

BUFFALO STATE COLLEGE



Bengal Family Newsletter January 2022

Welcome from the Dean of Students



Dear Bengal Families,

I would like to offer a warm welcome to families of new Buffalo State Bengals, and also welcome back our returning families! I hope you all had an enjoyable holiday season spending time with family and friends. As we head into the spring semester, we want to assure you stay connected with the campus and continue to receive information that may be helpful to you in supporting your student! As we prepare for the spring semester, we continue to prioritize the health and safety of our Bengal community amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Please regularly review Buffalo State's [Coronavirus Information website](#) for updates based on safety guidance from the State University of New York (SUNY), the Erie County Department of Health, and our college leadership. To keep up to date on student information each month, please [listen to the "Bow Tie Chronicles" podcast](#), hosted by Dr. Tim Gordon, our Vice President for Student Affairs, and also follow the Dean of Students on [Instagram](#). Please reach out to let us know how we can assist you during the spring 2022 semester! Stay in touch and stay well, Bengal families!

Sincerely,
Sarah Young, Dean of Students

Tell Students: How to Order Your Textbooks from the Bookstore



For students ordering their spring 2022 textbooks and course materials from the Barnes & Noble Buffalo State Bookstore, please tell them to [follow the detailed ordering instructions on the Student Affairs website](#).

Before your student places their bookstore order, please remind them of the following:

- If your student is ordering with Bookstore Deferment or other financial aid, before submitting an order, your student must first [apply for Textbook Deferment through the Student Accounts Office](#).
- If your student is using a VA account, ACCESS VR, special account, or any other financial aid, please have them call the bookstore at [716-878-5509](#) for their personal ordering number.
- When your student places their bookstore order, they must enter their Banner number without the “B” or payment will fail and the order will be canceled. For example, Banner number B00123456 would be entered as “00123456.”

For help or questions, please contact the bookstore at [716-878-5509](#) or bksbuffalo@bncollege.com.

Tutoring and Academic Resources for Students



The [Academic Advising Center](#) at Buffalo State is focused on student success. For the spring semester, the academic advising drop-in center opens to students on January 31!

The drop-in center allows students to get immediate answers to questions about their degree program requirements. Please note that students are still required to meet with their Professional Academic Adviser or major faculty adviser to discuss academic advisement and course registration requirements. Staff at the drop-in center will not provide alternate pins. Students should meet with their assigned adviser to receive their alternate pin.

When students arrive to the drop-in center, they are asked to sign in at the kiosk, then wait for a member of the advising team to meet with them as soon as they are available. The drop-in center is open Monday to Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

For more information, contact the Academic Advising Center at [716-878-5223](#) or advise@buffalostate.edu.

Tell Students: Join Greek Life at Buffalo State



Greek Life at Buffalo State is dedicated to enhancing the development of students through membership in our Greek organizations. Buffalo State currently recognizes **5 fraternities and 10 sororities**. Each fraternity and sorority offers students an opportunity to be part of a close-knit community that promotes leadership, service, and academic excellence. Our staff supports initiatives dedicated to scholarship, service, community advocacy, philanthropy, safety, and wellness.

Greek recruitment for the spring semester officially begins on Monday, February 7. Students interested in learning more about a recognized fraternity or sorority can **complete the Buffalo State Greek Life Interest Form**. More information on recruitment, important deadlines, and membership requirements can be found on the **Greek Life Recruitment website**.

All potential new Greek life members must meet the following criteria prior to the start of their new member education and intake process. Please note that meeting the following criteria does not guarantee acceptance into a fraternity or sorority:

- Be at least a second-semester freshman with 12 completed college credits.
- Have at least a 2.0 GPA (most organizations require a higher GPA to join and remain an active member).
- First semester freshmen are not allowed to join a Greek-lettered organization but may come to recruitment events to get to know a little bit about the Greek organizations.
- Transfer students must also obtain an electronic copy of their unofficial transcript from their previous institution and submit it to Student Leadership and Engagement.

For questions or more information about Greek recruitment at Buffalo State, please contact Student Leadership and Engagement at sle@buffalostate.edu.

Tips for Students to Find Summer Jobs and Internships



It's not too early for students to start thinking about summer job and internship opportunities! The Career Development Center suggests the following tips for students to start their search:

Reflect on Career Interests

Students are encouraged to take a [Focus assessment](#) to help determine their career goals. They can contact the Career Development Center at askcdc@buffalostate.edu to make an appointment with a career counselor to review their assessment results.

Find Job Openings on BengalLink

Students can view all current job and internship openings on the college's online job board [BengalLink](#), which includes local and national full-time, part-time, summer, volunteer, internship, and work-study vacancies.

Attend Upcoming Career Workshops

Students can [find and register for upcoming career workshops](#) to help improve their career readiness.

Talk with Employers about Career Opportunities

Students can talk to potential employers to discuss job opportunities. All students are encouraged to attend Buffalo State's Job and Internship Fair on March 22. For more information, [view the upcoming events schedule](#).

Dress the Part for the Interview

To dress the part for their interview, all students are encouraged to participate in Suit-Up! on March 6, a collaboration with JCPenney for professional clothing discounts for students. For more information, [view the upcoming events schedule](#).

For more information, contact the Career Development Center at askcdc@buffalostate.edu or [716-878-5811](tel:716-878-5811).

Commencement Planning Updates from the Chair of the 2022 Commencement Committee



Dear Bengal Families of Graduating Seniors,

Commencement planning has begun! As chair of the [2022 Commencement Committee](#), I am excited to share that we are working hard to honor the Buffalo State graduating class of 2022, with commencement ceremonies taking place during our yearlong Buffalo State College 150th anniversary celebration. The annual spring commencement ceremonies will take place on Saturday, May 21, 2022.

An often-confusing topic is the distinction between graduation and the commencement ceremonies. [An explanation is provided on the commencement website](#). Graduation is when the Registrar or Graduate School awards the degree or certificate, i.e., all degree requirements are met, and the degree is completed. Students must notify the Registrar or Graduate School that they are ready to graduate by submitting a graduation application by the posted deadlines: [Registrar for undergraduates](#), [Graduate School for graduate students](#). Commencement is the ceremony celebrating the current graduating class as defined by the [Commencement Policy](#). Honors designation and gold honors cord eligibility is provided in the [Academic Honors and Gold Honors Cord Policy](#). Buffalo State holds an annual spring commencement. Diplomas and certificates are mailed by the Registrar or Graduate School approximately six weeks following a student's graduation. Diplomas and certificates are not distributed at the commencement ceremony.

The [commencement website](#) is your go-to-resource for information you need to plan and participate in commencement. The current focus of the website is [graduation preparation and participation eligibility](#). Additional details will be posted as plans are finalized, including time, location, ordering caps and gowns, and a special section for families. Students who anticipate they will graduate (complete their intended degree or certificate) during one of the eligible terms as listed on the commencement website should confirm they have an active graduation application submitted by the appropriate deadline to ensure they are included in commencement and in the program booklet. Eligible students will receive notices and updates via Buffalo State student Gmail, with timing relative to their term of graduation or graduation candidacy. All eligible members of the Class of 2022 will receive a commencement mailer at their permanent addresses toward the end of March.

When your students have questions about their academic records or eligibility to participate in commencement, they should first check their Degree Works audit sheets. The [Helpful Contacts page](#) lists contacts by topic so that you and your students can reach the most helpful campus office for your specific questions. Only our students may receive academic-related information as provided in the [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\)](#). Families are welcome to call or email with non-academic questions such as logistics or accessibility assistance.

Best wishes as the Class of 2022 completes their degrees!

Sincerely,
Kathleen O'Brien, M.Ed.
Chair and Lecturer, Hospitality and Tourism Department
Chair, 2022 Commencement Committee

Tell Students: Apply for a Scholarship from the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo

Since 1924, the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo has been awarding scholarships to students from Western New York and since 2000, they have awarded over \$38 million in scholarships to thousands of local college students. Scholarship applications are now open for the 2022-23 academic year, and the deadline to apply is May 1, 2022. Students can apply today to be considered for a scholarship up to \$6,000!

Scholarship Eligibility Requirements

Students must meet the following eligibility requirements to be considered for a scholarship from the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo:

- Must be a permanent resident of Western New York (includes Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, and Wyoming counties).
- Must have a minimum 2.0 GPA.
- Must be accepted to a nonprofit, United States Department of Education accredited school for full-time, undergraduate study.
- Preference is given to Pell eligible students attending school in Western New York.

Scholarship Application Process Overview

The Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo scholarship application opens on January 1, 2022, and the deadline to apply is May 1, 2022. By late June 2022 students will receive an award or denial notification about their scholarship application.

How to Apply for a Scholarship

Students can [apply for a scholarship on the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo website](#).

Please note students are responsible for ensuring complete application submission by the deadline on May 1, 2022. Incomplete applications will not be processed. To confirm all information was received, contact the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo at [716-852-2857](tel:716-852-2857) extension 215, or at scholarship@crgb.org.

Contact for Questions

For questions, students can contact the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo at [716-852-2857](tel:716-852-2857) extension 215, or at scholarship@crgb.org.

For more information, students can sign up for text alerts by texting “SCHOLARSHIP” to [855-213-4426](tel:855-213-4426). [Review the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo privacy policy](#).



Apply Today

TO BE CONSIDERED FOR UP TO

\$6,000 *for college*

Requirements:

- Permanent resident of Western New York
- Minimum 2.0 GPA or "C" average
- Accepted to any nonprofit college/university in the United States, full-time
- Preference is given to Pell eligible students attending school in Western New York

Deadline:

MAY 1, 2022

visit cfgbscholarships.org



Sign up for text alerts

***Text "SCHOLARSHIP"
to 855-213-4426***

By taking this action you are affirming that you will receive recurring Scholarship Deadline alert text messages from the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo. Visit www.cfgb.org/privacy-policy/ for our Privacy Policy. Text STOP to opt-out. No purchase necessary. Message & data rates may apply.



**Community Foundation
for Greater Buffalo**

Student COVID-19 Booster Requirement for Spring 2022 Semester



For the spring 2022 semester, the **COVID-19 vaccine mandate** will remain a requirement for all students regularly accessing Buffalo State campus facilities, as well as a **new requirement that all students receive a COVID-19 booster vaccine within seven days of becoming eligible.**

Students are eligible for the COVID-19 booster if they received the Moderna* or Pfizer-BioNTech initial vaccine series at least five months ago, or the Janssen/Johnson & Johnson vaccine at least two months ago. The eligibility date is determined by the date of the final dose of your initial vaccine series. **Read more about the COVID-19 booster requirement for spring 2022.**

*Please note as of January 7, 2022, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration amended the emergency use authorization (EUA) for the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine to shorten the time between the completion of a primary series of the vaccine and a booster dose to five months for individuals 18 years of age and older

- For Buffalo State students who are currently eligible for a booster, but have not yet received the booster dose, ***they are required to receive their shot no later than Monday, January 24***, in order to attend classes in-person, access campus facilities, or live in a residence hall this spring.
- For Buffalo State students who are not yet eligible for a booster, ***they will be required to receive their booster shot within seven days of their eligibility date*** in order remain enrolled at the college, access facilities, or continue living on campus.

Find and schedule a COVID-19 booster appointment at a location near you. If students receive their booster dose in New York State, the Weigel Health Center should automatically have their vaccine information on file via the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS). If students receive their booster dose outside of New York State, please have them **submit their booster information to the Weigel Health Center.** If the Weigel Health Center is unable to obtain a student's information from NYSIIS, they will be contacted to provide verification.

Student Leader Highlight

Each month we will highlight various student leaders on campus. Meet the following student leader who stood out in January!

Iyanna Williams, President of Upsilon Lambda Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority



My name is Iyanna Williams, and I am currently a junior at Buffalo State College majoring in Special Education and Childhood Education with a concentration in English. I serve as the President of the newly chartered Upsilon Lambda chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc(R). I just became a member of AKA in fall 2021. I chose to join Greek life at Buffalo State College because I wanted to be in a sisterhood of like-minded college women. Being in Greek life is not an easy task but it truly helps prepare you for life. You are afforded the opportunity to work with different people in order to impact your community. One reason I love Greek life at Buffalo State is because it's really close-knit and no matter the Greek organization we are all eager to be of service. Being in a Greek organization is a really rewarding experience and I would recommend it to anybody who's interested.

Upcoming Events

Attend Spring 2022 Weeks of Welcome



Weeks of Welcome at Buffalo State is a series of programs hosted by student organizations and the campus community to welcome our students during the first six weeks of the semester! [View the Spring 2022 Weeks of Welcome schedule to find upcoming events to attend.](#)

Athletics Games



Attend Buffalo State Athletics games and events to cheer on our Bengals! [View the Athletics calendar for upcoming game schedules.](#)

Celebrate Buffalo State's 150th Anniversary



This year, we are celebrating Buffalo State College's 150th anniversary! [Learn more about our 150th anniversary events](#) and look for opportunities to participate throughout the year.

Visit Buffalo State

If you are planning to visit our campus, [view the academic calendar](#) and [learn more about Buffalo State and the surrounding community.](#)

Follow Us on Social Media!

To keep up to date on student information throughout the month, follow the Life at Buff State social media accounts on [Instagram](#), [Snapchat](#), [Twitter](#), and [Facebook](#).

For more general information about the college, follow the Buffalo State social media accounts on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

Other Questions or Need Help? Contact Us!

If you have questions, need help, or are looking for more or different information from this newsletter, please contact us:

Dean of Students:

📞 Call: **716-878-4618**

✉ Email: **deanofstudents@buffalostate.edu**

🌐 Web: **deanofstudents.buffalostate.edu**



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The State University of New York

} believe. inspire. **achieve.**