

2008-09
International
Student *Handbook*



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT HANDBOOK

Revised Fall 2008

A Message from the President

It is my pleasure to welcome you to our campus and thank you for selecting Buena Vista University as your college of choice.

We invite you to take full advantage of all that the BVU campus community has to offer. We are looking forward to learning about you and your cultural heritage, and hope that you take every opportunity to build friendships with other students and our faculty and staff, who represent a broad cross-section of backgrounds from the Upper Midwest region of the United States.

As part of BVU's new strategic initiative, we are actively building our enrollment base of international students and American students from diverse populations, which we believe will enrich the cultural and academic learning experience for all students who study on our campus. This increased awareness and understanding of the global community will help all students to become exceptionally prepared for success in their careers and in life.

At Buena Vista, the total educational experience — both inside and outside the classroom — is intentionally designed to prepare you to make the most of the many opportunities and challenges you will face in your lifetime.

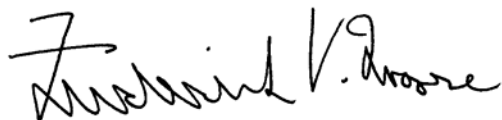
Our bold vision of what higher education should be includes:

- Distinguished teaching faculty who provide students with practical academic experiences that lead to meaningful careers.
- A broad base of opportunities to learn outside the classroom, ranging from internships to travel, to participation in any of more than 70 student organizations.
- Status as a nationally recognized leader in innovation — for everything from our wireless laptop program to our leadership development program.

Most of all, you will find it is the people that are what make this institution so special. It is that professor, or that staff member, or that coach, who will take a personal interest in you and your success and become a mentor. It is also the new friends you will make, the sports you will play, the theatrical and musical productions you will be in, or the travel experiences you will have.

We welcome your ideas on how we can make your experience at Buena Vista as pleasant and meaningful as possible so that your time on this campus will be some of the best years of your life.

Sincerely,



Frederick V. Moore
President

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Compiled by: ***Office of International Student Services***

Office of International Student Services

Welcome to Buena Vista University! We are excited to have you join our campus community and look forward to the many contributions you will make as a member of our student body.

With the support of numerous faculty, staff and students, the Office of International Student Services (ISS) provides a variety of services to international students attending, or who are considering attending, Buena Vista University. Services provided include visa and travel information; admission and enrollment information; immigration advising; orientation to our campus and the community of Storm Lake; and assisting students with the transition to college life.

With guidance and support from the International Student Services Support Group (ISSSG), this office serves to enhance international student learning experiences and outcomes. International students are encouraged to become members of the International Club to establish a network of support, provide educational programs to the campus community, and improve leadership skills.

The Office of International Student Services has compiled this handbook, to supplement the BVU Student Handbook you will receive during validation. The information provided here addresses issues that are specific to your status as an International Student and will be a resource for you during International Student Orientation and throughout the year.

You are responsible for abiding by the rules and regulations outlined in both the BVU Student Handbook and this International Student Handbook. Please know that should you have any questions or concerns at anytime, our office is here to assist you. It is our goal to make your transition to campus life at BVU as smooth as possible.

We look forward to getting to know you and witnessing your achievements as a student at Buena Vista University.

Sincerely,



Carol L. Williams

Director of International Student Services

Office of International Student Services
Harold Walter Siebens Forum, Student Services
Ext. 2073
international@bvu.edu

BUENA VISTA UNIVERSITY

Buena Vista University is a unique and welcoming learning environment bordering picturesque lakeside surroundings. Our 60-acre campus is situated on the shores of beautiful Storm Lake, a 3,200-acre natural lake. The northwest Iowa city of Storm Lake is an attractive, professional community of approximately 10,000 people. The University is dedicated to providing the best educational facilities in the region, the most recent being the \$26 million Estelle Siebens Science Center, which opened in 2004. The facility incorporates the latest state-of-the-art technology, aiding both students and faculty in the pursuit of scientific discoveries.

Buena Vista University is a nationally recognized leader in innovation. In 2000, the *eBVyou* program made BVU the first truly "wireless community" in the nation. We provide our students with their own notebook computers and wireless Internet access, allowing them to go online anytime, from anywhere on campus. This not only puts a world of information at their fingertips, but also enhances their learning opportunities both in and out of the classroom, giving them the skills they need to compete in today's global economy.

Buena Vista University's distinguished teaching faculty provide students with practical academic experiences that lead to meaningful careers and lives. With a balance between traditional liberal arts courses and innovative experiential learning opportunities that require the practical application of knowledge, the BVU curriculum prepares students for successful careers in their fields of study. Quality, personalized teaching is emphasized and recognized at BVU through the prestigious \$24,000 George Wythe Award for Teaching Excellence, one of the largest faculty awards in the nation.

Buena Vista University students are a dedicated and caring community of learners committed to preparation for a life of service. By integrating service-learning opportunities into the academic curriculum, providing volunteer opportunities in the co-curricular program, and fostering a culture of respect, equity, fairness and collaboration, BVU honors its founding motto — "Education for Service" — and prepares students for leadership and service in their communities.

Buena Vista University provides access to high-quality educational programs for adult learners throughout Iowa and beyond. For almost 30 years, the BVU Centers program has offered students of all ages the opportunity to complete their education at 14 campus sites located throughout the state. BVU's Graduate Program allows working teachers the opportunity to obtain a master's degree while balancing family life and career. BVU also gives conference participants access to continuing education and professional development opportunities.

Our Mission:

Buena Vista University is a regionally acclaimed university dedicated to developing students for lifelong success through a relentless focus on learning via innovative and imaginative academic and professional preparation programs. Buena Vista University aspires to be a remarkable educational community challenging every student, faculty and staff member to meet the highest standards of academic achievement, character, conscience and compassion. Our informed, self-confident graduates leave here with a competitive advantage that enables them to succeed in a changing society. The traditional disciplines provide a framework for a curriculum which prepares students for their career as well as for life-long learning.

Our mission is implemented through:

- **Students engaging in intellectual discovery:** Through outcomes-based learning, students grow and develop the skills and experiences necessary to be successful both in and out of the classroom.
- **Students becoming informed and engaged citizens of the world:** By taking advantage of travel opportunities, (both foreign & domestic) and by participating in international & cultural studies, students foster a better understanding and appreciation for our global society.
- **Students benefiting from interactions with faculty & staff:** Through excellence in teaching, mentoring and scholarship, students learn the value of life-long learning and contributing to the world around them.
- **Students learning in a “hands-on” environment:** Through our comprehensive curriculum that integrates a liberal arts foundation with career development, students are able to weave theory and research with practical experience.
- **Students acquiring the technological skills needed today:** Through the facilities and technology offered at BVU, students are benefit from modern facilities and resources they will use upon graduation.

PREPARING FOR YOUR ARRIVAL

Planning Your Travel

When making your flight arrangements, please ensure that your final destination is Omaha, Nebraska - Eppley Airfield. Please ensure that you schedule a minimum of three hours between your arrival at your United States Port of Entry and your flight to Omaha, Nebraska. You will need this time for immigration and customs processing once you have arrived in the United States.

Buena Vista University (BVU) will provide shuttle service from the Omaha, Nebraska airport, Eppley Airfield, to campus beginning two days prior to the start of International Student Orientation. Shuttles are scheduled to leave the airport at 12:00PM and 6:00PM each day.

YOU MUST MAKE A RESERVATION for the shuttle by contacting the Office of International Student Services at international@bvu.edu. This will allow us to make sure that appropriate space for students and luggage is available at each scheduled pick-up. If you have not made a reservation, you may be asked to remain at the airport until the next scheduled shuttle.

Prior to Your Departure

Before you leave your home, contact the Office of International Student Services to confirm that all of your admissions and enrollment documentation has been received.

Send your travel & flight information to BVU!

Once you have received your visa and made your travel arrangements, forward a copy of your itinerary to the Director of International Student Services (williamsc@bvu.edu or international@bvu.edu). **It is important that you make a reservation for the Buena Vista University shuttle that will bring you from the Omaha, NE Airport to our campus.**

You will need to carry your passport, I-20 and other travel documents with you at all times and have them readily accessible for immigration officials.

You should also carry a copy of your itinerary and the contact information for Buena Vista University (provided with your acceptance packet). This information should be carried separately from your passport, but where you can easily access it once you arrive in the United States.

You should also carry the following items with you in your carry-on luggage:

- Loose change for use to make phone calls if necessary.
- Your driver's license if you have one.
- Any prescription medications. Please include a statement signed by your doctor outlining each medication, purpose, dosage and duration of use.
- An extra pair of glasses or contact lenses (if you wear them).
- Your passport and travel documents. These will need to be readily accessible for immigration officials.

Items to Bring With You:

- **Clothing** - Dresser and closet space are limited, so you may want to consider purchasing storage containers to store seasonal clothing. Storage space is available for international students if needed, though space is limited as well. When you select clothing, keep in mind that most BVU settings are informal. You will also want to be prepared, however, for special occasions, recreational activities and outdoor weather.
- **Bed and Bath Linens** – You will need to bring your own pillow, pillow cases, sheets, blankets, bedspread, towels and washcloths. BVU provides each student with a mattress pad. Most mattresses require extra long sheets.
- **Toiletries and Laundry Supplies** - If space becomes critical when packing, these items are available locally. An initial supply of laundry soap is provided by the Office of International Student Services to help make the hectic period of the first week a little easier. One load of wash currently costs \$1.00 and approximately 40 minutes of drying time also costs \$0.75.
- **Other Personal Items** -
Small mementos from home (photos, decorations, maps, etc)
Traditional Clothing
Alarm Clock
Dishes
Area Rug
Touch Tone Phone (in room)
Robe/Shower Shoes
Stamps
Calendar/Planner
Small Desk Lamp
Cup/Glass
Wastebasket
Cell Phone & Charger
Camera
Family/Friend Photos
Writing Utensils

*You will be able to purchase many personal items in the U.S. for reasonable prices. Please keep this in mind when you are packing. You should also check with the airline to learn baggage requirements and limitations prior to leaving home.

GETTING STARTED

New International Student Orientation

Once you have arrived on campus, you will be required to participate in New International Student Orientation. Orientation typically begins ten days prior to the start of the semester in which you will begin your enrollment. Orientation provides you with the opportunity to become adjusted to your new environment prior to the start of classes. It is a very important part of your enrollment at BVU.

You will receive a schedule for **New International Student Orientation Schedule** upon your arrival. A list of the orientation activities is provided here for your reference:

- Welcome
- Residence Hall Check-In
- Confirmation & Identification Cards
- U.S. Culture
- BVU Student Services
 - Residence Life
 - Food Service
 - Health Services
 - Campus Security
 - Counseling Services
 - Campus Pastor
 - Connecting, Contributing & Getting Involved
- Campus Tour
- SEVIS & U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Issues
 - I-20, Visa & Status
 - Verification of passport & I-94 information
- Storm Lake Community
- Banking & Shopping
- Campus Technology
- Computer Distribution
- Academic Programs Orientation
 - Math Diagnostic
 - English Diagnostic
 - Nature of Comprehensive Education
 - Model Classroom Experience
 - Library Orientation
 - Registration & Campus Connect
 - Advising Sessions
- Campus Employment
- Social Security Numbers & Taxes

Residence Halls

YOUR HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Buena Vista University is a residential campus, meaning ALL students are required to live on campus and participate in the BVU meal plan. Hall and room assignments are made based on information from your Housing Application form.

On campus housing information:

Pierce Hall: Pierce is a men's residence hall attached to the Harold Walter Siebens Forum and to White Hall. This residence hall has study lounges, common baths, a kitchenette, a recreational room with a pool table and laundry facilities.

White Hall: White is a co-ed residence hall attached to Pierce Hall and located east of Lage Communications Center. White has three men's floors and four women's floors, a main lounge, laundry facilities, common baths, a kitchenette and study lounges.

Swope Hall: Swope is a women's residence hall, located between Smith Hall and Dixon-Eilers. Swope Hall offers a main lounge (which also serves as the TV lounge), study lounges, two kitchenettes and laundry facilities.

Briscoe Honor Hall, Constitution Hall and McCorkle Hall: These halls are co-ed residence halls located north of the University's large parking lot. Students are housed in "suites" made up of six students. Each suite offers a common living room, microwave and refrigerator, and three bedrooms and bathrooms. The suites also have laundry facilities.

Grand Hall: This co-ed residence hall is located north of Swope Hall and east of the suites, featuring two-person rooms, common baths, common recreational areas, study lounges, a kitchenette and a laundry room.

Liberty Hall: Liberty is a co-ed substance free (alcohol and tobacco free) hall. This building is set up similar to Grand Hall, with two person rooms, common baths, study & recreational lounges on each floor, a kitchenette and laundry facilities. This hall may also have a Faculty-in-Residence living in the hall.

Each Residence Hall is staffed with a full-time Residence Hall Director (RHD) who is responsible for the efficient and effective operation of the residence hall. The RHD manages student resource personnel (Resident Advisors) who serve as Para-professional advisors and activity planners. The residence hall staff provide a valuable service to students and to the campus community.

For more information related to residence life policies & procedures, please refer to your BVU Student Handbook or contact:

OFFICE OF RESIDENCE LIFE
Harold Walter Siebens Forum
Phone 2123

Check-In

This is one of the first tasks completed upon your arrival to campus. During check-in, you will meet with Residence Hall staff to review and sign your residence hall contract, complete and sign a room condition contract and receive your key.

Confirmation & Validation

One of the first steps in International Student Orientation will be to confirm that all of your documentation has been received related to your enrollment. During this time, we will verify that the following information is complete and accurate.

1. International Student Application for Admission
2. Official Transcripts and Academic records (with English translations)
3. English proficiency report (TOEFL or IELTS)
4. Letters of Reference/Recommendation from principal(s) or instructor(s)
5. Certified statement of financial position, with supporting documents from banks and/or sponsoring agencies
6. Signed Important Enrollment Information form
7. Housing Application
8. Health Form

We will also make a copy of your stamped I-20, passport and your I-94 Form. This is the process of confirming your records and ensuring that all necessary documentation has been received to comply with federal and school regulations.

Validation occurs at the beginning of each semester. This is the opportunity for you to ensure that all of your enrollment information is accurate and complete. Payment will also be required at validation.

Identification Card

During Orientation, you will have your picture taken in and receive your BVU Identification (ID) card.

Your ID card will allow you entrance into the residence halls and serves as your meal ticket for the dining hall. Additionally, you will use your ID card in the library, in the fitness center and to verify attendance at ACES events.

If your card is lost or damaged, you will be required to purchase a replacement.

Campus Tour

Your tour of campus will be an important part of your orientation to campus. You will be guided around campus by a member of our Esprit de Corps, a student organization responsible for providing campus tours to student visitors and other guests.

This will be an opportunity for you to visit buildings on campus that you might not visit on a regular basis. Your campus tour will begin in the Admissions Office, in Dixon-Eilers Room 120 and will include stops in the following buildings and offices:

DIXON-EILERS HALL

- Office of Admissions
- Office of International Student Services
- Schaller Chapel
- Office of Financial Assistance
- Business Office
- Registrar's Office

HAROLD WALTER SIEBENS FORUM

- Information Technology Center
- Library
- Stewart Siebens Computer Center (2Fix)
- The Teaching and Learning Technology Center (TLTC)
- Center for Academic Excellence (CAE)
- Art Gallery
- Anderson Auditorium
- Forum Classrooms
- Information Desk
- Lehnus Campus Bookstore
- Forum Office
- Mailboxes
- The Centennial Room
- The Servedy (Sodexo Dining Hall)
- Dows Grand Ballroom
- Siebens School of Business
- Student Services
- Campus Chaplain
- Career Services & Internships
- Geisinger Student Leadership Center (GSLC)

EDSON HALL – Music Department

RESIDENCE HALLS

- Pierce & White Halls
- The Suites – Briscoe, Constitution & McCorkle
- Grand
- Liberty
- Swope

**BRADFORD FIELD & J. LESLIE ROLLINS STADIUM
SIEBENS FIELDHOUSE**

- Lamberti Recreation Center
- Gymnasium
- Weight Room

LAGE COMMUNICATION CENTER

- University Cable Network (UCN)
- 97.5FM The Edge – KBVU Radio Station
- The Tack – campus newspaper

SOCIAL SCIENCES & ART HALL

- Art Department
- Social Science Department

ESTELLE SIEBENS SCIENCE CENTER

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Environmental Science
- General Science
- Mathematics
- Physics

SMITH HALL

- Education & Exercise Science Dept
- Social Science and Art classes

UNITED STATES CULTURE

An important part of adapting to life as a student at Buena Vista University, will be acclimating yourself to the culture of the United States.

Acclimating to your new environment

Upon your arrival to the United States and on campus, it is natural that you will be excited about the new experience. Along with your excitement, you may feel happy, sad, nervous and a bit overwhelmed, all at the same time! This is completely normal for anyone adapting to life in a new culture.

Some physical symptoms you may notice are nausea, headaches and fatigue. It is important to keep yourself well hydrated, (drink plenty of water), eat a healthy diet and get plenty of rest.

U.S. Culture & Customs

It is important to realize that some of what you have read or heard about the culture of the United States as well as about Americans may be misleading. As you interact with your fellow students as well as faculty, staff and other members of the community, you will learn more about the U.S. culture and customs and develop your own opinions.

One of the most common cultural characteristics of Americans you will find is an appreciation for **honesty and outspokenness**. You should feel free to share your thoughts and opinions, and should never hesitate to ask a question. As America is a diverse country, you may find that not everyone will realize that you are from a foreign country, so you may have to tell them. You will find that Americans enjoy learning about your culture and sharing theirs. Additionally, some other general cultural characteristics of Americans are listed below.

- **Individualism:** "Being Your Own Person" or feeling comfortable sharing opinions, beliefs and values even if they may differ from those of others.
- **Equality:** Everyone is equal and entitled to respect and fair treatment regardless of age, disability, gender, race, religion or sexual orientation.
- **Time & Punctuality:** Time is very important in American culture. When an appointment is set, it is expected that you will be there and prepared at the designated time.
- **Informality:** In many situations, Americans act in an informal manner and dress. Don't be surprised if you are asked to call someone by their first name, even faculty or administrative staff.

- **Competitiveness & Achievement:** You will find that Americans enjoy accomplishing goals even in leisurely pursuits. Friendly competition to motivate an individual is common.

Through your interactions with other students, faculty, staff and other members of the community, you will begin to learn American customs as well. Some of the more common customs that you should be aware of are:

- **Greeting people:** In both social and professional settings, it is common to address people by their first name. However, the best practice is to always use formal greetings, (Dr., Mrs., Ms., Mr.), until you are invited to use the first name. A handshake is a standard form of greeting for both women and men. The phrase "How are you?" is often used in place of "Hello" as a greeting rather than a question of your well-being.
- **Hygiene:** People in the United States are concerned with keeping a clean and neat appearance and maintaining good hygiene. Americans typically bathe daily with soap, wear deodorant and brush their teeth daily if not twice a day. Clothes are typically washed after they have been worn once. Regardless of your background or culture, your attention to hygiene will be important for success socially and professionally.
- **Personal space:** In the United States it is expected that people in general conversation maintain a distance of 12 inches (30.5 cm) between them. This is known as "personal space." If someone backs away from you during a conversation, don't be offended, they are probably just establishing a comfortable distance in which to continue the discussion.
- **Time orientation:** This is extremely important and worth noting twice. Regardless of whether you are going to class, meeting a friend for coffee, or attending a campus event, you are expected to be on time. PUNCTUALITY IS IMPORTANT. If you are not on time to a meeting or appointment, it might be concluded that you are not interested or will not be attending.
- **Making friends:** You will find it easy to meet new people here in the U.S. and on the BVU campus. You will develop friendships from these acquaintances by continuing to interact with others and getting involved in activities. People in the U.S. easily make acquaintances, but true friendships take longer to cultivate.
- **Social visits:** Americans may end a conversation or meeting by saying: "Let's get together sometime," "Come by when you have a chance," or "Let's meet for coffee." These are not necessarily true invitations. A true invitation will include a set date and time. If you accept, you should be on time, as it is considered impolite to be more than 5 minutes late. If you are invited to someone's home you may want to bring a host gift but it is not required.

The Stages of Cultural Adjustment

Your acclimation to your new environment will be an on-going process. While holding on to the values and culture from your home country, you will begin to assimilate to this new culture as well. Sociologist Gregory Trifonovitch identifies four key stages to cultural adjustment. They are provided here to assist you in recognizing the various stages of your own adjustment period. The four stages of cultural adjustment are:

The Honeymoon Stage:

This first stage is characterized by exhilaration, anticipation and excitement. The study abroad student is fascinated with everything new. The student is embarking on a "dream come true," which is to study in a foreign country. While delighted with the new culture, however, the student also faces cultural differences and misunderstandings. When these misunderstandings mount up, they are likely to experience the second stage of adjustment.

The Hostility Stage:

This stage is characterized by frustration, anger, anxiety and sometimes depression. Following the initial excitement, frustration comes with dealing with bureaucratic matters and the weariness of speaking and listening to another language every day. The student is upset because, although they have studied English, they don't seem to understand anyone. The student will find the accents, attitudes and lifestyles different and foreign to them. The student reacts to this frustration by rejecting the new environment in which they feel discomfort. The student blames the external environment for these bad feelings. Some of the hostilities are translated into anger over minor frustrations, fear and mistrust of locals, absenteeism from class, lack of interest, lack of motivation and, at worst, complete withdrawal. Academic problems may begin at this stage.

The Humor Stage:

This stage follows when the student begins to relax in a new situation and begins to laugh at minor mistakes and misunderstandings, which, in the Hostility Stage would have caused major headaches. This more relaxed state of being occurs after the student has made some friends and is able to feel comfortable academically in classes.

The Home Stage:

This occurs when the student not only retains allegiance to their home culture, but also "feels at home" in the newly acquired one. The student has successfully adjusted to the norms and the standards of the university and should be commended for the ability to live successfully in two cultures.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

BVU provides pre-professional education with a foundation in the liberal arts that enables students to become broadly knowledgeable, prepared to contribute successfully to a complex and rapidly changing world.

A BVU education prepares students for future responsibilities as world citizens by heightening their skills in communication, creativity, critical thinking, research, evaluation, empathy, aesthetics, synthesis and leadership. Moreover, Buena Vista University's academic program blends a broad liberal arts education with in-depth knowledge that prepares students for professional careers in the chosen fields.

BVU awards Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science and Master of Education and Master of Science degrees. Students select from 43 majors and 15 pre-professional programs offered in five academic schools: Communication & Arts; Business; Education & Exercise Science; Philosophy & Religion. Students must earn 128 semester hours of credit to graduate. An honors program is available for students seeking additional challenges.

More than the simple accumulation of 128 credit hours, the BVU curriculum is designed to present an integrated intellectual experience that challenges each student and provides the tools necessary to learn for a lifetime. Students gain depth in mastering the methodologies and content of their chosen major(s), through a combination of research, focused study and exploration. Additionally, students are exposed to the broad array of ideas, perspectives and experiences that exist in various disciplines.

Through the academic program at Buena Vista University, students are provided opportunities to:

- Acquire and improve skills in reasoning, critical thinking and communication
- Develop an understanding and appreciation of our rich and diverse cultural heritage in order to foster tolerance of difference and openness to change
- Identify and nurture a value system requisite for intelligent judgment and decision making.

It is our belief that liberally educated individuals can better appreciate, critique, and reform the many and varied facets of society in which we live.

Academic Responsibility

When you meet with your faculty advisor to select the courses you will enroll in, you will be provided a copy of our Academic Catalog. In addition to providing information on the university, academic majors and degree plans, this catalog also outlines the academic policies and procedures at Buena Vista University. It is important that you read this information as you are responsible for following these university regulations.

Additionally, you will find that the professors and instructors will provide you with the policies and procedures they expect you to follow as a student in their classes. Typically, this information is shared the first day of class, along with the syllabus for the course. You can expect to receive information related to what is expected from you in order to be successful in this class. Some of these expectations will relate to:

- **Attendance:** You will be expected to attend class. Regardless of what type of class format you are accustomed to, you will be expected to attend class regularly. A missed class can result in loss of a letter grade, missed points or failing the course.
- **Preparedness:** You will be expected to have completed assignments before arriving to class. Any reading or homework assignments should be completed by the due date provided in the syllabus or by the professor.
- **Participation:** You will be expected to contribute to class discussions and group projects. Your grade is dependent not only on exams or quizzes, but also on your participation in class.
- **Performance:** You will be evaluated on how well you have learned the information presented. This includes information shared during lectures, information from reading assignments and information gained during research and study groups. The Center for Academic Excellence is available for students needing assistance. It is the responsibility of the student to do what is necessary to learn the material.

Center for Academic Excellence

(712) 749-2123

The Center for Academic Excellence is located in the Information Technology Center, room 103. The ITC is in the Forum in the hall across from the Library. Whether you're looking for a tutor to help you in a particular subject area or just seeking general guidance in the Writing Lab, the CAE is available to assist you in succeeding in the classroom.

- **Honesty:** Academic honesty is required. Students engaging in cheating, plagiarism, falsification and/or misrepresentation of data, facilitating academic dishonesty, computer crimes, multiple submission, misrepresentation of academic records, or taking unfair advantage will be subject to disciplinary action and can be expelled from the university. **For more information, please refer to the Academic Honest policy in the catalog**

Campus Technology

As the nation's first wireless campus, Buena Vista University has continually honored its commitment to providing all students with access to learner-centered technology. With every full-time student provided with their own laptop computer, BVU integrates today's technology with a challenging and supportive academic environment.

With our innovative eBVYou program, Buena Vista University seeks to:

- **Provide BVU Graduates with a Competitive Advantage** by providing students with the computer and technology-related skills needed to compete in today's job market
- **Enhance Learning Opportunities**, developing innovative ways to help learners find and assemble information. Computers contribute to making the process of self-discovery more efficient and practical.
- **Facilitate More Interaction and Collaboration** with the use of digital tools that foster and extend collaboration and communication in powerful ways. With the wireless network, students can gather whenever and wherever needed to complete their work.
- **Provide Better Support and More Useable Computer Time** with comprehensive training programs allowing students to use technology to its fullest potential. With full-time computer services staff available for technical support as well as network maintenance, students have more useable computer time.
- **Keep Pace with Cutting Edge Technology** by replacing the laptops every two years. Students can expect to have at least one computer upgrade during a four-year period. Students are able to keep computers during school breaks, and at graduation, have the opportunity to purchase their computer at its fair market value.

Computer Distribution

During International Student Orientation, time will be set aside to allow each new student to pick-up their computer and to meet with Information Technology personnel to go over policies and procedures. Once you have signed your technology agreement, you will be issued your laptop.

STUDENT SERVICES

You will find the campus environment at Buena Vista University to be warm and welcoming. The Vice President for Student Services/Dean of Students oversees a multitude of services that have been developed to assist you in being successful at Buena Vista University.

Office of Student Services

(712) 749-2123

Located in the Walter Siebens Forum, this office is home to the Vice President of Student Services/Dean of Students and serves as a resource for students seeking additional assistance in any of the following areas. You can also find more information about these offices in the BVU Student Handbook.

Athletics

(712) 749-2253

Our Athletic Director oversees all of the athletic programs at BVU, as well as intramural programs. The Athletics offices are located in the Siebens Fieldhouse, next to the Lamberti Recreation Center. All students are encouraged to actively participate either as athletes, intramural participants or avid fans of BVU sports.

Campus Ministry

(712) 749-2123

Students from all religious backgrounds and faiths are invited to attend worship services each Thursday morning at 11:00am. Additionally, our Campus Chaplain coordinates a variety of opportunities for spiritual growth.

Campus Security

(712) 749-2500

Campus Security provides several services including escorts, medical transportation, vehicle assistance and crime prevention programs. They are available 24 hours per day. While this office seeks to provide a safe environment for all members of the campus community, it is a good idea to exercise some general safety habits of your own:

- Keep doors and windows locked when you are away from your room (or vehicle).
- Keep all cash and valuables locked in a safe place – do not carry them with you.
- Don't go out alone after dark, and always make sure someone knows where you are.

Career Services & Internships

(712) 749-**2440**

Located in Siebens Forum, this office is dedicated to helping students connect college experience to their future career. Services provided include: career selection assistance, programs to help you prepare for graduate school and tips on seeking internships and full-time employment.

Community Service

(712) 749-**2443**

The Office of Community Service is located in the Forum's Geisinger Student Leadership Center. This office is a resource for students seeking experiential learning opportunities. Additionally, the Office of Community Service also sponsors several events throughout the year that combine volunteer experience with social interaction.

Counseling

(712) 749-**2123**

The Counseling Office is located in the Student Services suite of offices in the Harold Walter Siebens Forum. This free service provides students access to professional counseling, support groups as well as educational programming. All counseling services are strictly confidential.

Forum Office

(712) 749-**2401**

Located across from the Information Desk in the Harold Walter Siebens Forum, the Forum Office assists students with all co-curricular scheduling needs. When planning meetings or events on-campus, you can contact the Forum Office and they will ensure that rooms are ready, signs are posted and any equipment or catering needs are met. Additionally, you can also contact the Forum Office when scheduling activities off-campus as well.

Geisinger Student Leadership Center

(712) 749-**2377**

The Geisinger Student Leadership Center (GSLC) is located at the south end of the west hallway of the Harold Walter Siebens Forum. The GSLC is the home of student organizations, the leadership development program, and the community services office.

Health Services & Wellness

(712) 749-**1238**

The Health Services office is located in the lower level of the Siebens Fieldhouse. Professional health care staff are available on-campus Monday through Friday 8:00am – 4:00pm, as well as available by phone 24 hours a day. Services are free to BVU students and include medical assessment and treatment, basic medical supplies and over-the-counter medications.

Illnesses or injuries requiring further medical attention are referred to the appropriate health care providers, and the student is responsible for paying for this additional care. Additionally, all students are required to:

- 1) Have Health Insurance coverage. If you do not have an active health insurance policy that will cover you during your stay in the U.S., you will be enrolled in BVU's international student health insurance program and you will be billed each year for the premium.
- 2) Complete the BVU Health Form. You are required to provide your immunization records as well as have a physical examination signed by your family physician (included on form).

Intercultural Programs

(712) 749-**1227**

Located in the Forum's Geisinger Student Leadership Center (GSLC), the Office of Intercultural Programs is responsible for providing an environment that promotes and is conducive to cultural awareness, appreciation, awareness and respect for students of diverse populations. The Office of International Student Services works closely with this office to provide opportunities for students to actively participate in student life and to gain leadership experience.

International Student Services

(712) 749-**2073**

The Office of International Student Services is located in the Student Services Suite in the Harold Walter Siebens Forum, and serves to provide international students with guidance and resources related to the transition to Campus life at BVU as well as transition to life in the U.S. (Please see page iii).

Lehnus Campus Bookstore

(712) 749-**2395**

Located around the corner from the Information Desk in the Harold Walter Siebens Forum, the Lehnus Campus Bookstore is where you'll find textbooks, school supplies, discounted movie tickets and BVU apparel available for purchase. The bookstore hours are Monday through Friday 8:00am-5:00pm.

Mail & Printing

(712) 749-**2105**

You will find Mail and Printing Services in the Harold Walter Siebens Forum next to the North Entrance of the Centennial Room. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00am – 5:00pm. Upon your arrival on campus, you will be assigned a campus mailbox and provided the combination. In addition to accessing your mailbox, you will find a variety of services offered here from mailing packages, sending faxes or purchasing stamps to photocopying and printing services. To ensure that you receive your mail in a timely manner, you should direct friends and family to send packages and correspondence to you as follows:

Your Name

**Buena Vista University, Box (*your box number*)
610 West 4th Street
Storm Lake, IA 50588**

Residence Life

(712) 749-**2123**

Your Residence Life staff will be some of the first people you will meet when you arrive on campus. As BVU is a residential campus, all students are required to live on-campus and participate in the campus meal plan. The members of the Residence Life team are committed to providing you with an environment that not only supports your learning in the academic environment, but also encourages personal growth and learning as you live and interact with other students.

Sodexho (Food Service)

(712) 749-**2430**

Commonly referred to as the “Servery”, the cafeteria at BVU is serviced by Sodexho Campus Dining. While the majority of the food prepared is American or American-style, Sodexho personnel are continually working to ensure that all students enjoy their dining experience. Typically, several options for entrées including a vegetarian choice, and a variety of hot and cold selections are available at each meal. Hours are published in your BVU Student Handbook and menus are posted at:

www2.bvu.edu/partners/sodexho.

Student Activities & Leadership Development

(712) 749-**2379**

Located in the Forum’s Geisinger Student Leadership Center, the Director of Student Activities & Leadership Development works with the many student clubs and organizations to ensure that a strong co-curricular program is available to students as well as provide opportunity for students to actively participate in campus life and gain leadership experience.

Connecting, Contributing & Getting Involved

At BVU, we truly believe that campus life should be more than just taking tests and reading books. We believe that the co-curricular program is an essential part of the Buena Vista University education. Through a variety of activities, students explore new interests, make new friends and learn more about themselves.

Activities are important in fully developing personal potential throughout college life. Additionally, leadership skills such as the ability to analyze, organize and communicate are discovered and developed.

To learn more, please contact the Geisinger Student Leadership Center in the Harold Walter Siebens Forum. Some of the current student organizations are:

Accounting Club	Innovation Video
African-American Student Union	International Club
Alpha Mu Gamma (Foreign Language)	Iowa State Education Association
Alpha Psi Omega (Drama)	Kappa Delta Pi
Alumni Association Student Board	KBVU – The Edge
Amnesty International	Kenpo Karate Club
Art League: Untitled 11	Moving in Stereo
Asian American Pacific Islanders Assoc	Mu Kappa Tau National Marketing Honor
Association of Computing Machinery	Society
Athletics	Multicultural Club
Band	New Student Orientation Team
Beaver Brothers and Sisters	Outdoor Adventure Club
Beavers In God	Phi Alpha Honor Society
Best Buddies	Physics and Engineering Club
Buena Vista Athletic Trainers Society	Pre-Law Club
Buena Vista Business Club	Psychology Club
Buena Vista Marketing Association	Quiz Bowl Team
BV Buddies	Reshaping our Campus Community Rotaract
BVU Pep Band	Residence Hall Councils
Bible Study Groups	Science Club
Cheerleading	Social Work Club
CHOICE Program	Spanish Club (El Club Hispanico)
Choir	Student Activities Board (SAB)
Circle K	Student Ambassadors
College Democrats	Student Christian Ministries (Chapel Board)
College Republicans	Student M.O.V.E.
Community Bridge Builders	Student Organization of Latinos
Council for Exceptional Children	Student Senate
Criminal Justice Club	Students Against a Violent Environment
Debate Team	Students Concerned About Tomorrow's
Drill Team	Environment
Educating for Rights, Activism, Support and	Teachers, Inc.
Equality	The Log (Yearbook)
Esprit de Corps	The Tack
FACES	Theatre
Fellowship of Christian Beavers	Time Out
German Club	Ultimate Frisbee Club
Graphic Design Club	University Cable Network
Habitat for Humanity	Voices of Praise/Good View Music Association
	Women of Color

IMMIGRATION INFORMATION

As an international student at Buena Vista University, you are required to follow the laws of the United States as well as the policies and procedures of the university. It is important to note that while the Office of International Student Services is available to answer any questions and to assist you in maintaining your F-1 or J-1 status, **YOU** are responsible for ensuring that you are meeting the requirements established by the U.S. Government and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS).

Immigration updates that are pertinent for our international students will be distributed via the Buena Vista University campus email system. It is your responsibility to check your email and to respond as necessary. In certain situations it may be necessary to contact you by phone or in person; this is why it is important that you keep the Office of International Services updated on your contact information (address, phone, cell phone, etc).

Important Documents & Definitions

In maintaining your status, it is imperative that you keep all of your documents current. The following information is provided to assist you in understanding the purpose of each document.

- **I-20:** This is a three-page document issued to F-1 students by Buena Vista University. This document is required to obtain a visa and provides important information related to your program, length of study and costs. Both the first and third page are signed by a university representative. Prior to your visa appointment, you should read this document carefully, then sign & date it.
- **DS-2019:** This is a two-page document issued to J-1 Exchange Visitors (students or scholars in residence). The first page is signed by a representative of the university. Prior to your visa appointment, you should read this document carefully, then sign & date it.
- **Visa:** A stamp or sticker in your passport that identifies the immigration status for U.S. entry. It will also indicate the number of times you may enter the country and will have an expiration date.
- **I-94 Arrival/Departure Record:** This is a small white or green card issued upon entering the U.S. The immigration officer will stamp the I-94 to reflect the date, place of entry, status granted and the length of stay permitted.
- **Passport:** This document is issued by your home country for travel. To enter the U.S. you must have a valid passport.
- **Port of Entry (POE):** The place where you enter the U.S. and process through immigration.
- **Two Year Home Residency Requirement 212(e):** The majority of J-1 exchange visitors must return to their home country for two years after completing their program.

Maintaining Status

In order to maintain your status, the United States government requires the following:

- Full-time enrollment – you must enroll in a minimum of 12 credit hours each semester.
- Make Satisfactory Academic Progress – you must pass your classes and make progress toward finishing your degree by the program completion date on your I-20. If necessary, you may apply for an extension with necessary approval and authorization. You should contact the Office of International Student Services nine months prior to your expiration date to apply for an extension.
- Follow all federal laws including those related to employment.

Important Dates

It is possible that your I-20, I-94 and passport have different expiration dates. The expiration date on your certificate of eligibility form (I-20 or DS-2019) determines how long you may remain in the U.S.

However, if your I-94 expires before the date on your I-20 or DS-2019, you must alert the Office of International Student Services. The date on your I-94 is the expiration of your stay in the U.S. and must be later than the date on your I-20 or DS-2019. This type of situation can typically be corrected fairly easily, but you must contact the Office of International Students to begin the process. You should plan a 30-60 day turnaround to correct this matter, and it is your responsibility to notify the OISS 90 days prior to the expiration date on the I-94.

Special Information for Transfer Students

If you are transferring to BVU as an F-1 student from another college or university in the U.S., you must complete a transfer information form. This information will be sent to your former college/university to obtain information on your enrollment. If you withdrew in good standing, your SEVIS information will be transferred to BVU and a new I-20 will be issued.

You should begin the transfer process early, as a delay in processing the transfer of an international student can lead to you being out of status for a period of time, and could affect your ability to attend either institution.

If you are a J-1 student considering transferring, you must also complete the transfer information form. A new DS-2019 form will be issued once we have confirmed that you have left the former school/sponsor on good terms. The new DS-2019's release must be signed by your former school/sponsor, so it is in your best interest to act promptly. Once we have received the properly endorsed DS-2019, we will record your transfer in SEVIS.

Travel

When traveling, you should always carry your passport with valid visa and your I-20 or DS-2019 form. If you are planning to travel during your studies at Buena Vista University, please inform the Office of International Student Services (OISS) prior to departure.

Traveling Outside of the U.S.: Whether you are planning to visit family in your home country or participating in one of BVU's travel abroad courses, you must have an endorsement on your I-20 or DS2019 authorizing you to travel outside of the United States. When you know you will be traveling, contact the Office of International Student Services immediately.

Upon departure from the U.S., your I-94 will be taken. When you return, you will need to provide your I-20 or DS-2019 WITH TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION FROM BUENA VISTA UNIVERSITY. A new I-94 will be issued to you at this time. Once you are back on campus, please make an appointment with OISS so that we may update your records with the new I-94 information.

Traveling in the United States: When traveling in the state of Iowa, always carry a photocopy of your passport, I20 and I94, even if you have a state identification card or drivers' license. It is a good idea to keep this information in your wallet or billfold. When traveling out of state, you must carry your original passport, I20 and I94. For travel within the United States, you will not need an endorsement on your I20 or DS2019.

Employment

Working without the proper authorization is ILLEGAL and can lead to the termination of your I-20 or DS-2019 and your deportation from the United States. It is extremely important that you understand and follow all federal, state and institutional regulations related to employment.

Students who have been awarded on-campus employment will find this amount included in the financial portion of the I-20 form. On-campus employment eligibility is extremely limited and is based on the financial need of the student. It is not possible to fund your education with earnings from work, so you should not expect to do so.

On-Campus Employment

If your I-20 includes an amount for On-Campus Employment, you are eligible to be employed and a variety of jobs are available on campus. You will be informed of the number of hours you are eligible to work each week. This is determined after determining your hourly wage and your maximum amount of employment eligibility.

A job fair is held at the start of every fall semester. You will have an opportunity to learn more about job openings and apply for those positions that appeal to you.

Off-Campus Employment

It is ILLEGAL for you to work off-campus unless you have received an Employment Authorization Document from USCIS. For information on applying for Employment Authorization, please schedule an appointment with the Director of International Student Services.

All earnings are taxable and should be included in your federal income tax return. Please see page 29 of this handbook.

Practical Training

Federal Regulation 8 CFR 214.2(f)(10) *Practical training* states:

“Practical training may be authorized to an F–1 student who has been lawfully enrolled on a full time basis, in a Service-approved college, university, conservatory, or seminary for one full academic year. This provision also includes students who, during their course of study, were enrolled in a study abroad program, if the student had spent at least one full academic term enrolled in a full course of study in the United States prior to studying abroad. A student may be authorized 12 months of practical training, and becomes eligible for another 12 months of practical training when he or she changes to a higher educational level. Students in English language training programs are ineligible for practical training. An eligible student may request employment authorization for practical training in a position that is directly related to his or her major area of study. There are two types of practical training available: Optional Practical Training and Curricular Practical Training.

Practical training is the legal means by which **F-1** students can obtain employment in areas related to their academic field of study. Undergraduate students are eligible for 12 months of practical training. In order to be eligible to participate, a student must have completed one full academic year of study in good standing and maintained legal F-1 status. Students enrolled in English language training or ESL are not eligible for practical training. The two types of practical training are Curricular Practical Training and Optional Practical Training.

Curricular Practical Training (CPT)

Curricular practical training must be authorized by the Office of International Student Services for students participating in an internship, practicum or field study during their enrollment at Buena Vista University. The internship or practicum must be approved by a faculty advisor as an integral part of the student’s education and applied as academic credit.

Employment can be full or part time, and must be arranged prior to completing your application for CPT. Curricular Practical Training affects your eligibility for Optional Practical Training (OPT) after graduation, as students who have completed 12 months of curricular training are not eligible for OPT.

To apply for Curricular Practical Training, students must submit an application to the Office of International Students. Students may not begin work until the application has been processed and a revised I20 with CPT endorsement has been issued.

Optional Practical Training (OPT)

Optional Practical Training must be authorized by the Office of International Student Services and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for students seeking temporary employment related to their major field of study at Buena Vista University. **Students cannot begin work until they have received an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) from USCIS.**

When you receive your EAD, it will designate your official start and end date of employment. Employment can be part time while school is in session, no more than 20 hours per week, or full-time during breaks when school is not in session or after completing all coursework required for graduation.

A student may apply for OPT prior to obtaining a job offer, and it is recommended that the application be started at least three months before planning to start work. USCIS processing time for Employment Authorization Document (EAD) is typically two to three months, and can be longer.

To apply for Optional Practical Training, students must complete the Office of International Student Services application for practical training as well as USCIS Form I-765 Application for Employment Authorization. An application fee of \$340 is required by USCIS.

Academic Training

Academic Training (AT) is an employment program similar to practical training for J-1 students, and must be authorized by the Office of International Student Services for students participating in an internship, practicum or field study during their enrollment at Buena Vista University. The internship or practicum must be approved by a faculty advisor as an integral part of the student's education.

Employment can be full or part time, and must be arranged prior to completing your application for AT. To apply for Academic Training, students must submit an application to the Office of International Students. Students may not begin work until the application has been processed and a revised DS-2019 with the appropriate endorsement has been issued.

To apply for Academic Training, students must complete the Office of International Student Services application for academic training. There is no fee required.

All earnings are taxable and should be included in your federal income tax return. Please see page 29 of this handbook.

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

Only International Students who are eligible to work may apply for a Social Security Number (SSN), as this number is for employment purposes only. During International Student Orientation, students who meet the following criteria will be taken to the Social Security Office to apply for a social security card:

- 1) Full-time F-1 student in good status
- 2) Awarded on-campus employment on the I-20 form or have a valid Employment Authorization Document
- 3) Received a verification of employment letter from the Office of International Student Services.

Social Security Office

800 Oneida Street
Storm Lake, IA 50588
(712) 749-1095

Be sure to bring the following information with you:

- Passport
- Visa
- I-20
- Letter from ISS
- Verification of Employment Letter

Your Social Security Number is used to track your work history, and will also be used to track your credit history as you build it. You may be asked to provide your SSN when making purchases or completing banking transactions. Some vendors may allow you to use your Student ID number in place of a SSN, but you should ask first.

Your SSN is considered identifiable information, and should be kept in a safe place, along with your passport, I20 and other important documents. Never give your SSN to anyone other than a vendor or bank representative that you are meeting with in person. You should never give the number to anyone over the phone.

YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER SHOULD BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL.

For information on Identity Theft and how to protect yourself, visit:

www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft/

TAXES

All individuals in the United States who have income must file a tax return with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). All income is considered, not just income from U.S. sources.

A tax return is a form that is completed yearly for the purposes of calculating the amount of tax that is due the U.S. Government based on income received during the year.

Non-residents must complete form 1040NR-EZ or the longer version of the same form the 1040NR. The amount and type of income that you have determines which form you will be required to file.

Additionally, F-1 & J-1 students must also file a Form 8843 – Statement for Exempt Individuals. This does not mean you are exempt from taxes. It is a form exempting you from counting your days present in the United States to determine if you are to be taxed as a resident or non-resident.

The Office of International Student Services does not provide tax assistance. A tax workshop is offered each year; please watch the BVU News for the time and location. As tax laws change from year to year, it is recommended that you attend regularly to ensure that you continue to comply with this requirement as well as maintain your status as an F-1 or J-1 student.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES:

Internal Revenue Service

www.irs.gov

U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services

www.uscis.gov/graphics

Social Security Administration

www.ssa.gov

CITY OF STORM LAKE

Positioned on the shores of Storm Lake is a city rich in culture, diversity and the good life. Historic landmarks, museums and great shopping are just a few of this county seat's unique attributes. Scenic Storm Lake is 3,200 acres of year-round recreation. Many public parks surround the lake, as well as a modern campground and the ever popular biking and hiking trail. State-of-the-art Buena Vista Regional Medical Center provides healthcare for Buena Vista County. In addition to a quality public school system, Storm Lake is fortunate to have two parochial schools, Iowa Central Community College and the beautiful campus of Buena Vista University.

Storm Lake's Average Temperatures

Month	FARENHEIT		CELCIUS	
	High	Low	High	Low
January	24.4	4.3	-4.2	-15.0
February	29.7	8.7	-1.3	-12.0
March	41.9	20.8	5.5	-6.0
April	58.0	32.7	14.4	0.0
May	70.4	44.8	21.3	7.0
June	79.6	55.0	26.4	12.0
July	83.9	60.0	29.0	15.0
August	81.0	57.2	27.2	14.0
September	72.9	47.6	22.7	8.0
October	61.8	37.0	16.5	2.0
November	44.6	24.0	7.0	-4.0
December	28.7	9.9	-1.8	-12.0

For more information about the City of Storm Lake and Buena Vista County, please visit the following websites:

Storm Lake – “Jump Right In”

www.stormlake.org

Storm Lake Chamber of Commerce

www.stormlakechamber.com

Buena Vista County website

www.co.buena-vista.ia.us

Public Offices, Resources & Services

BVU Campus Security

712-749-2500

BVU Health Services

712-749-1238

BVU Library

712-749-2203

Storm Lake Police Department

Emergency: 911

Non-Emergency: 712-749-2525

Storm Lake Fire Department

Emergency: 911

Non-Emergency: 712-732-8024

Buena Vista County Sheriff

Emergency: 911

Non-Emergency: 712-749-2530

Buena Vista Regional Medical Center (Hospital)

1525 W 5th St

712-732-4030

Parks & Recreation

County Courthouse

732-8027

Public Library

609 Cayuga St

712-732-8026

Recycle Center

1263 630th St

712-732-7171

Treasurer's Office (Driver's License & State Identification Card)

County Courthouse

712-749-2571

United Community Health Center

603 Ontario Street

712-213-0109

Local Attractions:

Buena Vista County Historical Society

Phone: 712-732-4955

60-minute tour, \$2 each

Rotating exhibits reflecting the county's communities. Visit the indoor main street exhibit complete with livery, barber shop, lawyer's office, general store, historic Halverson house, pharmacy and bank as well as the lakeside site featuring restored country school and log cabin.

Harker House

Phone: 712-732-3267

30-minute tour, \$3 each

Tour the historic 1875 French Mansard cottage home with "widows walk" and open porches. House includes original walnut furnishings, photographs and clothing on display.

Heritage Tree Museum

Phone: 888-752-4692

30-minute tour, self-guided or free guided tours

This outdoor museum is located in Sunset Park along the beautiful shores of Storm Lake with paved walkways and markers identifying each tree.

Santa's Castle

20-minute tour, \$2 each

Located in a historic Carnegie Library, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Sites, this "Christmas Wonderland" is filled with collections of animated Christmas characters from 1920-1930 department store window displays. It's wonderful entertainment for everyone.

Witter Gallery

Phone: 712-732-3400

20-30-minute tours, arranged by appointment, free

The gallery offers different exhibits monthly. Exhibition calendars are available.

Watchable Wildlife

Buena Vista Conservation Board

Phone: (712) 295-7985

For information on Buena Vista Conservation Board Parks and Watchable Wildlife, visit www.co.buena_vista.ia.us/conserv/

Banking

It is a good idea to open a bank account in Storm Lake, as it will be required to conduct most business transactions here in the U.S. As part of orientation, you will be allowed the opportunity to visit a bank in Storm Lake and open an account. You will be able to select the bank that best suits your needs.

To open a bank account, you will need to have your Social Security Number or your Student Identification Number. If you open an account and later receive a social security number, you will need to contact your bank to provide them with this information as well.

When you go to open a bank account, please bring the following items with you:

- Permanent home address (International Address)
- Current Address on Campus
Your Name
Buena Vista University, Box # _____
610 West Fourth Street
Storm Lake, IA 50588
- Student ID number
- Passport and I-20 or social security number and driver's license (*some banks require a social security number, so please ask before you open an account*).

BANKS IN STORM LAKE:

Central Bank

Main Office
600 Lake Avenue
(712) 732-2190

North Location
1237 Lake Avenue
(712) 732-1919

Citizens 1st National Bank

527 Lake Avenue
(712) 732-5440

Heritage Bank

210 E. 5th Street
(712) 732-1700

MetaBank

Main Office

121 E. 5th Street
(712) 732-4117

Plaza Office

1413 Lake Avenue
(712) 732-6655

Northwest Federal Savings Bank

730 Lake Avenue
(712) 732-1070

Security Trust & Savings Bank

601 Lake Avenue
(712) 732-3022

Churches:

For information on worship services, students are encouraged to contact our Campus Chaplain at 712.749.2111. In addition to overseeing the campus ministry program at BVU, the Chaplain will also provide assistance in arranging transportation to worship services at local churches.

All Saints Episcopal

Casino Rd/HWY 110
(712) 732-1314

Buddhist Temple

6018 Rothmore
(712) 732-8265

Church of Christ

225 East 6th Street
(712) 732-1750

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

1411 E. Lakeshore Drive
(712) 732-4527

Faith Bible Christian Outreach Center

1601 W. Milwaukee Avenue
(712) 732-7760

First Baptist

105 East 3rd Street
(712) 732-2822

Grace Lutheran

1407 W. 5th Street
(712) 732-5005

Hope Evangelical Free

2016 W. Milwaukee Avenue
(712) 732-2887

Jehovah's Witness

525 Geisinger Road
(712) 732-2928

Lakeside Presbyterian

100 E. 3rd Street
(712) 732-2076

Southeast Asian Christian

815 E. 5th Street
(712) 732-7361

St. John Lutheran

402 Lake Avenue
(712) 732-2400

St. Mark Lutheran

1614 W. 5th Street
(712) 732-5255

St. Mary's Catholic

320 Seneca Street
(712) 732-3110

Unitarian Universalist

1 S. Windsor Circle
(712) 213-0933

United Methodist

211 E. 3rd Street
(712) 732-5458

Zion Lutheran

1727 555th Street
(712) 732-5223

Shopping

Apparel

Brown's Shoe Fit

618 Lake Ave

712-732-3432

Shoes for every foot, special orders on request

The Buckle

521 Lake Ave

712-732-4316

Men's and women's clothing for pre-teens to adult casual and dressy, shoes and accessories

Goodwill Industries

229 Milwaukee Ave W

712-749-5146

Low prices on a wide variety of consignment merchandise, profits benefit others

Maurices

511 Lake Ave

712-732-5655

Men's and women's casual clothing & accessories

Oswailer's

610 Lake Ave

712-732-2776

Clothing-ladies fashions, children's clothing up to 24 months

Rust's Western Shed

507 Lake Ave

712-732-2537

Boot and shoe repair, western wear and work boot retail

Silk Screen Ink

512 Geneseo St

712-732-7364 or 712-213-0103

The finest in screen printing, embroidery, and ad specialty products and clothing

SOS Thrift

205 Flindt Dr

712-213-0767

Low prices on a wide variety of consignment merchandise, profits benefit St.Mary's School

Department Stores

ACE Hardware

1405 N Lake Ave
712-213-2230

Bomgaars - Denis Gorde

1628 N Lake Ave
712-732-3477

Farm supply store, lawn garden, automotive electrical and plumbing, hardware, power tools and equipment, clothing

Wal-Mart

1831 N Lake Ave
712-732-7940

Auto service and tire center, department store, grocery, photography studio, salon, optometrist

Grocery Stores

Fareway Stores

404 E 7th St
712-732-6203

Grocery store, finest full service meat counter friendly service

Health to the Max, Inc

512 Lake Ave
Storm Lake, IA 50588
712-732-4090

Hy-Vee Food Stores, Inc.

1250 N Lake Ave
712-732-5628

Grocery, floral, pharmacy, liquor, video, Western Union, photo developing, check cashing, dry cleaning, bill pay for MidAmerican, Qwest & Iowa Telecom, postage & UPS, Rug Doctor, Iowa Lottery hunting and fishing licenses, photo copies, catering bakery

Morelos Tienda Mexicana & Video

516 W Milwaukee
712-732-4852

SICHANH Inc.

812 Flindt Dr
712-732-4416

Grocery Stores/Specialty Shops/Services: Grocery store specializing in Asian and Mexican food, Laundromat

Wal-Mart

1831 N Lake Ave
712-732-7940
Grocery Store

Pharmacies

Bedel's Drive-In Pharmacy

409 W 5th St
712-732-4819

MediCap Pharmacy

435 Lake Ave
712-732-3737

Ressler Drug Co

606 Lake Ave
712-749-5025

Walgreens

800 Lake Ave
Storm Lake, IA 50588
712-732-0005

Drug store featuring 1 hour photo, cosmetics with beauty advisor, pharmacy, diabetic needs, digital photo services

Wal-Mart

1831 N Lake Ave
712-732-7940

Entertainment & Recreation

King's Pointe Waterpark Resort

1520 E Lakeshore Drive
712-213-4500
70,000 square feet of outdoor and indoor water parks

Movie Gallery

1114 Lake Ave
712-732-1245
Movie and game rentals

Mr. Movies

327 W Milwaukee
712-213-2100
Movie and game rentals

Storm Lake Bowl

1326 Michigan St
712-732-9804

Universal Kenpo Karate Dojos

6095 Hwy 110
712-749-0777

Vista Three Theatres

712 Lake Ave
712-732-7219
Recording 712-732-5426
3-screen movie theatre, nightly shows, weekend matinees – discounted movie tickets can be purchased at the Lehnus Campus Bookstore

Lodging

AmeriHost Inn

1726 Lake Ave
712-732-1000
61 rooms with continental breakfast, indoor pool/hot tub, exercise room

Budget Host Vista Inn

1316 N Lake Ave
712-732-2342

Budget Inn Motel

1504 N Lake Ave
1-800-383-7666 712-732-2505

Etta's Guesthouse

5647 105th Ave
712-732-6340
Century old farmhouse offers unique family style lodging in the quiet countryside of Storm Lake

King's Pointe Waterpark Resort

1520 E Lakeshore Drive
712-213-4500
100 room lodge with lake views and family suites.

Lighthouse Inn

1601 E Lakeshore Dr
712-732-5753
Hotel, theme rooms, continental breakfast, next to golf course, lake, walking and biking trails

Metcalf House Bed & Breakfast

226 Geneseo St
712-732-5576

Victorian charm, full breakfast, open year round walking distance from downtown Storm Lake

Sail Inn Motel

1015 E Lakeshore Dr
712-732-1160 or 800-984-4555

44 units, lakeside views. Continental breakfast

Super 8 Motel

101 W Milwaukee Ave
712-732-3063 or 800-800-8000

59 rooms, cable TV with HBO, data port phone, some refrigerators and microwaves, quick start breakfast

Restaurants

Boathouse

502 Lake Ave
712-732-1462

Unique nautical atmosphere, area's largest menu featuring seafood, certified Angus steaks, smoked baby back ribs, specialty sandwiches, pastas, outside patio

Boz Wellz

507 Erie Street
712-732-3616

Homemade food, drinks and specialty desserts catering

Brewster's Lounge

225 E Railroad St
712-732-7346

Alcoholic beverages, pizza and fried foods

Burger King

1300 N Lake Ave
712-732-8280

Fast food, play area

China One Buffet

1419 N Lake Ave
712-732-0088

A full buffet of Asian and American cuisine

China House

624 W Milwaukee Ave
712-732-1676

Chinese food and buffet

Coffee Plus

212 E 5th St

Coffee shop specializing in soup and sandwiches

Dairy Queen

820 Flindt Dr

712-732-6290

Fast food and ice cream

Godfathers Pizza

811 Lake Ave

712-732-2965

Pizza and food for in-house, delivery, pick-up, catering

Grand Central Coffee Station

400 W 5th St

712-732-0160

Brewed coffee, Panini-grilled sandwiches, soups salads, Italian soda, espresso, smoothies, fountain drinks, indoor/outdoor seating

Hardee's

605 Flindt Drive

712-732-4015

Fast food

Honey Kissed Pizza

701 Lake Ave

712-732-2222

Dine-in, carry-out, and delivery pizza. Lunch buffet, games, party area

Hy-Vee Food Stores, Inc.

1250 N Lake Ave

712-732-5628

Deli, catering, bakery

Kentucky Fried Chicken

613 Flindt Dr

712-732-2648

Fried chicken with home-style sides

La Juanita

613 Lake Avenue

712-732-5173

Mexican Food, casual dining

Lakeshore Café

1520 N Lake Ave

712-732-9800

Casual family-style restaurant and catering

Little Vientiane Lao & Thai Kitchen

805 Flindt Drive

712-213-1999

Daily Lunch buffet 10:30am – 2:30pm, Dine In or Carry Out

Malarky's Pub

147 Flindt Drive

712-732-2055

American fare with full bar, pool tables, dance floor

Martini's Bar & Grill

523 Erie St

712-732-7852

Full line of specialty dishes and drinks, ten TV screens, including three 61" HDTVs, expanded Fox Cable, ESPN

McDonalds

1831 N Lake Ave

712-732-5657

Fast Food

Pizza Hut

115 E Milwaukee Ave

712-732-4051

Pizza, in-house, pick-up, delivery

Plaza Mexico Mexican Restaurant

1501 N Lake Ave

712-732-0802

Authentic Mexican dining

Quiznos

319 E Milwaukee

712-213-5500

Subs, salads, soups, bread bowls

Regatta Grille

1520 Lakeshore Drive

712-213-4500

Full service restaurant featuring American fare. Exhibition kitchen with wood-fire grill. Lakeview dining. Boat dock access.

Sodexho Food Service

610 W 4th St

712-749-2430

Provide catering services, and campus food service

Subway

1121 N Lake Ave

712-732-5215

Submarine sandwiches, salads, party subs

Taco John's

211 E Milwaukee Ave

712-732-9065

Fast food Mexican restaurant, drive-thru

Uniq Cuisine

1411 E Lakeshore Dr

712-213-9064

Thai, Lao, and American subs

Villager Restaurant

421 Flindt Dr

712-732-2372

Family style restaurant

Transportation

BV Rides Bus

BV Rides, Storm Lake’s public transportation, is available free of charge to Buena Vista University students. The bus stop is on campus near the “Bell”. To call for a pick-up, dial: **1-800-358-5037**.

BV Rides Schedule

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 7am – 6pm
 Tuesday and Thursday 7am – 10pm
Provides transportation from campus anywhere in town

BV Rides for Safety

Wednesday, Friday & Saturday 10pm – 2am
Provides safe transportation from campus to local hotspots

Free Airport Shuttle

A free shuttle service to the Eppley Airfield in Omaha, NE is provided to BVU students on the following schedule. The reservation form (sample below) is available online and must be submitted by the scheduled deadline.



2008-09 OMAHA/EPPLEY AIRPORT SHUTTLE SERVICE RESERVATION

Name: _____ Cell Phone/Contact Number: (_____) _____

Campus Pick-up Location: Grand Hall Lobby The Bell Departure Time: _____ Flight Number: _____

Airline: _____ Returning Time: _____ Flight Number: _____

Special Needs: _____

Please check which date you would like transportation for: <i>(use a different request form for each date below)</i>				
Closed Breaks	Depart BVU	Arrive at Eppley Airport	Depart from Eppley Airport	RSVP date
<input type="checkbox"/> Start of Semester: Friday, Aug. 22			Friday, Aug. 22 at 5 p.m.	Aug. 8
<input type="checkbox"/> Thanksgiving: Wednesday, Nov. 26	3 p.m.	6 p.m.	Sunday, Nov. 30 at 5 p.m.	Nov. 12
<input type="checkbox"/> Christmas: Friday, Dec. 12	8 a.m.	11 a.m.	Sunday, Jan 4 at 5 p.m.	Nov. 28
<input type="checkbox"/> Interim Break: Saturday, Jan. 24	8 a.m.	11 a.m.	Tuesday, Jan. 27 at 5 p.m.	Jan. 5
<input type="checkbox"/> Spring Break: Saturday, March 21	8 a.m.	11 a.m.	Sunday, March 29 at 5 p.m.	March 6
<input type="checkbox"/> End of Spring Semester: Friday, May 22	8 a.m.	11 a.m.		May 8
<input type="checkbox"/> After Graduation: Sunday, May 24	8 a.m.	11 a.m.		May 8

All pick-ups at the Omaha Eppley Airport will be at the Ground Transportation Lounge
Contact Information: Storm Lake Cab Service at 712.732.4420 or 712.363.2387, BVU Campus Security at 712.749.2500
This service is provided by the Office of the Vice President for Student Services/Dean of Students

For more Information

write or call:

Director of International Student Services
Buena Vista University
610 W. Fourth Street
Storm Lake, IA 50588
U.S.A.

Phone: 800.383.9600

Email: international@bvu.edu

www.bvu.edu

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Bold vision. Bright futures.

