Fast Facts

Founded in 1855 by Abolitionist minister Reverend John G. Fee, Berea was the first interracial and coeducational college in the South. Berea awards four-year tuition scholarships to all its students who, because of financial circumstances, cannot otherwise afford a high-quality, residential, liberal arts education. The work program has been an integral part of Berea’s educational program for more than a century.

- The College’s motto is “God has made of one blood all peoples of the earth.” (Acts 17:26)
- About 75% of Berea’s operating expenses are covered by the College’s endowment. The rest, about $5 million, must be raised annually.
- 71% of Berea College students come from Kentucky and Appalachia, and more than half (58%) are first-generation college students.
- Berea College’s students come from families with an average annual income of less than $30,000.
- In Fall 2018, 58% of Berea College students had an expected family contribution (EFC) of $0, meaning their parents cannot afford to pay anything toward their education. In addition, 96% of domestic Berea College students received federal Pell grants.
- Washington Monthly has named Berea College No. 1 in affordability for four consecutive years (2015-2018).
- Well-known alumni include Carter G. Woodson, the Father of Black History Month, and John Fenn, winner of the 2002 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.
- Berea has a commitment to environmental sustainability: “Deep Green” residence hall is the highest-scoring LEED-certified residence hall in the world; Boone Tavern is the first LEED-certified hotel in Kentucky; and the Ecovillage – a sustainable student housing complex near campus – is the first of its kind in Kentucky.

1,600

All 1,600 students receive a Tuition Promise Scholarship, valued at $39,000 per year, which means that most students can graduate with little or no debt.

#1

Washington Monthly has named Berea College the No. 1 liberal arts college in the nation for the past three years.
AN EDUCATION THAT WORKS
Promoting the purposeful integration of Work – Learning – Service

LOW DEBT & CAREER READY*

49.6%
of 2018 graduates had ZERO debt!

69%
of 2018 graduates had less than $10,000 in student loan debt

64.8%
of full-time degree seeking students are PELL eligible

5000
The number of full-time students participating in the comprehensive work-learning-service program (per federal regulation).

13:1
The average student faculty ratio

WHAT EMPLOYERS WANT

1. Problem solving skills
2. Ability to work in a team
3. Communication skills (written)
4. Leadership
5. Strong work ethic
6. Analytical skills
7. Communication skills (verbal)
8. Initiative
9. Detail oriented
10. Flexibility and adaptability

Source: Job Outlook 2018 | National Association of Colleges and Employers | www.nace.org

WORK COLLEGES PREPARE AND DELIVER

91%
of the respondents* agreed that the Work Program experience helped to develop/strengthen problem-solving skills.

87%
of the respondents* agreed that the Work Program experience helped to develop/strengthen skills for working cooperatively in groups/teams.

90%
of the respondents* agreed that the Work Program experience helped to develop/strengthen communication skills.

89%
of the respondents* agreed that the Work Program experience helped to develop/strengthen leadership skills.

85%
of the respondents* agreed that the Work Program experience helped to develop/strengthen work ethic.

*Spring 2018 Graduates from Berea College, Blackburn College, College of the Ozarks, and Warren Wilson College.

www.workcolleges.org | 859-985-3156
Berea not only admits students, it hires each of them. Berea students all work a minimum of 10 hours a week in one of 112 labor departments that serve the institution. Students earn money, gain valuable work experience and learning, and contribute to the stewardship of College operations. 100% of Berea College students graduate with an academic and a labor transcript. And when combined with a resume, these transcripts provide the validation of a high-quality liberal arts education and the attainment of work/soft skills.
Berea Made the Lists...

- Berea named the **No. 1 liberal arts college** in the nation three consecutive years — by Washington Monthly, 2016-2018
- Berea named “**best value institution**” - Wall Street Journal and Times Higher Education, 2018
- Top 50 **Best Schools for African Americans** — Essence Magazine, 2016
- Top of the list for colleges with **least student debt**, U.S. News & World Report, 2016
- **#1 in affordability**, MONEY Magazine, 2017
- Berea is #1 for the **lowest average student debt** at graduation, Kiplinger’s Personal Finance, 2018
- Princeton Review listed Berea in the top seven percent of “**Colleges That Pay You Back: The 200 Schools That Give You the Best Bang for Your Tuition Buck**” and named Berea among the Top Green Colleges for sustainability
- One of the “**Best 10 Colleges for the Money**” — USA Today
- Berea featured as “The Little College Where Tuition is Free and Every Student is Given a Job” — The Atlantic, 2018
- CBS News featured Berea in a national story on Debt-Free Degrees — CBS This Morning: Saturday, 2019

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**By the Numbers**

**15,541**

hours worked by students each week (2017-2018 academic year)

**#1**

liberal arts college in the nation

**100%**

First-time pass rate for national council licensure for nursing graduates

**416**

students on the Dean’s List in Fall 2018

**32,720**

hours in 2016-2017 contributed by students to the community through service-learning courses and community service

Berea College has been recognized for and is focused on helping students graduate with little or no debt. According to the Student Loan Debt Report compiled by lendedu.com, the Berea College 2017 graduates are ranked:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>#1</th>
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<th>#8</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>lowest student debt figure in Kentucky</td>
<td>lowest student debt figures for all U.S. private institutions</td>
<td>lowest student debt figures in the United States</td>
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[www.berea.edu](http://www.berea.edu)  |  859-985-3212