



2020 Report to Western District Conference

BLUFFTON BLUEPRINT:

A new general education program to prepare students for a future that will be different than anyone can imagine.

Bluffton University is in its first year of implementing a new general education program designed to prepare students for today's challenges while remaining grounded in the arts and sciences. Through the Bluffton Blueprint, four foundational courses with experiential components woven into the curriculum, students will reflect on specific values and themes to help them discover their greater purpose in life. Taken in a sequence, each course relates to one of Bluffton's enduring values of Discovery, Community, Respect and Service.

YEAR 1

First-year students take *Becoming a Scholar*, a class which introduces young people to college-level learning. The course features **The Great Adventure**, a fall break experience funded by university donors. Surrounded by the vast natural beauty of The Great Smoky Mountains, students reflect on the question **"Who am I?"**

YEAR 2

In their sophomore year, Bluffton students take **Learning in Community**. Hands-on community partnerships developed specifically for this class in nearby, Lima, Ohio, allow our students to get an early look at how they can make a difference in their field of study. During this experience students answer the question **"Who am I in community?"**

YEAR 3

A pivotal element of a Bluffton education, students often take their **cross-cultural experience** in their junior year of study. These explorations for growth and understanding allow students to reflect on the question **"Who am I in the world?"** as they explore a range of new locations from Appalachia to Israel/Palestine.

YEAR 4

A Bluffton education comes full-circle during the final course in the Bluffton Blueprint, **Christian Values in a Global Community**. In this course, students are challenged to answer the same question posed to John the Baptist, **"What then shall we do?"** Students graduate from Bluffton understanding how to use their talents to serve the greater global community.

In addition to the Bluffton Blueprint, students choose courses from a variety of core competencies to complete Bluffton's new general education curriculum.

Thank you!

Bluffton University enrolled one student from a Western District Conference church during the 2019-20 academic year: **Aubrey Bartel '20**, Shalom Mennonite Church, Newton, Kan.

Church Matching Scholarship support is \$1,200 for 2019-20.

#BeaversAll

Aubrey Bartel '20, a pre-physical therapy major, will use the skills gained at Bluffton to pursue a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree at the University of Kansas.

Read more about Aubrey and other Bluffton students, faculty and staff at www.bluffton.edu/beaversall

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