, and to advance the general well-being of society. Free inquiry and free expression are indispensable to the attainment of these goals. The faculty at Blake Austin College recognizes the special responsibilities placed on them. To this end, they devote their energy to developing and improving their teaching and professional competence with a commitment to intellectual honesty. In the exchange of criticism and ideas, they show due respect for the opinions of others.

The faculty of Blake Austin College, above all, seeks to be effective teachers and are given flexibility in presenting the subject matter of their course in a manner which will challenge and maintain the interest of the students. In the spirit of academic freedom, they always maintain the right, without fear of retribution or reprisal, to questions and seek changes to improve the quality of education.

## **Complaints, Appeals, Student Rights and Grievance Procedure**

The institution encourages students to bring all complaints or grievance related situations to its attention. Many questions or concerns that students may have can be resolved simply through discussion. A student may present an appeal or grievance through the following resolution procedures. The institution will investigate all appeals, complaints, or grievances fully and properly.

A grievance is defined as a student's written expression of dissatisfaction or an unresolved concern or complaint, concerning conditions of enrollment or treatment by instructors, other students, or institution staff. Grievances may include misapplication of the institution's policies, rules, regulations, procedures, or unfair treatment, such as coercion, reprisal, or intimidation by an instructor or other institution employee.

An appeal is defined as a student's written expression, and evidence, of an unresolved discrepancy or decision. Appeals must be based on problems of process and not on differences in judgment or opinion concerning academic performance.

The burden of proof rests on the student to demonstrate that one or more of the following occurred:

- The decision was made on some basis other than academic performance and other than as a penalty for academic misconduct.
- The decision was based upon standards unreasonably different from those which were applied to other students in the same course and section.
- The decision was based on an unreasonable departure from previously articulated standards.

### **Step 1:**

A student should bring the concern to the attention of the appropriate instructor or staff member to attempt resolution.

### **Step 2:**

If the concern is not resolved with the instructor, or if the concern is related to the instructor, the student should bring the concern to the attention of his or her lead program instructor or Director.

### **Step 3:**

Should the student's concern not be resolved to the student's satisfaction after completing Steps 1 and 2, or if Steps 1 and 2 are otherwise impractical because the concern is related to those individuals, the student should next bring a **written account** of the concern to the Administrative Academic Team.

### **Step 4:**

The Administrative Academic Team will review the written account and determine if there is further action required and provide feedback to the student. If the concern is not resolved to the student's satisfaction the student may request Grievance/Appeal committee review.

### **Step 5:**

The Grievance/Appeal Committee consists of Academic, Student Services, and non-academic representatives. The Committee will convene to review the details of the written concerns. The Committee has the responsibility for reaching a decision that is in balance with the best interests of both the student and the institutional policies. The Committee may request the presence of the student at any time. Minutes will be written and include a resolution. Minutes will be distributed to attendees within 2 working days of the meeting.

**Step 6:**

If the concern is not resolved to the student's satisfaction the student may submit a written account of the actions taken and rationale for why the student does not agree with the resolution within 2 business days of receiving the Committee's decision. The written account must be submitted via email to the Institutional Administrative Team at [AdministrativeTeam@BlakeAustinCollege.edu](mailto:AdministrativeTeam@BlakeAustinCollege.edu). The written account must include factual information concerning conditions of enrollment or treatment by instructors, other students, or BAC staff. Grievances may include misapplication of the institutions policies, rules, regulations, procedures, or unfair treatment such as coercion, reprisal, or intimidation by an instruction or other institutional employee.

**Step 7:**

If the grievance cannot be resolved between the institution and the student directly, the student may contact:

Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education  
1747 North Market, Suite 225  
Sacramento, CA 95834  
[www.bbpe.ca.gov](http://www.bbpe.ca.gov)  
(888) 370-7589 or by fax (916) 263-1897

For Vocational Nursing students may contact:

Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians  
2535 Capitol Oaks Dr., Suite 205  
Sacramento, CA 95833  
(916) 263-7800

**Step 8:**

If the student does not feel that the institution has adequately addressed a complaint or concern, the student may consider contacting the Council on Occupational Education (COE). All complaints reviewed by COE must be in written form and should grant permission for the COE to forward a copy of the complaint to the institution for our response. All communication with COE must include the names and mailing addresses of the person making the complaint.

Council on Occupational Education  
7840 Roswell Road  
Building 300, Suite 325  
Atlanta, GA 30350  
(770) 396-3898 or (800) 917-2081  
Fax: (770) 396-3790  
[www.council.org](http://www.council.org)

A student or any member of the public may file a complaint about this institution with Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education by calling (888) 370-7589 toll free, or by completing a complaint form, which can be obtained on the Bureau's internet website, [www.bbpe.ca.gov](http://www.bbpe.ca.gov).

The Office of Student Assistance and Relief is available to support prospective students, current students, or past students of private postsecondary institutions in making informed decisions, understanding their rights, and navigating available services and relief options. The office may be reached by called (888) 370-7589, option #5, or by visiting [osar.bbpe.ca.gov](http://osar.bbpe.ca.gov)

## QUESTIONS

Any questions a student may have regarding this catalog that are not satisfactorily answered by the Institution may be directed to:

Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education  
1747 North Market, Suite 225  
Sacramento, CA 95834  
P.O. Box 980818  
West Sacramento, CA 96798-0818  
[www.bbpe.ca.gov](http://www.bbpe.ca.gov)  
(888) 370-7589 or by fax (916) 263-1897  
(916) 574-8900 or by fax (916) 263-1897

## ROSTER OF FACULTY

*See Catalog Supplement Faculty Roster*