AIMS
Academic Investment in Math and Science

Student Handbook
The Program
The Expectations
From the President (Spring 2004)

Despite the growing need for highly trained people in technology, engineering and related fields, relatively few Americans, and even smaller numbers of women and students of color, obtain terminal degrees in disciplines centered around mathematics and science.

For example, the following national statistics relate the number of African-Americans, Hispanics and women receiving doctoral degrees in the respective disciplines in 2000:

- African-Americans received only 2.8% of all earned doctorates in the physical sciences.
- Hispanics received only 3.4% of all earned doctorates in the physical sciences—while blacks and Hispanics comprise about 13% each of the general population.
- Women received only 15% of earned doctorates in engineering (math-based)—while comprising over 50% of the general population.

In response to this national need, in spring 2001 I charged dedicated BGSU faculty and staff to begin the Academic Investment in Math and Science (AIMS) program. The purpose of the initiative is to ensure the development of a continuing stream of well-prepared graduates in science, technology, engineering and math, many of whom will attend graduate school. (These math/science-based disciplines are often broadly and collectively referred to as STEM disciplines.) Specifically, the mission of AIMS is to increase the number and quality of STEM-based bachelor degree recipients, while focusing on two grossly under-represented populations—women and students of color.

Now in its third year, the BGSU AIMS program is on track, with AIMS scholars achieving somewhat better academically than the at-large student body (higher GPAs by 0.3 GPA units) and showing better retention after one year, while positioning themselves for future graduate studies. Program components such as an enhanced summer program, faculty mentoring, peer teaching and learning, undergraduate research, career-focused first-year seminar courses and “STEM Exposures” (described under “Four-year Programs” in this handbook) are now firmly in place to secure the ongoing success of the AIMS program and its scholars.

AIMS started with institutional seed funding from existing grants for historically under-represented groups, room-and-board grants for multicultural students, “Success Challenge” funds from the state, and monies from my office. Those funds have continued. In addition, we have recently received external funding from private donors and the Ohio Science and Engineering Alliance (based on a 2003 National Science Foundation grant) to support the program. But equally if not more important has been the unswerving support for AIMS by more than 30 dedicated faculty and staff members and several external volunteers.

I look forward to continued growth and achievement in this program and relish greeting the first AIMS graduates in 2005.

-Sidney Ribeau
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AIMS Mission

The Purpose of the Academic Investment in Math and Science (AIMS) Program is to increase the number of underrepresented minorities and women earning baccalaureate degrees in STEM disciplines at the highest levels of achievement and entering advanced degree programs and careers as STEM professionals.”

As expressed by the AIMS mission statement, “Bowling Green State University’s AIMS Program channels its work to establish a world-class training center for graduating women and underrepresented minorities – math and science majors who proceed to get terminal degrees in their fields then ultimately perform cutting-edge research and/or teaching.”

The following goals are woven within that overall mission:

1. Develop a pipeline of high school students who matriculate at BGSU and pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics
2. Increase the number of well-prepared underrepresented minority and women graduates who major in science, technology, engineering and mathematics
3. Increase the number of underrepresented minority and women graduates who attend graduate school and obtain terminal degrees in these fields

Bob Midden, Ph.D.          Christopher Mitchell, M.Ed.
Director of AIMS            Assistant Director of AIMS
Introduction to AIMS

BGSU AIMS: Invest More in Women and Students of Color in Math & Science

In response to a national need for more highly skilled and educated mathematicians and scientists, Bowling Green State University’s Former President Sidney Ribeau charged the BGSU faculty and staff with a new campus initiative that began in early 2001.

That initiative has manifested into what is known as the Academic Investment in Math and Science Program (AIMS).

The purpose of AIMS is to increase the number of women and students of color who graduate from BGSU with majors in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Students participating in AIMS are referred to as AIMS Scholars. AIMS Scholars have unique opportunities beginning the summer before matriculation and extending through the entire undergraduate program, to strengthen their academic skills and to develop professional and leadership traits required for advancement in STEM as future practitioners, researchers and educators.

Focused BGSU training and guidance will assist AIMS Scholars toward successful degree completion in areas of STEM with the aim of encouraging continuation on to graduate school for attainment of terminal degrees.

The AIMS Program is designed to enhance students’ intellectual skills and to better prepare them for life after college. Each of the following sections gives a descriptive overview of a specific aspect of the AIMS Program.

AIMS Summer Bridge Program

Students begin membership in AIMS during the summer following the senior year of high school with a mandatory four-week Summer Bridge Program. This unique residential program introduces the student to the Bowling Green State University (BGSU) campus and to fellow AIMS Scholars, and assists students with the adjustment from high school to college life.

Students live in a University residence hall, usually with a roommate, use a University meal plan, and enroll in college-level classes (not for academic credit except for BOSEF recipients who earn 1 credit hour). Additionally, students participate in all AIMS functions and co-curricular activities, becoming familiar with the support systems available on campus and adjusting to life away from home.

Summer curricular and co-curricular activities stress math, critical thinking and scientific inquiry and an introduction to related careers. The early acclimation improves student retention by helping to increase the comfort level of the AIMS scholar which better prepares them for the balancing act that will follow in the regular freshman year.

For information about the AIMS Summer Bridge see the Summer Bridge Handbook, which is available on the AIMS web site.
AIMS Associated Scholarships

To be eligible for an AIMS scholarship you must meet the following criteria; 3.0+ GPA and 20+ ACT with a major in Sciences, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics, (STEM), as well as meet the criteria for any of the scholarships listed below.

The AIMS Program currently has two (2) undergraduate STEM-Based scholarships associated with it. See Scholarship Table below. Each scholarship has its own set of requirements, participation standards and award amounts. While prospective BGSU students, if eligible, may apply for one or both, they can only be awarded one of the scholarship packages.

SCHOLARSHIP TABLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scholarship Amounts</th>
<th>Award per Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summer Bridge (Estimated Value)</td>
<td>$1,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Year One</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Year Two</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Year Three</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Year Four</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extended Scholarship Options</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>$15,750</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Renewable:** Based on academic performance, fulfillment of all requirements for the AIMS program, and continued availability of funding from the sources that provide financial support for the AIMS program.
The Four-Year AIMS Strategy

In addition to studies within the major and co-curricular activities, AIMS Scholars participate in a four-year strategy designed to enhance their scholastic skills and complement their personal growth.

The program requirements differ slightly each year with the goal of becoming more individualized as the student delves deeper into a program. Crucial to the four-year plan is consistent interaction with one’s mentor.

Components of the Strategy:

1. 4-week Summer Bridge Program
2. AIMS Seminar I and II providing students a better sense of belonging to BGSU and AIMS, the means to be a more successful student and the incentive to continue as a math/science major through an exposure to a variety of fields and professions
3. Career mentorship
4. Regular one-on-one meetings with AIMS Academic Coach
5. Students Teaching and Reaching Students (STARS) intended to give students the forum to:
   - a. Teach and learn from each other in study groups and pairs
   - b. Exchange expertise on math/science topics
   - c. Exchange frequent and continued positive reinforcement for course material beyond class requirements
6. Research opportunities
7. Internships and Co-ops
8. Participation in campus seminars, poster sessions, and research presentations
9. Off-campus participation in professional conferences and symposia
10. Exposure to ‘real world’, accomplished mathematicians and scientists
11. GRE/MCAT exam preparation starting the sophomore year
12. Assistance in securing admission to graduate and professional programs
## Program Components

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity/Program</th>
<th>Year-1</th>
<th>Year-2</th>
<th>Year-3</th>
<th>Year-4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. 4-week Summer Bridge</td>
<td>4 weeks</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. AIMS Seminar I and II</td>
<td>2 terms</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. AIMS meetings</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>Required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV. Academic Coach Meetings</td>
<td>2/term</td>
<td>1/term</td>
<td>1/term</td>
<td>1/term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI. Undergraduate research</td>
<td>Optional</td>
<td>Rec</td>
<td>Rec</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. REU/summer 10 weeks</td>
<td>Possible</td>
<td>Optional</td>
<td>Rec</td>
<td>Rec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Academic Year</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VII. Academic Success Team</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIII. Community Service</td>
<td>Optional</td>
<td>Optional</td>
<td>Optional</td>
<td>Optional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IX. GRE&amp;MCAT prep &amp; exam</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Maybe take</td>
<td>Take (retake)</td>
<td>Take (retake)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X. Grad/Med School searches</td>
<td>Intro</td>
<td>Explore</td>
<td>Select</td>
<td>Apply</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XI. Intern/Summer Job Search</td>
<td>Rec</td>
<td>Rec</td>
<td>Rec</td>
<td>Rec</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Footnotes:**

GRE: Graduate Record Exam  
MCAT: Medical College Admission Test  
NA: Not applicable  
BOSEF: Building Ohio’s Sustainable Energy Future  
Rec: Recommended  
Focus: Is to recruit/train/direct students to graduate school in STEM-based disciplines  

*Year-3/4 scholars will present reflections on their experiences at BGSU once per term*
Required Courses/Curriculum

AIMS Scholars must be enrolled in a STEM degree program requiring at least 45 hours of mathematics, statistics, technology, engineering, computer science, health science, or natural science including at least one laboratory sequence. Approved degree programs for AIMS:

Actuarial Science
Allied Health
Applied Mathematics
Applied Microbiology
Applied Physics
Architecture
Aviation Engineering Technology (AET)
Aviation Flight Technology and Operation (FTO)
Aviation Management and Operations (AMO)
Biochemistry
Biology
Chemistry
Communications Disorders
Computer Science
Construction Management
Data Science
Dietetics
Ecology and Conservation Biology
Electro-mechanical Systems Technology
Electro-Mechanical Systems Technology
Electronics and Computer Engineering Technology
Engineering Technology
Environmental Science
Exercise Science
Forensic Biology
Forensic Chemistry
Forensic Science
Geology
Geology: Paleobiology
Health Care Administration
Health Science
Industrial/Manufacturing Engineering
Learning Design and Technology
Marine and Aquatic Biology
Mathematics
Mechanical Engineering
Medical Laboratory Science
Microbiology
Neuroscience
Nutrition science
AIMS Scholarship Usage

The AIMS academic year scholarship can only be used to pay the costs of tuition and fees. The scholarship is paid in two equal amounts fall and spring terms (half of the full scholarship amount for each term).

AIMS Theme Community

AIMS Scholars are encouraged to live in the AIMS Theme Community for the duration of their undergraduate studies at Bowling Green State University. Residence halls offer many conveniences and additional leadership opportunities for AIMS Scholars to explore (hall council, resident mentoring, etc.) and the AIMS Theme Community offers special programming designed for AIMS students and the benefits of support from other AIMS scholars living in the same area.
AIMS Student Status

Each academic year, all AIMS Scholars will receive at least one interim and one end-of-year status report. The end-of-year status report will indicate the student’s funding status for the academic year as well as their status in the program.

AIMS status levels are defined below:

Good Standing
1. Successfully complete the four-week summer program
2. Pass AIMS Seminar courses (a grade of C or greater)
3. Be enrolled as a full-time student at BGSU completing all of the courses in the student’s DCP designated for each semester
4. Attend all required one-on-one sessions with the AIMS Advisors
5. Enroll in and complete courses consistent with the student’s Degree Completion Plan in an approved STEM major
6. Maintain the minimum AIMS cumulative GPA of: • 2.75 after year 1 • 2.85 after year 2 • 3.00 after year 3
7. Complete required STEM Exposures
8. Attend all AIMS meetings
9. Participate in all required activities deemed valuable, beneficial, or necessary by the Director and Advisory Board*

*If there are extenuating circumstances (class conflict, family emergency, etc.) requiring the student to be absent from an event, advance notice should be given to the Director or Assistant Director who will decide whether the absence is justified and excused. If advance notice is not given the student must request an excused absence in writing providing justification for the failure to provide advance notice.

Satisfactory Standing
Same as above for Good Standing, but GPA higher than 2.5 but less than the minimum required for Good Standing.

Warning Standing
Any deficiency that is not sufficiently severe to warrant Probation such as missing a meeting or a 1:1 academic advising session or a STEM exposure or a term GPA below the minimum while maintaining a sufficient cumulative GPA.

Probationary Standing
Cumulative GPA below 2.5 or unexcused absence from two or more required events or activities including AIMS Seminar or meetings or other AIMS requirements.

Suspension
Failure to complete the AIMS Summer Bridge program or consistent deficiency in cumulative grade point average, or 1 or more consecutive terms of Probationary Standing or four or more absences from required AIMS events or activities. All students with a cumulative GPA less than 2.0 after 1 year will be assigned Suspension status.
Scholarship Renewal

Students who remain in *Good Standing* will receive the full scholarship amount, including the annual $500 incremental increase.

Scholarships for students in the *Satisfactory Standing* category will be renewed but NOT awarded the $500 incremental scholarship increase nor the Extended Scholarship Option (ESO). If the student regains Good Standing they will then be eligible for future $500 annual increments.

Scholarships for students in *Probationary Standing* will be renewed for one semester at a reduced level of $1500. If the student does not meet the conditions for at least Satisfactory Standing for a second consecutive term, that student’s scholarship will be Suspended. For scholarship renewal, a student who is in Probationary Standing must complete an Academic Success Plan (ASP) that is approved by the AIMS Director specifying the actions the student will take to improve their performance and to meet expectations and must attend every meeting scheduled with their academic coach. This ASP must be submitted by the second week of the term for which the scholarship would be renewed. A student who is repeatedly and/or consistently in Poor Standing and whose ASP is not approved or who shows no sign of improvement will be assigned Suspension status.

A student having *Suspension status* will not receive funding from AIMS but is advised to fully participate in all AIMS activities and events including academic coaching sessions so that they can meet all requirements and regain Good Standing. Suspension status can be appealed when the student has met program requirements and expectations. Scholarship renewal requires that the student fully meets program requirements and expectations and achieves Good Standing for at least one term and appeals their reinstatement prior to the beginning of the next academic term in which the student would like their scholarship restored.
Appeal Process

Any student who has been notified of Probationary Standing or Non-Renewal Status may appeal that decision. The appeal must be made within four weeks of receiving notice.

- The student must write a letter explaining why an appeal is being made and include all necessary supporting documentation (e.g. doctor’s statement or evidence of use of academic services).

- The letter should include an Academic Success Plan (ASP) detailing how the student will improve his/her performance if renewed status is granted (simply stating “I will work harder” is not sufficient). This ASP should be developed in consultation with their AIMS Staff. This letter should be addressed to the AIMS Director and delivered by mail or in person to the AIMS office or by email to aims@bgsu.edu.

- A decision will be made based on the submitted documentation. The Director may also request a meeting with the student.

- If re-admitted, the student must show he/she is implementing her/his ASP during the scheduled one-on-one sessions. In preparation for these sessions, the student is to analyze the results of her/his first exams of the first semester for all classes and assess the effectiveness of the measures specified in the ASP making any changes deemed necessary to meet program requirements and expectations.

- The student must also demonstrate the use of all of the support services, such as the writing, study skills or math labs, as specified in the student’s ASP.

- Semester grades should be forwarded, along with any additional documentation, to the AIMS office within one week of receipt of those grades. Admittance for the next term will be contingent on grades and perceived effort and completion of all aspects of the ASP.

In the event that the student does not regain admittance in the AIMS Program via this appeal process, she/he is welcome to remain at BGSU and to reapply for admission after successfully meeting all program requirements and expectations for an additional term.
The AIMS Philosophy on Media Interaction

Because AIMS is an innovative pro-active program on the BGSU campus, AIMS Scholars are occasionally the focus of media attention. Rather than have a prepared statement that all AIMS students memorize, we ask that AIMS Scholars represent the program, themselves and their families to the best of their ability.

AIMS scholars should always “Tell the truth as they understand it,” making certain that any qualifying statements are completely clear to the interviewer. AIMS Scholars should have some general knowledge of the program; however, if a question is asked to which the member does not have a definitive answer, the member should refer the media to the AIMS Office.
Extended Scholarship Option Guidelines

AIMS Scholars are expected to complete their bachelors degree in four years and have a great deal of support to help them achieve that important goal. However, when circumstances warrant, limited additional scholarship support is available for enrolling in a maximum of two summer terms or a maximum of two additional semesters as an Extended Scholarship Option (ESO). To apply for the ESO students should justify the need by citing the factors that prevented completion of the degree requirements within the expected time period and their plan for completing the degree with this additional support.

**ESO, Summer Session(s)**
Full-time AIMS Scholars in “Good Standing” may apply for one or two summer session award(s). For AIMS Scholars desiring to enroll in summer classes, a scholarship, not to exceed $1500 for the entire summer, may be awarded. The amount for enrolling in a single 3-5 credit course is typically $750. To receive the full amount of $1500 a student must be enrolled in at least two courses of at least 3-5 credits each, usually at least one course for each of the six-week summer terms. The maximum amount of total summer ESO support a student can receive is $1500. See Appendix A for the application.

**ESO, 9th and/or 10th Semester(s)**
Full-time AIMS Scholars in “Good Standing” at BGSU (as outlined in the AIMS Student Handbook) who have maintained an approved Degree Completion Plan and have made timely progress towards completing their degree but are unable to do so within four years due to special circumstances may apply for a maximum of two ESO semester awards. For this option, a maximum total amount of $1500 may be awarded to AIMS Scholars. Scholarships are awarded based on their extenuating circumstances and how well they have met program expectations. See Appendix B for the application.

AIMS ESO Awards: Application Submission Requirements

- Submission of completed application form with required signatures;
- Adherence to application deadline;
- Total ESO awards for summer terms and 9th/10th semesters cannot exceed $3000.

AIMS ESO Award: Selection Criteria

- Applicant’s adherence to application deadlines and funding requirements;
- Full-Time student at Bowling Green State University in “Good Standing” with AIMS;
- Applicant’s rationale for taking summer classes or for delaying graduation beyond 8 academic year semesters;
- Quality of applicant’s responses;
- Participation in AIMS events (i.e. community service commitments, meetings, STEM exposures, etc.). *Note: AIMS ESO Awards are contingent upon available funds.*
Guidelines for Accepting Non-Freshmen & Transfer Students

To increase accessibility of the AIMS Program benefits, a limited number of women and minority students who are beyond their first year of college may be considered for admission. Listed below are the criteria for these students. In addition to these requirements, students need to complete additional requirements if applying for the BOSEF scholarship.

Major – Must be pursuing a degree in an approved STEM major
G.P.A – Minimum 3.00 cumulative college GPA

Funding – non-freshmen and transfer students will enter the program at the year 1 funding level

Status and Scholarship renewal – same criteria used as described for AIMS Scholars who are admitted as freshmen.

Application requirements:

- Submit a list of courses in which they are currently enrolled
- An official college transcript
- BGSU freshmen and transfer students should apply for the upcoming fall semester by March 1st (same deadline as high school students)
- Highly motivated students who miss the March 1st deadline may still apply, but will be admitted on a case-by-case basis and should contact the Director.
- Students who apply after the deadline will be notified by the week prior to the beginning of the fall semester in August and the week prior to the beginning of the spring semester in January.

Selection – Scholarships are competitive. Interest in pursuing a bachelor’s degree and continuing for a terminal degree (i.e. MS or PhD) in a STEM field should be evident. BGSU students are required to enroll in/attend AIMS Seminar I and/or II the first year in the program.

Applications are available from the AIMS office (419-372-5401) or the website: www.bgsu.edu/aims.html
Family/Medical Leave Policy

It is important that AIMS Scholars understand that while the program is designed to support them in their academic endeavors, unforeseen contingencies sometimes complicate the best plans. The Advisory Board is sensitive to the reality of unexpected life events and is committed to assisting AIMS scholars in any possible way. It is critical, however, that AIMS Scholars communicate directly with the AIMS Office should such a situation arise.

A student in the AIMS Program may request an approved leave of absence from the AIMS Program for a maximum of two calendar years and still remain in “Good Standing”.

This request must be submitted in the form of an application along with a letter to the AIMS Director. If absolutely necessary, graduation can be delayed up to two years from the expected four-year timetable due to family leave status or any other pre-approved circumstances. In the event that a student enrolls less than full-time (12 credit hours) it may be possible to receive full or partial funding. In any event these exceptional situations will be handled on a case-by-case basis with the AIMS Office. During any leave period the student should meet with or communicate with the AIMS Director or Assistant Director at least once per semester to discuss his/her leave and academic plans.

Whenever possible, students must request being placed on leave status in advance of the semester the leave will begin, but under special circumstances this policy can be implemented during a semester. An application and brief description of the reason for the leave is required. To aid academic planning, it is best to evaluate the length of the leave and the academic consequences to the student’s degree plan. For this reason, students must consult with AIMS Office to plan the leave timing and reentry into the AIMS Program.

Leaves taken without notification being submitted to the AIMS Program will automatically terminate the student’s participation in AIMS.

See appendix C for application.
AIMS Travel Award: Supporting Student Research & Development

The AIMS Program also provides a limited number of student travel awards. The purpose of these awards is to support the research experience and professional development of our students by providing funds to help offset the costs associated with giving a research presentation at a national or international conference, attending a workshop or participating in any other relevant academic experience.

ELIGIBILITY

All applicants must be students in good standing in the AIMS Program. In most cases the recipient will be an author of a presentation; however, this may vary with the activity. The applicant’s supervisor is not required to be a member of the BGSU faculty. Students are ineligible to apply if they have received an AIMS travel award within the last year. Students must be able to supply receipts or other documentation of expense paid or to be paid.

FUNDS

The funds available to support student travel are limited; it may not be possible to award all requests. In an effort to support as many students as possible in a given year, the maximum award amount will typically be $250. In some cases, less than $250 may be awarded and in exceptional circumstances more than $250 may be awarded.

REQUIREMENTS

Three conditions of acceptance of the award are (1) the recipient agrees to provide the AIMS Office with a copy of the presentation abstract (including presentation title and authors), (2) the recipient will provide a written explanation of the relevance of their activity and (3) the recipient will acknowledge the BGSU AIMS Program in the presentation for which the travel award was granted.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applicants should complete the AIMS Student Travel Request Form and arrange for their faculty research advisor to prepare a letter of endorsement.

Both the completed Travel Request Form and the Faculty Letter of Endorsement should be sent electronically to the AIMS e-mail address at aims@bgsu.edu. Once your travel request is received by the AIMS awards committee, a written notification will be send to you via email of the committee’s decision. Applications will be accepted at any time during the year and will be reviewed by the AIMS Awards Committee as they are received. Travel award requests should be submitted at least three weeks prior to travel in order to receive the award in a timely fashion.

See Appendix D for application.
AIMS Students’ Frequently Asked Questions

Where are the AIMS Offices?
AIMS offices in the Math & Science Building and the Administration Building. The Director of AIMS, Dr. Bob Midden is located in room 241A Math & Science Building and the Assistant Director, Mr. Christopher Mitchell is in Room 312 on the third floor of the Administration Building.

What is the best way to communicate with AIMS staff?
The most efficient way to get a hold of anyone in the AIMS staff is through e-mail. The AIMS e-mail address is aims@bgsu.edu. If you need to call the AIMS staff our phone number is (419)372-5401.

What is the STEM Exposure policy?
After attending STEM events, scholars must complete and submit the STEM Exposure form available on the Canvas community. All first-year AIMS Scholars are required to complete two STEM Exposures each term, and all older cohorts must complete three each term. STEM Exposures for the Fall Semester are due October 1, November 1, and December 1, respectively. STEM Exposures for the Spring Semester are due February 1, March 1, and April 1. Any STEM Exposures turned in late will be accepted, but come with the penalty of one additional required STEM. For example, if a first-year scholar turns in her first STEM Exposure late, they will then be required to complete a total of three STEM Exposures (not two) by the final due date for December 1/April 1 respectively.

What events are appropriate for STEM Exposures?
The AIMS Program gives Scholars the freedom to seek a wide range of STEM events that reflect their interests and career goals. We encourage creativity in these events. However, STEM events typically fall into six broad categories: research group meetings, technical conferences, campus STEM seminars, STEM club or organization meetings such as the Chemistry Club, the Pre-Med Organization, seeking and preparing opportunities for internships or co-ops or summer jobs that involve STEM disciplines such a job with Marathon, Whirlpool, Cooper Tire, Lubrizol, Promedica, Proctor & Gamble, Sherwin Williams, or other. Under the “other” category we have accepted events such as planetarium shows, museum trips, and field trips to STEM facilities such as biogas facilities. Please note that the following events are NOT acceptable for STEM Exposures: any type of TV show, documentary, movie or other video; reading educational websites; reading magazine or journal articles; AIMS Seminar class; or other classes in which you are enrolled. Students should submit their brief report of their experience in the STEM exposure listing the type of experience, the title of the event, the date, time, location, the name of the person or persons who organized it and contact information for that person or the organization who sponsored it, by email to aims@bgsu.edu
What happens if I change my major?

The AIMS staff understands that as you grow as a person through your college experiences, your interests and goals can and do change. It is not uncommon for scholars to switch majors over the course of their academic careers.

While the AIMS staff does not want you to pursue a degree in a field that you are no longer interested in, changing majors could have an impact upon your scholarship. If you decide to change your major you need to speak with the Director of AIMS as soon as possible.

How can AIMS help me with preparation for MCAT/GRE, etc?

Located in the STARS room there are many resources that are available to use for preparing for these tests. Located on Canvas there are also a list of internet sites to help with preparation. Coordinating with the Kaplan schedule, AIMS also offers a practice test as STEM exposures, which allows for a completed STEM exposure and a real timed test experience. Senior and junior scholars give presentations in weekly meetings on their experiences, called Experience Critiques, and the subject is occasionally their experience in these standardized tests including advice about how to excel.

When is the best time to apply to be a resident mentor for the Summer Bridge Program?

The best time to apply to be a Resident Mentor (RM) for the Summer Bridge Program is the week returning from spring break. Scholars who are chosen are usually very active in AIMS, and willingly participating in volunteer opportunities like Preview Day, Annual Banquet, Panels, etc. A more in depth description of the position is located within the application.

See Appendix E for application.
AIMS Summer Bridge Program Frequently Asked Questions

What is covered by the AIMS Program?
The AIMS Program will cover the cost of the residence halls and on-campus meals during the course of the summer program. It will also cover the cost of general admission to all events, excursions and field trips that are part of the 4-week summer program’s schedule.

Should I bring spending money?
Even though the program pays for a majority of the summer program, there might be a few occasions that students will need money, (ex. food/souvenirs on weekend field trips, off campus excursions to the movies, putt-putt, bowling or if students choose to eat off campus, etc.) Most students in the past have found $100- $150 ($20-$30/week) for the entire 4 weeks to be adequate for spending money. Any valuables including money should be brought at the student’s discretion, as the University is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

Where will I be living during the summer program?
The AIMS Scholars will be living at one of the University owned residence halls. The rooms are double occupied and will be furnished with each of the following: 2 extra-long (80”) loft-able beds, 2 closets, 2 desks with chairs, 2 dressers, and 2 wastebaskets. It also has cable TV access, and in-room computer and phone connections. The room also comes with blinds, carpet and may or may not be air conditioned. You are responsible for the cleanliness of your room. Since rooms are not cleaned by the custodial staff, you should bring cleaning supplies sufficient to meet your and your roommate’s standards of cleanliness. Vacuums can be checked out from the front desk. Central bathroom facilities are located on each floor for all the residences. These facilities are cleaned daily by the custodial staff and include sinks, showers and bathroom stalls.

Who is my roommate?
We will be supplying the incoming cohort with roommate assignments prior to their arrival to the Summer Bridge Program. We highly recommend that you contact each other prior to moving in to help ease your transition into dorm life. Things to consider discussing include: items that you plan to bring (TVs, microwaves, refrigerators, etc.), living standards (how often you should vacuum, listening to music, sharing food, etc.) and general information to get acquainted. Discussing these things before you arrive will help reduce any anxiety you might have over your first college residence hall experience.

Do I need a computer on campus?
The AIMS Program will be providing laptops to be used for the Summer Bridge Program. There will also be access to various computer labs on campus.

Where are the laundry facilities?
Laundry facilities are provided in each of the residential halls on campus.

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1 See Appendix F for a Suggested Packing List
New Students’ Frequently Asked Questions

What happens if students break University rules?

The authority to enforce regulations of the University rests with the Board of Trustees. The responsibility for enforcing regulations and imposing penalties is delegated to the President and his designees. The Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs has responsibility for academic misconduct, which includes cheating, fabrication or plagiarism on examinations or other assignments, using a person or agency to prepare papers, possession and/or use of stolen examinations and misrepresentation of academic materials.

The Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs is the principal agency for administering nonacademic student discipline for incidents that may range from tampering with fire extinguishers and smoke detectors to hazing or harassment of an individual.

The Associate Dean of Students is responsible for enforcing the Code of Student Conduct, which describes University expectations for students and the processes available when a student fails to adhere to these expectations. In general, in cases in which a student or organization does not dispute the facts leading to a charge and the sanction for a charge is something less than expulsion, the Associate Dean of Students will resolve the case informally.

If the student or organization disputes the investigative findings surrounding a violation, the case is resolved through formal procedures that include a hearing by the University Discipline Committee. This committee includes three full-time faculty, six full-time students and three full-time administrative staff members. The Associate Dean of Students is responsible for coordinating hearings.

Complete procedures for handling violations of University rules and the possible sanctions are outlined in the Code of Student Conduct, which every student receives.

Are there support services specifically for first year students?

There are tremendous opportunities on BGSU’s campus for first year students. First Year Programs is affiliated with the Dean of Students.

The first year starts off on solid ground with BGSU’s comprehensive SOAR Program continues with programs designed to assist all new students. First Year Programs are all about you -- from answering your questions to helping you make a smooth transition to University life. BGSU keeps you connected to what's new throughout the entire first year with special programs and activities designed to enhance your college experience in and out of the classroom.
Where do students go for tutoring or other academic help?

The Study Skills Center located in the Learning Commons, coordinates delivery of academic support services to students University-wide. There are three learning laboratories: the Mathematics Laboratory, the Study Skills Center and the Writers Laboratory. Each offers individualized and small-group instruction to students who need assistance and is staffed by professionals trained to assist students in developing their skills. Students can access the Writers Laboratory by computer.

What is the BG1 Card?

Your BG1 Card is more than just an ID card. It is also a way to access meal plans and services throughout campus. If you choose to add funds to the BG Bucks account, your card has even greater purchasing power both on and off campus and eliminates the need to carry cash or credit/debit cards.

Why should a student see an academic advisor?

Academic advisors have information that can help every student achieve academic, career and personal goals. Students should see an academic advisor with questions like these: What are my degree requirements? How do I get into graduate school? Which classes should I take next semester? What jobs are available in my major? How do I change my major?

Students who are completely undecided about their college receive advising through the Office of Academic Enhancement’s Pre-Major Advising program. However, if a student is undecided on a major but knows what broad or general field they want to study, i.e. science or health and human services, they should contact that specific college for academic advising. Advisers assist students in planning each semester’s schedule and help establish a long-term plan that will lead toward fulfilling all requirements for graduation. All faculty advisors are required to maintain office hours, and the college advisors are available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Many also work with advisees through email.

How does a student receive academic advising?

The primary source of academic advising for students who have chosen a major is the individual academic department, where a faculty member is designated as the undergraduate adviser. Each college also has professional advisers who are located in the college advisement office.

What can a student expect from his or her academic adviser?

Students should contact their faculty or college adviser on matters related to degree requirements, course selection and registration. Advisers also assist students with career preparation, including help with finding internships, and with preparation for admission to graduate school. Many advisers write letters of recommendation for employment, scholarships and graduate school. Advisers in Pre-Major Advising also assist with selecting an appropriate major and exploring career choices.
What is the student’s responsibility in securing academic advising?

Students must take responsibility for contacting their faculty adviser, college office or the Office of Pre-Major Advising for the names and locations of their advisers. Many advisers can be contacted by email. It is also each student’s responsibility to follow up with his or her adviser when registering for courses each semester.

Students can prepare for each advising session by reviewing the class schedule, degree requirements and the college catalog, if necessary.

Any concerns about the accuracy or quality of advising a student receives should be directed to the college or department office.

Some colleges require academic advising before you can schedule any classes for the upcoming semester.

How does the meal system work?

Students who purchase a meal plan use their Photo ID to purchase snacks and meals at any of the University dining centers. As items or meals are purchased, the amount is deducted from the student’s pre-paid account. In addition to the debit plan, all of the dining centers, snack bars, specialty restaurants and convenience stores accept cash.

How can students change their meal plan?

BGSU’s Dining Services offers three meal plans; bronze, silver and gold. The plan students’ select for fall semester is automatically billed each semester unless other arrangements are made with Dining Services. These arrangements may be made through the Dining Services Accounting Office by calling 372-2891 before the first day of classes if they are to apply to the following semester.

Where should a student go if he or she has learning or other disability/special need?

Disability Services, has primary responsibility for providing services to students with disabilities and other special needs. Services include tutoring, special advising, alternative testing and other referrals. Disability Services is located in 38 College Park Office Building.

Are there medical services available on campus?

Student Health Services, located at 838 Wooster St. offers full-time, professionally licensed physicians, nurse practitioners, registered nurses, technicians and pharmacists staff the Student Health Service, accredited by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care. Students utilize the Student Health Service for primary medical care and outpatient services during regular University hours. Services include acute medical care, women’s health clinic, laboratory, radiology, and pharmacy.

After hours, emergency care is available through the Wood County Hospital in Bowling Green.
Where do students go for counseling about personal issues?

The Counseling Center provides individual and group counseling as well as crisis intervention. National testing programs such as the Graduate Record Exam and other exams for professional certification or admission into undergraduate, graduate and professional schools are also administered through this office. The staff includes licensed psychologists, a social worker, graduate student assistants from the clinical psychology training program and a testing coordinator. Students are seen by appointment, except in emergencies. Limited service is also provided to students through the Psychological Services Center, a division of the psychology department’s doctoral training program.

What organizations are available for students at BGSU?

BGSU is a residential campus, and that means the University provides programming with the idea that students are on campus 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

A large number of special events are offered each month for all students, and many of them are held on weekends. They range from first-run films and lectures to art exhibits, recitals and concerts. Many student organizations and residence hall staffs also plan co-curricular programming designed to add balance to a BGSU education.

The Office of Campus Activities located in room 401 Bowen-Thompson Student Union, is a great resource to find clubs and organizations that fits your interests. BGSU has more than 300 student organizations, most of which plan activities that enrich student life outside the classroom. By being involved with student organizations, students develop leadership skills, learn time management and self-discipline, self-awareness, self-confidence and make new friends.

How is diversity addressed at BGSU?

BGSU’s commitment to diversity is expressed in two of its core values: respect for one another and cooperation. The appreciation for diversity is reinforced in a University-wide general education requirement through which every student enrolls in at least one course that covers cultural diversity in the United States. Outside the classroom, the Office of Multicultural Affairs plans and promotes educational programming about multicultural issues. The Office of Campus Involvement also plans multicultural programs. There are a variety of multicultural Greek chapters and student organizations that address racial, cultural and religious and other diversity aspects. VISION, a student group for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students and their allies, also provides programming and resources for students of all sexual orientations.

What services are available specifically to help multicultural students?

The Office of Multicultural Affairs, 318-B Math Sciences Building, 372-2642, advocates equal opportunities for students, provides academic support services and cultural enrichment programs, and promotes a multicultural community where all students, and particularly students of color, can achieve success, both academically and socially.
What should students do if there is a serious illness or death in the family?

Students should contact the Office of the Dean of Students (419) 372-2843 and the AIMS Director. The staff of the Dean of Students can contact the student’s professors to help ease any academic concerns that might arise.

How does a student plan for education abroad?

Early planning is very important so that it becomes an integral part of a student’s degree program. The education abroad program is a part of the Center for International Programs. Staff in that office advises students about their options. Students who plan to study abroad are encouraged to meet with the director starting in their first year. BGSU offers financial support for some students to pursue an international component of their education.

What facilities are available in residence halls?

All students have voice mail. Almost all rooms are also completely carpeted with draperies provided. These University furnishings cannot be removed from campus residences. No nails can be used in placing decorations in the rooms.

Due to aggressive renovations occurring campus-wide, the majority of our beds are loftable. Although students are encouraged to bring only the “essentials” at first, many bring a compact portable refrigerator (not exceeding 1.5 amps, less than 5 cubic feet and no higher than 36”), a microwave (not to exceed 900 watts), a TV (cable television access is provided in all student rooms), computer, stereo or additional furniture (futons must be less than 78” wide) which should be fire-retardant. All electrical appliances must be UL-approved and a surge suppressor is required with all equipment. Extension cords are not permitted in University residences, so we recommend using a power strip.

Can students bring a computer from home to the residence hall?

Yes. It is estimated that over half of all resident students will bring their own computers for the academic year. All residence hall rooms have Ethernet connections that provide high-speed access to the campus-computing network, including free email.

A computer from home is not necessary, however, because each University residence has a computer lab and staff to help every student become familiar with available technologies. The labs are open approximately 100 hours per week. When residents agree to certain security contracts, the hours in many labs are extended to nearly 24 hours a day.

Are there curfews in the residence halls?

No, there are not curfews in the residence halls. The University takes numerous precautions to make the University residences safe. In the evening hours, night clerks require residents and their guests to check in with the appropriate identification. Unescorted guests are not allowed in the buildings at any time. All residences require personal entry devices (PEDs) to gain access to the living area. However, students are responsible for helping to maintain a secure environment. That means locking the door when they leave their room or are asleep, ensuring that doors to the outside remain closed and reporting any suspicious behavior to the residence staff or the University police.
Are there quiet hours in the residence halls?
Yes. Quiet hours are enforced in each residence hall and “courtesy hours” are in effect 24 hours a day.

Does BGSU have a policy on alcohol?
BGSU permits the consumption, possession, serving and sale of alcoholic beverages only in accordance with the laws of the state of Ohio. At any University event where alcohol is present, nonalcoholic beverages and food must be available in an amount adequate to last through the entire event. Only persons of legal age may consume, possess, serve or sell alcohol.

These policies are strictly enforced in the University residences.

Is there a central place individuals can call for answers to questions?
Campus Fact Line, 372-2445, is an on-campus telephone service that provides accurate, complete, up-to-the-minute information on everything from grading policies at BGSU to when the Detroit Tigers last won the pennant. Fact Line operators have an extensive computer database at their fingertips and answer thousands of calls annually from both on and off campus. Regular hours are Monday- Friday 10:00 AM- 9:00 PM, Saturday and Sunday 11:00 AM- 6:00 PM throughout the entire semester.