



First-Year Initiatives
CPO 2113
 Berea, Kentucky 40404

Address Service Requested



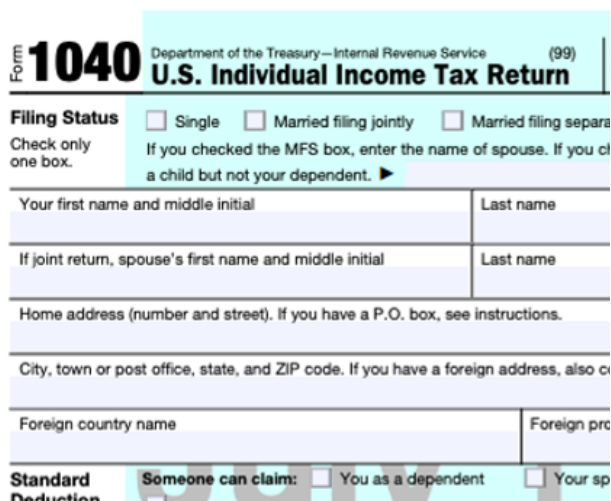
Remember these dates!

February 25	Midterm Grades Due
February 28	Deadline for Designation of Exploratory Area of Interest for First-Year Students
March 2-8	Spring Vacation
March 13	Last Day to Withdraw from Spring Course
March 31	Labor Day: Exploring, Learning, Labor, Service (Classes Cancelled)

Important Office Numbers for Families: Dial 859.985 plus the below 4-digit extension(s)

Academic Services	Provides students with resources for academic engagement	3237	Ms. Amanda Leger
Black Cultural Center	Supports student needs through intercultural and interracial understanding	3797	Dr. Valeria Watkins
Center for Teaching and Learning	Assists students with deepening their confidence, skills, perspectives, and insights as readers, writers, and learners	3670	Dr. Leslie Ortquist-Ahrens
Counseling Services	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	Provides financial aid needed to meet the basic costs of education	3310	Ms. Theresa Lowder
Office of Student Success & Transition	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	Dr. Sylvia Asante
Student Accounts	Assists students with payments/payment arrangements for term bill that includes housing, meals, and other required fees	3094	Ms. Karen Belcher

Below we highlight students who took advantage of the opportunities and resources that your student will have access to during their time at Berea College.

A screenshot of the top portion of a Form 1040 U.S. Individual Income Tax Return. The header includes 'Form 1040', 'Department of the Treasury—Internal Revenue Service (99)', and 'U.S. Individual Income Tax Return'. The 'Filing Status' section shows three options: 'Single', 'Married filing jointly', and 'Married filing separately', each with an unchecked checkbox. Below this is a note: 'Check only one box. If you checked the MFS box, enter the name of spouse. If you claimed a child but not your dependent.' The form then has fields for 'Your first name and middle initial', 'Last name', 'If joint return, spouse's first name and middle initial', and 'Last name'. Below these are fields for 'Home address (number and street). If you have a P.O. box, see instructions.', 'City, town or post office, state, and ZIP code. If you have a foreign address, also check the foreign address box.', 'Foreign country name', and 'Foreign post office name'. At the bottom, there is a 'Standard Deduction' section with a note 'Someone can claim:' and two checkboxes: 'You as a dependent' and 'Your spouse'.

What to know about your taxes

Please read! Don't risk having to re-file your return!

by ERIN CONNOR

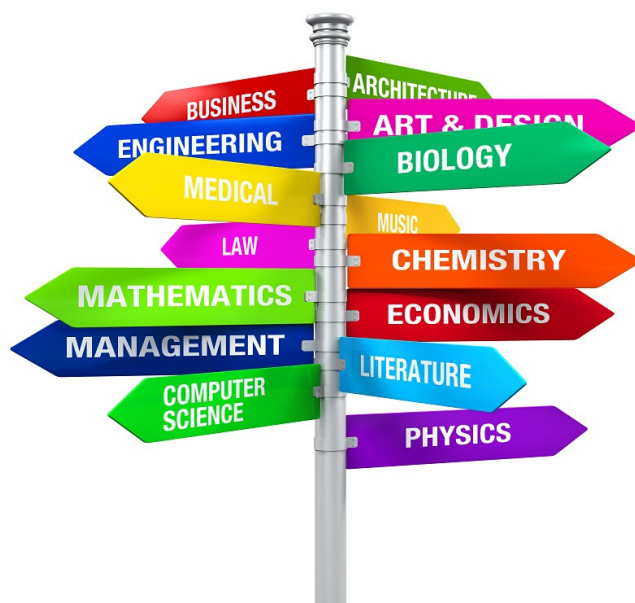
It is important to be aware that Berea College students and their families are typically **not eligible for Education Credits** when filing federal and state taxes!

1. Because 100% of tuition at Berea College is covered for all students through grants and scholarships, you do not have tuition costs that would make you eligible for the credit
2. Although some families have out of pocket costs for housing and meals, housing and meal costs (and other personal costs) do **not** meet the IRS definition of qualified education expenses for claiming Education Credits
3. While most students and/or their families pay some out of pocket expenses for books and required fees, which do meet the IRS definition of qualified education expenses, in almost all cases these costs will be exceeded by the student's labor earnings. Labor earnings are considered "tax-free educational assistance" under IRS guidelines and must be subtracted from any qualified education expenses in determining eligibility for the credit. For all or nearly all Berea College students, labor earnings for the year will be more than out of pocket costs for qualified expenses, meaning they are **ineligible for the Education Credit**
4. Student Financial Aid Services will send a tax letter to your student's CPO by February which will specify the total amount of labor earnings, as well as other details about the student's costs and financial aid received.
5. If you believe you may be eligible to claim an Education Credit, please contact **Student Financial Aid Services** at 859.985.3310 to determine this, in order to avoid potentially having to file an amended return if your claim the credit in error

Major exploration for First-Year students

Many high school seniors receive a common question as they prepare to enter college: what are you going to major in? As first-year students enter Berea college they do not need to have an answer to that question just yet. During their first-year students are exploring their talents, interests, and passions. There is opportunity for students to attend various campus programming to consider the possibilities before making the big decision.

All first-year students will designate an Exploratory Area of Interest during the spring term of the first year. Students are prompted to engage with the many academic disciplines offered by the College to narrow down their choices. After the student has identified an Exploratory Major, a new advisor in that field of study will be assigned, unless their current first-year advisor is already in that major and available to provide service during the student's second year. This year the deadline for Exploratory Area of Interest is **February 27, 2020**.



The Office of First-Year Initiatives will help your student #BEREADY FOR FINALS! We'll provide a place to study, food, games to de-stress, and prizes. Encourage your student to save these dates:

Monday, December 9 through Thursday, December 12

Understanding Campus Resources

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 five of the one available to all First-Year students.

Center for International Education (CIE)

Berea College offers many unique opportunities for students to take advantage of and studying abroad is one of the many. Students can choose from a variety of trips to fit into their four-year experience. The CIE has friendly staff and student Peer Advisors who have previously studied abroad who wish to encourage students to do the same. If your student is interested in learning more about steps to study abroad, they can contact Ann Butwell in the CIE at aborad@bera.edu or call 859.985.3453.

Office of Financial Aid

Students will be able to find all the answers about financing their education at Berea by visiting Financial Aid. Students can learn more about funding for summer courses, understanding their financial award, and outside scholarships, including the Kentucky Excellence in Education Scholarship (KEES). The Office of Financial Aid is located in Lincoln Hall. If you or your student have questions, please call 859.985.3310.

Office of Student Success & Transition

Students are served by a supportive staff that are dedicated to helping them make a smooth transition into college. Our office provides students with intentional advising and prepares them to take charge of their educational and personal goals. If you have any questions concerning your student's experience, please call

859.985.3376.

Counseling Services

Being away at college for the first time can come with many challenges and pressures. Berea offers individual and group counseling to meet the needs of students. We have licensed professional counselors that assist with student difficulties in a completely confidential space. For more information about Counseling Services, please visit www.berea.edu/cs or call at 859.985.3212.

Student Life

Students can get involved in various activities through our Student Life office. Student Life oversees many campus clubs and organizations as well as Residence Hall activities. This is a great way for students to engage in leadership roles on campus, by becoming a Hall Coordinator, Resident Assistant, Program Specialist, Mentor and more. If you have any questions about your student getting involved, please call 859.985.3290.

"Everybody was really inviting and nice. Between the OTEAM, other volunteers, faculty and staff, I felt extremely welcomed and supported my first days here in Berea. It definitely made all the difference as a new student!"

Emma Nelson '21

Understanding your student's academic performance

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

Credits

The majority of courses at Berea College earn students 1-credit toward graduation. There are a few .5 credit courses available, such as WEL 101, and several .25 credit courses for things like physical activity courses and other special topics. Students are required to be enrolled in 3.0 credits each term to be considered a full-time student, and must earn 32-credits to graduate.

Grade Point Average (GPA)

The College GPA is an important number to students. Students will see their term GPA which calculates their academic performance in that particular term, and also a Cumulative GPA, which calculates their performance over their entire college career at Berea. Students must maintain a Cumulative GPA at or above 2.0 to stay off Academic Probation.

With a full term of college under their belt, we're sure that your student has a better understanding of the academic lingo than they did just a few months ago. To make sure that you're up to speed with what they're talking about, here are a few key terms and phrases that you should know that can help you have conversations with your student about their progress at Berea:

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

In order to keep students on track to graduation in eight-terms, the College has a set of SAP guidelines to help guide them. The GPA should always stay above 2.0, and they are expected to earn 4-credits each academic term, though students can take fewer credits at times as long as they stay above the Minimum Credits Earned guide in the SAP Chart. To review the Satisfactory Academic Progress guidelines in full, visit www.berea.edu and type "SAP Chart" into the search tool.

Academic Probation

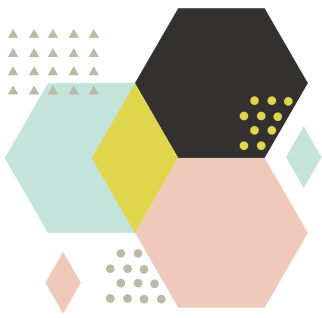
A student can end up on Academic Probation if they begin to fall behind the SAP Chart, or if they fail to successfully pass 3-credits in a regular academic term. Probation prevents students from doing things like travel abroad or have an internship, but doesn't appear on their academic transcript.

Dean's List

This is a recognition of students who have achieved high academic success and is awarded at the end of each regular term. To earn Dean's List recognition, students have to achieve a 3.4 GPA or higher while being enrolled in a minimum of 4.0 credits.

If you have any questions about any of the terms and resources available to help your student achieve, or anything else related to the success of your student, please don't hesitate to contact the Office of Student Success & Transition.

We're here to help!



Parent & Family Newsletter Spring 2020 Edition, Vol. 1

Office of First-Year
Initiatives
www.berea.edu/fyi

New Year, New Name, Same Mission

Wow! The end of the semester is coming to a close and your student has gone through a lot during the past five months, from moving into college, experiencing life on their own, working their Labor position, balancing academics and a social life, the list goes on. Transition can be difficult for both your student and the support system they have. Between the range of emotions, pressures, many success and failures alike, lessons learned, lived experiences, and new discoveries, your student has been through a lot during their first term at Berea.

The Spring term is full of important decision making opportunities pertaining to academics, studying abroad, pursuing an internship, and engaging in undergraduate research projects. Students can also inquire about Labor Position changes and explore new ways to engage with the Berea College community throughout their next four years.

If you ever have any questions, concerns, or need additional information, please don't hesitate to contact the **Office of Student Success & Transition** at firstyear@bera.edu or 859.985.3376.

Chris Lakes

Director, Office of Student Success & Transition

Labor Day, the Berea Way

*Everything your student needs to know
about changing their Labor position*

Since 1921, Labor Day at Berea College has recognized and celebrated the value of student work. In 2011, the day was expanded to reflect a Labor Program that is more intentionally integrated with academics and service. Labor Day now provides the opportunity for all Berea students to explore the intersections of learning, labor, and service through a series of events, workshops and open houses.



Benefits of Labor Day

- Celebrate "Work Well Done"
- Explore academic, labor, and service programs at the College
- Discover and secure placements for summer and academic year labor positions
- Help first-year students explore area(s) of academic interest and complete the official exploratory area of interest process
- Help juniors and seniors prepare for life after Berea

NOTE: All students must secure a labor position in order to register for summer or fall term classes. For more information about Labor Day, please visit <https://www.berea.edu/labor-program-office/labor-day/>