



A Life Transforming Experience

## **CORE Student Handbook**

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[www.paconference.org/CORE](http://www.paconference.org/CORE)

### **Welcome!**

First of all we just want to thank you for taking an interest in the CORE program, and we're excited that God could be leading you to join us here in Pennsylvania. We believe CORE has the potential to radically change your life, and to draw you even closer to Christ. Know that we are praying for you as you seek to know God's will, and where He's leading you in the coming months.

### **What is CORE?**

CORE is a 9-month mission training school of the Pennsylvania Conference of Seventh-day Adventists designed for young adults (18-30 year olds), to empower them to own their faith, and to live it out. Whether you decide to take a gap year after graduating from high school, or decide to take a mission focus year while in college, or after college, CORE is a great way to revitalize your faith, and to root you in the Adventist message.

### **Overview**

CORE mainly consists of two tracks; in-class instruction, and hands-on ministry experience. In the classroom portion you will receive instruction on the core beliefs of Adventism, different principles of ministry, practical Christianity, health & lifestyle, and many more areas. The hands-on ministry portion will include giving personal & small group Bible studies, literature evangelism, health & agricultural evangelism, digital media evangelism, city missions, and overseas missions. Yeah, as you can see you'll get a lot of experience in ministry. Because of the rigorous nature of the program we encourage that students avoid distractions, and maintain a balanced and healthy lifestyle. We also do not allow students to be employed while enrolled in the CORE program, as there won't be time for additional involvements.

The CORE program begins August 21, 2019 and ends June 1, 2020. Students should plan on arriving August 21, 2019.



A Life Transforming Experience

## Other Important Details

### Morning Worship

Each weekday there will be a 30-minute morning worship service. Each student will be sharing a worship thought at different times during the year.

### CORE Book Club

There are some books that are just too good not to read, and for those we have the students divide into groups, discuss what they've learned, and how it's touched their lives. This will take place at different points throughout the program.

### Daily Schedule

#### *Sunday*

Brunch 10:30am

Outreach (Sack dinner) 12:30pm-8:30pm

#### *Monday-Thursday*

Breakfast 7:00am

Morning Worship 7:45am-8:15am

Class 8:15am-9:45am

Break 9:45am-10:00am

Class 10:00am-11:45am

Lunch 11:45am-12:15pm

Organic Agriculture/Health Food Production (Tue & Thur) 1:00pm-6:00pm

Class/Outreach (Sack dinner on outreach days) (Mon & Wed) 1:30pm-8:30pm

Dinner 5:15pm-5:45pm

#### *Friday*

Breakfast 7:00am

Lunch 12:25pm-12:55pm

Dinner 5:15pm-5:45pm

#### *Sabbath*

Attend local church/Bible studies/Enjoy nature!

## Location

CORE is located on the campus of Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, Pennsylvania. It's gorgeous here! The Appalachian Trail is literally across the street, and you've got a beautiful moun-



A Life Transforming Experience

tain view with lots of opportunities for biking, hiking, etc. It's a peaceful and quiet location with beautiful scenery all around. The dorms have been newly renovated as well. On campus there's a beach volleyball court, a tennis court, a soccer field, a large gym for indoor basketball or volleyball. Blue Mountain Academy also runs a health food store on the campus where you can stock up on all your Adventist favorites.

Within 5 minutes of the campus are a Red Robin, Burger King, Subway, Taco Bell, Verizon, AT&T, Walmart, and Aldi. Within 35 minutes you have Allentown and Reading with even more of the necessities of life, Costco, Whole Foods, etc. There's also a Planet Fitness within 25 minutes of the campus where you can get a gym membership for \$15 a month, and no contractual obligation.

## **CORE Culture**

We expect all CORE students to live by Biblical principles and the standards and practices of the Seventh-day Adventist church. <https://www.adventist.org/en/beliefs/> Below are the standards that we have chosen to adopt for the CORE program. Students are not expected to immediately agree with all the rules and requirements in our student manual, but are expected to fully comply with them, and are encouraged to investigate the reasoning and rationale behind them. We try to keep the "requirements" to a practical minimum. There are things we may do here that wouldn't necessarily take place in your home just because of the nature of a program like this, in an environment like this.

### *Personal Devotions*

Jesus prayed in John 17:3 that, "...this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent." We believe the best way for someone to truly get to know God is to develop an experience with Him in His Word. So for this reason we strongly encourage students to develop a consistent and meaningful devotional and prayer life. It will only make your ministry and personal experience even more effective.

### *Relationships*

As listed above, we expect all CORE students to live by Biblical principles, and the standards and practices of the Seventh-day Adventist church. So any appearance of evil or impure relations with the opposite sex are prohibited, and are grounds for dismissal, without a refund. We believe godly relationships and marriage are a beautiful blessing, but because of the rigorous nature of the CORE program we don't allow for dating relationships amongst fellow students during the length of the program. Also, being located on the same campus as an academy, with minors present, we have a zero tolerance policy regarding any relationships with students at the



A Life Transforming Experience

academy. If a CORE student is found out to be dating or courting the romantic interests of any of the academy students it will be grounds for immediate dismissal with no refund.

### *Dress*

Students are encouraged to dress in a clean and modest fashion that would be reflective of followers of Christ. So we ask that students not wear anything that would be offensive, revealing, or distracting. Examples would be cleavage, midriff dresses, short shorts/skirts, yoga pants/tights without something covering hips, tank tops, sleeveless shirts, anything that is see through, or two piece swimwear for females. Classroom attire can be clean casual (jeans without holes, t-shirt, khakis, polos, button up shirts, etc). But no shorts, pajamas, track or sweat-pants, are allowed in the classroom. Sleepwear is not to be worn outside of the student's respective dorms. Work clothes and footwear are expected when working on the farm.

## **Campus Life**

### *Housing*

All students will be housed in the dormitories of Blue Mountain Academy. CORE students will be in a different wing or floor than the academy students. The dorms have also been recently renovated which is a blessing. Each room will have two twin beds, two dressers and two closets. Students are expected to bring their own bedding, towels, etc. There are common bathrooms with shower stalls in each hallway. It's expected that students will keep their own rooms neat and organized. Deans will have freedom to inspect rooms to ensure that they are kept in good condition, and that we are being good stewards of the academy's space. There are washers and dryers available for use that are shared with the academy, so please refrain from leaving things unattended for long periods of time. Unfortunately we are unable to provide accommodation for any married couples as students at this time.

### *Off-Campus Housing*

Should students have family in the area, or a place to stay within a reasonable commutable distance of Blue Mountain Academy they can receive a discounted tuition rate. It is expected that all off-campus students attend all classes and outreach events if they are to receive full credit for the program.

### *Food*



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CORE students will eat in the academy cafeteria three meals a day, Monday through Friday, and two meals a day Sabbath and Sunday. The cafeteria serves vegetarian and vegan dishes with a salad bar.

#### *Responsibilities*

Students will all share in cleaning and organizing responsibilities around the dorm, the CORE classroom, and cafeteria. We will divide up the students into groups who rotate on these different duties. Learning responsibility, and working as a group, are invaluable for the growth and development of the students, and are also a token of our appreciation to the school for allowing us to use their property.

#### *Prohibited Items*

Toasters, microwaves, candles, incense burners or coffee makers are not allowed in the dorm rooms. No caffeinated beverages are to be brought onto campus (e.g. coffee, tea, energy drinks, etc.) Illicit drugs, tobacco, alcoholic beverages, pornography, occult paraphernalia, weapons, guns of any kind, gang symbols, are not tolerated on campus. Discovery of the presence of any of these items is grounds for immediate dismissal, without a refund.

#### *Dismissal of Students*

CORE reserves the right to dismiss any student, without a refund, who consistently fails to abide by the policies and guidelines described in this handbook.

## **Application Process**

CORE is a program for young people who are committed to God, and to the teachings of His Word, and so the application process is our means of determining who will best appreciate and contribute to the vision and mission of the program. We can only accept applications that are fully completed.

#### *The application process is as follows:*

1. CORE receives completed application form, application fee, background check, and references.
2. After CORE staff reviews the application and receives the background check you will receive notification of acceptance or denial by email. Upon acceptance, included in the acceptance email will be an invoice with the tuition payment process.
3. A \$1,000 deposit is required within 30 days of acceptance letter being received. And an additional \$1,500 is required by move in date August 21, 2019.
4. Final payment of tuition is due by June 1, 2020.



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### *Steps For Application Completion*

1. A completed online application form, or a completed physical application.
2. Student submits background check.
3. Three reference forms completed and sent directly to CORE from individuals who filled them out.
4. A non-refundable application fee of \$35
5. A simple one minute video telling us why you want to come to CORE. No fancy editing or graphics needed. Just a simple video from a phone is sufficient. Send link for video to [dwcasper@paconference.org](mailto:dwcasper@paconference.org)
6. A recent photo of yourself, email or digital preferred.

For the safety of our program, and the campus as a whole all applicants will go through a simple background check. The information on what is required for the background check, and how to go about it, is all in the application section of our website. Background checks take no more than a couple weeks to process, and then we can give a final answer on a student's approval or denial.

All applications are processed in the order in which they are received. Students will receive a response to their applications in a timely fashion upon reception of background check results. We have a limit on how many students we can receive, so applying sooner rather than later is a good idea.

### *References*

People who are filling out reference forms should have at least 6 months worth of experience and interactions with the applicant. We will not accept reference forms from family members of any sort. Because our program has a spiritual emphasis it is preferred that your references can speak to your spiritual and/or academic experience. Some examples are a pastor, elder, deacon, pathfinder leader, Sabbath school or Bible teacher, etc. Reference forms can be filled out on our website, and are to be kept confidential from the prospective student.

### *Health & Medical Information*

It's very important for the sake of the health and wellbeing of the applicant, and the campus, that students give accurate information regarding their health, and mental health history that require, or have required professional treatment. This includes past, recent, or current substance abuse/addictions.

## **Finances**

### *Tuition*



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The tuition cost of the CORE program is \$12,000. This covers lodging, meals (3 meals a day Mon-Fri, and 2 meals a day Sat-Sun), travel (CORE trips), the mission trip, and instruction through the entire 9-month long program. Cost breakdown is below.

#### *Cost Breakdown*

\$6,045 Room & Board  
+ \$4,455 Instruction Fees  
+ \$1,500 Mission Trip  
= \$12,000 Total Tuition  
+ \$600 Fuel Fee (For Non-Driving Students)  
+ \$35 Application Fee

#### *Transportation*

Students who are bringing vehicles must be willing to provide transportation to other students without vehicles for outreach, church and CORE activities. All vehicles must be licensed and insured, and a copy of insurance will need to be submitted to the CORE office before arrival. Non-driving students will be asked to pay a fuel fee of \$600, in addition to their tuition, to go towards fuel expenses for those with cars, and their use of them for CORE activities. These funds do not go towards non-CORE activities, so if students are seeking a ride for non-CORE activities from those with cars, they are encouraged to contribute to the fuel costs.

We will be offering airport transportation to and from the Lehigh Valley International Airport in Allentown, Pennsylvania for students who need it upon arrival in August, for Thanksgiving break, Christmas break, and after graduation. Airport trips are \$20 each way. Other transportation arrangements can be made on a case by case basis.

#### *Payment Schedule*

We require a minimum \$2,500 initial payment by the August 21, 2019 move in date. Students have the opportunity through the work study program we provide to cover, and potentially exceed that amount. From there we will work with each student to arrange a payment schedule to ensure they are able to completely cover their tuition by their graduation June 1, 2020. We can help students with composing fundraising letters, and in mapping out their work-study track to make as much progress as possible in covering their tuition.

#### *Work Study*



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Students will be able to dramatically reduce their tuition costs through the work study program by doing organic agriculture, health food production, and through canvassing. This includes the summer before the program begins, and throughout their 9 months here at CORE.

*Refunds*

All cancellations need to be given no later than two weeks before the start date of August 21, 2019 to receive a full refund. Partial refunds will be available up to two weeks after the program begins.

Any further questions regarding the CORE program can be communicated via:

Email: [dwcasper@paconference.org](mailto:dwcasper@paconference.org)

Phone: 484-232-9239