

BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

AREA: Academic Affairs
NUMBER: Policy 2.23
SUBJECT: Chapel Requirements

Chapel programs at Blue Mountain College are considered to be an essential part of the Blue Mountain College undergraduate experience. As a part of implementing its Christian mission, the College designs chapel programs to enhance a student's spiritual growth and development. Because of its significance in the Christian learning environment, chapel attendance is carefully monitored with high expectations for behavior conducive to worship.

1. Attendance Requirements for Chapel

A. General Requirements

Chapel is held Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 10:00 AM. All degree-seeking undergraduate students who enroll for 12 or more semester hours of credit are required to attend chapel. All resident students are required to attend chapel. Graduate students are not required to attend chapel.

B. Chapel Attendance Requirements

Students are allowed six chapel absences each semester. These six allowed absences will *not* be used in determining the chapel grade. Students are not, however, allowed to miss any of the following special chapel programs: Founder's Day, Ministerial Alumni Day, SBA installation, Awards Day, and any special lecture series. The dates of the special chapel programs are posted on the College calendar.

C. Chapel Attendance Exceptions

Exceptions to chapel attendance requirements are made on a semester- by- semester basis for any of the following circumstances:

- Non-Resident students who have classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays only or do not have any classes before noon on the Monday-Wednesday-Friday sequence.
- Students with jobs (must present a letter from an employer who requests that the student be excused in order to work);
- Students who are engaged in the Internship in the Elementary School or Secondary School or a departmentally-approved internship that unavoidably conflicts with the MWF chapel; or
- Students who exceed the sixth allowed chapel absence while participating in a College-sanctioned event.

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A Blue Mountain College graduate who returns as a student is exempt from chapel attendance.

2. **Credit for Chapel**

Attendance is checked at each chapel and a satisfactory (*S*) or unsatisfactory (*U*) grade that reflects a student's attendance is recorded on the student's transcript at the end of each semester. Chapel grades, although appearing on the student's transcript, will not carry any credit nor will they affect the student's grade point average. Based on attendance, grades are assigned for chapel according to the criteria below.

- A. Students who miss no more than the six (6) allowed chapel programs or services during a semester will receive a satisfactory (*S*) grade.
- B. Students who miss more than the six (6) allowed chapel programs or services during a semester will receive an unsatisfactory (*U*) grade.
- C. For *each* chapel absence over the six (6) allowed, the student must make up the absence in order to have the absence cleared. (The options for clearing excessive chapel absences are listed in the Procedures of this policy.) Upon accumulation of an excessive chapel absence, the student should complete the requirements for removal of the penalty during the semester in which the excessive absence occurs. If a student has an unsatisfactory (*U*) grade at the end of a semester, an additional penalty could be imposed.
- D. Satisfactory chapel attendance is a graduation requirement.
- E. A student who earns an unsatisfactory (*U*) chapel grade in chapel attendance and does not continue to be enrolled at the College must complete the requirements for removal of the unsatisfactory (*U*) grade before being accepted for readmission.

3. **Expectations for Behavior during Chapel**

Students are expected to conduct themselves appropriately during chapel. Communication devices must be turned off and caps and hats are always removed before entering the auditorium for chapel. Activities such as eating food, drinking, talking, studying, text-messaging, or sleeping are unacceptable.

SOURCE: Board of Trustees: December 12, 2016; February 28, 2014; October 5, 2012; February 24, 2012; October 08, 2010; October 02, 2009; June 25, 2008; November 27, 2006; June 19, 2006; October 07, 2005; February 25, 2005; February 20, 2004; February 21, 2003

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS:

1. Procedures