

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND AGREEMENTS FOR NEW AND CONTINUING STUDENTS, 2020 FALL TERM**

Berea College's fall term will begin on August 12, 2020 and conclude on November 24, 2020. Students will be provided with a return to campus schedule, the first group of students arriving on or about August 8, 2020. Information and details regarding assigned arrival dates, orientation for new students and other matters will be provided by the Office of Academic Affairs and the Student Life office. Classes will be conducted in person and online. Information about class schedules, course registration and related matters will be provided to students by the Office of Academic Affairs as soon as it becomes available.

**If you choose to attend Berea College on campus this year, please know that the 2020 Fall Term at Berea College will be unlike any other in our history. It will not be a "normal" semester for students, staff or faculty.**

**New and returning students are required to review this document and declare their intentions for participating in the College's 2020 Fall Term. Your declaration of intent must be received by 5:00 PM on July 10, 2020. Students who do not respond completely and timely will be automatically granted a deferral of admission or leave of absence until the beginning of the 2021 Spring Term.**

**Please carefully consider all of the following information as you make plans for this fall.**

### COVID-19 PANDEMIC ADVISORY

The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, has been declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization. Public health emergencies have been declared in the United States and the Commonwealth of Kentucky. To date, over 2,400,000 persons in the United States have contracted the virus and more than 122,000 Americans have died. **COVID-19 is extremely contagious** and is believed to spread mainly from person-to-person contact. Presently, there is no vaccine and medical treatment continues to evolve as more is learned about the virus. As a result, federal, state, and local governments and health agencies have recommend social distancing and other extraordinary measures.

**The health and safety of every Berea College student, faculty and staff member is our first concern.** The College is adopting policies and preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 on campus; however, the College **cannot guarantee** that you will not become infected with COVID-19. **Living in campus housing, dining on campus, participating in classes, clinicals, labs, labor assignments, trainings, athletics, extracurricular events or off-campus travel could increase your risk of contracting COVID-19.**

In the event of an outbreak of the virus on the College's campus or in Madison County, Kentucky, local health and medical resources are limited and may not be sufficient to address a full-scale emergency. The College does not provide comprehensive medical insurance for its students and has no medical facilities of its own; it has a limited capacity to deal with isolation or quarantine requirements. In the event of an occurrence of COVID-19 on campus, the College reserves the right to take all necessary measures to protect the health and safety of faculty, staff and students, up to and including the cancellation of on-campus instruction and closure of campus operations.

## SUMMARY OF EXTRAORDINARY HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES

In order to promote the health and safety of all Bereans, the College is adopting stringent public health and safety measures for all members of the campus community. These will be **strictly enforced**.

These measures include:

- Social Distancing.
- Wearing of masks in all indoor areas, including, but not limited to classroom, administrative and other buildings on campus. (Exceptions for students include: (i) their assigned residence hall rooms, (ii) while seated and dining in the Mountaineer Dining Room, (iii) while working alone in a private office during labor assignments, and (iv) other areas/activities as posted.
- Wearing of masks outdoors anytime one may reasonably be expected to encounter other persons at a distance of six feet (6') or less.
- Frequent handwashing, enhanced availability of hand sanitizers, temperature checks and other recommended personal and community hygienic practices as outlined in Kentucky's "Healthy at Work" guidelines.
- Testing for COVID-19, before arrival on campus with follow-up testing as may be required by the College or local public health officials. Students will be required to have evidence of negative PCR test results no more than 7 days prior to returning to campus. (More details regarding testing will be provided to students by Student Life).
- Limitations on typical campus activities and gatherings.
- Restrictions on leaving campus and the City of Berea.
- Restrictions on the possession and use of motor vehicles.

**All Bereans, including all students, staff and faculty, have an important role to play in keeping the campus safe. Your health and safety as well as that of others will be greatly affected by what you do.**

## CAMPUS HOUSING AND DINING

Typical of most colleges and universities, over 90% of Berea College's student housing is double occupancy with separate, shared bathrooms on each floor. Depending on the number of students choosing to return to campus for the 2020 Fall Term, **nearly all students will have roommates**. Under Kentucky's COVID-19 existing guidelines, casual gatherings, cooking or other communal activities in residential common areas will be restricted. Effective social distancing will be an essential part of residential life. **The wearing of masks will be required indoors in all residential life facilities, except when a student is in their assigned room or bathroom.** In-room visitation will be restricted. More specific information regarding housing arrangements will be provided by the Student Life office following receipt of students' declarations about returning to campus.

The College' on-campus dining program also **will be different this fall** for students with meal plans. In response to COVID-19 and following state guidance on food service operations, Dining

Services will not be offering self-service, buffet lines. Seating capacity in the Mountaineer Dining Room has been reduced to promote social distancing. Students will be assigned specific times for all meals, based on their academic and labor schedules. “Grab and Go” lunches will be provided for students. Special dietary requirements can be accommodated with advance notice; however, the usual variety of food offerings will not be available this fall. More specific information regarding dining arrangements will be provided by Dining Services by August 1, 2020.

### LABOR PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

All residential students or those enrolled in on-campus courses for the 2020 Fall Term will be expected to participate in the Labor Program, according to their enrollment status, ability to participate and the College’s needs. Labor assignments will be adjusted to assure that essential campus needs are fulfilled. Students on campus should expect to work 10 hours per week during the term. Full-time students who are not residential, but who are taking online courses, may be able to telework depending on their labor position. Students who are on leave for the fall term will not participate in the Labor Program. Exceptions to participation in the Labor Program will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the Dean of Labor. The Labor Program office will provide further information about labor assignments and other aspects of the Labor Program to all enrolled students on or after July 17, 2020.

### FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION

Students who are returning to campus for the 2020 Fall Term and taking a full load will receive financial aid packages, including institutional grants, that will be determined in the usual manner. Students who reduce to half-time (1.5 credits) or less for the semester will have a reduction in aid, based on reduced enrollment. With limited exceptions, Labor Program earnings will be included as part of computing financial aid. Students who are enrolled for the 2020 Fall Term will receive the maximum amount of financial aid that can be awarded by the College in each particular case, subject to Department of Education guidelines and limitations.

### SPECIAL MOTOR VEHICLE POLICY FOR STUDENTS – 2020 FALL TERM

During the COVID-19 public health emergency, it will not be possible for students to have customary privileges to travel during the abbreviated 2020 Fall Term. Consequently, the College’s regular Motor Vehicle Policy for Students is suspended until further notice. In lieu of that policy, the following special, temporary policy concerning possession and use of motor vehicles by students will be in force.

Students Residing Off-Campus. Students residing off campus, in Berea, Kentucky, who have vehicles may register their vehicle with Berea College Public Safety and obtain a campus parking decal in the usual manner. All such parking will be in the Seabury Center lot. Use of such “town vehicles” on and around campus will be limited to commuting to and from campus for the student who has registered the vehicle. Town vehicles may not be used to transport other students or groups of students for any purpose, including off-campus travel. Violation of this policy may result in the loss of the decal and suspension for the offender(s).

On-Campus Students. Generally, students residing on campus for the 2020 Fall Term **will not be permitted to bring a vehicle to campus or park a vehicle on or off campus.** Exceptions to this policy will be made by Student Life for students with documented health or disability conditions that require vehicles to access health care or other extraordinary circumstances that can only be accommodated with a personal vehicle. A limited number of College fleet vehicles will be

available for rental by students to accommodate unforeseen circumstances. Access to these vehicles can be made through Student Life and Public Safety.

Students residing on campus agree that they will not bring a motor vehicle to campus unless they receive permission to do so and are issued a parking decal by Berea College Public Safety. **There will be no grace period for unauthorized vehicles.**

All authorized student vehicles must be parked in the gated student parking lot. Access to such vehicles will be for limited purposes approved by Student Life. Students are not permitted to park, garage or access vehicles (whether or not authorized) elsewhere on or off campus.

Applications for vehicle exceptions and parking decals under this policy must be submitted to Public Safety **no later than 5:00 PM, July 10, 2020**. An electronic form for this purpose will be available at <https://www.berea.edu/public-safety/parking-policies/parking-decals/> by July 1, 2020. Decisions on vehicle requests will be made by Student Life and communicated to applicants by July 24, 2020. Students who have unsuccessful vehicle applications may appeal decisions to the special Student Motor Vehicle Permit Committee (comprised of members from the regular Citation Appeals Committee).

Any violation of this policy will be grounds for the offending student's immediate suspension and withdrawal from campus. This policy will be strictly applied, and no warnings will be given. Any necessary disciplinary actions may be undertaken by Student Life with one level of appeal to the Vice President for Student Life.

#### NEW AND CONTINUING STUDENTS - OPTION TO DEFER ADMISSION OR REQUEST A LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE 2020 FALL TERM

**New students may choose to defer their offers of admission and continuing students may choose to take an administrative leave of absence until the beginning of the 2021 Spring Term.** The full benefits of Berea's Tuition Promise Scholarship and other institutional student aid will remain available to you if you choose not to attend school this fall and return for the spring term. If you or your family are concerned about the risks of COVID-19, or are in any of the at-risk categories identified by the U. S. Center for Disease Control and Disease Prevention (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html>), then it is recommended that you defer coming to campus.

#### STUDENT DECLARATION OF INTENT FOR THE 2020 FALL TERM

Having considered all of the above information, students are asked to declare their intentions for the 2020 Fall Term at Berea College. Please choose one of the following options:

\_\_\_\_\_ (New Students) I wish to defer my offer of admission from Berea College until the beginning of the 2021 Spring Term. Follow up information will be provided by the College's Office of Admissions.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Continuing Students) I wish to apply for a leave of absence from the College until the beginning of the 2021 Spring Term. Follow up information will be provided by the Office of Student Success and Transition.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Continuing Students) I wish to continue as a full-time student for the 2020 Fall Term but will not be on campus. I will seek to take all courses remotely.

\_\_\_\_\_ (New or Continuing Students) I plan to be a full-time student on campus for the 2020 Fall Term.

AGREEMENT TO COMPLY WITH ALL COLLEGE POLICIES AND  
EXTRAORDINARY HEALTH MEASURES (ON-CAMPUS STUDENTS)

All new and returning students on campus for the 2020 Fall Term must agree to observe all requirements of the Berea College Student Handbook, the Student Code of Conduct regulations and the extraordinary health and safety rules being adopted by the College. If you are in agreement, please check all boxes below, complete the remainder of this document and sign where indicated.

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree to strictly follow all of the College's policies, including but not limited to its Student Code of Conduct regulations and all extraordinary health and safety policies of the College during the COVID-19 public health emergency. I agree that any violation of this agreement may be grounds for my immediate suspension and withdrawal from campus.

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree to immediately report any flu-like illness or other symptoms of COVID-19 that I may experience to the Area Coordinator for my residence facility. I agree that any violation of this agreement may be grounds for my immediate suspension and withdrawal from campus.

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree to cooperate fully with College staff and local public health officials in the event of an outbreak of COVID-19 on or near the College campus, including potentially being isolated, quarantined, or hospitalized as well as cooperation with contact tracing and other public health response measures. I agree that any violation of these policies may be grounds for my immediate suspension and withdrawal from campus.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that all of the College's policies, including social distancing, the wearing of masks, and other public health requirements, will be strictly enforced. I agree that any violation of these policies may be grounds for my immediate suspension and withdrawal from campus.

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree that I will not leave the City of Berea without advance permission to do so from the Associate Dean for Student Life. I agree that any violation of this agreement may be grounds for my immediate suspension and withdrawal from campus.

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree to comply with the College's Special Motor Vehicle Policy for Students (see above). I agree that any violation of this policy may be grounds for my immediate suspension and withdrawal from campus.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand and agree to waive the usual judicial procedures and rights of appeal under the College's Student Code of Conduct regulations for any violation of extraordinary College policies pertaining to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK – ON CAMPUS STUDENTS

In consideration of my attendance on campus at Berea College for the 2020 Fall Term, I acknowledge the contagious nature of COVID-19 and **voluntarily assume the risk that I may be exposed to or infected by COVID-19 by attending the College, participating in its programs or living on campus, and that such exposure or infection may result in personal injury, illness, permanent disability, and even death.**

I understand that the risk of becoming exposed to or infected by COVID-19 at the College may result from the actions, omissions, or negligence of myself and others, including, but not limited to, College employees, other students, vendors or affiliates and their families. I agree to comply with all of the College's policies, including the terms and conditions contained in this document and as subsequently adopted by the College. I understand that the College and my fellow Bereans are relying on my agreements to help protect my health and safety and that of all members of the campus community.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
"B" Number (If Known)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Student's Parent/Guardian (If Student is under age 18)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Parent/Guardian

Student's Emergency Contact:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name/Relationship to Student      Telephone Number(s)      Email Address