



Veritas Society Member Handbook



Welcome!

Veritas Society Members,

We are so pleased that you have chosen the Veritas Society as your provider of life long learning. Whether you are a long time member or just joining us, we trust that you will enjoy your Veritas experience and take advantage of all the opportunities available to you as a Veritas member. Veritas offers a variety of learning experiences to meet our goals of keeping our minds active, open, and growing. Our thought-provoking, entertaining courses are designed especially for you, our members, and taught by talented volunteer presenters. In addition to courses, lectures, field trips, and special events are also hosted throughout the year as additional learning opportunities.

A Veritas membership also comes with a number of membership benefits. Those benefits, including Bellarmine campus benefits, as well as community partnership discounts, are outlined throughout this membership handbook.

This handbook is a one-stop shop for all things Veritas related. A brief Veritas Society history, membership benefits, navigating campus and Zoom, how to get involved, FAQs, and contact information are outlined thoroughly throughout the booklet.

The Veritas Office staff is always willing and eager to assist our members! For quickest response, email the Veritas Office at veritas@bellarmine.edu. You can also call and leave a voicemail at 502.272.8374 and a staff member or Veritas Volunteer will call you back.

Thank you for supporting the Veritas Society. We look forward to seeing you around, either in-person or on Zoom!

Abigail Walsh
Liaison, Veritas Society
Director, Continuing Education

Dennis Wiseman
President, Board of Directors

About Us

Who We Are

Since 1995, Veritas has offered the preeminent learning experience to people 50 and over in the Louisville area. Our mission is to keep our minds active, open and growing, with the goals of:

- Understanding our history and cultural heritage
- Informing members about what is happening around us
- Recognizing changes in the world and finding our place in it

We are retired or semi-retired people: doctors, educators, homemakers, office workers, administrators, artists, laborers, and executives. We are governed by a Board of Directors elected by the membership.

Charter Statement

The Veritas Society, a community education outreach program sponsored by Bellarmine University, is an organization of individuals whose purpose is to foster a commitment to and enjoy lifelong learning. To this end, the Society strives to provide opportunities for intellectual growth, cultural enrichment, and lasting fellowship, by offering its members non-credit courses, seminars and discussion programs, study-related field trips, and various social activities. Emphasis is placed on making the learning experience pleasant and enjoyable, in an agreeable academic environment.

The Veritas Society is affiliated with the Road Scholar Institute Network and operates as a Lifelong Learning Institute affiliate. As such, it has a unique identity and purpose within the Bellarmine University family, and it operates under its own formal By-Laws, Policies and Procedures, and Job Descriptions in support of that identity and purpose.

Contact Us

Veritas Office Mailing Address:

Veritas Society
2001 Newburg Rd
Louisville, KY 40205

PHONE: 502.272.8374

EMAIL: veritas@bellarmine.edu

WEB: www.bellarmino.edu/ce/veritas

The Veritas Society: Early History

In 1995, Bellarmine University (then Bellarmine College) President Joseph J. McGowan asked a member of his administrative staff, Bill Stewart, to inquire around and see if there was community interest in the university's fostering a senior learning group. Stewart's inquiries led to a meeting which was attended by 10 persons, whose inclination was to explore the idea further. Subsequent meetings, including other interested persons, were held to elaborate on the President's original concept, and in time the group organized around a commitment to lifelong learning for retired and semiretired members 55 and older, by offering a program of non-credit courses, seminars, and discussions, and also study-related field trips and various social activities. The name The Veritas Society was decided upon at one of the earliest meetings. Early presidents of the Society were Hank Ellert, Betts Meehan, and Bill Stewart. Fall, Winter, and Spring Terms were offered in 1995-96; Fall and Spring Terms have been offered since then, and Summer Terms began in 2007.

As an independent entity of Bellarmine University, the Veritas Society is governed by an elected Board of Directors including an Executive Committee made up of a President, Vice President, and Secretary. Veritas depends on the university for oversight of its finances, which the Society collects by means of periodically-reviewed membership and course fees.

Bud Spalding
Secretary, Board of Directors
(President, 2008-13)

Veritas Society Operations

Membership

Membership in the Veritas Society is open to anyone who is 50 years of age or older, without regard to prior level of formal education. Veritas Members are **not** required to have a previous affiliation with Bellarmine University in order to participate, and now with virtual online learning members can join from anywhere in the world with an internet connection. A person is considered an active member if they have paid their membership fee for the term at registration, entitling them to enroll in courses, participate in non-course activities sponsored by Veritas, and take advantage of other membership benefits.

Board of Directors and Structure

Activities of the Veritas Society shall be overseen by a Board of Directors. The Board of Directors is composed of up to eighteen (18) members, including the Bellarmine University - Veritas Society Liaison, who is a voting member. The term of a member of the Board is two (2) years.

General responsibilities of the Board of Directors include:

- Foster the implementation of the Society's Charter and enforce the provisions of the By-Laws.
- Coordinate the development of, review, and approve as appropriate (a) financial reports; (b) membership fees; (c) curricula and non-course offerings; (d) course presenters and discussion leaders; (e) facilities and administrative support plans; (f) membership drives; and (g) programs to promote the SOCIETY to the community and prospective members.
- Monitor the Society's performance relative to its plans and purpose, and redirect effort, if warranted.
- Ensure that all actions of the Society are consistent with the policies of Bellarmine University.
- Maintain effective liaison with the Road Scholar Institute.

Standing Committees of the Board of Directors include:

Curriculum, Field Trips, Finance, Lunch & Learn, Membership, Newsletter, Production, Promotion, Special Events, Volunteers

Volunteers are the Heart of Our Society

The Veritas Society is a VOLUNTEER run organization. All presenters of courses are unpaid volunteers, who give their time and talent to our members. Likewise, the Board of Directors and committee members are all volunteers. The support of our volunteers is vital to the success of the organization. The Veritas Society is a financially self-supporting program, relying on membership fees and donations to cover costs.

The Veritas Office

The Veritas Office is located on the ground floor of the Centro building, in McGowan Hall, room 003. The most efficient way to communicate with the office is via email. The Veritas Society Liaison works in the Veritas Office and is the Director of the Center of Community & Professional Enrichment at Bellarmine University.

Veritas Courses and Fees

Course Terms

The Veritas Society holds a 6-week Fall and Spring term and a 3-week Summer term each year. Additional activities may be held outside these terms, such as field trips, lectures, and other virtual activities.

Course Catalog

Each term a course catalog is distributed to members via email, about a month before classes begin for that term. The catalog is also posted on the Veritas Society website. The course catalog details all courses and provides dates, presenter bios, and required reading that may be assigned for the course.

Registration

All Veritas registration is held ONLINE at www.bellarmino.edu/ce/register. Returning members will have Veritas Credentials to speed up the registration process, or can register as a guest. New members will register as a guest. The courses are listed by category (World Religions, Literature, History, etc.). Typically registration begins at 9 a.m. on a date published in advance in the catalog and other Veritas communication. Detailed registration instructions are available in the catalog.

Fee Structure

Currently, Veritas membership fees are \$50 per term (Fall & Spring) and \$10 for the Summer term. Membership is purchased during course registration. Fall and Spring courses are priced at \$30 per course. Summer courses are \$5 per course.

Scholarships

The Veritas Society recognizes that its members are in a unique time of their lives when medical expenses, being on a fixed income, care giving for loved ones, or other unforeseen events can create a financial burden even for those who have planned well. The Veritas By-Laws state that "the Society strives to provide opportunities for intellectual growth, cultural enrichment and lasting fellowship" for its members. Undue financial burden should not be an impediment to this goal.

The Veritas Society offers a limited number of scholarships to members each term. A scholarship covers the cost of the membership fee and one class fee. Members may reapply each term, but are not guaranteed a scholarship each time. The application form can be obtained from the Veritas Office, and applications will be kept confidential.

Class Location

Veritas classes are held on campus at Bellarmine University. At this time, there are also courses being offered online on Zoom. Classroom location is given to registered students the week before their class begins. Occasionally, classes are held at off-campus locations-- which would be communicated ahead of time.

Getting Involved with Veritas

The Bellarmine Veritas Society is an organization that welcomes the skills, talents, and expertise that you possess! Since we are a member led organization there are many ways you can contribute. Your time helps support the society designed for you! Consider investing in yourself and others.

To learn more about participating in any of the following, contact the Veritas Office by phone (502.272.8374) or email (veritas@bellarmine.edu) and you will be put in touch with the chair.

Be a Presenter

Teach your passion! Interested in sharing your skills/knowledge/experience in a particular area? We welcome you to teach - a 6-week course, a 3-week course, or maybe a single session during our outside activities. To learn more about presenting, contact the Veritas Office by phone (502.272.8374) or email (veritas@bellarmine.edu) and they will put you in touch with the Curriculum Chair.

Serve on the Board of Directors

The Veritas Society is on the lookout for passionate people who want to serve on the Board of Directors. Board members serve a 2 year term and must regularly attend 4-5 Board meetings per year. Board members must also maintain active membership in one or more standing committees.

Join a Committee:

Our committees are open to the membership!

Curriculum Committee: Help with the preparation of courses, recruit new presenters, develop course topics.

Membership Committee: Evaluate the value of the Veritas membership, plan events for Veritas members, seek opportunities for partnership with the community

Promotion Committee: Recruit prospective Veritas members by planning events and looking for outreach opportunities

Production Committee: Provide support to Veritas program Organizer/Presenters with computer and audio-visual assistance with their presentations, pick up handouts from the office.

Mailing/Volunteer Committee: The Veritas Society is always looking for members who would like to help prepare various mailings and make phone calls throughout the year. The chair will send an email to all volunteers of this committee and whoever is available on that date will assist.

The Veritas Voice Newsletter: This committee is looking for members to attend Veritas Voice newsletter meetings, write stories and generate ideas for the newsletter.

Veritas Society Membership Benefits

Veritas Society Membership is comprised of so much more than just registering for classes. With your membership, you are joining a community of others who are committed to lifelong learning. The people, courses, stimulating discussions, events, and access to a vibrant campus are all understated benefits to holding this membership. Over the next several pages, the details of your other benefits will be outlined.

Veritas Membership Benefits:

- Register for classes of interest. No prerequisites, tests, or grades
- Access to activities year-round including: lecture series, winter activities, virtual and in-person field trips, social events such as Holiday Lunch and Spring Celebration
- Free parking on campus (\$100/yr value)
- Access to Bellarmine's SuRF (Sport, Recreation and Fitness) Center (\$250/yr value)
- Full use of Bellarmine library
- Discounted meal at the University Dining Hall
- Opportunities to engage with the College of Health Professions
- Bellarmine Veritas Student ID card*
- Discounts at local community partners
- 15% discount on select Continuing Education courses

*See following pages for benefits of holding a Veritas Student ID card

Become a Card-Carrying Member!

Did you know that Veritas members are eligible to obtain a Bellarmine University Veritas Student ID Card? The Student ID never expires and will be automatically renewed each term you register. The student ID will be used to access Veritas benefits including discounts/admissions with community partners, Bellarmine athletic events, the Bellarmine Library and the SuRF.



Show your Veritas Student ID card wherever you go to see what student discounts might be available to you!

Where to get your Student ID Card?

Veritas Student ID Cards are printed in the Technology Support Center which is located on Floor A of the Library. The TSC can print cards in about 5 minutes or less anytime during normal business hours. Your ID card can be printed with or without a picture.

Bellarmino University W. L. Lyons Brown Library

As part of membership, Veritas members have full access to the Bellarmine University Library. The library is located in the Quad, next to Centro. The services and collection resources of the library support the curriculum and general information needs of the university community. In addition to housing the library collections and services, it also contains the Thomas Merton Center, the Student Success Center, the Office of Military and Veteran Services and the majority of all technology operations.

A valid Bellarmine University identification card or temporary library card is required to borrow books or media.

You can search the collection, as well as find hours and other information on the website: www.bellarmino.edu/library.

Sport, Recreation, and Fitness Center (SuRF)

Included in Veritas membership is a membership to Bellarmine's SuRF Center that have a Veritas Student ID card. The membership includes access to the fitness center, tennis courts, free play courts, group fitness classes, and locker rooms.

Personal Training packages are also available to to Veritas members at the student rate.

Veritas members are eligible to bring a guest with them to the SuRF by purchasing a day pass for \$5.

Information about hours, guest day passes, personal training packages, as well as the group fitness class schedule are all available on the SuRF website:

<https://www.bellarmino.edu/studentaffairs/recreationcenter/>

*Please note Veritas members do **not** have access to Mary T. Meagher, as this portion of the SuRF membership is restricted to undergraduate students.

University Dining Hall

Veritas Members receive the BU Family rate in the University Dining Hall. Tell the cashier you are a Veritas member to receive this rate. Rates are subject to change, but at this time are between \$9-\$10 for lunch and \$12-13 for dinner. The University Dining Hall offers all-you-care-to-eat restaurant quality food from the steam table, grill, salad bar, sandwich station, and more.

Partnership with the College of Health Professions

Bellarmino's College of Health Professions is made up of the Donna and Allan Lansing School of Nursing & Clinical Sciences and the School of Movement & Rehabilitation Sciences. Veritas is proud to be able to provide our members access to programming to help them lead a healthy life. While offerings change each semester, Veritas members in the past have joined undergraduate students in classes on Gerontology, participated in Walk with Ease and Balance Assessments, served as patients for the Nursing and Physical Therapy department, and more! Information about opportunities with the College of Health Professions will be shared through the Veritas Weekly newsletter.

Community Partner Discounts

Speed Art Museum

Bellarmino University holds an Institutional Educational Membership at the Speed Art Museum. Beginning this Fall, the membership has been extended to include Veritas Society Members who have a Student ID card. Show your Veritas ID card at the ticket window for free access to the museum. Check out the Speed website for information on exhibitions, programs, and parking: <https://www.speedmuseum.org/visit/>

Louisville Zoo

The Louisville Zoo has extended a special membership offer to Veritas Members to purchase a Student Access Membership. Student Access Memberships may be purchased at the Zoo Ticketing window by showing your Veritas Student ID card.

There are 2 membership options:

- Individual Membership for \$25 (1 named adult that must be the Veritas Member)
- Individual Plus Membership for \$45 (2 named adults or 1 named adult & 1 guest)

Student Access Membership includes all normal Zoo membership benefits. For more information on the Student Access Membership: <https://louisvillezoo.org/member-benefits/student-access-membership/>

Bellarmino Athletics

Veritas Members receive free admission to home games for women's & men's soccer, volleyball, wrestling, lacrosse by showing a Veritas Student ID card at the ticket window. The admission is good for the Veritas member only and tickets may be purchased for other guests.

Swim meets, track meets, field hockey, baseball, and softball games are non-ticketed events and free to the public.

Men's and Women's Basketball single game and season tickets are available on Bellarmine's ticketing website. There is no Veritas discount at this time.

Frequently Asked Questions?

- 1. Can I register in some way other than online?** Veritas registration is online only. If you need assistance, we recommend you ask a friend or family member. If you have additional questions, contact the Veritas Office.
- 2. How will I know where my courses are located or how to access them on Zoom?** A week before each course begins, the Veritas office will send a confirmation email stating classroom information or sharing the Zoom link, along with other important things you should know about the course.
- 3. What social opportunities are available through Veritas?** Field trips are offered several times throughout the year to various places in the Kentuckiana area. Veritas members are also invited to the Holiday luncheon each December and the Annual Spring Celebration in April. The Society also hosts special lectures on occasion and is given the opportunity to participate in health services offered by Bellarmine's College of Health Professions. Since COVID-19, Veritas has also been offering additional activities in between the terms focusing on Virtual Field Trips and Distance Dialogues.
- 4. I have heard about Interest Groups. How do those work?** Currently there are a number of interest groups available to Veritas members and other members of the community. They are facilitated by a Veritas volunteer and most meet monthly. To read about the interest groups, visit <https://www.bellarmino.edu/ce/veritas/groups/>. You can then reach out to the facilitator to see when their next meeting is.
- 5. I want my friends to learn more about Veritas and take classes with me. How do I let them know about Veritas?** To add your friends to the mailing list, have them email veritas@bellarmine.edu and they will be placed on the mailing list for the next term. You can also email their information to us. They will also be informed of any perspective member events hosted.
- 6. How do I get a username and password for registration next term?** Sometime during the term after you register for the first time, new members are emailed their "credentials" (username and password). This will allow you to sign in next time you register, and avoid having to enter all of your personal information each term.
- 7. Where do I park?** You will get a parking pass the week before classes begin for you to print and place on your dashboard. This gives you access to park in any unrestricted areas on campus. The confirmation email will tell you the best place to park for your class.
- 8. Do I need to wear my Veritas Nametag?** Yes, we ask all Veritas members to wear their Veritas nametag and lanyard so they can be easily identified on Bellarmine's Campus. This helps for undergraduate and campus security to know you are in the right place or help you if you need help.
- 9. Can I bring a guest with me to Veritas?** Generally we ask all in attendance for Veritas programming to be registered. If on a one-time basis you wish or need to bring a guest, contact the office for arrangements to be made.
- 10. I registered for a class and now do not want to attend. Can I get a refund?** Generally once classes have started, we do not process refunds. Reach out to the office to swap into another class.
- 11. I have comments about a course I took. How do I pass this information along to the office?** At the end of each term, a feedback/evaluation survey is sent out. We love to hear your feedback. You can also email the Veritas Office if you have concerns that need to be addressed about a particular course.



EMERGENCY PROCEDURES FOR

Bellarmino University
2001 Newburg Rd, Louisville, KY 40205

EVACUATION

Evacuate the building using the nearest exit or alternate if the nearest is blocked.

- Do not use elevators.
- Take your personal belongings with you (keys, wallet, purse, etc.). Secure any hazardous materials or equipment before leaving.
- Follow directions given by Public Safety or the Emergency Coordinators.
- Go to designated rally point unless otherwise instructed.
- Assist persons with disabilities.
- Listen to instructions. Rally points may change.

FIRE

Activate the nearest fire alarm pull station.

- Evacuate the building.
- Call 911, provide exact address listed above.
- Call the Office of Public Safety at 502.272.7777.
- Do not return/enter the building until authorized by Public Safety or the Emergency Coordinators.

SUSPICIOUS OBJECTS

- Do not touch or disturb the object.
- Call the Office of Public Safety at 502.272.7777 with location of object.
- Be prepared to evacuate.

ACTIVE AGGRESSOR

Run, Hide, Fight

- Call 911 provide exact address listed above.
- If hiding, make sure your phone is on silent.
- Call the Office of Public Safety at 502.272.7777.

TORNADO OR SEVERE WEATHER

Move to shelter when told to do so by the Public Safety, Emergency Coordinators, media, or if Tornado siren sounds.

- Move to basement or lowest ground floor.
- Stay near the inside wall of building.
- Stay away from windows.
- Stay calm.
- Listen to instructions and weather information.

Veritas Member Injury or Medical Emergency

We hope it doesn't happen, but occasionally one of our Veritas members falls, injures themselves, or has a medical emergency.

If the incident is severe enough, call 911 first.

Then, notify the Veritas Office (502.272.8374) and Campus Security (502.272.7777) so an incident report can be filed and next steps can be taken.