

ABOUT BEREA COLLEGE

Berea College was founded in 1855 by radical abolitionists who believed that all people—male and female, black and white—were entitled to a high quality education.

By providing **full-tuition scholarships** to all 1,500 students, Berea offers a valuable education to students who have great promise and limited financial resources.

The College offers degrees in 28 academic areas and employs more than 140 faculty members, 91% of whom have a Ph.D. or other terminal degree.

With an eye toward preparing students to make meaningful contributions to their chosen professions, Berea offers them experiences that challenge and equip them for scholarship, work, and service.



STUDENT BODY PROFILE Berea's extraordinary students come together to create a campus community rich in **diversity and promise**. The following points illustrate the distinctive students Berea serves:



- 80% are from Appalachia and the rest of Kentucky.
- 60% ranked in the top 20% of their high school classes.
- 19% are African-American, and 7% are international students.
- 100% of first-year students live on campus in residence halls.
- The freshman-to-sophomore retention rate is 82%. The rate is even higher for African-American students: 85%.

- 80% of graduates of the last 10 years have returned to Appalachia.
- The median income for Berea students' families in 2004-2005 is \$26,825, which puts nearly all of them in the bottom third economic bracket of families with college-bound students.

LABOR PROGRAM In addition to attending to rigorous coursework, each Berea student is required to work 10-15 hours per week in an assigned labor position, where the importance of a **strong work ethic** is emphasized and cultivated.

The Labor Program enables students to earn funds to help cover such costs as room, board, and book expenses. Working in one of more than 140 departments, students come to understand the dignity of all work while helping the College keep costs down.

Students work in positions as diverse as office support, tour guides, web designers, teaching assistants, and managers on the College Farms. In the Berea College Crafts program, students have been producing high quality woven goods, pottery, brooms, and other wares since the early 1890s, maintaining the College's valuable connection with the crafts tradition of Appalachia.



Berea's Great Commitments

Berea College, founded by ardent abolitionists and radical reformers, continues today as an educational institution still firmly rooted in its historic purpose "to promote the cause of Christ." Adherence to the College's scriptural foundation, "God has made of one blood all peoples of the earth," shapes the College's culture and programs so that students and staff alike can work toward both personal goals and a vision of a world shaped by Christian values, such as the power of love over hate, human dignity and equality, and peace with justice. This environment frees persons to be active learners, workers, and servers as members of the academic community and as citizens of the world. The Berea experience nurtures intellectual, physical, aesthetic, emotional, and spiritual potentials and with those the power to make meaningful commitments and translate them into action.

To achieve this purpose, Berea College commits itself

- To provide an educational opportunity primarily for students from Appalachia, black and white, all of whom have great promise and limited economic resources.
- To provide an education of high quality with a liberal arts foundation and outlook.
- To stimulate understanding of the Christian faith and its many expressions and to emphasize the Christian ethic and the motive of service to others.
- To provide for all students through the labor program experiences for learning and serving in community, and to demonstrate that labor, mental and manual, has dignity as well as utility.
- To assert the kinship of all people and to provide interracial education with a particular emphasis on understanding and equality among blacks and whites.
- To create a democratic community dedicated to education and equality for women and men.
- To maintain a residential campus and to encourage in all members of the community a way of life characterized by plain living, pride in labor well done, zest for learning, high personal standards, and concern for the welfare of others.
- To serve the Appalachian region primarily through education but also by other appropriate services.

Special Programs

As part of its mission to serve students who have great promise and limited resources, Berea College offers students much more than full-tuition scholarships. Students have at their fingertips exceptional opportunities and programs that allow them to develop their potential and become service-oriented leaders for Appalachia and beyond.



Sustainability

The College educates students about sustainability by modeling earth-friendly building and living practices on campus. The *Ecological Village*, the first of its kind in Kentucky, and “green” building renovations exemplify an environmentally conscious lifestyle.



Service

CELTS, the Center for Excellence in Learning Through Service, offers resources, support, and meeting space for campus service organizations. Of 2004 graduates, 53% had participated in service opportunities at Berea.



Laptop Computers

Berea provides each student with a laptop computer. This initiative benefits students while they are on campus and equips graduates with a valuable resource—their own laptop computers—as they advance into the professional world or graduate study.



Study Abroad

Travel abroad is an increasingly important component of the Berea experience, and 41% of the 2004 graduates studied abroad while at Berea. International travel enhances students’ educational experiences by exposing them to other cultures of the world.



EPG

The Entrepreneurship for the Public Good program teaches students about entrepreneurship and socially and environmentally responsible practices that provide jobs and build healthy communities.



ADMISSIONS CRITERIA While most private colleges select students who can afford to pay tuition, Berea seeks those students who cannot.

The College has established a policy for determining each family’s financial eligibility for admission based on information provided on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Since the median family income of Berea students’ families is \$26,825, nearly all fall in the bottom third economic bracket of families with college-bound students.

In an effort to carry out its longstanding mission, Berea seeks students who have **strong academic potential**, as evidenced by their academic preparedness and history, class rank,

standardized test scores, character references, personal interviews, and essays. Most students score between 20 and 30 on the ACT (930-1350 SAT) and have a cumulative high school GPA of at least 3.0 in a strong college preparatory curriculum.

Berea strives to serve its Appalachian territory, and 80% of Berea students are from Kentucky and counties in Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. Other attributes that Berea seeks in prospective students are a strong work ethic, eagerness to learn, desire to serve others, and interest in other cultures.

FUND RAISING The cost of one tuition scholarship to Berea in 2005-2006 is estimated at \$21,600. Since Berea does not receive tuition income, 76% of budget expenses are covered by the endowment, and the remaining 24% is provided through the Berea Fund (annual fund) and other sources.

The Berea Fund allows the College to serve current students by addressing the most pressing needs in all areas of campus. The Berea Fund helps to provide resources for full-tuition scholarships, student wages, faculty and staff salaries, campus renovation and maintenance efforts, and other operating costs.

Many gifts to the endowment come in the form of bequests from donors who have named Berea in their wills. Through planned giving, many friends and alumni of Berea are able to provide meaningful educational opportunities for future generations of Berea students.



EXTENDING BEREA’S LEGACY COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN Extending Berea’s legacy of high quality education, inclusiveness of all peoples, and service to Appalachia for current and future students means remaining faithful to Berea’s Great Commitments while recognizing the challenges of the 21st Century.

The Extending Berea’s Legacy Comprehensive Campaign includes increased goals for Berea’s endowment and annual fund as well as special initiatives such as portable computers for students, the Ecovillage, and Entrepreneurship for the Public Good. These initiatives provide opportunities for students to gain technological expertise and international awareness in a challenging learning environment that is committed to sustaining natural resources in Appalachia and beyond.

The overall campaign goal of **\$150 million by the end of 2005** is within reach. However, several campaign goals remain unmet, including support of endowed faculty chairs, sustainability and environmental studies programs, and internships.