

# **About Berkshire Community College Blogs**

The purpose of BCC Blogs is to provide a blogging service to BCC faculty, staff, and students. Faculty and staff members may request and administer blogs. Students and people outside of BCC may contribute to blogs, once given permission by the Center for Teaching & Learning.

## **Blog Policy**

If you plan to use BCC Blogs for academic purposes, the following information on the law and policy around the protection of students' education records is useful.

Faculty and staff own the copyright of original content entered into their BCC Blog according to BCC's Copyright Policy. Please note that students own the copyright of the content they contribute to these sites, unless they are working in their capacity as a BCC employee.

Faculty, staff, and students are advised to use these blog resources responsibly by observing all laws and policy that are incorporated into the BCC Student Code of Conduct and the BCC Internet Use Policy, including prohibitions against copyright infringement, plagiarism, harassment, inappropriate content or links, or "hacking" the underlying blog code.

## **Family Education Rights Protection Act (FERPA)**

Faculty and staff should be aware that the content students enter into BCC Blogs constitutes an education record and that FERPA regulations apply. Those regulations require that the content be protected from disclosure without student consent. Disclosure in this context includes posting student content openly on the Internet. Faculty who intend to have students post original work openly on the Internet may do so with the students' permission or by providing an opt-out option for individual students.

## **Hosting Service**

BCC Blogs are hosted by Edublogs. Edublogs controls the maintenance, upgrades and other software services for the Blogs. In the event that we are notified of any changes to the system by the vendor we will be sure to let users know in as timely a manner as possible.