

BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

Policies and Procedures

AREA: Academic Affairs

NUMBER: Policy 2.23

SUBJECT: Chapel Requirements

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

1. **Attendance Requirements for Chapel**

A. General Requirements

Chapel is held Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 10:00 AM. All degree-seeking undergraduate students who enroll for twelve or more semester hours of credit are required to attend chapel.

B. Chapel Attendance Requirements for Seniors

Students classified as seniors are allowed five optional chapel absences each semester which must be reported in advance to the Office of the Registrar. Seniors are not, however, allowed to miss any of the following special chapel programs: Founder's Day, Ministerial Alumni Day, SGA installation, Awards Day, and any special lecture series. The dates of these special chapels are posted on the calendar. These five allowed absences for seniors will *not* be used in determining the chapel grade.

C. Chapel Attendance Exceptions

Exceptions to chapel attendance requirements are made for those students who: have classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays only; present a letter from an employer who requires that the student be excused in order to work; or do not have any classes before noon on the Monday-Wednesday-Friday sequence.

A Blue Mountain College graduate who returns as a student is excused from chapel attendance. Students who have legitimate and documented reasons for a chapel absence may have their absence cleared in the Office of the Registrar. Graduate students are not required to attend chapel.

2. Credit for Chapel

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

- A. Students who miss none of the scheduled chapels during a semester will receive a satisfactory grade, S.
- B. Students who have an *unexcused** chapel absence during a semester will receive an unsatisfactory, U.

*An *unexcused* chapel absence is one for which a student cannot provide a legitimate and documented reason.

- C. For *each* unexcused chapel absence, the student must make up the absence. The means of removal of the unexcused absences in chapel are listed in the Procedures of this policy. If the student remains enrolled at the College, the student may remove the chapel unsatisfactory (U) during the current semester in which the unsatisfactory grade is earned. However, the student must complete the work for the removal of the U from his/her transcript by the end of the following semester, or the U will not be removed.
- D. Students who earn an unsatisfactory, U, in chapel attendance will be considered *not* to have met graduation requirements at Blue Mountain College, and they will *not* be awarded a diploma until the unsatisfactory (U) grade is removed.
- E. A student who earns an unsatisfactory, U, in chapel attendance and does not continue to be enrolled at the college, must remove the U during the first semester after readmission.

3. Expectations for Behavior at Chapel

No books (other than Bibles), letters, notes or other such articles are permitted in chapel. Cell phones, pagers and other communication devices must be turned off upon entering the auditorium for chapel. Caps and hats are always removed before entering the auditorium for chapel. Activities such as eating food, drinking, talking, text-messaging or sleeping are not allowed.

SOURCE: Board of Trustees: February 21, 2003; February 20, 2004; February 25, 2005; October 07, 2005; June 19, 2006; November 27, 2006.