Application for Membership in the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges

Submitted by:

Shepherd University
Shepherdstown, West Virginia
Overview

The Shepherd University Mission Statement, below, commits the University to its historic mission as a public liberal arts university.

_Shepherd University, a West Virginia public liberal arts university, is a diverse community of learners and a gateway to the world of opportunities and ideas. We are the regional center for academic, cultural, and economic opportunity. Our mission of service succeeds because we are dedicated to our core values: learning, engagement, integrity, accessibility, and community._

Shepherd College was founded in 1871 to instruct students “in languages, arts and sciences.” This commitment remains vital to today’s Shepherd University, a small to mid-sized, predominantly undergraduate university with a vision statement that reflects its past and leads to its future:

_Shepherd—a premier liberal arts university. We will be a nationally respected community of learners where passion, purpose, and experience unite to inspire individuals to shape the world._

In 1872, the Legislature of West Virginia established by Code: “That a branch of the State Normal School be and the same is hereby established at the building known as Shepherd College, in Shepherdstown, in the county of Jefferson.” On July 1, 1930, the then Shepherd College became a four-year institution for the training of teachers with the right to grant bachelor’s degrees. In 1943 Shepherd began to offer liberal arts programs and in 1950 added science degrees. In 1950, Shepherd was accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, becoming a member of the Association of American Colleges. Today, Shepherd University has an independent Board of Governors whose members are subject to appointment by the Governor of the State of West Virginia. The West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission sets general policy guidelines for the development of higher education within the State.

Shepherdstown is located on the west bank of the Potomac River close to historic Harpers Ferry. It is often referred to as the gateway from the east coast of the United States into West Virginia and the gateway from West Virginia into the metropolitan areas of the east. The flow of people and cultures through this area has been recurrent over time, and Shepherd University’s mission and commitments are infused with the interplay of people, cultures, and history. The first building to house the college is now called Joseph McMurran Hall, and is named after the first principal of the college, Joseph P. McMurran. This building has recently been re-renovated and is used as a reception area and houses the offices for university advancement and the Shepherd University Foundation.
Shepherd University is located on 165 acres in historic Shepherdstown, West Virginia. The University also owns another 158 acres of farmland that is separated from the developed campus by a small strip of non-university owned property. Since 1997, Shepherd has invested more than $105 million in additional buildings and building renovations including: a major addition and renovation to the Scarborough Library ($11.5 million); an addition to the Byrd Science Center ($9.4 million); a new Center for Contemporary Arts building ($12.5 million); an addition to the Frank Arts Center ($2.7 million); a renovation of McMurran Hall (a campus reception and office area) and Reynolds Hall, a theater/auditorium (a total of $2.6 million for the latter renovations); a new nursing classroom and office building ($10 million); an addition to the football stadium ($2.6 million); a new athletics facilities building ($1.8 million); a new residential apartment complex ($19.8 million); and residence hall renovations ($1.8 million). In the spring of 2008 a new Wellness Center building is scheduled to be completed ($21.4 million). The University is currently requesting funding from the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission and the legislature for an additional contemporary arts building.

Excellence in teaching is a hallmark of Shepherd University. This commitment is reflected in faculty hired with an understanding that teaching is their foremost responsibility as a faculty member. The First-Year Faculty Workshop orients all new faculty members to the unique teaching and learning emphasis at Shepherd. The commitment to excellence in teaching is not only mirrored in faculty annual evaluations and the promotion and tenure process, but is also reflected in the immersion of all faculty members in programs oriented towards the continuing development of their teaching. For example, the “Focus on Student Learning Series,” is directed at all faculty members and exposes them to innovative teaching practices by example and through seminars. (See the section below, “A significant institutional commitment to active learning.”) The student-faculty relationship is at the heart of the Shepherd educational experience. This relationship is reflected in the relatively low ratio of students-to-faculty in the classroom, as well as the large number of small classes offered by the university. As part of its evaluation of faculty professional development, Shepherd University encourages both presentations and publication on the scholarship of teaching and learning. Shepherd values the teacher/scholar model. Thus pedagogical-related publication and the publication of textbooks are considered at Shepherd to be on par with the publication of monographs or other original scholarly work within one’s field of professional learning.

Shepherd University also recognizes the need for continued faculty professional development and engagement as part of the professional responsibility of faculty towards themselves and their students. All faculty members are provided professional development funding, and all faculty members are supported by the university when they present papers or engage in arts-related performances at professional meetings. Faculty members are encouraged to involve students in their research, and to bring the results of their research into their teaching. Shepherd University faculty members have been awarded numerous grants to support scholarly publications, and are recognized for their professional activity in a number of ways. Perhaps, most visibly within West Virginia, the West Virginia Faculty Merit Foundation has recognized several Shepherd faculty members as the West Virginia University Professor of the Year. This award, based on scholarship, teaching and service, is given to only one faculty member in the state each year. Shepherd faculty members are actively engaged across the domains of disciplines and professional scholarship.
Through both curriculum development and its infrastructure development Shepherd University demonstrates its deep belief in the liberal arts and sciences. As part of its first-year students program, Shepherd offers a class, “Philosophy 199: Introduction to Life at a Liberal Arts Institution,” which includes primary readings and texts on a diverse range of creative, intellectual and ethical ideas. Shepherd also offers “Interest Group” classes, which include a variety of often culturally diverse topics--for example “Sanskrit,” New Age Spirituality,” and “Thai Cooking,” that are of interest to faculty and to students. “Learning Community” classes are also offered as part of the first-year student program. In a “Learning Community,” two different but related subject area courses are coordinated with common discussions and common readings. (Additional discussion of the first-year student programs is found under the application section on “Significant institutional commitment to active learning.”) The latest additions to the Shepherd curriculum include majors in Spanish, Spanish Education and computer engineering, as well as concentrations in environmental sustainability, and international politics. A multidisciplinary international studies major is part of the Shepherd planning process, as stated within the most recent Shepherd University Compact filed with the State of West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission. The Department of Contemporary Art and Theater and the Department of Music are two of the three programs (including Social Work) that are designated by Shepherd University as a Program of Distinction in the 2008 Shepherd University Compact. The University likewise maintains its commitment to enhancing its core liberal arts and science programs as it plans for the future.

Shepherd University is highly respected for the strength, the depth, and the diversity of its curricular and co-curricular programs in arts, culture, and the sciences, as well as its professional programs. The Princeton Review Best Colleges by Region, based on specific academic criteria, rates Shepherd among 139 colleges and universities that are designated the best academic institutions in the Southeast United States. Shepherd is listed as 40th among baccalaureate colleges in the South by the U.S. News and World Report. John Villani includes Shepherdstown as one of The 100 Best Art Towns in America (N.Y.: W.W. Norton and Co., 2005). He notes, “The heart and soul of Shepherdstown’s cultural scene is connected to the music and theater programs offered at Shepherd University,” with Shepherd’s Contemporary American Theater Festival (CATF) “as the annual highlight” of the cultural calendar (p.77).

The faculty, staff, and students of Shepherd University, as well as the people of the region served by Shepherd, are immersed in the history and the dynamic environment of a public liberal arts college. Shepherd University seeks membership in the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges so that it may be a partner in an organization of peer institutions. Shepherd thus gains from the insights and experiences of members from these peer institutions, and contributes to discussions of curriculum development, faculty issues, student concerns, and other issues of mutual interest. Shepherd also seeks membership in the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges not only to enhance and support its unique mission within West Virginia, but also to support enhanced understanding for and commitment to the liberal arts and sciences across the broader society.

Below is a brief discussion of some of the outstanding curricular and co-curricular liberal arts and sciences related programs that are at the center of Shepherd University’s mission.
• The Music Program at Shepherd University

Shepherd music faculty members and students have performed in major musical venues across the country and in Europe. They have performed at the Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland and in the great cathedrals of Europe, including Canterbury in England, St. Francis in Assisi, and St. Mary’s in Dublin. In the United States, Shepherd ensembles have performed in Giants Stadium in New Jersey and Carnegie Hall in New York City, as well as many other locales. In total, Shepherd University’s musicians and ensembles have annually performed before audiences in excess of 70,000.

The Shepherd University Department of Music is fully accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music, and offers both undergraduate and graduate degrees (a Master of Music in Music Education). Since all ensembles are open to students of any major, the music program regularly recruits students from all majors through performances on high school campuses throughout the region. Shepherd’s music faculty members are active as guest conductors, performers, and adjudicators throughout the country and around the world. Shepherd is the music center throughout the region, providing nearly 100 public performances on campus each academic year, many with pre-concert lectures and workshops open students and the larger community. The Music department enriches cultural diversity with world music ensembles such as our Balinese gamelan. Shepherd is one of the few institutions in the United States with a Balinese gamelan ensemble. The department offers summer string and jazz camps, various workshops (double reed day, percussion workshop, visitation day, and honor band), early childhood music classes, and vocal competition. Shepherd is the home of the Region 8 Solo and Ensemble Festival and the Eastern Regional High School Jazz Festival.

The music program has a successful partnership with the local school jurisdictions, allowing school-aged string students to join with college students and professional musicians in the Shepherd Preparatory Orchestra. This orchestra rehearses every week, performs once each semester, and is a part of a far-larger preparatory program that provides musical instruction by Shepherd students and faculty to school-aged and adult learners. Of particular note is the piano pedagogy program, which provides free piano lessons to those that cannot afford it.

Shepherd students study with an internationally known performance faculty drawn largely from performing ensembles in Baltimore and Washington and often travel to those metropolitan centers to see performances and to take part in master classes, workshops, and meet-the-artist events. Shepherd music graduates have gone on to graduate study in such institutions as Northwestern University, Ithaca College, Peabody Institute, and the Eastman School of Music.

The Friends of Music, a 501(c)3 organization comprised of community leaders, supports musical excellence at Shepherd by providing free preparatory lessons to students in need; student scholarships; funding for international tours; instrument purchases (including a concert-grand piano) for the University; funding support for the Two Rivers Chamber Orchestra, a campus-based professional orchestra; and, funding for a highly-acclaimed guest artist series that has included, among others, Marvin Hamlisch, Leon Fleisher, the Turtle Island String Quartet, the Chamber Orchestra of the Kremlin, and Angela Hewitt. Shepherd’s music faculty and students
are dedicated to both professional growth and development, and the cultural enrichment of the region and beyond.

**The Department of Contemporary Arts and Theater.**

The Shepherd University theater program is part of the Department of Contemporary Arts and Theater. The art and theater group annually provides more than 65 exhibitions and 80 theatrical performances for the campus and the extended community. An annual series of lectures, workshops, and seminars with nationally recognized artists, actors, and writers provides Shepherd students and community with additional opportunities to experience and learn about contemporary art and theater from some of the finest talent in the nation. Professional collaborations and partnerships with the National Park Service, National Capital Region, World War II Memorial, and Antietam National Battlefield have resulted in publications designed by Shepherd University students including annual reports, posters, brochures, and the upcoming publication of a National Capitol Region Book of photographs produced by Shepherd University students and potentially viewed and utilized by millions. Shepherd art and theater faculty annually serve as judges for art, design, and theater competitions, provide workshops for high school teachers in West Virginia and surrounding states, and support art and theater organizations and programs throughout the region.

The faculty and staff in art/theater and the Contemporary American Theater Festival (CATF) are dedicated to offering an extensive array of educational opportunities that go well beyond classroom teaching. In the past academic year alone the Department and CATF provided five equity theater productions, three student productions, 27 field trips, domestic and international travel, 40 internships and experiences working with real clients, and provided professional artistic, design, and photographic service to the campus and greater community. Faculty during the past academic year have participated in national and international exhibits, conducted five workshops, juried five community exhibits, completed 10 community based design projects, and served as guest lecturers at organizational meetings and seminars. Students have mounted 30 exhibitions in the region and won 22 regional and national awards. The interdisciplinary nature of the curricula and outreach of its programs makes the contemporary arts at Shepherd University a particularly creative enterprise for its faculty and students, as well as its professional colleagues and community participants.

The department annually offers at least two foreign study and travel opportunities. These opportunities are available for any student and community member as well as for our majors. Each travel program is accompanied by a course that studies the art and the culture of the countries to be visited and is followed by public exhibitions and presentations by those who participated in the trip and the course. Annual participation in the travel program is more than 100. The Department of Contemporary Art and Theater is currently working with the Departments of Sociology and English and Modern Languages to offer an extended travel and education program in Africa next year. The department faculty is engaged with students and others in the study, the creation, and dissemination of contemporary art and theater.
• The Common Reading Program

Shepherd University instituted a Common Reading Program in 2007. The reading program brings not only Shepherd University students, but also area high school students and community residents into discussions and programs built around the common reading. The first program, partnering with the Appalachian Heritage Writer-in-Residence Project, centered on Henry Louis Gates’ book, *Colored People*. Dr. Gates was the Appalachian “Writer in Residence” that fall, and Gates’ book was distributed free of charge to all incoming first-year students during the summer Advisement/Registration sessions. Shepherd student discussions of the book were held during Orientation in August, 2007, and nearly 300 students participated in group discussions led by faculty members and English majors. The Center for Teaching and Learning, which sponsors the Common Reading Program, also hosted a faculty and community panel discussion of *Colored People* in the Byrd Center for Legislative Studies during the fall 2007 semester. In addition, discussion groups were held both in the area public schools and in Shepherd University classes around themes in *Colored People*. The Frank Arts Center Theater was filled to capacity with university and high school students and faculty members, as well as community members, when Dr. Gates spoke of his childhood in a poor, segregated region of West Virginia.

This year (2008) the graphic novel *Persepolis*, by Iranian-born writer Marjane Satrapi, was chosen by faculty, staff, and students as the 2008 Common Reading selection. Shepherd University will be celebrating themes from *Persepolis* in a number of ways throughout the academic year—including a lecture series on Iran, a Persian dinner, and art, music and movie events. A complimentary copy of *Persepolis* has been given to all first-year students. Free copies were also made available for faculty wishing to use the book in their classes. The film *Persepolis* was shown on campus by the Shepherdstown Film Society, an independent community-based organization, in partnership with the Scarborough Society, a friends of the Shepherd library organization sponsored by the Shepherd University Foundation. (Throughout the academic year the Shepherdstown Film Society presents art films on the Shepherd campus in cooperation with the university.) The Shepherd University Common Reading Program involves the campus community and the broader community joining together in thoughtful discussion.

• The George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of the Civil War

Established in 1993, the George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of the Civil War at Shepherd University has operated as a research and education center on the American Civil War. Shepherdstown’s proximity to Harpers Ferry and the Civil War battlefields of Antietam, South Mountain, Monocacy, Gettysburg, Manassas, and Fredericksburg serves as a catalyst to the center’s work.

Since August 1996, the center’s historical records specialists have entered into a computerized database, the Compiled Service Records of approximately 17,000 Union and Confederate soldiers who hailed from the areas of Virginia that now comprise West Virginia. Computer technology enables these records to be easily gleaned for individual soldier information or for composites of regimental statistics. The center has developed an interactive educational software program about West Virginia’s role in the Civil War titled *Mountaineers of the Blue and Gray: The Civil War and West Virginia*. The center’s monographs and other book holdings are
integrated into the Scarborough Library’s online catalog. The program has received numerous accolades from teachers in the region and is issued free of charge to secondary schools in West Virginia.

Since 2002, the center has administered and awarded the Peter Seaborg Award for Civil War Scholarship, an annual prize of $5,000 recognizing an outstanding nonfiction book that advances knowledge about the Civil War era of American history. Center Director and History Professor Mark Snell oversees a concentrated track of study within the history major called “The Civil War and 19th Century America.” The center sponsors the George M. Nethken Fellowship, which allows graduate students to work at the center on research over the summer. To date, seven apprentice historians have taken part in this exciting opportunity, two of whom have subsequently earned the doctorate degree.

The core of the center’s mission is making history accessible to both students and the general public. An exhibit in the museum of the Historic Shepherdstown Commission on life in Shepherdstown during Civil War was developed by the staff using resources of the Center and the Commission. Visits and presentations by renowned Civil War historians are a continuing aspect of the Center’s offerings. Annual summer seminars detail a particular aspect of the Civil War and attract visitors from around the country, and include continuing education credit for teachers. Research on Civil War era music was presented by historians and musicologists at two national conferences co-sponsored by the Center and Shepherd University’s Department of Music. The proceedings were published by University of Missouri Press under the title Bugle Resounding: Essays on Music and Musicians of the Civil War Era. The Center sponsored the publication of The Devastating Hand of War, a chronicle of Romney, West Virginia, during the Civil War. The Center regularly hosts various groups from the Federal Office of Personnel Management, various agencies of the Department of Defense, and officers and cadets from the U.S. Military Academy. Annual tours of European World War I and II battlefields are sponsored by the Center for both Shepherd students and members of the public. The Civil War Center is a valued contributor to those who are interested in this aspect of American history and culture.

• The Institute for Environmental Studies

Environmental issues are at the forefront of human and cultural sustainability at this point in time and the Shepherd University Institute for Environmental Studies (IES) has undertaken two major initiatives in the past five years: a focus on environmental sustainability and the expansion of Shepherd’s astronomical facilities. The institute has taken the lead in environmental sustainability initiatives both on the campus and in working with local and state agencies. In addition to the development of a new academic concentration in environmental sustainability, faculty and students have engaged in significant projects related to the field. Students in environmental studies have conducted detailed building energy audits for a variety of Shepherd University campus structures and buildings owned by the Corporation of Shepherdstown, and conducted campus-wide analyses of infrastructure and operations for overall sustainability. In addition, institute students have participated in the nationwide Recyclemania competitions in 2007 and 2008, and have been actively involved in the U.S. Department of Energy Million Solar Roofs Initiative, the West Virginia Development Office Alternative Energy Odyssey, the Solar Solutions for West Virginia Conference, and the Shepherdstown Sustainability Council. In
addition, the establishment in fall 2008 of a Renewable Energy Demonstration Site, funded by a West Virginia EPSCoR Innovation Grant and the West Virginia Division of Energy, provides further opportunities for student and faculty involvement in the exploration of projects in wind, biofuel, and solar applications.

The Shepherd University Observatory, funded by a West Virginia EPSCoR Innovation Grant and built in the fall of 2005 and the winter of 2006, has facilitated a greater expansion in these curricular and research areas, providing more comprehensive instruction in astronomy and physics concepts at numerous levels, including those at the non-major introductory level. Reaching out to non-science students to bring them science literacy is a major concern of the IES. The observatory has been instrumental in the expansion of the science outreach program not only to Shepherd students, but also to students in the K-12 school system as well as the general public. Shepherd student involvement was critical in the development of the observatory’s outreach program. Previously unavailable student research opportunities have been made possible by the observatory, and a number of students in areas such as communications, English, environmental studies, history, and mathematics have been able to publish and present scientific research at learned forums. The IES is committed to the development of a culture of learning across academic disciplines and into the public sphere.

**Internationalization at Shepherd University**

Over the past several years Shepherd University has taken major steps to develop programs in support of global awareness. A part-time Study Abroad Office opened in the spring of 2006 (see http://www.shepherd.edu/university/studyabroad/). An annual study abroad fair is held each fall; a passport day is also held each spring along with other programming. Beginning in the fall of 2006, Shepherd University implemented a major and a teaching specialization in Spanish language that requires at least the equivalent of one immersion language class abroad. Each year Shepherd supports faculty-led Spanish and French language instruction short-term study abroad programs. Sixty-six Spanish and French language students studied abroad during the period from spring of 2006 through summer of 2008. With the support of a West Virginia Internationalizing Higher Education Grant, Shepherd University offered its first international teacher practicum in Jamaica for eight students in January 2008. The Jamaican teacher practicum now operates on a bi-yearly basis with the goal of operating annually.

Across the University, departments are engaged in offering faculty-led short term study abroad programs, usually connected with specific course content. In 2005-2006, 66 students participated in these programs. In 2006-2007, 148 students participated, and in 2007-08, 118 students participated. Faculty members teaching art, English, French, history, and sociology, and the study abroad director are developing an interdisciplinary study tour to Senegal and the Gambia for 2010. Shepherd University has joined WARA-West African Research Association to assist with the program development. Nine Shepherd students participated in non-Shepherd study abroad programs during the 2007-2008 academic year versus three students the previous academic year. During the 2008 fall semester four students are studying abroad with non-Shepherd programs. In the fall 2008 semester a Shepherd University history professor is in residence at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (England), while a professor from the British institution is teaching at Shepherd. Shepherd University expects to further advance study-abroad
programming and internationalization with the support of a recently endowed Create the Future fund, devoted to the support of international travel by Shepherd faculty and students. This fund was created with a major contribution by Shepherd President Suzanne Shipley during her inauguration as the 15th president in October 2007, and has subsequently received additional contributions in support of its mission. The internationalization of the Shepherd University community is helping its students to develop the necessary tools with which to participate actively and thoughtfully in a world which is not only flat but becoming ever-closer with common issues.

• **Community Service and Service Learning**

The Office of Community Services and Service Learning (CSSL) are committed to “providing resources, experiences and connections to help cultivate students’ interests and passions in becoming engaged citizens.” The CSSL believes a liberal arts education is not just about the life of the mind, but also the connection between learning and active citizenship. As a component of New Student Orientation Day of Service, each year freshman students are engaged in a day of community service. Last year 140 freshmen worked at community service projects at 15 different sites in the region. As part of the inauguration of President Shipley, 130 students participated in service-related projects, such as making homemade Inaugural Apple Butter which was sold to help support the Shepherdstown Volunteer Fire Department. CSSL also sponsored the Martin Luther King, Jr., “A Day On, Not a Day Off” service projects, which involved 25 students working at the Harpers Ferry Job Corps Center and 19 students participated this year in an Alternative Spring Break trip to work at a community center in a poverty-stricken area of West Virginia. The annual Relay for Life, sponsored by CSSL, had more than 667 participants this year. An additional 567 student participants were involved in various community service projects, and 285 students were involved in course-related service-learning projects. During the past year alone 1,750 different service opportunities were undertaken by Shepherd students. As a result of the efforts of the students, staff, and faculty working with the CSSL projects, Shepherd University’s service commitment was recognized by the West Virginia State Journal for inclusion in its edition *55 Good Things About West Virginia*. Shepherd University was named the 2008 Top Collegiate Relay for Life institution in West Virginia. In 2006 and 2007 Governor Manchin recognized the outstanding volunteerism of the campus community during the Relay for Life at Shepherd University. In 2007 Shepherd’s Relay for Life was ranked sixth in the nation for most successful relay.

• **The Contemporary American Theater Festival**

The Contemporary American Theater Festival (CATF) is a professional (equity) theater company in residence at Shepherd University, dedicated to producing and developing new American theater. The CATF operates at Shepherd University as 501(c) 3 under a memorandum of understanding between the CATF and the University. Shepherd University provides extensive support services for the CATF, which includes a contract under academic affairs for Professor Ed Herendeen as “Producing Director and Professor of Theater.” CATF is the only professional regional (LORT) theater in West Virginia. Since 1991, CATF has produced 64 new American plays and 22 world premieres, earning a national reputation as a center for the development and creation of new American plays. Critically acclaimed, award-winning playwrights such as Sam
Shepard, Lee Blessing, Joyce Carol Oates, and Richard Dresser have had their new plays premiere at the theater festival. Many of these plays, after premiering at the Shepherd CATF, have received future productions off-Broadway in New York City and around the country. Over the past three seasons, CATF patrons have come from 32 states, the District of Columbia, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Germany. In 1999, Governor Cecil H. Underwood presented CATF with the Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts.

The Contemporary American Theater Festival provides Shepherd University students with an intensive ten-week, hands-on program in professional theater training each summer. Students work with CATF professional theater artists in all areas of theater production. Competitive internships are available in acting, directing, stage management, theater administration, prop and scenery construction, costume/wardrobe construction, and lighting and sound production. Students can earn six Shepherd University credits every summer, and acting and stage management students can receive 10 points toward the Actors Equity Association union card. The CATF Intern/Apprentice Program provides Shepherd students with a real world experience in the professional theater industry. Students have gone on to work in professional theater positions in New York City and elsewhere.

The Contemporary American Theater program currently has four endowed funds for training students in theater: (1) the Shirley A. Marinoff Education Fund provides financial support for Shepherd University students to participate in the CATF Internship Program; (2) the Andrew Michael Scholarship in Theater provides support for students during the academic year; (3) the McMillan Family Scholarship in Theater provides support for students during the academic year; and (4) the Weissberg Fellowship in Theater Program provides early career theater artists from the Washington, D.C. area with internships at CATF. In addition, the CATF/Shepherd University Theater Teacher Training Institute provides an intensive four-day workshop for West Virginia theater teachers to study with CATF artists every July. The program is fully supported by the Appalachian Education Initiative (AEI). In summary, the Contemporary American Theater Festival is both a major contributor to the cultural life of the region as well as a major University program for the development of theater arts for students and the Shepherd community.

• The Performing Arts Series at Shepherd (PASS)

The Mission Statement for PASS states: “The Performing Arts Series at Shepherd (PASS) shares exceptional arts experiences with the community with an emphasis on the presentation of diverse cultural traditions and creating learning opportunities through performances, workshops, and events.” PASS offers audience development and community outreach activities to accompany every project. Pass’s multicultural, interdisciplinary programs complement Shepherd's curriculum and offer opportunities for students, faculty, staff, and regional community members to enter into dialogues and come to a better understanding of themselves and one another.

PASS reaches out to traditionally underserved populations to create new opportunities for sharing the arts. The PASS Advisory Board is made up of 12 to 15 volunteers that include community members, faculty, staff, and students. Nearly 75% of the PASS operating budget
comes from student activity fees allocated by the Student Government Association ($85,000 in 2007-08). Ticket sales, patron contributions, and grant funding subsidizes the remainder of the budget.

PASS has positioned itself to reach out to such underserved populations as children, senior citizens, ethnic minorities, and lower-to-middle-income families. PASS emphasizes ethnic and cultural traditions on the margins of the dominant culture in hopes of stimulating and fostering greater cultural understanding by allowing minority audiences to see themselves and their culture reflected positively on stage. While the public PASS performances are all held in Shepherd facilities, the workshops and activities are held in community centers, at hospitals, in public schools, in local stores, where community members live, shop, work, and learn.

The 2007-2008 PASS program season is representative of past seasons. In addition to presenting seven public performances, PASS sponsored six elementary/middle school performances and nearly 20 additional community outreach activities. The artists and art forms presented included hip-hop dance (Illstyle & Peace Productions); Dr. Henry Louis Gates; a weekend celebration of traditional Appalachian culture (12th annual Appalachian Heritage Festival); American Masterpieces featured artists PHILADANCO and Sweet Honey in The Rock; and the music of Tuva (Huun Huur Tu).

Each year, PASS distributes more than 4,000 season brochures and also reaches through direct mailings, paid display advertisements in four regional newspapers, press releases to 35 media outlets, and flyers and public displays across our community. PASS also responds to the interests and needs of our regional community by creating mini-residencies with artists in areas where traditionally underserved populations live. More than 5,000 students and community members attended PASS events during the last season. By sharing ownership of the arts with the community, PASS creates an environment where it becomes a community partner with advocates for the arts.

In 2008-2009, PASS plans to introduce New Orleans jazz; to partner with Shepherdstown Music and Dance organization on multiple programs; to continue developing our audience’s appreciation for and understanding of Appalachian culture (Writer in Residence Project and the Appalachian Heritage Festival featuring Dr. Ralph Stanley); to engage our community with the Mystical Arts of Tibet residency and strengthen our partnership with the Scarborough Library; and to present Ragamala Indian Music and Dance Theater’s extraordinary new program SVA, a collaboration with Wadaiko Taiko Ensemble. All of these projects are designed in partnership with local schools and community centers.

This year will also be the 13th year that the Appalachian Heritage Festival will be part of the PASS series. The heritage festival brings musicians and students from throughout Appalachia to teach and to play their instruments in Shepherdstown and at Shepherd University in a celebration of the culture, peoples, and places of Appalachia. Festival artists are selected on the basis of their contribution to the cultural heritage of the region, artistic excellence, and experience as workshop leaders and educators. A number of the festival artists have been named as National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellowship holders.
In an effort to continue to evolve and enhance PASS, funding has been secured from the West Virginia Center for the Book and the Shepherd University Foundation to support an annual anthology, the first of which will be published in 2009. *The Anthology of Appalachian Writers* will present an array of stories, poetry, and memoirs that portray the Appalachian region. The anthology series will also focus on the work of the Appalachian Heritage Writer-in-Residence, whose work will serve as the centerpiece for each volume. (See below.)

•*The Appalachian Heritage Writers Project*

In 1998, the Shepherd University Department of English wrote a West Virginia Humanities Grant to fund a $5,000 prize to award to one of the premier writers in the Appalachian area. The Appalachian Heritage Writer’s Award initially brought best-selling author Sharyn McCrumb to the Eastern Panhandle in 1999 for a series of programs in the community that would become known as the Appalachian Heritage Writer-in-Residence Project. In the years that followed, Marilou Awiakta, George Ella Lyon, Denise Giardina, Robert Morgan, Fred Chappell, Jayne Anne Phillips, Terry Kay, Henry Louis Gates, Jr., and Adriana Trigiani have been brought to West Virginia to accept the award, to interact with the community, and to share their talent and storytelling with campus and community.

Programs such as “The Critic’s Corner,” “The Writer’s Life,” “The Writers Master-Class” and “The Scarborough Society Lecture” are a traditional part of the project. The Appalachian Heritage Writers Project has grown and formed community partnerships across the Eastern Panhandle: the Martinsburg Public Library, the Shepherdstown Film Society, the Scarborough Society, Friends of the Shepherdstown Public Library, and two years ago, the West Virginia Center for the Book. These partners assist with funding, planning programs, and reaching out into the public schools and the region, bringing great Appalachian literature into the homes of the community and into Shepherd University classrooms.

In 2003, the Appalachian Heritage Writers Project Committee received a Phi Kappa Phi Literacy Grant in order to begin the West Virginia Fiction Writers Competition. The grant provided Shepherd with start-up money to support a state-wide fiction competition under the auspices of the project, with winners selected from the finalist stories and judged by the Appalachian Heritage Writer-in-Residence. This year, the judge was Adriana Trigiani, author of the *Big Stone Gap* Books. In the last several years many of our fiction writers have also been screen writers, and a film component has thus been added to residency events in partnership with the Shepherdstown Film Society. Often these guest writers allow the project’s participants to focus on particular issues such as mountain-top removal when Denise Giardina was our writer or on the racial divide when Henry Louis Gates, Jr. received the Appalachian Heritage Award.

In an effort to continue to evolve and grow the program, the project has found funding from the West Virginia Center for the Book and the Shepherd University Foundation to support an annual anthology, the first of which will be published in 2009. *The Anthology of Appalachian Writers* will present an array of stories, poetry, and memoirs that portray the Appalachian area. The anthology will also focus on the work of the Appalachian Heritage Writer-in-Residence, who will serve as the centerpiece for the volume and one of the senior editors. The mission of the
Appalachian Heritage Writers Project has been to support and to enhance the cultural heritage of this region.

• The Sotto Voce Poetry Festival

The Sotto Voce Poetry Festival brings major poets to Shepherd University and to Shepherdstown for poetry readings, discussions of poetry in a variety of forums, and workshops. Since the creation of the Sotto Voce Poetry Festival in 2005 by former faculty member Hope Maxwell-Snyder, Shepherd University has been an active participant. Each year Shepherd University provides funding for the festival. This year, Andrea Hollander Budy started off the festival reading his poetry and discussing his life as a poet.

The Sotto Voce Poetry Festival hosts poets of national recognition. This year, for instance, Terrance Hayes was one of the featured poets. Mr. Hayes’ honors and awards include a Whiting Writers Award, a Pushcart Prize, and a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship. This year festival poets came from Pittsburgh (Terrance Hayes); Annapolis (Grace Cavalieri); Shepherdstown (Hope Maxwell-Snyder); Harpers Ferry (Ethan Fischer); Mountain View, Arkansas (Andrea Hollander Budy); Frederick, Maryland (William Heath); and Venice, California (Sarah Maclay). Previous participants include Michael Collier, Steve Orlen, Richard Garcia, Amy Holman, Katherine Williams, Rob Carney, and Gerald Stern, and others renowned within and beyond the world of poetry.

• The Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies

Founded in 2002, the Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies (CLS), part of a wing of the Shepherd University Scarborough Library, is integral to fulfilling the university’s mission. Operated by the non-profit, non-partisan Congressional Education Foundation, the Byrd Center promotes a better understanding of the United States Congress and the U. S. Constitution in its historical and contemporary contexts. The Center’s archival facility holds important political collections, including those of the longest serving senator in U. S. history, Robert C. Byrd. Current research includes two multi-volume projects on congressional investigations and a documentary study of early petitions sent to Congress from 1789 to 1817. Shepherd University and the Byrd Center have worked together to bring to campus a wide range of speakers on topics such as civil liberties, mine safety, government reform, presidential politics, and local history. The Center also makes its facilities available to a wide range of campus and community uses, from political forums, to debates on global warming and a series on the nexus of science and religion. The Center is moving forward not only to be a major repository of historical political papers dealing with West Virginia, but also as a center for archival research and major forums for discussions of legislators dealing with common issues in democratic political systems.

The Center’s premier annual event is Constitution Day. Each year the center hosts the Tom E. Moses Memorial Lecture on the Constitution. The premier speaker, inaugurating Constitution Day, was Senator Robert C. Byrd, Jr. As noted below, the Byrd Center for Legislative Studies also co-hosts a number of other speaker series with Shepherd University.
• *Speakers Series: Shepherd University and the Byrd Center for Legislative Studies*


**Martin Luther King, Jr., Day:** 1/07 - Bruce A. Jacobs, author, *Race Manners for the 21st Century: Navigating the Minefield Between Black and White Americans in an Age of Fear*; 1/08 - Rudy Bropleh, Shepherd faculty member and pastor, Asbury United Methodist Church.


**Women’s History Month:** 3/07 - *Government Girls of World War II* documentary followed by discussion with the film's director Leslie Sewall; 3/08 - Susan Malka, author, *Daring to Care: American Nursing and Second-Wave Feminism.*

**Faculty Research Forum Series:** Each year, the Faculty Research Forum, a faculty-organized and -run speaker series, highlights the current scholarship in which Shepherd University faculty are engaged. Shepherd faculty, students, and staff members, as well as community members, are encouraged to attend forum presentations. The forum, in the words of the organization’s web page, “is expected to contribute to the spirit of research and inquiry that defines what it means to be an institution of higher education.”

During 2007-2008, faculty members presented forum papers on (the names of the faculty presenters are in parentheses): “Common Cause: Public Opinion and the Legacies of Mobilization during the American Revolution” (Dr. Robert Parkinson); “An International Teaching Practicum Experience in Jamaica” (Dr. Virginia Hicks); “An Introduction to Systems and Control Theory” (Dr. Rajeev Rajaram); “Emotional Stereotypes Across the Lifespan” (Dr. Heidi Dobish); “Darwin’s Library: Evolution, Cognition, and the Origins of Fiction” (Dr. Michael Austin); “Behind the Veil” (Dr. Helen Johnstone); “‘Normal Violence’ and Intimate Terrorism: A Typology of Gendered Violence” (Dr. Margie Kiter Edwards); “Recycled Matter: Mixed Media Collage Paintings” (Prof. Sonya Evanisko).

• **General Speakers (2007-08):** In addition to the specific speakers series noted above, the University often hosts other speakers on campus. During 2007-2008 speakers and the topics presented include: Earth Day Colloquium On Historic Preservation with Dr. Mark Madison of the National Conservation Training Center and Shepherd University, and Shepherd University historic preservation students; Dr. Michael Kazin, author, *A Godly Hero: The Life of William Jennings Bryan*; the League of Women Voters of Jefferson County, public forum addressing the issue of elections and voting; panel discussion on the politics of mountaintop removal, Penny Loeb, author of *Moving Mountains: How One Woman And Her Community Won Justice From Big Coal*, top state official Arley Johnson, and Terry Sammons, chairman of the Mingo County Redevelopment Authority; Davitt McAteer, author *Monongah: The Tragic Story of the 1907 Monongah Mine Disaster, the Worst Industrial Accident in American History*; environmental experts Allan Tweddle and Joel Katzin debate the causes of global warming; Scot M. Faulkner, author, *Naked Emperors: The Failure of the Republican Revolution on Wednesday*; Africa Forum: Challenges and Hope – advocates for African and African students from the region met for two days to discuss development options for Africa; Dr. Philander Chase, editor of the
Colonial Series of the Papers of George Washington; Mary Beth Tinker, a plaintiff in the landmark Supreme Court case Tinker v. Des Moines School District; John Splaine, Presidential Debates in Television Age.

• The Washington Gateway Program

Each semester the Washington Gateway Program provides support for classes, such as Politics and Government, and Women in the Arts and Literature, to attend performances, travel to class-related events or programs, or work with professionals within the Washington-Baltimore region. Approximately 30 Washington Gateway trips per academic year have been provided in recent years. These have included visits to the Folger Theater, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Arena Stage, Howard University, the National Gallery of Art, the National Museum of Women in the Arts, and the Baltimore Opera. Programs participating in Gateway include: art, English, history, modern languages, music, nursing education, political science and theater.

• WSHC-FM

WHSC-FM is a student-operated 950-watt radio station federally licensed to the Shepherd University Board of Governors. Housed in the Department of Mass Communication and funded by the Student Government Association with co-curricular fees, WSHC broadcasts 24 hours a day every day of the year. The station’s musical mission is to find and provide airplay to bands and other forms of music that are not usually broadcast on the commercial airwaves. The bottom-line of WHSC is educational and cultural, and it can cater to the periphery of musical expression; this, in turn, helps the university gain an audience that is younger than larger commercial stations. In addition to the broadcasting of music, the station also hosts both live and prerecorded specialty shows that cover topics from news-talk to the history of disco, to discussions with musicians and live music with local bands. All Shepherd students are eligible to become DJ’s or program hosts through simple technical and Federal Communications Commission training that is available on campus at the beginning of each semester.

• Sans Merci

Sans Merci, a journal of literature and visual arts, is funded by the Student Government Association and published annually by Shepherd University. Sans Merci is edited and produced by Shepherd faculty, staff, and students. The current editor, Dr. Alan Tinkler, is a member of the English faculty.

• The Picket

The student newspaper, The Picket, has been published since 1896. Editorial board responsibilities, reporting, and all supporting functions for the newspaper are undertaken by Shepherd students. The Picket is supported by Student Government Association co-curricular funding. The faculty advisor to The Picket, Dr. Jim Lewin, is a professor of English who served as a professional journalist prior to assuming his position at Shepherd University.
• The National Conservation Training Center and Shepherd University

Shepherd University and the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) co-host the annual American Conservation Film Festival. A Shepherd science faculty member served on the founding board of the festival and continues to serve on this Board. Another faculty member serves on the Board of the Friends of the National Conservation Training Center. Shepherd University and the NCTC have worked closely together since the initial announcement of the location of the NCTC near Shepherdstown. Shepherd uses the NCTC facilities for meetings and on-site activities. Many students in a variety of majors (business, communications, and environmental studies, for example) have had internships at the NCTC and have found employment at the NCTC. The Computer Sciences, Mathematics, and Engineering Department hosted the 2008 East Coast Computer Algebra Day at the NCTC at which the Nobel Laureate John Nash was the featured speaker. An environmental studies faculty member was a participant in a NCTC and U.S. Geological Survey (at Kearneysville) grant to evaluate a technique for mapping riverine mussel habitat, and wildlife management and ichthyology classes both visit and do work at the NCTC.

Below is a series of brief responses to each of the specific COPLAC membership criteria.

COPLAC Membership Criteria

A. Mandatory Institutional Characteristics

- A separate institutional identity and a public governance structure

  Shepherd University is charted as an independent state university by the State of West Virginia. The Board of Governors of Shepherd University is established under the provisions of West Virginia Code Section 18B-2A-1 I et. seq. The Board of Governors consists of 12 members, including nine lay members appointed by the Governor of West Virginia. The remaining three members of the Board are representatives of Shepherd University faculty, staff, and students.

- A clear institutional mission statement indicating a commitment to the liberal arts as a core activity beyond a strong general education program

  The Shepherd University Mission Statement states that Shepherd University is “a public liberal arts university.” (The complete Mission Statement is located on the first page of the “Overview” section.)

- Significant evidence of an institutional commitment to the liberal arts as a core emphasis that reaches beyond top leadership to the faculty and students

  The “Overview” statement provides explicit and detailed substantiation of Shepherd University’s “commitment to the liberal arts as a core emphasis that reaches beyond top leadership to the faculty and students.” From the Contemporary American
Theater Festival through the myriad of programs described in the “Overview,” the essential characteristic that they share is that ownership and direction are in the hands of the faculty, students, and staff of the university. The sense of ownership and commitment to the liberal arts is deeply valued by the people who make things happen at Shepherd—the faculty, students, and staff. They are fiercely proud of their traditions and commitments, and this pride is reflected in the quality and excellence of curricula, instruction, and extra-curricular programming throughout Shepherd. The breadth and depth of these programs, and their reach within the university and into the broader community, is testimony to the “core emphasis” placed on the liberal arts at Shepherd.

Within the curriculum, Shepherd University has a general education requirement of 47 hours for graduation with a bachelor degree that is distributed as follows: humanities, 19 credit hours; life or physical sciences, 8 credit hours; social sciences, 15 credit hours; physical education, 2 credit hours; and for a Bachelor of Arts degree there is an additional requirement of 12 credit hours in a modern foreign language. This year the university has put into place a university-wide committee which will review the philosophy, processes, and current general education requirements and report back to the University Assembly on its findings and recommendations. The voting members of the committee are all faculty members elected by faculty members in each school and in the university library.

B. Desired Institutional Characteristic

- **Small to moderate size: usually less than 5,000 students**

  As of the fall of 2007, Shepherd University had a total headcount of 4,170 students. The university has 3,548 baccalaureate degree seeking students, and 154 graduate students. There are 468 non-degree seeking students enrolled at Shepherd University. Shepherd is thus a small to moderate-sized liberal arts university.

- **Predominantly undergraduate, baccalaureate level student body: at least 75 percent of total degrees conferred are at the baccalaureate level**

  Ninety-three percent (642) of Shepherd University’s 2007-2008 graduates were awarded a baccalaureate degree. Only seven percent (48) of the 2007-2008 degrees awarded were for master’s degree work. Shepherd University falls well within the limit of awarding at least 75 percent of degrees at the baccalaureate level.

- **Selective undergraduate admissions policies**

  Admission to Shepherd University is based on the academic records, leadership involvement, and personal qualities of the applicant. Before admission is offered, the applicant’s credentials must strongly suggest the applicant’s ability and motivation to succeed in higher education and in the Shepherd University community. A
conscious effort is made to enroll students from a wide variety of backgrounds who bring with them special talents, abilities, and interests.

Some programs, most notably nursing, music, art, and education, have special admissions requirements, which may include additional acceptance limitations.

**Required Grade Averages and Test Scores**
- Minimum 2.0 academic grade point average (on a four-point scale).
- Minimum composite ACT score of 19 and/or SAT score of 910.

**The General Freshman Admission Required Units (Years) are:**
4 English (including courses in grammar, composition, and literature).
3 Social studies (including U.S. history).
4 Mathematics (three units must be algebra I and higher).
3 Science (all courses to be college preparatory laboratory science, preferably including units from biology, chemistry, and physics)
1 Arts
2 Foreign language (two units of the same foreign language)

**Elective Units**
It is recommended that the remaining elective units be chosen from the academic core (English/language arts, mathematics, science, social studies) or subjects such as computer science, fine arts, humanities, and keyboarding.

Below is a table reflecting the admissions “flow” and final matriculation rate and the median ACT scores for the fall 2007 freshman and transfer students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fall 2007</th>
<th>Freshman</th>
<th>Transfer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applications</td>
<td>1942</td>
<td>722</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acceptances</td>
<td>1418</td>
<td>544</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acceptance Rate</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matriculants</td>
<td>706</td>
<td>349</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matriculation Rate</td>
<td>49.8%</td>
<td>64.2%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median ACT of acceptances</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Shepherd University maintains a “selective” undergraduate admissions policy.

**Admission to the University Honors Program**
The university-wide Honors Program maintains a highly selective admissions policy. The Honors Program currently enrolls 140 students. In the fall of 2007 the average honor student was admitted with a 1221 SAT score, or 27.6 ACT score, and a 4.11 high school grade point average. Honors students are enrolled across the university curriculum. Every honors student must complete an honors thesis or an honors project to graduate with honors. Honors theses completed during the 2007-
2008 academic year include such diverse topics as (student author’s name in parentheses): “Hrothvists: A Feminist Ahead of Her Time” (Natalie Bates); “The Fallacy of Normalcy: Representation of Deafness in Film and Literature” (Elizabeth Bessom); “Environmental Ethics” (Marty Brace); “The Effects of Agenda Setting on Shepherd University Students” (Alexander Brown); “The Russian Economy: Past, Present and Future” (Amanda Kaler); “English Language Learning: A Bilingual Approach” (Courtney McCauley); “Buying Yourself” (John Mason); “An Analysis of Muskrat Middens on the Allegheny River as an Indicator of the Presence/Absence of Live Mussel Species” (Robert Peoples); and, “The Roads that Lead Us Home: The scot-Irish Influence on Appalachian Dialect” (Kaitlin Curry).

- A diverse student body which reflects both the composition of the service region and the institution’s commitment to provide access to a high quality liberal arts experience to students who otherwise would not have such an opportunity

Shepherd University has a slightly higher percent of enrolled minority students as compared to the percentage of minorities within the university service region: 11 percent of enrolled students are of minority origin, while 92 percent of the population in the service region is Caucasian. Shepherd’s student body is six percent African American, three percent Hispanic and two percent self-defined as “other.” Shepherd’s commitment to creating a diverse student body is explicitly stated by its admissions policy: “that a conscious effort is made to enroll students from a wide variety of backgrounds….” (Also see the “Institutional Commitment to Cultural Diversity” section below.)

Shepherd has a welcoming, diverse full-time faculty composed of 42 percent women, 11 percent non-white United States citizens, and seven percent non-white citizens of other nations.

- More than 50 percent of all degrees conferred awarded in traditional liberal arts disciplines

In the 2006-2007 academic year 62 percent, or 381 of 627 baccalaureate degrees awarded by Shepherd University were awarded in traditional liberal arts programs. (Liberal arts degrees are defined to be in the following areas: art, biology, chemistry, computer Science, economics, English, environmental studies, history, mass communications, mathematics, music, political science, psychology, Regents Bachelor of Arts, sociology, Spanish, and secondary education programs with a concentration in any of the above majors.) Shepherd University graduates a majority of its students with degrees in the traditional liberal arts.

The complete enumeration of baccalaureate majors awarded by Shepherd University includes: accounting, art, biology, business administration, chemistry, computer engineering (effective as of fall 2008), computer and information sciences, economics, elementary education, English, environmental studies, family and consumer sciences, history, mass communication, mathematics, music, nursing,
political science, psychology, recreation and leisure studies, Regents Bachelor of Arts, secondary education, social work, sociology, Spanish.

- Opportunities for strong student and faculty interaction are very good as reflected in a low to moderate student/faculty ratio which does not exceed 19:1

Shepherd University has a 19:1 student to faculty ratio. Approximately five percent of all classes offered over the past several years (2005-2006 through 2007-2008) have been one-on-one courses. During this period of time about 25 percent of all classes offered have had 10 or fewer students. Shepherd University’s major concern is that the lack of state funding has made for a disproportionately large number of classes being offered by adjunct faculty. Over the past several years this has varied from 38 percent to 41 percent of all class credit hours being taught by adjuncts. (The latter includes a number of one-on-one music lessons.)

Shepherd is addressing the need to increase the number of full-time faculty in three major ways. First, the university currently has an explicit model in place that calls for one new full-time faculty position to be added for every 24 new students enrolled. Funding for these additional positions is a top priority for each new fiscal year budget, after the funding of externally mandated items and safety items. Second, the university is currently creating a new strategic plan with a top priority of adding new full-time faculty as a centerpiece of the plan. Finally, the administration is committed to a fund-raising effort that calls for the addition of endowed faculty lines, and already has secured several of these positions.

- A vigorous liberal arts culture exists on the campus that is characterized by at least several of the following indicators:

  **A faculty appropriate to a liberal arts institution in numbers, training, and full-time status**

At Shepherd University, 81 percent (94) of the 116 full-time instructional faculty who were under contract during the fall 2007-2008 academic year held a terminal degree. Seven full-time faculty members, all in the Department of Contemporary Art and Theater and all in applied arts areas, hold the Master of FineArts degree. One faculty member in the Department of Business Administration holds a Juris Doctorate degree and teaches business law.

All Shepherd University adjunct faculty hold at least a master’s degree in the field in which they are teaching, or are otherwise qualified to be an instructor in accordance with the guidelines of the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Approximately one-fifth of all adjuncts hold the doctorate or an equivalent degree. Shepherd is addressing this concern in three major ways.
A critical mass of students in a residential environment

In the fall of 2007, one third of Shepherd’s baccalaureate degree-seeking students (1,182 of 3,548) lived on-campus; another third of the student body lives within a 20 minute drive of the campus.

A new 300-bed apartment complex opened its doors for use in August 2006. This additional housing was built to help ease the past several years of operation which was above capacity, as well as for student developmental reasons. Residence Life’s current permanent housing capacity is 1,309 and is operating at 88 percent occupancy. Residence Life has a full graduate and professional staff. With the addition and growth of the College Student Development and Administration (CSDA) graduate program, Residence Life has utilized opportunities to offer graduate hall director assistantships to participants in the program.

As of this year there is in place a Florence Shaw Scholarship for residential students that make positive contributions to Residence Life. Residence Life, through the Shepherd University Foundation, has money left to us by Florence Shaw that has been earmarked to use on students and/or student programs. As a result, we established scholarship criteria for eligible residential students to begin receiving awards for the spring 2008 semester. For the spring 2008, we awarded 13 scholarships totaling $10,750.00. Awards for the fall 2008 semester have been granted to 15 residential students totaling $10,651.00. Spring 2009 awards have also been granted to 11 students totaling $9,549.00. This will encourage continued development of on-campus residence as an attractive option for Shepherd students.

Residence Life programming requires that all resident-oriented programs have an educational component around one of the following areas: human awareness and diversity, academics and intellectual development, personal growth and development, health and safety and community responsibility. The staff of 45 resident assistants (RAs), who are required to provide nine programs per RA each semester (two groups – one of which needed to be alcohol education, four individual – one of which needed to be some kind of community service, and three passive programs – flyer campaign, bulletin board, etc.), worked in conjunction with their resident managers and hall directors throughout the academic year to provide a total of 485 quality programs. This is a slight increase from last year’s offerings. Of those total programs, 120 (24 percent) addressed personal growth and development, 135 (28 percent) addressed health and safety (this includes alcohol education with 37 (27 percent) of the total health and safety programs, sex/sexual assault/violence with 25 (19 percent) of the total health and safety programs and other topics that range from healthy eating to stress reduction), 73 (15 percent) human awareness and diversity, 52 (11 percent) academics and intellectual development, and 105 (22 percent) community responsibility (which includes community service programs that numbered 33 (31 percent) of the total programs in this component). Of the total
number of programs offered, 41 percent were passive programs. Passive programs are programs that involve the distribution of information via bulletin boards, newsletters, door hangers, personal notes, etc. An average of 14 students was in attendance per program during the 2007-2008 academic year.

Thus, Shepherd has one-third of its students in an on-campus residential environment that is centered on both personal student development and educational success.

**Recognition of the importance of the co-curriculum in student development accompanied by significant student involvement in these activities**

Co-curricular activities are extensive at Shepherd University. All co-curricular funding is voted upon and approved by the Shepherd University Student Government Association (SGA). A description of many of these programs is provided in the “Overview” section of this application. Below is a summary of all co-curricular activities funded by the SGA over the past several years, with several accompanying notes in parentheses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Music and Band</td>
<td>$70,000</td>
<td>$70,000</td>
<td>$74,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>The Picket</em></td>
<td>$32,000</td>
<td>$32,000</td>
<td>$35,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rude Mechanicals</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(A student-based theater group that does primarily Medieval theater and has toured in other locations, including Denmark.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>WSHC Radio</td>
<td>$32,050</td>
<td>$31,500</td>
<td>$31,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theater</td>
<td>$46,800</td>
<td>$47,150</td>
<td>$50,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Support for primarily student participation in on-campus theater.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Sans Merci</em></td>
<td>$5,900</td>
<td>$5,900</td>
<td>$5,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debate &amp; Forensics</td>
<td>$10,250</td>
<td>$10,500</td>
<td>$12,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PASS</td>
<td>$80,000</td>
<td>$80,000</td>
<td>$80,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadership Conference</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>$12,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Board</td>
<td>$84,450</td>
<td>$86,170</td>
<td>$86,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(During 2007-2008 an additional $20,000 was allocated for “Late Night in the Zone,” a series of programs for on-campus student entertainment and participation.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Cost 2016</td>
<td>Cost 2017</td>
<td>Cost 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Life Council</td>
<td>$1,700</td>
<td>$1,880</td>
<td>$2,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Day</td>
<td>$6,700</td>
<td>$6,700</td>
<td>$7,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homecoming</td>
<td>$5,700</td>
<td>$7,000</td>
<td>$7,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Service</td>
<td>$38,800</td>
<td>$40,750</td>
<td>$43,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition, the Washington Gateway Program, as noted earlier in this application, sponsors once-a-month commercial bus service that on weekends goes from Shepherd to Washington, D.C. and back.

**Athletics in the Co-Curriculum**

Shepherd University is a member of NCAA Division II athletics. Sponsoring eleven sports with the plan to add three additional women’s sports in the next four years, Shepherd fields the following teams with about 300 athletes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Men’s Teams</th>
<th>Women’s Teams</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>Basketball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>Soccer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football</td>
<td>Softball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf</td>
<td>Tennis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>Volleyball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A women’s lacrosse team will be added in the 2009-2010 academic year and teams in women’s golf and women’s swimming also will be added.

Shepherd athletic teams have enjoyed successful seasons participating in and winning both West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WVIAC) and NCAA Division II Regional championships in many sports.

Academics are an important part of the Shepherd athletic program. The Athletic Department staff seeks to recruit student-athletes whose academic preparation in high school will make them successful students in college and who have grades and test scores that are higher than the NCAA’s eligibility requirements. Shepherd’s student-athletes have responded over the years with both a retention rate and a graduation rate that is about 10 percent higher than other Shepherd University students.

High game attendance by students, faculty, and staff, as well as alumni and other members of the Shepherd community, is a strong sign of the positive effect of this program on Shepherd University.
A clear institutional commitment to cultural diversity

Shepherd University’s commitment to diversity extends far beyond the composition of its faculty and student populations. Its curricular and extra-curricular programming is explicitly directed to the end of ensuring that diversity is understood and appreciated by all members of the university community. The commitment to diversity is reflected in a number of the programs cited in the “Overview” section of this application. In addition, the Shepherd University Office of Multicultural Student Affairs (MSA) has a specific mission to help prepare all Shepherd University students to live, learn, work, and succeed in a diverse society. This office embraces all students and endeavors to create awareness, appreciation, acceptance, and advocacy around issues of race, gender, sexual orientation, culture, ethnicity, national origin, ability, and religion through passive and active programs.

With the assistance of graduate students from the College Student Development and Administration (CSDA) master’s program, this office has enhanced its program of events, in addition to placing more emphasis on informing the community of our events. In the last academic year, 2007-2008, Multicultural Student Affairs sponsored 23 programs with approximately 1,812 total participants in attendance. These figures do not include educational programs presented by the Multicultural Leadership Team for the First-Year Experience program, or the education, sociology, social work and nursing departments. The office receives funding from both Student Affairs and a West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission Social Justice Grant.

The MSA oversees the Multicultural Leadership Team, a group of 24 students, who received scholarships in 2007-2008 because of their commitment to the development of a multicultural society on campus and beyond. The distributed scholarships totaled $190,381.75 and cover up to 75 percent of the recipients’ tuition and room fees. This year’s team completed more than 2,070 hours of community service for the campus and local community. The Multicultural Leadership Team has recently placed more emphasis on outreach to residential students through presentations in the residence halls. The 2008-2009 team will be the largest of the past four years with 27 members. Shepherd’s commitment to cultural diversity is apparent in both its programming and its campus life.

A significant institutional commitment to active learning

Shepherd University, through its Center for Teaching and Learning, maintains a major commitment to the development and implementation of an active learning environment throughout the university. This commitment is accomplished explicitly through a series of programs.
**First-Year Faculty Workshops.** The First-Year Faculty Workshops program involves an ongoing series of interactive workshops to familiarize new faculty with both university operations and active learning teaching skills. All first-year faculty members take this workshop in which they participate in a series of demonstrations, lectures, and discussions on teaching strategies and methods to enhance classroom instruction.

**Focus on Student Learning Series.** In an ongoing effort to support teaching and learning, the Center for Teaching and Learning offers a "Focus on Student Learning" (FOSL) series. The series features monthly presentations by leaders in the world of academic excellence, and mini-workshops guided by professors who are engaged in using helpful and innovative teaching strategies. Sessions have focused on “online teaching tools,” “group work,” “team-based teaching strategies,” “note-taking,” “critical thinking,” and “learning by doing” among other aspects of pedagogy.

**Philosophy 199: “Introduction to Life at a Liberal Arts Institution.”** Research indicates that college “success courses” can be key components in helping students reach their educational goals. In fall 2008, Shepherd University began a first-year seminar course designed to benefit new students in several ways: (1) they are taught by Shepherd’s most experienced and engaging faculty members from departments throughout the University; (2) they are prepared for successful academic careers through the cultivation of valued skills in the liberal arts such as critical reading and analysis, writing and discussion, argument and debate; and (3) they are introduced to many helpful resources as well as college transition strategies like time-management, study skills, note-taking, and coping with test anxiety. Through the use of a reader, compiled by the Shepherd faculty, students are exposed to a series of primary texts dealing with a range of diverse creative, intellectual, and ethical ideas that challenge their critical thinking and preconceptions.

**Interest Groups.** Interest groups are a strong part of the Shepherd University First-Year Experience Program. Interest groups allow students to register for fun, one credit hour courses. A mentor/instructor (who is a faculty member, staff member, or administrator) leads the group in exploring a specific topic such as: “Creative Writing,” “Yoga,” “New Age Spirituality,” “Introduction to Native American Culture,” “Thai Cooking,” and “Science Fiction Film.” The choice of topics varies each semester and responds to faculty and student interest. The semester consists of weekly small group sessions where students work with the mentor/instructor on the interest itself and other topics related to transition to college life.

**Learning Communities.** Learning communities are designed to link courses that are part of the General Studies Program. A cohort of students enrolls in both courses, and professors teaching the courses work together to interface course material. In some cases, the two professors team-teach and are involved in both courses. The professors work together outside of the classroom to form links in course material. Students benefit from this interwoven approach to subjects such as
written English/political science, English/biology, English/music/library, history/music, and English/history. Field trips are often planned in these courses to further unify the subjects and material. Students earn credits assigned to each course in the learning community.

**Honors First-Year Core.** The Honors First-Year Core courses are required for all first-year Honors students. The core is a two-semester learning community style set of courses that introduce Honors students to major types of expository and critical writing in conjunction with the study of Western civilization. Field trips focus on philosophical thought throughout history as well as changes in government, economics, arts, science, and literature. Field trips to Washington, D.C., New York, and Baltimore museums and theaters are included.

C. Special COPLAC Criterion – Not Applicable

There are currently no West Virginia Colleges or universities in COPLAC. Shepherd University is currently the only West Virginia institution of higher education applying for COPLAC membership.