

# PARENT'S GUIDEBOOK

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# WELCOME

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Dear Berry parents,

I am excited that your student has chosen Berry College! My eight year old told me not too long ago that he can't wait to turn 18 so he can go exploring. When asked where he wanted to explore, he responded enthusiastically, "Every part of Berry's campus!" Berry is a place to be explored: intellectually, spiritually, and physically. We want our students to explore the rich academic, social, and service-oriented experiences the Berry community has to offer, and our hope – much like yours - is that your student discovers their passions and calling for their life.

These next four years will go quickly and not without some bumps along the way. It is the bumps that will create resilience in your student. Berry is a place with significant support to see students through the bumpy parts of their college journey. My hope is that as your student transitions to life at college, we become partners in helping them solve problems for themselves and stand alongside them as coaches in the decisions they will make.

This guide provides important information and resources for you to be able to assist your student in navigating Berry. It is intended to help inform you about important dates, deadlines, and resources at the college. Our hope is that giving you this information will help you be a good coach for your student.

I hope your student is eager to explore every part of Berry's campus because we are excited for the next steps in this journey!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Taylor'.

Lindsey Taylor  
Vice President for Student Affairs

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Orientation at Berry is a three-part process for your student:

## SOAR, VIKING VENTURE AND BCC 100.

Each part of the orientation process is intentionally designed to build upon the others. We want you as parents to be part of the orientation process as well. During the virtual parent SOAR sessions this year, you will experience a comprehensive overview of what you and your student can expect during the transition to their first year at Berry. During their virtual sessions, students will connect with groups of other incoming freshmen led by the current students who are serving as SOAR Leaders this year. They will receive information about campus life as well as important details regarding classes and residence life. Oftentimes parents ask if we share the information with students in the same way we shared information with parents during SOAR. The answer is no. Parents' orientation to Berry (at least formally) only occurs during SOAR. Student orientation will continue through Viking Venture as well as the first 14 weeks on campus through our first-year seminar, BCC 100. So while you may know more about resources and timelines than your student after SOAR, be mindful that we will share the same information with your student but stretched out over a longer period of time.

## PARENT COMMUNICATION

### As a parent who do I contact if I have a question?

We encourage parents to reach out if you have a question. Our hope is that you will begin with the department that is most related to your question – that should get you a timely and more accurate answer! We have put together a campus resource guide of who to call based on need on the next page. Should you find yourself unsure about where to start, you are always welcome to email general questions to deanofstudents@berry.edu.

### Contact for the Dean of Students office

Phone: 706.236.2207 or deanofstudents@berry.edu

**Lindsey Taylor** - Vice President of Student Affairs, Dean of Students  
ltaylor@berry.edu

**Meredith Johnson** - Assistant Dean of Students  
mjohnson@berry.edu

### When and how does Berry communicate with parents?

We strive to be good partners with parents. Parents will receive a Parents' Newsletter three times a year which highlights what is happening on campus as well as provides parents with important upcoming events and/or dates. We also have a Parent Resources page on the Berry College website.

We are limited in how and when we initiate communication specific to your student. However, you know your student better than anyone else. If you are seeing a change in their behavior that is concerning or if there is news that needs to be shared with your student and you don't want them to be alone when that news is shared, let us know. The Dean of Students office is happy to navigate life with you and your student as well as connect students with resources.

# SOAR

STUDENT ORIENTATION, ADVISING & REGISTRATION



## ACADEMIC RESOURCES

### ACADEMIC SERVICES

Academic Advising General Questions, Leave of Absence or Withdrawal Questions

Office of the Provost 706.236.2229

Dr. David Slade, Associate Provost and Dean of Academic Services: dslade@berry.edu

### ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER

Time Management Concerns and/or Studying Strategies, Academic Accommodations

Academic Success Center 706.233.4080

Dr. Anna Sharpe, Associate Dean of Student Success and Director of the Academic Success Center : asharp@berry.edu

Katrina Meehan, Assistant Director: kmeehan@berry.edu

### STUDY ABROAD

International Experiences 706.233.4065 or internationalexperiences@berry.edu

## BUSINESS SERVICES

### FINANCIAL AID

Scholarship Questions, FAFSA Information

Office of Financial Aid 706.236.1714 or financialaid@berry.edu

### STUDENT ACCOUNT INFORMATION

Tuition Payment or Questions about Student Account Cashier Window 706.236.2296

## STUDENT LIFE RESOURCES

### CAMPUS SAFETY

Campus Police, ID Cards, Car and/or Bike Decals, Report an Incident

Welcome Center 706.238.6999

Emergency 706.236.2262

### COUNSELING

Student Depression, Anxiety, or 1-on-1 Counseling Needs

Counseling Center 706.236.2259\*

Becca Smith, Director: bsmith@berry.edu

*\*If you are concerned about the immediate need for your student to receive support and/or assistance please call and do not email. If it is after business hours, please call the Welcome Center emergency number: 706.236.2262.*

### DEAN OF STUDENTS

General Student Related Question and/or Student Specific Concerns

Dean of Students Office 706.236.2207 or deanofstudents@berry.edu\*

Lindsey Taylor, Vice President of Student Affairs, Dean of Students: ltaylor@berry.edu

Meredith Johnson, Assistant Dean of Students: mjohnson@berry.edu

*\*Please use this email address for general questions. Please do not email student-specific concerns to this email address.*

### DINING SERVICES

Questions about the Meal Plans, Food Allergy Concerns, or Catering

Dining Services 706.236.1701

### HEALTH SERVICES

Concerns of Illness, Treatment Plan, or other Health Related Need

Health Center 706.236.2267

Emma Cordle, Director: ecordle@berry.edu

### POST OFFICE AND MAIL SERVICES

Post Office 706.236.2201

Tammi Freeman, Director

### RESIDENCE LIFE

Housing Questions, Roommate Concerns, Homesickness, or Concern about Transition to College

Residence Life 706.236.2209 or residencelife@berry.edu

Ask to speak with your students' Area Coordinator

### LIFEWORKS QUESTIONS

LifeWorks Program 706.368.6445

Dr. Mike Burnes, Director of LifeWorks Program: mburnes@berry.edu

### CENTER FOR PERSONAL & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Marc Hunsaker, Dean of Personal and Professional Development: mhunsaker@berry.edu

## FALL SEMESTER 2021

July 10, Saturday  
August 20, Friday  
August 23, Monday  
August 26, Thursday

September 6, Monday  
September 24, Friday  
October 1, Friday  
October 2, Saturday  
October 8, Friday  
October 9, Saturday  
October 11, Monday  
October 12, Tuesday  
October 16-19, Sat.-Tues.  
October 25, Monday  
October 25-29  
November 1-5  
November 1-12

November 12, Friday

November 24-26  
December 3  
December 6-10  
December 6, Monday  
December 10, Friday  
December 13, Monday  
December 17, Friday

First payment due for fall semester courses  
Online add/drop for cleared returning students opens at 8 a.m.  
Classes Begin  
Final day to change schedules; online add/drop closes at 4 p.m. (courses on schedule after this day apply towards HOPE)  
Labor Day (CLASSES WILL BE HELD)  
Last day to withdraw from first 7-week courses  
Mountain Day activities, no classes after 2 p.m.  
Mountain Day  
First 7-week classes end  
Online grading opens for first 7-week courses at 7 a.m.; closes Wed. 10/14 at 10 a.m.  
Second 7-week classes begin  
Final day to add/drop a second 7-week class (**IN-OFFICE REGISTRATION ONLY**)  
Fall Holiday, no classes  
Senior exit examinations (major field)  
Advisement, Week 1  
Advisement, Week 2  
Spring 2022 Pre-registration  
Application to graduate in Spring, Summer, or Fall of 2021 open on VikingWeb  
Last day to withdraw from full term and second 7-week classes; Deadline for Cultural Events for students graduating in December  
Thanksgiving Holidays (no classes)  
Last day of classes  
Final examinations (Monday-Friday)  
Online grading opens at 7 a.m.  
First payment due for spring semester courses  
All grades due to Registrar's Office by 10 a.m. (online grading closes)  
Conferral of diplomas for students completing all degree requirements during fall term

## SPRING SEMESTER 2022

January 7, Friday  
January 10, Monday  
January 13, Thursday

January 17, Monday  
February 11, Friday  
February 25, Friday  
February 26, Saturday  
February 28, Monday  
February 28, Monday  
March 1, Tuesday  
March 7-11  
March 14-18  
March 21-25  
March 21-April 1

April 8, Friday

April 12, Tuesday  
April 15, Friday  
April 26, Tuesday  
April 27, Wednesday  
April 28, Thursday  
April 28-May 4  
May 4, Wednesday  
May 4, Wednesday  
May 6, Friday  
May 7, Saturday  
May 9, Monday

Online add/drop for cleared returning students opens at 8 a.m.  
Classes Begin  
Final day to change schedules for full term and first 7-week; on-line add/drop closes at 4 p.m.; (courses on schedule after this date apply towards HOPE)  
Martin Luther King Jr. Day (no classes)  
Last day to withdraw from first 7-week courses  
First 7-week classes end  
Online grading for first 7 week courses opens at 7 a.m.; closes Wed, 3/03 at 10 a.m.  
Second 7-week classes begin  
Senior Exit Examinations (major field) for Spring and Summer graduates  
Last day to add/drop second 7-week classes  
Spring Break (no classes)  
Advisement, Week 1  
Advisement, Week 2  
Summer and Fall 2022 pre-registration  
Application to graduate in Summer/Fall of 2021 or Spring 2022 open on VikingWeb  
Last day to withdraw from full term and second 7-week classes; Deadline for Cultural Events for May graduating students  
Symposium on Student Scholarship — classes suspended  
Good Friday (no classes)  
Last day of classes  
Reading Day  
Online grading opens at 7 a.m.  
Final Exams (Thursday-Wednesday)  
Grades for graduating students due 10 a.m.  
Baccalaureate  
Graduate Student Commencement  
Undergraduate Student Commencement  
All grades due to Registrar's Office by 10 a.m. (online grading closes)

## What does an academic advisor do?

During SOAR, your student will meet with their academic advisor, who is also the instructor of your student's First-Year Seminar, BCC 100. If the advisor is not available during SOAR, your student will meet with another advisor. They will review the fall class schedule and ensure that the student is on the best path for success. Academic advisors are committed advocates for your student and are a great first-stop resource when there are questions about the curriculum, majors and minors, plans for experiential learning, and broader engagement at Berry.

## How will I know my student's grades?

We suggest that you make a plan ahead of time about how you and your student will communicate with each other regarding grades. Students can opt to give parents access to a parent portal on VikingWeb, which can include access to final course grades. Remember that FERPA prevents parents from accessing students' academic records without their permission. Parents do not have access to assignment grades for courses in progress.

## If my student struggles academically, how can I best support them?

It is always good advice to encourage your student to meet with the instructor of a course if there are concerns about successful progress. Berry professors engage individually with students and can provide excellent support for improvement. The student's academic advisor is also a strong advocate and can help students navigate difficult moments. Berry faculty and staff want to partner with you to encourage your student to own their pathway toward success. Reaching out is the first step. See the next question for more information about contacting the Academic Success Center, the Writing Center, and other formal tutoring opportunities.

## How else can students get assistance if they are struggling in a class?

In addition to the student consulting with individual professors and the academic advisor, the Academic Success Center is a helpful place for students seeking to be

## CLASSROOM STATS

**18** students per class on average

**11:1** student-to-faculty ratio

successful in all of their classes. The ASC's three most popular services are ASC Sessions, Individual Academic Consultations, and Study Smarter Workshops. ASC Sessions are drop-in homework and Q&A sessions for many freshman and sophomore-level courses, built to be casual so students drop by early and often. Individual Academic Consultations are one-on-one meetings with a full-time staff member or Peer Academic Consultant and focus on academic skills and strategies like time management, studying for exams, effective reading, and managing academic anxiety. Contact Dr. Anna Sharpe at [asharpe@berry.edu](mailto:asharpe@berry.edu) for more information. Finally, Study Smarter Workshops provide crash-courses in many of these same strategies in collaborative, fun workshops that only take between twenty and thirty minutes. **You can read about the ASC's programs and services at [berry.edu/asc](http://berry.edu/asc).**

The Writing Center provides consultations for students at various stages of the writing process, from interpreting assignment guidelines and generating ideas for a new writing project to the difficult art of revision and putting the final touches on a polished draft. Writing Consultants embrace a non-directive model of consulting in which they strive to enable and empower students to build their own set of writing and revision strategies. **Students can find more information at [berry.edu/wc](http://berry.edu/wc).**

## What support is provided to students with learning disabilities?

Berry College provides a variety of accommodations and support through our Academic Success Center. With a dedicated testing center, experienced professionals, and a large student staff of tutors and peer academic consultants, the Academic Success Center is well prepared to support your student.

Students with existing 504 Plans or IEPs are encouraged to meet with the Assistant Director of the ASC, Katrina Meehan during SOAR or early in the Fall semester even if they do not feel they will need to use their accommodations. Sometimes not engaging in accommodations can lead to challenges for students, especially at the beginning of their college experience.



**Student-faculty interaction at Berry was ranked in the top 10% nationally by seniors completing the National Survey of Student Engagement.**



It's always more convenient to have them and not need them than to need them and not have them. Additionally, students with temporary medical conditions like concussions or acute illnesses may be eligible for temporary accommodations. The Academic Success Center is always happy to answer questions about the services we provide and how to register as a client with our office.

**Academic Success Center** (706) 233-4080  
berry.edu/asc/

**What resources are available to help my student choose a major or select a career?**

The First-Year Seminar engages your student in reflection

## FAQ RESIDENCE LIFE

**Why is Berry a residential campus?**

From the very beginning, Berry College has been a residential campus. We consider the residential experience to be an integral part of a student's total education. Sharing a living space is an intentional learning opportunity. These lessons may take place through interaction with peers, navigating a roommate relationship, educational and cultural programming in the residence halls, or taking responsibility for cleanliness of their room.

First-year students are housed in traditional halls. Traditional style residence halls are organized with bedrooms located on either side of a central corridor and community bathrooms



about their strengths and areas of interest. The course will help your student understand how majors work and what kinds of majors might pair well with your student's interests.

**Office of Academic Transitions** 706.236.1707  
berry.edu/academics/freshman/

Students also have the opportunity to participate in a majors fair, undergo inventories and assessments at the Center for Personal and Professional Development, and engage directly with professors in majors from the entire college.

**Career Center** 706.236.2292, careercenter@berry.edu  
berry.edu/premierwork/career/

that serve the floor. After their first-year, students have the opportunity to choose housing with more autonomy. Once a student has had the opportunity to gain the skills to be successful in traditional housing, they may consider housing within our suite-style halls (Thomas Berry, Townhouses, Centennial or Cottages) that offer bedrooms with shared adjacent bathrooms, a common area, and kitchen.

**Do you have a residency requirement?**

Yes. Berry College is a residential college, and students are expected to live on-campus all four years unless given permission to do otherwise. This housing contract is binding for the entire academic year and may not be terminated by the student.

Students who meet any of the following criteria may apply to live off campus: 1) 25 years old or older; 2) Married; 3) Residing with their parents or legal guardian within a 40 mile driving distance to Berry College; or 4) 5th Year Senior. If a student feels they meet one of the above criteria, they must complete an Off Campus Application and be granted permission to move off-campus before they may do so.

**Who are the Resident Assistants (RA) and the Area Coordinators (AC)?**

An RA is a student staff who works to create a healthy, safe, and engaging living environment for residents. First-year students will benefit from the mentorship and care provided by two RAs on their floor. Students in other residential facilities are assigned one RA. We hope that our residents will also connect with their Area Coordinator who is a Master's level professional staff living and working within the halls.

**How secure are the residence halls?**

Security begins at the Welcome Center, where campus visitors are all screened. All our residence halls are on a card access system that works with the student's ID card. All Residential Halls are locked 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**What if my student loses their ID card?**

If your student loses their ID card, they can get a new one made at the Welcome Center Mon-Fri 8:00am-5:00pm. If they lose their ID over the weekend, they need to let their RA know.

**What is the process for Housing Accommodations?**

Any student with a disability or medical condition that may necessitate a special housing assignment should complete the intake form and submit supporting documentation on the Accessibility Resources webpage (berry.edu/academics/student-academic-resources/Accessibility-Resources/prospective-students). Requests for housing accommodations are due May 1 for incoming students and March 1 each year for returning residents.

Students can request an accommodation by submitting the necessary documents, which includes providing a letter by a physician outlining diagnosis, limitations and need. The Housing Accommodation Committee reviews each application. This committee includes professionals from Health and Wellness, Counseling Services, Accessibility Resources, and Residence Life.

**When do the residence halls close for campus breaks?**

Residence halls are not open during Thanksgiving break and winter break (the break between fall and spring semesters). Your student will need to make arrangements to be out of their residence hall by 6:00pm on the last day of classes before the start of the break. Residents may leave their personal belongings in the rooms during these breaks. Residence Halls are open during fall and spring breaks.

**When does my student have to move out after final exams?**

**Last Day of Finals:** Halls close at 6 p.m. to students not



**92%**  
of first-years  
students live  
on campus

## FAQ RESIDENCE LIFE

involved in Commencement

**Graduation Day:** Halls Close at 6 p.m. to students involved in Commencement

**What is Berry's alcohol policy?**

Berry College has historically chosen to be alcohol-free and has since chosen to be a substance-free campus. We continually strive to be a college that teaches respect and care for each other as a core value of the campus community. We believe that a commitment to be free of alcohol, tobacco, and the non-medical use of drugs provides an environment where students can thrive academically and socially. We also believe this policy promotes healthy living and healthy relationships and reduces the individual and second hand consequences of substance use and abuse.

Use of tobacco products including cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, e-cigarettes, and vapors are not permitted anywhere, indoors or out, on Berry's campus.

**How can I help my student transition to living on campus?**

For many students, it may be the first time they've had the opportunity to share a room with another person. Parents can be a great resource to their students in helping navigate a concern. Parents can encourage their students to practice those skills associated with resolving conflict, communicating personal values, setting boundaries and generally living among people who are different from them. Here are some ways that you can help:

Remind your student to

1. Set boundaries early with their roommate(s). Be open and honest when completing the roommate agreement;
2. Communicate concerns calmly and in-person.;
3. Be flexible and open to mediation.

The RA and Area Coordinator are trained and available to help students resolve their concerns.

Follow us:



@BerryResLife



@berrycollegeresidencelife

More information can be found in our online Move In Guide.

Residence Life  
706.236.2209  
residencelife@berry.edu  
berry.edu/stulife/rlife/



# FAQ STUDENT LIFE

Whether or not they will admit it, a key question many students will ask themselves as they begin their college journey in a new community is “where will I fit in?” Some students will jump right into the college experience, taking advantage of the many opportunities Berry offers to plug in to campus life. Others will step back, spend some time surveying their options, and then possibly wait until later in fall semester or even spring before committing themselves to additional activities. And finally, some students choose not to pursue any co-curricular activities but instead devote most of their time to academics and work. While we definitely place a priority on completing degree requirements, research shows that students who pursue involvement and make connections within their campus community are more likely to succeed both in and out of the classroom. Furthermore, these students are more satisfied with their college experience and more likely to persist and graduate from the institution. At Berry, we view involvement in extracurricular activities as an integral part of every student’s college experience.

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES

### What benefits are there for my student to be involved in community service and leadership?

Beyond making connections with their new community, being engaged with campus life offers many benefits to students. We recently asked freshmen to identify what they gained from being involved during their first year, and they said:

- Make Friends
- Explore New or Continued Interests
- Gain Time Management Skills
- Battle Homesickness
- Have FUN While Learning About Berry

Similarly, we asked seniors what they took away from their out-of-class experiences. Some of their top answers included:

- Explore Career & Vocation Interests
- Gain Leadership & Teambuilding Experience
- Build Your Resume & the Berry Experiential Transcript
- Contribute Back to Your Community
- Create Berry Memories



### What types of student club or organizations can my student get involved in?

Berry offers NUMEROUS opportunities to be involved in campus. Here are just a few ways students can find their niche:

- 75 student organizations and interest groups
- Theatre productions, dance troupe performances and musical ensembles
- 15 different intramural sports
- Outdoor recreation trips and on-campus ropes course
- 27,000+ acres with hiking and biking trails, disc golf course, hammock zones and camp sites
- Campus media groups and forensics speech team
- 21 intercollegiate athletic teams
- Special community service days and on-going volunteer opportunities
- 15 religious organizations and dozens of weekly informal religious opportunities
- Viking Traditions such as Mountain Day and Marthapalooza, Late Nights, Spring Formal, Casino Night, Rage in the Cage and Finals Fest
- Student leadership roles and programs, including Student Government and KCAB, the programming board
- Over 200 weekend events annually

### As a parent, what can I do to help my student find their “niche” at Berry?

As parents, you can encourage your student to try something new, to stay on weekends and attend events, and take advantage of all that Berry offers over their four years. Suggest attending the fall Student Involvement Fair and/or the annual Leadership and Involvement Week if your student is unsure of what they are interested in getting involved with. If your student is not sure where to start or

needs help making those connections, the Student Activities Office is a great resource to use!

Student Activities Office 706.236.2293  
berry.edu/student-life/activities-and-organizations

## RELIGION IN LIFE

### Does Berry have a campus minister or any religious groups for students?

Berry was founded on the commitment to be “forever Christian in Spirit.” We welcome people from diverse religious traditions and are committed to helping students from different backgrounds find ways to express their faith. Berry has never had a denominational statement of faith. Instead, we pledge an interdenominational, ecumenical approach to Christian faith and values. We also seek unity and cooperation among the various groups, especially in the area of service to others. Berry students consistently put their faith into action, living out the college’s scriptural motto: “not to be ministered unto, but to minister.”

The Chaplain’s Office is run by Rev. Jonathan Huggins, Ph.D., who serves as the College Chaplain. He is also an Adjunct Professor of Religion at Berry. His Assistant Chaplain Rev. Deacon Erin Faith Moniz and their staff of student workers create and support diverse religious opportunities for the Berry Community to experience the Head, Heart, and Hands of religious life.

All Religious Life is voluntary. Students can be involved as much or as little as they desire, though occasions to discuss matters of faith permeate the campus. Engagement with opportunities for spiritual development on campus is one of many ways our students can foster a sense of vocation — an integration of the head, heart, and hands that will empower them for a lifetime of service. Each week, there are several religious life activities on campus.

**Evensong:** Bi-weekly Wednesday night worship service

**Catholic Mass:** Regular Sunday Mass officiated by a visiting Roman Catholic priest each week

**Student-Led Clubs:** Including but not limited to, Baptist Collegiate Ministries, Buddhist Student Group, Campus Outreach, Canterbury Club, Catholic Student Association, Exaltation, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, In His Name Gospel Choir, and Wesley Foundation

**Other Opportunities:** Events and discipleship through the

# FAQ STUDENT LIFE

WinShape College Program or Young Life of Rome, GA.

**Chaplain’s Office** 706.368.2878  
ChaplainsOffice@berry.edu  
berry.edu/religiouslife/

**98%** of all students work at some point during their time at Berry

## LIFEWORKS EXPERIENCE

Through Berry’s LifeWorks program, students have guaranteed access to eight semesters of paid, professional development experience, right on campus, starting on day one — exploring careers, building relationships and taking a hands-on role in their own education.

### How many students work on campus?

Today, 98% of Berry students work at some point during their Berry career, an average of 10 hours a week, earning an average of \$9,000 by the time they graduate.

### Why should my student work on campus?

Students learn valuable skills including dependability, taking initiative, problem solving, customer service, and accountability through their student work experience. They learn all of this while being in a work environment that understands and supports the challenges of being a college student. More importantly, students can use their on-campus job experiences to guide them as they develop career interests and goals.

**LifeWorks Program:** 706.236.2245  
berry.edu/about/student-work



# FAQ STUDENT HEALTH AND COUNSELING

## What services are provided by the Student Health Center?

The Health Center operates much like an urgent care center and can perform tests such as flu, mono, strep, hemoglobin, and urine analysis, as well as refer students to local doctors as needed for physical exams.

The Director of the Health Center is a Family Nurse Practitioner who can provide acute procedures in the clinic, can order diagnostic tests to be completed outside of the clinic as well as phone in prescriptions to local pharmacies. While the Health Center is not an emergency care center, we can be your student's first stop for health care services.

## Does my student have to have an appointment to be seen at the Health Center?

While students do not have to have an appointment to be seen, it is more expedient if they schedule an appointment online. They can do so via our Health and Wellness App, Healthy Life-Berry Strong or at our website.

## Can my student get their flu shot at the Health Center?

Flu shots are provided for free to students during the month of October. They will be emailed when the shots arrive

## Can I know that my student has been seen at the Health Center?

Your student's information is kept confidential in the same manner it would be at an off-campus provider. The Health Center staff will not discuss your student's records without their consent.

## Is there a cost to my student seeing a nurse?

There is no additional cost to see the nurse practitioner, nurse, or doctor except for lab tests or other diagnostics that must be sent off campus.

## Where should my student go if the Health Center is closed?

Non-emergencies will seldom need attention outside of regular hours, however, Rome has great medical facilities including two hospitals as well as walk-in health care facilities.

**Floyd Medical Center** located at 304 Turner McCall Blvd, Rome, GA 30165.

**Redmond Regional Medical Center** located at 501 Redmond Rd, Rome, GA 30165.

**Harbin Clinic Immediate Care** located at 1825 Martha Berry Blvd NE is open seven days a week, 8:30 a.m.-8 p.m.

**Floyd Urgent Care** located at 302 Shorter Ave NW is open seven days a week from 8:00am-7:45pm (Mon-Fri) and 9 a.m.-7:45 p.m. (Sat-Sun)

## What services are provided by the Counseling Center?

The counselors are licensed mental health providers as well as student development professionals who offer psychotherapy and counseling for a wide range of issues.

For mental health concerns, they provide psychotherapy with students receiving treatment for the first time and with students who have a history of prior treatment. As needed, they make referrals, helping students find adjunctive or alternative providers.

For the normal stresses and decisions that come with transitioning to college and beyond or with any other life challenges, they provide listening and guidance.

The counselors also supervise a group of students called the Peer Educators, who provide award-winning educational programs on safe and healthy choices while enjoying the college experience.

## Can I know that my student is seeing a counselor?

Your student's information is kept confidential in the same manner it would be at an off-campus provider. The counselors will not discuss your student's records without their consent.

## Does my student have to have an appointment to be seen at the Counseling Center, and is there a cost?

Appointments are needed to be seen and scheduling one is quick and easy. Students can come to the Ladd Center or call 706.236.2259 (ext. 2259 on campus) for an appointment. Teresa Czekalla, our office manager, strives to offer appointments within a week of your student's request. Counseling services are covered in the student fees.

### HEALTH & COUNSELING CENTER STAFF

#### HEALTH CENTER

Emma Cordle  
*Director and Nurse Practitioner*

Melanie Merrin, RN  
*Assistant Director*

Dr. James Douglas

706.236.2267

berry.edu/student-life/life-on-campus/health-center

#### COUNSELING CENTER

Becca Smith  
*Director and Psychologist*

Terri Cordle, *Counselor*

Carley Price, *Counselor*

Teresa Czekalla,  
*Office Manager*

706.236.2259

berry.edu/student-life/life-on-campus/counseling-center

# FAQ CAMPUS SAFETY

Berry College prides itself on providing a safe and secure campus for our students. The Berry College Police Department has state-certified police officers whose duties are integrated to provide law enforcement, crime prevention and parking control/enforcement. The department strives to contribute to the academic environment by performing professional law enforcement tasks with a positive, service oriented and educational approach.

## What does the Welcome Center include?

The Welcome Center serves as a visitor information center, an after-hours switchboard and an alarm-monitoring center. A Communication Center officer (dispatcher) or police officer is always on duty in the Welcome Center.

The dispatcher monitors incoming vehicle traffic at night, allowing only Berry personnel, students and authorized guests to enter campus. Routine and emergency telephone and radio communications are handled here.

## How will I be informed if there is an emergency on campus?

Berry ALERT is the college's emergency notification system, which enables emergency, inclement weather, or college closing information to be broadcast to the entire college community, via text and email. Students are automatically enrolled in Berry Alert. If you'd like to receive alerts, your student can register your email/number via the Berry Alert form found in Forms and Reports within the Student tab in VikingWeb.

## What type of security exists in the residence halls?

Security begins at the Welcome Center, where non-Berry decal holders are all screened. All our residence halls are on a card access system that works with the student's ID card. All Residential Halls are locked 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

## How is my student educated on safety?

Berry is committed to providing a welcoming environment for all members of our community. Students receive safety education through a variety of sources, including residence hall programs, Peer Educator programs, and orientation activities.

As a part of Berry's sexual violence prevention initiatives, all incoming students are required to complete Haven: Understanding Sexual Assault. This online module introduces students to the dynamics of sexual assault and how to prevent it through bystander intervention.

## How do I get into campus?

Campus visitors have their Driver's License scanned at the Welcome Center. If you, or another family member, are interested in a decal to visit campus, they may purchase a guest decal at the Welcome Center during regular business hours.

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS TO KNOW

### EMERGENCY

706.236.2262 (Campus extension 2262)

### NON-EMERGENCY

706.368.6999 (Campus extension 6999)

### DEAN OF STUDENTS

706.236.2207 (Campus extension 2207)

## Can my student have a car on campus?

Yes! Students may have a car on campus, but we encourage all students to bring and use their bicycles. Student vehicles are required to have the proper decals to be able to park and gain access to campus. Students must also register their bicycles through Campus Safety.

## In case of emergency, does my student dial 911?

We ask all members of the Berry community to call the Welcome Center in case of emergency. The dispatcher has direct contact with the Rome/Floyd 911 Center for prompt response to fire and medical emergencies.

## IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

**Emergency:** 706.236.2262 (Campus extension 2262).

This is the number to our dispatch center. It is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, every day of the year. All calls to this extension are recorded.

**Non-emergency:** 706.368.6999 (Campus extension 6999). This is an administrative number and is in operation Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., excluding college holidays.

## Do officers patrol campus?

Officers patrol the campus, 24 hours a day/7 days a week, via marked patrol units, bicycles and by foot. In addition to patrol duties, officers investigate traffic accidents and alleged crimes, assist in medical emergencies, provide limited motorist assistance, enforce campus parking/traffic regulations, and provide support to numerous campus activities and events.



## BAKED GOODS

### Is there a service that I can order and deliver a care package to my student?

The Berry College Student Government Association offers the baked goods care package program. Parents can purchase goodies to make your students feel at home. All the treats are made by local bakery Honeymoon Bakery and delivered to your student.

Visit [berry.edu/parents/carepackages/](http://berry.edu/parents/carepackages/) to order a care package. If you have any questions, feel free to email SGA at [sga@berry.edu](mailto:sga@berry.edu).

## BUSINESS SERVICES

### Student Financial Services Center

Student Financial Services assists students with questions regarding their financial accounts. All billings and statements are generated from this office.

**Student Account Center** – [www.berry.afford.com](http://www.berry.afford.com)

Access your student's tuition account information here, set up a payment plan, make payments, and view statements. *\*\*Your student will have to grant you access\*\**

### What are my tuition payment options?

- Payment in full can be made online through the Student Account Center at [www.berry.afford.com](http://www.berry.afford.com) using a checking/savings account or credit card or by mailing a check to the Berry College Cashier's Office, P.O. Box 490129, Mount Berry, GA 30149-0129.
- Four- or five-month deferred payment plan through our third party vendor, Tuition Management Systems (TMS), at [berry.afford.com](http://berry.afford.com) using checking/savings or credit card.
- Visit [berry.edu/business/tuition/](http://berry.edu/business/tuition/) for tuition payment instructions

### What are the Tuition Payment Deadlines?

#### Fall Semester 2021

July 10 – payment in full or enrollment in a payment plan with first installment made

#### Spring Semester 2022

December 10 – payment in full or enrollment in a payment plan with first installment made



### What does the Cashier's Office do?

- Cash Berry College checks and third party checks (\$300 limit on third party checks)
- Student Bank Account – vehicle fines, library fees, and other student charges are applied to this account.
- Open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., located in Hermann Hall

**Student Financial Services** 706.236.2252  
[studentaccounts@berry.edu](mailto:studentaccounts@berry.edu)

## BOOKSTORE

The Shipyard — Berry's student-operated campus store— is stocked with apparel, gifts, supplies and convenience items. The Shipyard has all of your Berry needs, whether it is a Berry t-shirt, hoodie, hat, decal or mug.

### How do students buy their textbooks for a course?

Working with eCampus, Berry has established a partnership so that students can purchase course materials online. Students can go to <https://berry.ecampus.com> to order textbooks and courseware for the semester. Books are then sent to the campus store, and students can pick them up at The Shipyard when they arrive. Eligible students can apply their book vouchers and awards; eCampus offers a price match guarantee, and students can return books up to 30 days from the start of class. eCampus also provides an

## DINING

### Why does Berry have a required meal plan for every student?

Berry values community and building relationships between all students whether they are residential or commuters. We feel those relationships are best developed around the dining table. Here students are able to casually grow existing relationships and develop new ones which will last a lifetime.

### Can Dining Services accommodate my student's allergy restrictions or dietary preferences?

Yes! Dining services works with students that have allergies. We have lots to offer the Vegetarian and Vegan lifestyles as well. The best place to start is to encourage your student to make an appointment with the General Manager of Dining Services to explore the best options for their needs.

### What dining plan options are available to my student?

Required dining plan options are determined based on your student's academic class status as well as residential or commuter selections. Visit the Tuition and Fees website to determine options based on these criteria.

### What comes with the unlimited dining plan?

Unlimited dining plan members can enter the dining hall as many times as they want to whenever it is open for meals or even just a snack. The dining hall is open from 7a.m. – 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. on Fridays. Saturday and Sunday Brunch is from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. and dinner is from 4 – 7 p.m. The plan also comes with \$150 in Flex Bucks per semester. Flex Bucks can be used at any dining location in Viking Court and the Memorial Library. These locations include Chick-fil-A, Subway, Starbucks, and POD Convenience Stores just to name a few.

### Can I add Flex Bucks to my account if I need more?

Yes. Flex Bucks can be added through a link online at [www.berrydining.com](http://www.berrydining.com) or can be done in person at the cashiers office in Hermann Hall.

### Are there benefits to working in Dining Services?

Yes. Students that work for dining services have several benefits. Student workers that work at least 12 hours a week for Dining Services enjoy a discounted rate for the unlimited meal plan and start out earning higher wages than other entry-level jobs on campus.

on-site book buyback event at the end of each semester. Order your books, and have them shipped to Berry in a single box. Then pick them up at the campus store.

### What are the options for purchasing textbooks through eCampus?

**New:** New books are often part of a package that includes an access code. If the instructor requires an access code for the course, they can either buy a new package or purchase a used book and separate access code.

**Used:** eCampus strives to carry as many used books to reduce the cost of textbooks.

**Rental:** Rent it, Use it, Return it. Rental requires a credit card for collateral, which is charged if the book is not returned. Students can highlight and take notes in rented books, but they must be returned in sellable condition, with no torn pages or water damage.

**eBook:** Many textbooks have digital versions available for students who do not want a physical copy of the book. Digital versions often include access codes for additional materials and resources from the publisher.

### Does my student have to buy their books through eCampus?

No. However, buying books through eCampus has advantages such as their price match guarantee, easy returns, and textbook buyback event at the end of each semester.





# FAQ CAMPUS SERVICES

## FINANCIAL AID

The Office of Financial Aid assists students with questions regarding their federal, state and institutional financial assistance. Students can view their financial aid awards through their VikingWeb account online. Information is updated regularly and provides details regarding awards, document status, important messages, loan details and instructions.

Students are encouraged to meet their financial aid counselor who will work with them throughout their time at Berry.

**Financial Aid Office** 706.236.2276 or 1.800.682.3779  
financialaid@berry.edu

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

### What are Berry's computer requirements?

Any computer, tablet or smartphone purchased within the last two years should be able to connect to the college network. Older devices will most likely have no issues, but may require additional configuration. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that their computers are free from viruses and spyware and that data is backed up on a regular basis (there are free sources for this on the Internet). Important: If your student's computer does not meet these requirements and becomes infected, they risk losing Internet access due to the virus/malware infection.

### Is there wireless throughout campus?

Wireless access is available in all academic buildings and residence halls on campus. Berry Guest wireless network is

intended for visitors requiring basic web access and provides lower bandwidth service. The Berry wireless network provides students with secure authenticated access to network resources along with higher bandwidth required for streaming media. Any wireless access points, routers and other network equipment that are not configured and managed by the College will create significant issues that prevent residents from receiving a quality network experience. It is the College's policy that these devices are prohibited and will be disconnected without notice from the network when they are detected. Repeated policy violations may result in disciplinary action per the Viking Code, including referral to the Dean of Student's office.

### What software programs are available to my student?

Microsoft Office Web Apps (Word, Excel, etc.) are available to all students at no charge through their OneDrive account. Should your student wish to install Office on their computer, it will be available for download on their Office 365 Vikings email account available at mail.berry.edu. Students have access to free and low-cost anti-virus, Adobe products, etc. through berry.onthehub.com.

### What does my student do if they have computing issues?

The Office for Information Technology wants to make your student's technology experience as easy and seamless as possible. Encourage your student to report any issues to computing@berry.edu or stop by the Technical Support Desk in Memorial Library for assistance.

For additional information on these topics, please visit berry.edu/oit. Please see the college's Acceptable Use Policy at berry.edu/policies.



# NAVIGATING THE FIRST YEAR

The first year of college is a period of transition as new students learn to live on their own, meet new social, academic and personal challenges, and encounter new ideas and new people. While there have been other transitions in your student's life, this one is likely to be unique in that for the first time, you must witness these changes from a distance. Having some idea of the challenges your student will face can help you respond effectively. While no two students will experience freshman year in quite the same way, the chart below outlines some of the predictable high and low moments for a typical first semester at Berry.

Time	Typical Experiences	Possible Responses	What Parents Can Do
Viking Venture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students move into residence halls, say good-bye to families</li> <li>First meeting with First-Year Seminar Class</li> <li>BOLD Beginnings</li> <li>Summer book discussion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Excitement</li> <li>Fear</li> <li>Loneliness</li> <li>Homesickness</li> <li>Self-doubt</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Listen.</li> <li>Encourage independence, but reassure your student that you are still part of their life.</li> <li>Listen to student's concerns. Don't try to talk them out of loneliness, homesickness, or fear. Let them know you have confidence in them. Remind them of past achievements.</li> <li>Encourage your student to view this time of life as an opportunity for discovery and growth.</li> <li>Inquire about specific events, i.e.: "How was the book discussion?" "How have you set up your room?"</li> </ul>
Week 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attend classes, receive syllabi, meet professors and classmates</li> <li>Begin campus job</li> <li>Add/drop period</li> <li>Begin to establish relationship with roommate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overwhelmed by academic expectations</li> <li>Difficulty learning to live with someone's habits</li> <li>Homesickness</li> <li>Worry about growing apart from family, old friends, boyfriend or girlfriend</li> <li>Enjoying new independence</li> <li>Excitement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Listen.</li> <li>Use email to stay in touch.</li> <li>Show genuine interest in student's experiences. Ask about classes and campus work.</li> <li>Encourage your student to get to know a variety of people at Berry.</li> <li>Encourage communication with roommates</li> <li>Avoid feeding fears.</li> <li>Encourage student to stay on campus for first few weekends.</li> </ul>
Week 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Settling into class/work routine</li> <li>Residence hall socials</li> <li>Exploring opportunities for campus involvement</li> <li>Developing time management habits</li> <li>First Year Service Day</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Questions about identity- where to do I fit in here?</li> <li>Homesickness</li> <li>Becoming more familiar with campus</li> <li>Enjoying classes, excited by new ideas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Listen.</li> <li>Inquire about course content, show interest in what they're learning.</li> <li>Send information about home, high school, friends.</li> <li>Ask about First Year Service Day.</li> </ul>



# NAVIGATING THE FIRST YEAR

Time	Typical Experiences	Possible Responses	What Parents Can Do
Weeks 3 & 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First papers, tests due</li> <li>• Developing study habits, forming study groups</li> <li>• Trying to keep up social activities, work and meet academic demands</li> <li>• May be neglecting sleep, health</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stress</li> <li>• Fatigue</li> <li>• Less homesick</li> <li>• Feeling a part of campus life and Berry community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listen.</li> <li>• Inquire about projects.</li> <li>• Send small care packages-healthy snacks, herb tea, a surprise.</li> </ul>
Week 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First papers and tests returned-reality check on academic performance</li> <li>• Sickness following lack of sleep, poor health habits and stress</li> <li>• Roommate tension may grow as stress increases and initial courtesy wears off</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disappointment with academic performance</li> <li>• Frustration-I always got A's in high school</li> <li>• Anger at professors</li> <li>• Self-doubt</li> <li>• Missing home and past life, especially if sick</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listen.</li> <li>• Avoid feeding negative feelings of inadequacy or anger.</li> <li>• Communicate high expectations as well as realistic perspective on college grades. Remind student (and yourself) that college is more demanding than high school.</li> <li>• Engage student in reflection about academic performance-i.e. "What do you think you did wrong?" "What can you do differently to do better on the next paper or test?"</li> <li>• Encourage student to seek help from professor.</li> <li>• If student is sick, encourage him or her to get help in the Health Center.</li> </ul>
Weeks 6 - 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mountain Day</li> <li>• Fall Break</li> <li>• Mid-term Exams</li> <li>• Mid-semester grades issues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excitement about going home for break</li> <li>• Stress</li> <li>• Difficulty managing social and academic demands</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listen.</li> <li>• Attend Mountain Day. Let your student show you around their new home.</li> <li>• Discuss mid-semester grades with student. Listen. Encourage the student to seek help from professors in courses that are challenging.</li> <li>• Encourage student to talk to their advisor about mid-semester grades.</li> <li>• Push your student to seek resources at the Academic Success Center.</li> </ul>
Weeks 9 - 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advisement and pre-registration</li> <li>• Thinking about declaring or changing major</li> <li>• May be running short of money</li> <li>• Final papers, projects assigned</li> <li>• First-Year Seminar ends</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anxiety if still unsure of major</li> <li>• Frustrated if unable to get into desired courses</li> <li>• Stressed with demands of work, school and social life. If student hasn't developed good time management by now, it shows</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listen.</li> <li>• Discuss interests, career goals. Don't push student to declare a major if they are not ready. Encourage student to visit the Center for Personal &amp; Professional Development to explore majors and careers.</li> <li>• Inquire about courses for next semester. Show interest.</li> <li>• Remind student that Thanksgiving Break is coming up. Include them in planning for the holiday.</li> </ul>

# NAVIGATING THE FIRST YEAR

Time	Typical Experiences	Possible Responses	What Parents Can Do
Week 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thanksgiving Break</li> <li>• Connect with old friends</li> <li>• Sleep</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relief</li> <li>• Excitement at seeing old friends</li> <li>• May be reluctant to go back to school after the holiday</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listen.</li> <li>• Expect student to spend some time with family, but leave enough time for them to visit with high school friends.</li> <li>• Do laundry, cook favorite dishes, make them feel special.</li> </ul>
Weeks 13 & 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final papers, projects due</li> <li>• Holiday social events</li> <li>• All-nighters</li> <li>• Relationship with friends, boyfriend/girlfriend, roommates strained by stress</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Happy or depressed about returning to school after Thanksgiving Break</li> <li>• Overwhelmed by all that needs to be done in the next two weeks</li> <li>• Excited about social activities</li> <li>• Fatigue and stress</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listen.</li> <li>• Help student maintain perspective and realistic expectations.</li> <li>• Discuss plans for winter break.</li> <li>• Another good time for a care package.</li> </ul>
Week 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Exams</li> <li>• Packing to go home</li> <li>• Holiday shopping</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anxiety about first college finals</li> <li>• Fatigue and stress</li> <li>• Excited to be going home</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listen.</li> <li>• Let student know you're proud of them for having a successful first semester.</li> <li>• Help student plan strategies for a successful second semester.</li> <li>• Establish ground rules for winter break. Include them in discussion of family holiday plans.</li> </ul>





# Top 10

## Things to do When You Visit Your Student

- 1. Enjoy a Meal at Your Student's Favorite Restaurant**  
Suggestions include: Harvest Moon Sunday Brunch or enjoy a falafel at Jerusalem Grill.
- 2. Watch the Mountain Day March**  
Always the first weekend in October, this celebration of Martha Berry's birthday began over 100 years ago and is Berry College's Homecoming Weekend.
- 3. Visit Oak Hill Museum and Gardens**
- 4. Explore the Dewey and Irene Large Science Museum in McAllister Hall**
- 5. Hike Campus**  
House o' Dreams and the Reservoir are must sees before your student graduates.
- 6. Attend an athletic event**  
With over 100 on-campus events, there is always a sporting event to watch.
- 7. Bike Viking Trail**  
No bike? No problem! Bikes can be rented through the Cottages at Berry.
- 8. See a show at Sister's Theatre**  
Schedule and ticket purchases can be found by visiting [berry.ticketspice.com/bctc-tickets](http://berry.ticketspice.com/bctc-tickets).
- 9. Explore Possum Trot**  
Built in 1850, the Possum Trot Church was the site of Martha Berry's Possum Trot Sunday School from 1900-1954. The people at Possum Trot and the surrounding areas inspired Martha Berry to build the Berry schools in 1902.
- 10. Go to the top of the Clocktower in downtown Rome**



## FALL SEMESTER

- July 10:** Payment in full or enrollment in a payment plan with first installment made
- Aug. 19-20:** First-year Student Move-In Day
- Aug. 23:** Classes begin
- Dec. 10:** Payment in full or enrollment in a payment plan with first installment made  
Halls Close at 6 p.m. for Winter Break

## SPRING SEMESTER

- Jan. 10:** Halls Open at 8 a.m.
- May 4:** Halls close at 6 p.m. to students not involved in Commencement
- May 7:** Halls Close at 6 p.m. to students involved in Commencement

