

# BELHAVEN UNIVERSITY

## CHAPEL – Course: CHP000

### What is the purpose of Chapel?

The purpose of Chapel is to bring together the entire campus in a shared spiritually enriching hour that allows us collectively to be challenged to explore the depths of God's truth and love. While Chapel is most often structured as a worship service, the purpose of Chapel is somewhat different from the systematic spiritual development students receive from their local church. And thus, Chapel is purposefully designed never to take the place of a local church in a student's life.

### Why is Chapel required?

Students' attendance in chapel is required because, within our Christian framework, we believe that all teaching of truth must be built on a foundation of God's truth. As the study of chemistry cannot be completed from a textbook alone, the study of God's truth also needs a "laboratory" for experiencing and understanding, for it is not enough to study the Bible without having exposure to the worship of God and an opportunity to understand the relationship offered to us in Christ.

**IMPORTANT:** Satisfactory participation is required of all students for graduation. Unless exempted, all students must attend Chapel EACH semester enrolled at Belhaven University.

### How do I get credit for Chapel?

**All students who are not exempt from Chapel are required to attend a minimum of eight (8) sessions each semester they are enrolled at Belhaven.** Students will only receive credit electronically by scanning in and out of each session with a current ID card. Attendance will not register after 10 minutes from the start of each session, at which point students are counted absent. Students leaving early are counted absent.

### Which students are required to attend Chapel?

**Chapel attendance is required for ALL full-time, traditional students (12 + hours).** Students may also apply for exemption. Exemptions are granted by the Director of Student Development and must be completed for each semester. Exemption forms are available on BlazeNet and in the Office of Student Development. Proof of exemption must accompany the Exemption Form and be returned to the Office of Student Development. A Chapel exemption **form AND proof** of the exemption must be completed for each semester. Exemptions from Chapel may be granted for any of the following reasons:

#### **1) Employed full-time**

**Proof:** Provide a letter from your employer stating that you "work an average of 35-40 hours per week." (The statement "full-time employment" is not acceptable; the number of hours must be specified and the exemption is for employment of 35-40 hours per week.) The letter must be on company letterhead and must be signed by the employer.

**2) Taking 51% of classes in the evening**

**Proof:** Provide a copy of your class schedule showing the classes for which you are registered.

**3) Last term of attendance (Fall/Spring) & academic course conflict**

**Proof:** Conflicting courses must be courses required for the degree to graduate, and may not include elective credit courses. Provide a copy of your class schedule showing the classes for which you are registered with approval from the Registrar's Office.

All questions regarding Chapel credit, should be submitted by emailing [chapel@belhaven.edu](mailto:chapel@belhaven.edu).

**Is there a substitute requirement if I miss Chapel?**

Students who have not attended the required number of Chapels during a semester may receive credit by

- a) serving 2 hours in the community with an approved organization, or
- b) by making a \$25 gift to the Chapel Mission Fund for each chapel missed less than the eight required for students to attend each semester.

Students must fulfill Chapel requirements prior to final exams, to be recorded on the current semester's grade report. The deadline for fulfilling requirements is on the last day of classes each semester. If community service hours have not been fulfilled by the last day of classes, a \$25 charge for each Chapel session they are delinquent will be billed to their account.

**Community Service Option:** A list of approved organizations is available on BlazeNet and in the Office of Student Development. Two (2) hours of community service equals one (1) Chapel attendance requirement. The guidelines for community service are as follows:

- 1) Two hours of approved community service fulfills one Chapel attendance credit.
- 2) Community service must take place with an approved organization (list is available in the Office of Student Development).
- 3) Community service must be properly documented with a report form.
- 4) Community service is not granted for experiences such as mission trips, academic internships, employment, summer camp staffing and spring break projects.

**Chapel Mission Fund Option:** Students may also fulfill their requirement by making a \$25 gift to the Chapel Missions Fund per credit. Gifts may be made by:

- 1) Completing a Chapel Mission Fund form in the Office of Student Development.
- 2) Making a payment at the Business Office. Payments may be taken by cash or credit/debit cards (convenience fee of 2.55%) and by presenting the Chapel Mission Fund form to the cashier.
- 3) Students will be cleared on a weekly basis once the payments have been processed.

All forms for community service and the mission fund are available in the Office of Student Development (Cleland Hall; [chapel@belhaven.edu](mailto:chapel@belhaven.edu); 601.968.8990) and must be approved by the Director of Student Development. This process must be followed to have a "U" in Chapel changed to a "S."