

Ball State University Self-Guided Tour

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Introduction

Welcome to Ball State University. My name is Ty and I am a Media Design and Development major from Huntingburg, Indiana. It is my pleasure to get you started on your self-guided tour.

We are honored to share our beautiful campus and its rich history as you explore each stop on your self-guided tour. Before you get started, here are some interesting facts about Ball State's beginnings.

Ball State was founded in 1918 by the Ball Brothers. The five brothers were Muncie industrialists known for their Ball canning jars. They donated the land and its buildings to the State of Indiana in 1917. One year later the Indiana State Normal School Eastern Division, a small teacher training college, was established. May years after that humble start, the state honored the Ball Families' generosity by renaming the school to Ball Teachers College, eventually becoming the Ball STATE Teachers College. Ball State became a university in 1965 and has continued to grow since. We sit on about 790-acres and host 20,000+ students from coast to coast and beyond.

Welcome to Ball State. Enjoy your tour. Please progress to stop number 1.

Stop 1: Lucina Hall

Lucina Hall was originally built in 1927 and is named after the only Ball sister, Lucina Amelia Ball. The building was originally a women's residence hall and was converted to office space in the 1970s. Today, this building houses the Office of Admissions for Undergraduate, Graduate, and International, as well as the Transfer Center, Career Center, and the Counseling Center. The Career Center offers 500 on-campus job opportunities each year, plus career coaching, resume and cover letter guidance, practice interviews, and career fairs. The counseling center offers unlimited counseling sessions, light therapy,

massage chairs, and Zen rooms. Ball State prioritizes student mental health and wellness with support available from day one.

Stop 2: Beneficence

The status of Beneficence, nicknamed “Benny”, was completed in 1937 by sculptor Daniel Chester French who is best known for his Abraham Lincoln Memorial statue in Washington, D.C. Beneficence is the symbol of Ball State’s core values – excellence, innovation, courage, integrity, inclusiveness, social responsibility, and gratitude. We strive to value the intrinsic worth of every member of our community and pledge to maintain high standards of scholarship and excellence. There is a myth that the urns atop the five pillars are the final resting place of the five Ball Brothers.

While you are spending time with Benny, we want to point out the L.A. Pittenger Student Center that is located behind you and to the right, across University Avenue. The Student Center is marked by the 3 flags that proudly represent our campus, our state, and our nation. This space is home to Cardinal Central, which is an integrated student-focused service center. It is a convenient, one-stop location for business processes, resources, and information for students and their families. In addition, the Student Center houses the Office of Student Life, the Office of Disability Services, the Rinker Center for International Programs, the Tally Food Court, and on-campus hotel. Student Life boasts over 400 student clubs and organizations, multicultural groups, Greek Life, and the best party on campus, Late Night, hosted by students for students!

Stop 3: Quad

Hello! My name is Olivia and I am a Journalism and Media undergrad major from Farmland, Indiana. I am excited to share the next part of the tour with you!

North Quad is a vibrant stop on your tour and is a central location for many resources, student support services, and art and community engagement. The “Quad”, as it is commonly known, holds the West Quad building at the far end which contains our graduate school. The Graduate School offers more than 100 master’s, doctoral, specialist degrees, and certificate programs, as well as the Accelerated Master’s Programs.

In front of West Quad is the Ball Gymnasium building. Ball Gym was built in 1925 and the Ball State Teachers College Cardinals (first called the “Hoosieroons”) played their home basketball games in the space until 1963. The building offers students an indoor running track, a swimming pool, multi-use fitness rooms, and is home to our ROTC program.

Moving clockwise from Ball Gym, is the newly renovated Cooper Science Building which offers access to the largest planetarium in Indiana, the Charles W. Brown Planetarium.

The next building to the right is the Fine Arts Building. This location is a beautiful space that is home to the David Owsley Museum of Art. DOMA, as the gallery is so lovingly called, features 1,000 works of art that are on display spread out over several galleries. Those pieces are able to be viewed on guided tours,

self-guided tours, and educational programming. DOMA cares for more than 11,000 works in its extensive collection. DOMA and the Planetarium offer free, year-round, programming and are wonderful assets to our campus and our community.

Across the Quad from DOMA, the blonde brick building is our Administration Building. This building is one of the original structures and is the oldest facility on campus. When Ball State was first a Teacher's College, this space was where students learned, studied, dined, and lived. Now, the Office of the President, the Division of Student Affairs, and Human Resources all operate out of this historical landmark.

To the left of the Administration Building, is the Burkhardt Building. This space was the first building on campus to be built with state funds and is the second oldest building on campus. The Burkhardt Building is one of only a few facilities in Indiana that collects and preserves archaeological findings.

From here, start to walk toward the Scramble Light. As you head that way, you will come up on the North Quad building on your left. North Quad once housed the original library and now contains the First-year advising center, the Learning Center, and many academic areas of study. The Learning Center offers free academic tutoring and coaching to help students excel academically, set goals, and manage their time. When you reach the Scramble Light, please push the cross-walk button and cross diagonally when Charlie chirps to let you know it is safe.

Stop 4: Scramble Light

The Scramble Light is a unique intersection and the largest pedestrian crossing in Indiana. When Charlie chirps, pedestrians can cross in any direction. Additionally, the Scramble Light is one of the biggest social hubs on campus where students promote special events, clubs, and fundraisers. Please cross diagonally when it is safe and pause on the other side of the street.

Looking down Riverside Avenue and to your left, at the corner, you will see the tallest building in Delaware County, the Teachers College. The Teachers College holds the honor of having nationally recognized programming and is the largest provider of teacher preparation candidates in Indiana. Graduates have nearly a 90% pass rate on Indiana's teacher licensing exams. The College also has Indiana's only degrees in Deaf or Hearing-Impaired Education and Applied Behavior Analysis with an emphasis on Autism. The programs work closely with the area's public and private schools for hands-on experience.

Tucked behind the 10-story building is the Applied Technology Building. It is home to the Allegre Restaurant, a student-run dining experience, and several advanced labs and studios that support the instructional needs of our Interior Design and Construction Management majors.

Turning your attention to the other side of Riverside Avenue and across the street, you will see the Music Instruction Building and Sursa Performing Arts Hall. Behind you is the Hargreaves Music Building. These three facilities combined hold 24 studios, large rehearsal rooms, and a 600-seat music performance hall.

Situated to the left of the Music Instruction Building is a little white house. This is the Honors College. The Honors program is a diverse and innovative curriculum that is built around small, student-centered class sizes. Students in the honors program work in tandem with faculty mentors on research and creative projects and receive expert guidance when applying for national and international scholarships.

As you continue to look left down Riverside you will see the state-of-the-art Health Professions Building and the Foundational Sciences Building. The Health Professions building houses a fully functioning simulation lab that offers real-world medical and nursing training. The space offers the opportunity to interact with high-intensity scenarios all the way through comforting a patient. This facility is also home to an Audiology and Speech-Language Clinic that offers free hearing screenings to Ball State students, employees, and the Muncie community.

Behind the Health Professions building sits the Foundational Sciences building. It is a premier facility with 72 teaching and research labs, advanced microscopy, imaging equipment, a live aquatics suite, and a research library.

From here, please draw your attention back to the side of the road you are on. Looking behind you and to the right of the Hargraves Music Building sits Emens Auditorium and the Arts and Communications Building. Emens is a live performance venue that hosts a wide variety of events including professional Broadway touring shows, well-known music artists, guest lectures, and famous entertainers, just to name a few. To the right of Emens is the Arts and Communications Building. In this building, there are three theatre spaces and over 20 productions that are produced each year by our students in the performing arts. The professional performances in Emens and the student produced productions in the Arts and Communication facility are greatly discounted and often free for students to enjoy.

Stop 5: Bracken Library

Hello! My name is Ellen and I am a Music Education major from Noblesville, Indiana. I am excited to share the next part of the tour with you!

As you walk away from the Scramble Light and down McKinley Avenue, toward the Bell Tower, you will find yourself coming up on Bracken Library to your right. Look for the building that resembles a stack of books on a shelf. Bracken provides the physical and online resources you need to complete your research projects and assignments. The library also has a large collection of journals, eBooks, eMedia, and more. This is also a popular spot on campus to hang out with others, study alone quietly, or complete group work. The library offers reservable study rooms and other open study and collaboration environments.

Nestled just diagonally from Bracken, is Pruis Hall. Pruis is a 640-seat venue used for classes, guest speakers and lecturers, concerts, and films. The building's aesthetic is reminiscent of a baby grand piano.

Looking across McKinley Avenue from the library and as you walk toward the Bell Tower are the series of connected communications buildings. Be sure not to pass the Frog Baby Fountain on your right! More about that in a moment! This stretch of connected buildings -- Arts and Journalism, Ball Communications, the David Letterman Communications and Media Building, and Robert Bell -- holds media and communication programs that rank among the nation's largest communications and media schools.

The first in the line-up is the Arts and Journalism facility. It has a unified media lab that produces the Ball State Daily News newspaper as well as Ball Bearings, one of the top collegiate magazines in the country. The building is also home to the Ned and Gloria Griner Art Gallery which gives our art students a place to showcase their work, the Atrium food court which has a variety of on-campus dining options, and the Ball State Bookstore for all your academic and BSU merchandise needs.

Next to the Arts and Journalism building is the Ball Communications Building. This facility has Sports Link – an Emmy award-winning media production program that covers ESPN, NASCAR, Turner Sports, Ball State Sports, Fox College, and NCAA. We have one of the country's largest installed virtual studios fitted with green screens and the equipment needed to create and broadcast weather, news, and more.

After Ball Communications, we move to the David Letterman Communication and Media Building. The Letterman building was dedicated to Ball State's most famous alumni, David Letterman. Within this facility, you will find WCRD – an award-winning student-run radio station, the flagship studio for Indiana Public Radio, and a space for our Speech and Debate teams.

Last in the line-up is the Robert Bell building. Robert Bell is the location of the Writing Center. This center supports students with writing projects through feedback sessions and workshops. The Cardinal Copy Center is also located here and is a resource for student print needs such as programs, posters, class designs, and more. In addition, Robert Bell is home to our nationally-ranked Esports program. The Esports lab houses state-of-the-art computers and is a competition stadium for varsity and club teams. Now, turn your attention back to Frog Baby Fountain.

Stop 6: Frog Baby

Hello! My name is Paloma and I am a Theater Creations major from Fort Wayne, Indiana. I am excited to share the next part of the tour with you!

Frog Baby is one of the most popular landmarks on campus. Some will argue that she is more popular than Benny! Frog Baby was originally on display at the David Owsley Museum of Art. While on display at the museum, a tradition was formed where students would rub her nose for good luck on their exams. Eventually, this tradition rubbed her nose right off. Fortunately, Ball State has good health insurance so we shipped her off to Italy for an Italian nose job. Upon her return to Muncie, she was placed in her current location, Frog Baby Fountain as a means to protect her from contact. The fountain does don't deter students from continuing to look to Frog Baby for luck! Not only does she provide luck to our students, but she can also be seen wearing attire for any occasion. Whether it be homecoming, a holiday, a sunny day, or a campus visit event, Frog Baby gets dressed up and is ready to show her Ball State pride. Chirp! Chirp!

Looking over Frog Baby's head, you will see the Multicultural Center. The Center offers programs and events throughout the year that educate the Ball State community, support students of color, and celebrate faculty, staff, and students' achievements. They do so through activities such as Unity Week, workshops and presentations, mentoring programs, and more.

Behind the Multicultural Center is the newly constructed Brown Family Amphitheater. The amphitheater offers artists and audiences an impressive outdoor performance facility.

Looking to the left of Frog Baby, is the Whiting Business Building that houses opportunities such as Finance Stock Market experience, exposure to accounting and tax assistance, marketing, and more. In addition, many industry professionals connected to the vast world of business visit the space and can often be seen recruiting for work after graduation.

From here, you will continue on to the Shafer Tower for a look at the tower itself, the green space around the buildings, and the R. Wayne Estopinal College of Architecture and Planning. Don't cross the street at the corner of McKinley and Neely!

Stop 7: Shafer Tower

Hello! My name is Dylan and I am a Communications Studies major from Fort Wayne, Indiana. I am excited to share the next part of the tour with you!

Shafer Tower is the tallest collegiate bell tower in Indiana at an amazing 150 feet tall. It holds 48 custom-made bells covering all four octaves, making it an instrument that is capable of playing the most historic and contemporary carillon music. The bells ring every 15 minutes and are often a great time-keeper for our students going to and from classes. The myth here says that if you walk under the bell tower, you will not graduate in four years. Best not to test this theory and take the long way around the tower just to be safe.

To the right of the tower is a lovely green space called University Green. This green space is often filled with the vibrant student life that is indicative of our campus.

Beside University Green, on the same side of the road, is our R. Wayne Estopinal College of Architecture and Planning. The architecture program is Indiana's first state-supported architecture program and one of the nation's largest and most comprehensive schools of environmental design. The space offers studios and labs for our students to utilize and galleries to showcase their work. And, the exterior of the building reflects the aesthetic of a drafting board! At this time, please walk to the stop light and take a look across the street to your right.

Stop 8: Jo Ann Gora Student Recreation and Wellness Center

Before the final stop on your tour, we want to thank you for taking the time to learn and experience what Ball State has to offer. To explore more about the application process, housing and residence life, dining, student success resources, and more, we encourage you to visit www.bsu.edu.

The last stop brings us the Jo Ann Gora Student Recreation and Wellness Center, lovingly known as the Rec. The Rec is a 4- floor facility with a total of seven basketball and volleyball courts, racquetball courts, an indoor turf field complete with batting cages, and a climbing wall. There is an indoor track, fitness centers, rooms for exercise, and available fitness classes. The Rec is also home to Outdoor Pursuits. This office offers equipment rentals for such things as biking, hiking, skiing, canoeing, and fishing. They also host group outings and everyone is welcome. The use of the Rec is included in the cost of tuition.

Looking down the way, to the right of the Rec, is the Student Health Center. The Student Health Center provides ambulatory health care for currently enrolled sick and injured students. The Center is comprised of a main clinic, a Women's Center, and a Health Promotion and Advocacy center, as well as a physical therapy clinic.

This concludes your tour. Thank you, again, and Chirp! Chirp! For further information on anything you learned, please visit www.bsu.edu. If you would like to return to campus to meet with someone in your area of interest, visit www.bsu.edu/visit to schedule a guided campus experience.