

University Life and Student Services Directory

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University Life

The University Life staff, located in several locations and supervised by the Vice President for University Life, encompasses services and programs that are designed to enhance the co-curricular learning environment as a vital element in Alvernia University's commitment to the education of the whole person. The staff and programs include: Health and Wellness, Community Standards, Counseling Services, Student Government Association, Residence Life, Student Activities, Campus Ministry, and Cross-Cultural Initiatives. These programs and services, taken together, assist students in developing their abilities to be self-directed human beings, capable of moving through various work, leisure, and life roles in order to make vital contributions to the home, church, and community. University Life works closely with the Educational Planning Center, the faculty, and all other university staff for the benefit of the students of Alvernia.

Note: Additional University Life information is available in the Student Handbook.

Activities Calendar

Activities and events are posted on the website calendar and can be accessed by clicking on the events calendar from the university homepage. Also, a list of student activities for the month is posted on the Student Activities webpage and semester activity posters are available in the Office of Student Activities.

Campus Ministry

Campus Ministry is located on the first floor of the Commons. As a Catholic, Franciscan university, Alvernia seeks to maintain the Catholic character and purpose of the institution envisioned by the founding congregation, the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters. The university welcomes people of all faith traditions and invites all to participate in the spiritual, community service, and social justice programs that highlight our mission.

Campus Ministry seeks to stimulate growth in faith, formation of Christian conscience, leadership and personal development, formation of human community, and an understanding of issues of peace and justice. Activities include opportunities for prayer and worship through Sunday and weekly liturgies, opportunities for reflection and discussion through retreats and other programs, and a variety of community service opportunities. Opportunities for ecumenical prayer and faith sharing are offered on campus to meet the needs of all students.

Community Standards

The Community Standards Office is located in Veronica Hall, within the Residence Life suite. The office's primary function is to address all violations of the Student Code of Citizenship and/or University Policy in a fair and reasonable manner, while balancing both the students' and institution's rights and responsibilities. In accordance with Alvernia's Community Standards Mission, the office strives to create and support an environment where rigorous, caring, and inclusive learning communities thrive, while promoting good citizenship at Alvernia University.

Community Service (610-796-5509)

To instill a spirit of service, Alvernia University requires community service to be completed by all undergraduate students before graduation. For the community service requirements, see the Graduation Requirements in the Programs and Courses of Study section of this catalog or contact the Registrar. For service opportunities, please contact the Holleran Center for Community Engagement.

Counseling Center (610-568-1467)

The Counseling Office is located in the Health and Wellness Center, second floor of Veronica Hall. Please see the Counseling Services under Health and Wellness Center, below.

Health and Wellness Center (610-568-1467)

The Health and Wellness Center is located on the second floor of Veronica Hall. The center is proud to offer a safe, caring, and confidential environment for the healthcare and counseling needs of our students.

The center's staff encourages individuals to maximize their physical, emotional and spiritual wellness and empowers our students to make healthy choices regarding their lifestyle.

All services rendered at the Health and Wellness center are confidential. The center is HIPAA compliant. This means that the center may not release any medical information without the student's written consent.

Counseling Services: The center offers free short-term counseling services to individuals by a licensed psychologist. If necessary, the counselor will make referrals to off-campus counseling services. Counseling Services also provides educational programming opportunities for the university community designed to meet the needs of the community in areas of personal, emotional development and substance abuse issues.

Health Services: All full-time students are required to submit a medical history form with their immunization history to the Health and Wellness Center

prior to starting classes at Alvernia. Residence hall students are required to have either a record of receiving the meningococcal vaccine or a waiver denying the immunization signed and turned in to the Health and Wellness Center prior to moving into the residence hall.

Health services are available to all registered students. The center provides evaluation and treatment of minor illnesses and injuries, health education, and referrals to off-campus medical facilities, as well as on-campus programming to educate our students about living a healthy lifestyle. Appointments are available Monday through Friday and are free of charge. (There may be a minimal charge for medications prescribed by our medical staff.) Please remember, it is the responsibility of the student to notify his/her professors regarding any absence due to illness. The Health and Wellness Center does not excuse students from class.

Medical Emergencies: In a medical emergency, students should observe the following procedures: Life threatening emergency, dial 911 immediately; in other instances, call Public Safety at x8350.

Cross-Cultural Services (610-796-8437)

Cross-Cultural Services are led by Director of Freshman Foundations and Cross-Cultural Services, Wanda Copeland, Bernardine Hall 1102. We welcome, celebrate and support students from all diverse backgrounds. The university promotes understanding, unity and appreciation of the growing diversity of our campus, affirming the inherent value and dignity of each person, regardless of race, gender differences, national origin or religion. The campus community recognizes ethnic awareness with respect and openness to the richness and wisdom of various groups so that students can prosper academically and socially.

The director works with all areas of the campus community to implement cross-cultural programs such as a calendar of social, cultural, and other co-curricular activities that are consistent with best practices and designed to support the success of all students. The director is available to students on both a formal and informal basis to discuss issues, implement ideas, help solve problems, and offer appropriate channels for resolution of issues.

Residence Life (610-796-8320)

The Office of Residence Life is located on the first floor of Veronica Hall. The University's Residence Life philosophy promotes moral development and civic responsibility, welcomes diversity, and respects the dignity of the human person at all times. The living-learning environment of the residence halls provides valuable learning opportunities through interaction with other students. Alvernia University maintains several housing options for students: traditional residence halls, suite-style halls, apartment-style halls, and townhouse units. Full-time

professional staff members including Graduate Hall Directors and Student Resident Assistants staff the residence halls. The Residence Life staff offers activities throughout the year designed to build community and to enhance the academic and social life of the campus.

Note: For specific information regarding residence life policies and procedures please refer to the Residence Life & Housing section of the Student Handbook.

Student Activities and Organizations (610-796-8408)

The Student Activities Office is located in the new Campus Commons building. The staff works with the university's numerous student organizations to provide a calendar of social, cultural, and other co-curricular activities for Alvernia students throughout the year. These have included comedy acts, dances, educational and motivational speakers, activities related to majors and career choices, Spring Fling, and trips to New York City, Washington, D.C., and Baltimore, Md., to name a few.

Student Government Association (610-796-8341)

The Student Government Association (SGA) is comprised of all full-time and part-time undergraduate students. These elected officers represent the student body. Regular meetings are held to discuss campus issues, to award funding to student organizations, and to plan activities throughout the year. In addition, SGA hosts several major events each year and plays an integral part in shaping the campus community.

Student Services

Additional Student Service information is available in the Student Handbook.

Athletics and Recreation (610-796-8276)

Alvernia University views athletics as an integral component of the overall educational mission. Alvernia is a member of the Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC), the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference (ECAC), and the National Collegiate Athletic Conference (NCAA), Division III. The university has adopted the Division III philosophy statement as its own and follows the guidelines of Division III. The Alvernia University Department of Athletics and Recreation is part of the NCAA CHAMPS/Life Skills Program, which focuses on five key areas: academics, athletics, community service, career development, and personal development.

The Department of Athletics and Recreation Policy Handbook outlines the philosophy of athletics at Alvernia and the responsibility of the Athletic Director, coaches, staff, and student-athletes. Information in the handbook includes, but is not limited to the following: academic eligibility and responsibilities, social responsibilities, community service, class absence,

insurance, varsity status, awards, role of athletics in the total college mission, student-athlete advisory committee (SAAC), and the NCAA summary regulations and certification information.

Alvernia University sponsors intercollegiate teams for men in cross-country, lacrosse, tennis, soccer, basketball, track and field, baseball, and golf. Women's teams include cross-country, lacrosse, volleyball, field hockey, basketball, tennis, track and field, soccer, and softball. The coed cheer team, dance team, and the ice hockey team are club sports run under the Department of Athletics and Recreation.

The Department of Athletics and Recreation also offers a variety of recreation and wellness opportunities throughout the year. The recreation activities are organized by the Intramural Athletic Board (IAB), which is a student-run organization. All intramural and wellness opportunities are available to Alvernia students, faculty and staff.

The Commons on main campus is equipped with a cardio center and a strength training room that are available to all Alvernia students, faculty, and staff. These areas include a dance/yoga room, treadmills, elliptical machines, steppers, bicycles, and strength training equipment. Graduate and Adult Education students are encouraged to take advantage of the services provided by the Commons.

Bookstore (610-796-8250)

The bookstore is located on the first floor of the Student Center. Textbooks, supplies, software, clothing, and gifts can be purchased online. Texts may be picked up in the bookstore or shipped directly to your home or place of business. In addition, Alvernia University novelties, greeting cards, snacks, drinks, postage stamps, phone cards, pre-pay phones, electronics, and general health and beauty items are available in the store.

Students may use cash, checks, money orders, credit cards or financial aid (when applicable) for in-store purchases. Orders placed on the Internet may be paid with a credit card or financial aid (when applicable).

Campus Shuttle (610-796-8350)

Alvernia provides a campus shuttle between the Ken-Grill parking lot, Upland Center, Bernardine Hall, and the Angelica parking lot. The shuttle schedule is available by calling Public Safety at 610-796-8350. In the evening upon request, Alvernia can also provide transportation to the BARTA Route 10 bus stop at the corner of Brookline Plaza and Lancaster Avenue. A specific BARTA bus schedule can be found at www.bartabus.com. Student wishing to utilize evening transportation to this bus stop should call Public Safety (610-796-8350) to make arrangements.

Dining Services (610-796-8222)

Alvernia's food/dining service is provided by Aladdin Food Management Service, Inc. All resident students are required to participate in the meal plan provided by the university; commuter students, visitors and other members of the Alvernia community may use the dining facilities on an "all you can eat" basis for a set cash price. Students on a meal plan must present their ID/meal card to the cashier at each meal.

There are three dining locales on campus: The Main Dining Hall (Student Center), Kestrel Café (Bernardine Hall), and Courtside Café (PEC). Please see the Student Handbook for additional information.

Identification Cards (610-796-8350)

Every student must possess a valid Alvernia photo identification card (ID). This card should be carried at all times and is not transferable. Students must present their ID to utilize dining and library services, to gain admission to the cardio/weight room, and for admission to sporting and social activities on campus. IDs are also needed to gain entrance to residence halls and to access other campus buildings after hours. Debit accounts for the Bookstore and Dining Services are also available with a student ID. ID photos are taken throughout the year at the Public Safety Office.

International Student Programs

Current Alvernia students interested in studying abroad should contact the Study Abroad Coordinator at 610-790-1982.

Alvernia officially accepts and hosts individuals from various countries throughout the world. Some come to campus as one-year exchange students while others enroll in traditional four-year degree programs. All international students follow Alvernia's standard admission policies and practices. In addition, standardized test scores of English proficiency may also be required. For more detailed information on applying to Alvernia as an international student, please call the International Admissions Counselor at 610-568-1420.

International students at the Reading campus who have questions related to their acclimation to the United States should contact the office of the Vice President for University Life, 610-796-8211; International students enrolled at our Philadelphia campus should contact 215-635-4734. Those students enrolled in the ESL non-collegiate credit program, should contact the ESL program director at 215-635-0704.

Alvernia fully complies with all Federal mandates concerning international students. The Registrar's Office is responsible for the required record keeping as defined by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS), and the Department of Homeland

Security. Prospective international students can obtain further information about how Alvernia reports information to federal agencies by contacting the Office of the Registrar.

Parking (610-796-8350)

All motor vehicles parked on campus, and in auxiliary parking lots, must display a current Alvernia parking permit. Parking permits may be obtained from the Public Safety Department, located in the Student Center, second floor. For additional information on parking policies see the Undergraduate Student Handbook.

Safety and Security

Office of Public Safety (610-796-8350)

Alvernia strives to maintain a clean, safe, healthy environment for its students, faculty and staff to enjoy. While no institution can guarantee the safety of all members, Alvernia has taken steps to promote a safe environment conducive to the campus community's successful academic and co-curricular pursuits. The Public Safety Office is staffed 24-hours-a-day, each day of the year, and conducts both vehicular and foot patrols. All officers carry cell phones and two-way radios while on patrol and are CPR AED and First Aid certified.

The Public Safety Office is a clearinghouse for lost and found items, reported activities, and emergencies occurring on campus. All reported incidents are thoroughly investigated, including those related to alcohol and other drugs. The Alvernia community is alerted to safety concerns through written and verbal communications including bulletin boards, flyers, meetings, the Alvernia newspaper and an electronic alert system. If a murder, forcible rape, or other serious crime is alleged to have occurred on the campus, the President or his designee shall notify the campus community so as to protect the alleged victim's right to privacy while alerting the community to potential danger. Members of the Alvernia community who witness or may be victimized by a criminal offense should contact the Public Safety Office immediately.

Alvernia, in being true to its mission and its responsibility to its students and employees, is dedicated to doing what is necessary both to maintain the dignity of students and employees and to teach them to accept their roles as responsible men and women in society. Alvernia, therefore, not only distributes this section of this publication as required by law, but also sponsors crime prevention talks presented by local policing authorities or the Criminal Justice Club. Discussions of safety procedures and practices are included in new student and employee orientation programs. For campus residents, more frequent reminders are provided.

Students may contact local police at any time a crime is witnessed or suspected, but Public Safety should also be notified so a Safety Officer can escort police to the appropriate place on campus. Investigations are conducted through the process of sharing information.

Campus Call Boxes

Alvernia University has installed emergency call boxes on campus. Call boxes may be utilized in an emergency; pressing the red button immediately sends a distress signal to the Reading Police Department and also notifies Alvernia Public Safety.

E2Campus

In an effort to ensure the safety and security of the Alvernia community, the university has adopted e2Campus. E2Campus is a campus-wide, text-messaging, email and voicemail system that will enable Alvernia University officials to communicate with registered students, faculty, staff, and parents in the event of a catastrophic emergency. Registration is free and can be accessed by clicking on the “logins” link, located on the homepage of the university website.

Escort Service (610-796-8350)

Alvernia Public Safety offers free escort service for students and staff who feel uncomfortable traveling on campus. Students and staff should call x8350 to arrange for this service.

Parking Lot Cameras

Video cameras are strategically placed in campus parking lots to aid in hindering vandalism to vehicles. Note: Alvernia University assumes NO LIABILITY for theft or damages to vehicles parked on premises.