

Berea College Distracted Driving Policy

In order to ensure the safety of our drivers, passengers and others, and to comply with all federal, state and local laws and regulations regarding mobile phone and electronic device usage by those utilizing College-owned, rented, borrowed, leased or personal vehicles, the College has adopted the following policy:

All employees while driving a Berea College-owned, rented, borrowed, leased or personal vehicle and conducting business on behalf of Berea College are prohibited from holding, dialing, or reaching for a mobile phone, tablet, personal computer or other electronic device while the vehicle is in motion, except as outlined below:

1. A driver is allowed to initiate, answer, or terminate a call by touching a single button on a mobile phone, headset, automobile or by voice command provided it can be done while seated in a normal manner and wearing a seatbelt. Any such movement must be accomplished without removing the driver's eyes from the roadway. While hands-free technology is permitted, it is discouraged from use while a vehicle is in motion.
2. All employees operating *any* type of vehicle are prohibited from texting, accessing or sending instant messages or electronic mail, viewing or participating in audio or teleconferences while engaged in any activity on behalf of the College and when the vehicle is being operated on a roadway as defined below.
3. All drivers must refrain from other actions that distract from concentrating on driving, as careless driving and driving while distracted constitute hazards, and are a traffic violation in many states, including Kentucky. Distractions include, but are not limited to, eating, reading, talking to passengers, and performing other activities that tend to cause the driver to remove one's eyes from the road or divert one's attention from the task of driving.

Driving means operating a motor vehicle on a roadway, including while stationary because of traffic, traffic-control devices or other temporary delays. Driving does not include operating a vehicle when the driver has parked the vehicle to the side of (or off) a roadway where the vehicle can remain stationary.

Exemption: This policy does not prevent drivers of motor vehicles from using a mobile phone to communicate with law enforcement or other emergency services if necessary.

Note: This revised policy will apply until any revisions are made in the future; it is not a COVID-19 policy.