



First-Year Initiatives
CPO 2113
Berea, KY 40404

Address Service Requested



REMEMBER THESE DATES!

- MAR. 23** Labor Status Forms Due for 2017-18
- APR. 10-19** Registration for Fall 2017
- APR. 14** Good Friday Observance (Classes Cancelled)
- APR. 18** Summer Labor Status Forms Due for Labor Only
- APR. 28** Reading Period
- MAY 1-4** Final Examinations
- MAY 15** First 4-Week and 8-Week Sessions Begin

IMPORTANT OFFICE NUMBERS FOR PARENTS			
Dial 859.985 plus the below 4-digit extention(s)			
OFFICE	DESCRIPTION	EXT.	PERSON TO CONTACT
Academic Services	Provides students with resources for academic engagement	3237	Dr. Curtis Sandberg
Black Cultural Center	Supports needs of students through co-curricular programs, leadership development intercultural/interracial understanding opportunities and other strategies	3797	Ms. Monica Jones
Center for Transformative Learning	Assists students with writing resources, academic coaching, internships and career development	3656	Dr. Leslie Ortquist-Ahrens
Counseling	Individual, group and couples counseling	3212	Dr. Sue Reimondo
Disability and Accessibility Services	Helps develop self-advocacy/confidence, and coordinates accommodations for students with documented disabilities	3327	Ms. Lisa Ladanyi
Financial Aid	Beyond family/student's own contribution	3310	Ms. Theresa Lowder
First-Year Initiatives	Provides focused support to students throughout their first college year	3376	Mr. Chris Lakes
Labor Program	Administers student job descriptions, payroll forms, training aids, and info.	3611	Mr. David Tipton
Student Accounts	Assists students with payments/payment arrangements for term bill that includes housing, meals and other required fees	3094	Ms. Karen Belcher

#BEREADY

MOUNTAINEER PARENT/FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Spring 2017

Office of First-Year Initiatives

www.berea.edu/fyi



Everything your student needs to know about changing their labor position

At Berea College all of our first-year, exchange and transfer students are centrally placed in a labor assignment by the Labor Program Office. However, as students prepare for their second year on campus it is their responsibility to identify their position for the next year. Here is more information on what your student can do if shel/he would like to change assignments as they prepare for their upcoming search.

When a student is interested in securing a new position s/he should explore position opportunities with guidance from their academic advisor, current labor supervisor, the Office of First-Year Initiatives, the Labor Program Office or the Center for Transformative Learning (CTL).

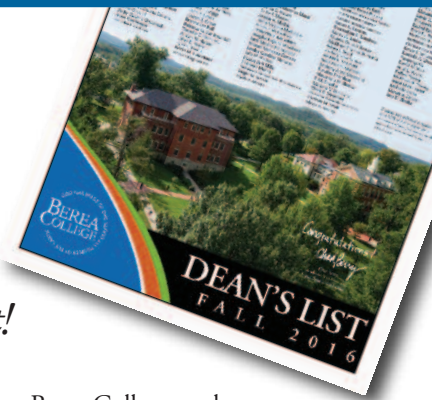
Some students choose to pursue positions related to their academic major to help gain experience in their field of interest, while others choose positions in areas that are going to broaden their interests and provide skills that will transfer into the broader workforce after graduation. Many departments actively promote their positions, but students are encouraged to contact areas or departments that they are interested in working for and ask about the application process. Since Berea is a work college virtually every area on campus employs students, meaning there are almost unlimited options available. Once the student has identified their desired position they should contact the individual labor department to determine the appropriate application process

and deadline. Each department application process may be different; some may have a fillable application while others may prefer to review a resume and interview. The next steps of the hiring process will closely resemble that of an off-campus position that includes the review of resumes, selection of candidates, interview, reference checks, job offer and commitment.

If your student is interested in getting additional preparation for the interview process, encourage them to make an appointment at the Center for Transformative Learning. If your student is interested in changing labor positions, labor status forms are due Thursday, March 23 for the 2017-18 academic year.

Understanding your student's academic performance

Being involved in your student's education will have a positive impact!



Students are given midterm grades that give them an idea of how they are progressing in their courses. At the end of the term the final grade is a reflection of how they did in the course overall. Each academic term, the Dean of Faculty gives recognition to all Berea College students that have achieved high academic success and are named to the Dean's list. Last semester, the College recognized 107 first-year students with Dean's List recognition and we hope to have more students after this term!

To earn Dean's List recognition students have to maintain a 3.4 grade point average (GPA) or higher while they are enrolled in 4 credits. A minimum of 32 earned credits (typically 34 in Nursing) are required to earn a degree at Berea. The final course grade your student receives is a reflection of the quality of academic achievement in the course. The Berea College grading scale list the academic requirements for passing, failing, completion of convocation and grades in developmental math.

To remain in good academic standing Berea College students must maintain a GPA of 2.0. The GPA is a measure of a student's academic achievement at the College. Students have a term and cumulative GPA. A term GPA is calculated at the end of each semester for students. The cumulative GPA is the overall GPA of all terms students have completed.

Encourage your student to utilize campus resources that can help them with their academics to remain in good academic standing so your student can achieve their collegiate goals. For opportunities to go abroad, students must not be on probation of any kind and meet the appropriate minimum cumulative GPA requirement of **2.8** for Berea Term Abroad and **2.25** for Summer Abroad (including BIST). Any student placed on probation during or at the end of the term preceding international study will not be allowed to participate in an education abroad opportunity, even if the student has been registered.

Campus resources available to your First-Year student

Berea College is founded on Learning, Labor and Service. By encouraging students to engage in their experience Berea has a great deal of resources for first-year students which can help guide them with academics and personal growth at the institution. Here are a few of the ones available to all First-Year students.

Student Chaplins

Berea College has created a campus environment where students can grow spiritually, socially and intellectually with a campus resource that began more than 20 years ago. In this now primary position, Student Chaplins work closely with Rev. Loretta

Reynolds, Interim Director & College Chaplain in the Campus Christian Center. Rev. Reynolds trains all Student Chaplins so they can properly address any concerns that may arise. Student Chaplins live in the residence halls and work through issues about academics, relationships, faith and spirituality. They learn how to provide peer pastoral support to students and become an example of a Berea College leader. The First-Year Hall Student Chaplins are Olamide Adejumo, Sean Gillette, Logan Paisley, Annie Reich, Tania Russell and Alex Sharron. If your student wants mentorship you can mention any one of the current Student Chaplins.

Academic Coaching

Let's face it, college is hard and so many first-generation students have to learn *how to college*. However, they don't have to learn it alone. When students work together one-on-one with the Academic Coach, the session may cover time management, note-taking skills, motivation, test taking, test anxiety, study skills, and utilizing resources. Academic Coaches are knowledgeable in tutoring academic success strategies and behaviors to help students understand what success looks like for themselves. The success strategies used to enhance academic performance work best when the student is open to leave behind their old

habits to develop new ones. When these skills are put to use, it will enhance academic performance because the student has learned how to manage. Academic Coaches work closely with Marcus Epps, Coordinator of Learning Assistance & Tutoring Service. He does semester long training for students in this primary and secondary labor position. If your student is interested in Academic Coaching, make sure they visit or call the Center for Transformative Learning at 859.985.3404.

Teaching Assistants/Peer Leaders

Students sometimes need additional help understanding the difficult material that's

being presented in their classes. Faculty work hard to provide extra support, but sometimes the help students need comes outside of the regular class time or faculty office hours. This is where student Teaching Assistants (TAs) play a critical role at Berea College. Most courses that first-year students take will have a Teaching Assistant assigned to it, or the academic department will have a set of TAs designated to provide additional assistance to all of their courses. These TAs are often present in the classroom where they can provide immediate support and feedback to students, and usually provide evening office hours for additional guidance as students work on the

material outside of class. Some programs, such as the Office of First-Year Initiatives TA/Peer Leader program, are specifically designed to provide new students with continued support and mentorship throughout their entire first-year at Berea. These upper-division students help new students navigate the overall college experience, making sure that students understand where their resources are on campus, and how to get the additional support they need to be successful. If your student is ever struggling with material in their courses, be sure to ask them if they've talked to the TA for their course for additional support.

#BEREADY FOR FINALS!

The Office of First-Year Initiatives will help your student BEREADY FOR FINALS! We'll provide a place to study, food, games to distress, tutoring in multiple subjects and PRIZES! Tell your student to save the date for Sunday, April 30th, Monday, May 1st and Tuesday, May 2nd.



It's hard to believe, but your student is almost done with their first year of college! Let's work together to help your student finish strong and prepare well for final exams. Final exams are the staple test at the end of each academic semester that is the most challenging and sometimes stressful. Encourage your student with these tips for finals:

Get a good night's sleep

Any knowledge your student gains from cramming the night before will be lost without a good night's sleep. Sleep deprivation will lessen the ability to understand information. Students need adequate sleep to retain the material and learn information over time.

Develop a study plan

Since the majority of material on a final exam is what was covered throughout the semester, it's no surprise that your student will have to incorporate their best time management strategies to appropriately study. Tell them to take at least two weeks before finals to map out a study plan that breaks up each class into manageable sections and allot time to spend on classes with more challenging material. Be sure to include eating, sleeping and study breaks.

Find a study partner/group

Don't go into hiding just because it's final exam time! It's highly beneficial if your student uses their friends, classmates, TA/Peer Leader or teammates to keep them motivated! Encourage them to set up study table times where they can get together with their group to practice the material, quiz each other and give critiques.

Limit Social Media

Social media is a great way to stay connected with friends and family, but during finals it can be a huge distraction. If your student is constantly checking their notifications he/she is not giving their undivided attention to the task in front of them. While studying, they can be rewarded with social media when they take a break or meet a goal.

Take good care yourself

To maximize their full potential and make their goal of straight A's, make sure your student's body is receiving the right nutrients it needs to perform well. They need to feed their brain and body well-balanced meals, get adequate sleep and exercise to boost their confidence and combat anxiety.

Planning Summer 2017!

Although summer may seem remote, now is a great time to begin planning for a cultivating and productive summer. Berea College courses offer a great opportunity to learn new skills, strengthen academic concepts, and explore new perspectives. Students can also gain practical experience when they engage in undergraduate research with faculty on collaborative projects. Check out more information on how your student can have a great summer in Berea!

Many students will make the decision to stay in Berea for part of their summer to take courses to help keep them on track for earning a degree. Unlike high school, summer terms are often simply part of the student's collegiate experience and can provide many great opportunities for students to spread out their course load more manageably or take courses they might never have considered otherwise. Not to mention, as a work college there are several positions available in the summer that need to be filled, so students have the opportunity to work on campus and build on their resume and experience.

Berea offers two 4-week summer terms, one in May and one in June, where students can take up to 1.5 credits and work up to 20-hours a week. We also have an 8-week summer term that runs May through June where students can take up to 2.5 credits.

May 15



First 4-Week Term (May Term)

- Enroll in 1 to 1.5 course credits
- 10 to 20 hour labor commitment
- Cannot register for an 8-week course
- \$300 Summer Assistance Grant for working all labor hours and taking one course

June 9-14



Second 4-Week Term

- Enroll in 1 to 1.5 course credits
- 10 to 20 hour labor commitment
- Cannot register for an 8-week course
- \$300 Summer Assistance Grant for working all labor hours and taking one course

July 7



8-Week Term

- Enroll in a maximum of 2.5 course credits
- 10 to 40 hour labor commitment
- Cannot register for either 4-week term
- \$600 Summer Assistance Grant for working all labor hours and taking two courses

Students are not required to live on campus for the summer, but those who do will pay \$40 per week to stay in campus housing. Students who take summer courses are required to hold a labor position on campus, but an exciting bonus is that those who complete their required hours will earn an additional \$500 for the 4-week terms and \$1000 for the 8-week term.

Another great summer opportunity for your student is to collaborate with faculty on research. Students can get a jumpstart on working closely with their major and build great working relationships with faculty members. Through the experience of working

with faculty, students develop a passion for research and begin planning for the future. Graduate school becomes more attainable because of the skills being learned. Opportunities such as this can enhance student's communication skills, increase self-confidence in their potential careers, and help engage complex thinking. To support Undergraduate Research and Creative Projects Program, the Labor Program Office provides funding for this experience. Registration for summer term is early March, so be sure and talk with your student about whether or not they're considering staying for part of the summer session at Berea.