



STATE BOARD OF CAREER COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS

30 East Broad Street, Suite 2481, Columbus, OH 43215-3414
(614) 466-2752 • Fax (614) 466-2219 • Toll Free (877) 275-4219
E-mail: bpsr@scr.state.oh.us • Website: scr.ohio.gov

MEMORANDUM

To: Students of Brightwood College

From: John Ware, Executive Director
State Board of Career Colleges and Schools

Date: December 10, 2018

Re: **Closure of Brightwood College**

On December 7, 2018, Brightwood College ceased its on-campus operations at all of its locations nationwide. In an effort to assist students who were affected by Brightwood College's closure, the State Board of Career Colleges and Schools is providing the important information set forth below to students. Please be aware that current and updated information for Brightwood College students will be posted in the following locations:

For information from the US Department of Education:
<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/about/announcements/closed-school>

For information from the State Board of Career Colleges and Schools: scr.ohio.gov

Student Transcript Requests

The State Board of Career Colleges and Schools is in the process of gathering transcripts from Brightwood College. We will have electronic transcripts available by Friday, December 14th for students who were enrolled at the time of closure. We intend to take possession of any additional records and transcripts during the next few weeks. For information about student transcripts please contact Laura Essman at 614-466-2752 or laura.essman@scr.state.oh.us

Teach-Out/Academic Transfer Options

Many schools in Southwest Ohio have informed us that they are willing to assist Brightwood College students complete their education. If you need assistance in identifying possible schools for academic transfer please contact our office. In considering your teach-out/transfer options please be aware that:

1. Programs offered at each school may differ and students should contact the school directly to determine what programs each school offers.
2. The State Board of Career Colleges and Schools has not confirmed that institutions will accept Brightwood College credits as part of any transfer. Students interested in transfer should contact the institution to determine whether they can transfer their credits.

Federal Student Loan Discharge Information

You may be eligible for a 100% discharge of your Direct Loans, Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program loans, or Federal Perkins Loans. Please note that students who transfer credits into a comparable program at another institution to complete the program are not eligible for loan discharge even if some of their credits do not transfer.

General eligibility requirements for a loan discharge:

1. Your school closes while you're enrolled, and you do not complete your program because of the closure. If you were on an approved leave of absence, you are considered to have been enrolled at the school.
2. Your school closes within 120 days after you withdraw.

You are not eligible for discharge of your loans if your school closes and any of the following is true:

1. You withdraw more than 120 days before the school closes.
2. You are completing a comparable educational program at another school through a teach-out agreement with the school, by transferring academic credits or hours earned at the closed school to another school, or by any other comparable means.
3. You have completed all the coursework for the program, even if you have not received a diploma or certificate.

For more information regarding student loan discharges see:

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/closed-school>

Student Tuition Recovery Fund

Students who had prepaid cash tuition for classes that were not completed may be eligible for a refund from the Ohio Student Tuition Recovery Fund. If you believe that you had prepaid cash tuition for classes that you were not able to complete, you can file an application for a refund of your prepaid tuition. The STRF application is available online here:

<http://scr.ohio.gov/ConsumerInformation/StudentTuitionRecoveryFund.aspx>

Release of Student Information

In order to assist students seeking to transfer to other institutions, the State Board may release the following student directory information only to schools, colleges, and universities with comparable programs who indicate they will assist Brightwood College students with program teach-outs or transfer of credit options:

1. Student Contact Information (Including name, address, phone number and email)
2. Student Programmatic Information (Including enrollment status, program of study, program start and end dates and number of credits earned)

In accordance with 20 U.S.C. § 1232g and 34 CFR 99.37 you may opt out of the release of your information if you contact the Board at bpsr@scr.state.oh.us prior to midnight on December 14, 2018.

For more information please contact the State Board of Career Colleges and Schools at 614-466-2752 or bpsr@scr.state.oh.us