

MOUNTAINEER FAMILY

Office of Student Success & Transition - Parent & Family Engagement



SUCCESS FOR YOUR FIRST-YEAR STUDENT AT BEREA COLLEGE

By Dr. Chris Lakes, Director - Office of Student Success & Transition

When the College decided to send students home in March, many of us worried openly about when and how we would welcome students back to our campus. As colleges and universities across the country planned for the Fall, and the number of restrictions and requirements placed on students mounted, it became clear that we would all be entering a school year that would challenge us in unprecedented ways. But as plans became reality, and students began arriving on campus, it became abundantly clear that the resilience which has defined Berea College and its students for over one hundred and fifty years would continue to guide our community through the pandemic.

With the first term well underway, students are finding their new routines, making connections, and, we hope, establishing the behaviors that will lead to success in this first year and beyond. We knew this was an amazing group of students on paper, but they've truly reinforced that as they've persisted through these difficult first weeks and energized our community. As always, we appreciate the support that you continue to give your students, and we look forward to continuing to partner with you. We want you to be informed of what's happening on campus and in the lives of our students so that you can help us, and your student, achieve our ultimate goal: them graduating from Berea College.

If you ever have any questions, concerns, or need additional information, please don't hesitate to contact the **Office of Student Success & Transition** at sst@berea.edu or **859.985.3376**. Be sure to send your student our way if assistance is needed with absolutely anything. We're here to help the students (and you) find their way through their first-year at Berea College.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT BEREA COLLEGE:

- Success on your Terms
- Transition Recap
- Course Registration
- Student Social Hour
- College Student Support from Home
- Important Dates to Remember
- Office Numbers to Know

SUCCESS ON YOUR TERMS

By Lisa Ladanyi, Director - Disability & Accessibility Services

We want to make sure that your student has all the tools needed to succeed academically. Disability and Accessibility Services (DAS) is a campus resource for students that allows them to discuss any disability-related barriers they have experienced in the past, any related barriers they are currently facing, or any related barriers they expect for the future at Berea College. Our goal is to make sure all students have the ability to take part in the Berea experience. To build an inclusive community, we encourage students to first engage in discussions about their expectations, experiences, and accommodations.

For more information about your student registering with DAS, please contact **Lisa Ladanyi, Director**, at **895.985.3237** or browse the website at **www.berea.edu/das**.

"At first, I was worried about going to utilize the resources around campus because I wasn't sure if I really needed them, but I'm glad I did. It's really helped me with succeeding in class. From tutoring & getting help from my peers, it's really made a difference for me academically."

Windham Teddy, '23



White House Clinic - Berea employee securing Blue "approved" wristband on a new student. All parties who arrived on Move-In Day Saturday, Aug. 9th & Sunday, Aug. 10th received a wristband to inform the campus community they had been properly Covid-19 tested or scheduled to be on campus.

TRANSITION RECAP FALL '20

"During my Welcome Week, I felt welcomed by the staff. I enjoyed getting into a job close to my major and all my teachers seemed cool and supportive. There is the idea that your teachers don't care about you, which isn't true. If you're stressed or don't understand something, your teachers and Teaching Assistants (TAs) are a great resource"

Priss Harbuck, '24

"At first, I was really stressed out because I was already having problems with testing getting to Berea, but I had help from SST to help me even up to the day of arrival. The OLs did a great job of helping me know where to go so that I didn't seem like a lost freshman on campus, and I made friends pretty easily. Now, I'm just trying to get a feel for classes as the semester continues to move along pretty fast."

James Simpkins, '24

"Berea wasn't what I expected at all and that's okay. I'm learning that it's causing me to get outside my comfort zone and put myself in new things that I wouldn't have willingly tried on my own before coming here. I have made a good group of friends already and my classes aren't that hard. I don't necessarily enjoy wearing a mask all the time, but I'm not bothered and feel that Berea is doing their best to keep me and everyone else safe with all the rules and procedures in place that we have to follow in order to stay here."

Shadira Chest, '24

COURSE REGISTRATION

Office of Student Success & Transition - Academic Support

First-year and transfer students have just successfully completed their first course registration period with us here at Berea. As you may know, all incoming students' schedules are pre-made for them upon entering their first term at Berea College. For Term A (August 12th - Oct. 2nd) all students were originally placed in their courses, however for Term B (October 5th - Nov. 22nd) the students were encouraged to take their academic journey into their own hands and register for the courses they would like to take. Course Registration for the Spring term will take place in later October/early November.

As a Liberal Arts college, Berea College offers a variety of 34 majors and 38 minors of study for students to choose from. Additionally, if students would like to create their own area of study, they have the option to do so.

For more information about your student's academic success in relation to Academic Success, please contact our **Office of Student Success & Transition** at **sst@berea.edu**, call us at **(859) 985-3376** or browse the website at **www.berea.edu/sst** where we'd love to be of service to you!

STUDENT SOCIAL HOUR

Join the Office of Student Success & Transition for Social Hours, facilitated by our Orientation Leaders to engage with students both on campus & distance learning. All times are at 8 p.m. eastern time where we meet virtually via Zoom. Encourage your student to come engage & get to know more about campus resources, things to do in their free-time, & making the most of their collegiate experience.

Social Hour Dates:
Wednesday, Sept. 23rd
Monday, Sept. 28th
Friday, Oct. 2nd

Engage with us on Facebook & Instagram at Office of Student Success & Transition (@bereacsst)

HOW TO BEST SUPPORT YOUR COLLEGE STUDENT FROM HOME

#1 - Encourage, Validate & Support

Your college student is going through a lot of changes right now with navigating transitioning from home to their new life in Berea. This is no ordinary year and there is a large level of uncertainty for many. Undoubtedly, at some point throughout this term, your student is going to reach out to you complaining, with excitement, or crying maybe all three at the same time. Be there to listen to them, show them you care & affirm what they are saying, but don't be tempted to "come to their rescue." You want to show them you believe in them & know that they can navigate this experience without you being physically present.

#2.- Listen to understand, not to respond

At times, your student is going to just need a listening ear, not necessarily a response. This is important to note so that you can be there for them when this time comes. Show them you understand and truly hear what they're saying. Do this right the first time, they'll come back to you more as they feel comfortable knowing you're truly giving your ear to listen and not looking to always have a response.

#3 - Challenge and support

College is hard, that's no secret, but with your help, your student and you will get through it together. Whenever they reach out about difficult professors, lack of determination, or motivation, encourage them to think about what they could be doing differently to make their experience at Berea College better.

#5 - Cheer them on no matter the circumstances

Root for your student like they've never experienced before. This is the time they need you most! These first few months of college can be incredibly transformative for a student, and we want to make sure we're giving them the support they need both on campus and at home. Encourage them to get involved, to make friends outside of their residence hall, & to step out of their comfort zone.

#6 - Let them know they have resources

With the amount of resources on campus & the people wanting your student to succeed, we believe they can make it. Let them know you are there for them in the good times and bad, & motivate them to see it through!

WANT TO STAY IN THE KNOW ABOUT WHAT'S
HAPPENING ON CAMPUS?

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

FOR A FULL LIST OF CAMPUS ACTIVITIES, GO TO [HTTPS://CALENDAR.BEREA.EDU](https://calendar.berea.edu)

TO VIEW THE ACADEMIC CALENDAR GO TO
[HTTPS://BEREA.EDU/REGISTRAR/ACADEMIC-CALENDAR/](https://berea.edu/registrar/academic-calendar/)

OCTOBER 2,
FRIDAY

*Last day of Classes for
First Seven-Week
(Term A) Session*

SEPTEMBER 30,
WEDNESDAY

*Last Day to Withdraw
from a Course for First
Seven-Week (Term A)
Session*

OCTOBER 7,
WEDNESDAY

*Last Day to Drop a
Course without a W on
Record for Second
Seven-Week (Term B)
Session*

OCTOBER 7,
WEDNESDAY

*Last Day to Add a
Course for Second
Seven-Week (Term B)
Session*

OCTOBER 16, FRIDAY

*Last Day to Withdraw from a
Course without WP/WF Grade
being Recorded for Second
Seven-Week (Term B) Session*

OCTOBER 12,
MONDAY

*Final Grades due for
First Seven-Week (Term
A) Session*

CONTACT THE OFFICE OF STUDENT SUCCESS & TRANSITION AT
SST@BEREA.EDU OR CALL US AT (859) 985-3376 IF YOU NEED
ASSISTANCE FOR YOUR STUDENT

OFFICE NUMBERS TO KNOW

Academic Services

Ms. Amanda Leger ext. 3237

*Provides students with resources for
academic engagement*

Black Cultural Center

Ms. Kristina Gamble ext. 3795

*Supports student needs through
intercultural and interracial understanding*

Center for Teaching and Learning

Dr. Lesli Ortquist-Ahrens ext. 3670

*Assists students with deepening their
confidence, skills, perspectives, and insights
as readers, writers, and learners*

Disability and Accessibility Services

Mr. Lisa Ladanyi ext. 3327

*Helps develop self-advocacy/confidence and
coordinates accommodations for students
with documented disabilities*

Financial Aid

Ms. Theresa Lowder ext. 3310

*Provide financial aid needed to meet the
basic costs of education*

Office of Student Success & Transition

Dr. Chris Lakes ext. 3376

*Provides focused support to students
throughout their first-year transition*

Labor Program

Dr. Sylvia Asante ext. 3611

*Administers student job descriptions,
payroll forms, training aids, and info*

Student Accounts

Ms. Karen Belcher ext. 3094

*Assists students with payments/payment
arrangements for term bill that includes
housing, meals, and other required fees*