

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### Why work at Berry?

Instilling respect for worthwhile work well done has been an integral part of Berry's "Head, Heart, and Hands" mission since 1902 and is still a key objective of Berry's current strategic plan. At Berry, student work is more than just assigning students simple tasks in exchange for pay. Our program provides a unique opportunity to develop work skills, reinforce classroom learning, and contribute to the operation of the campus—all while earning wages to help offset the cost of attending college. The Work Program has three objectives:

1. Teach work and leadership skills through Berry's Developmental Work Model.
2. Provide experiential learning opportunities related to students' interests.
3. Ensure the safe operation of campus facilities and services.

### Who can work?

Regardless of financial need, all full-time undergraduate students are encouraged to work at least 10 hours per week.

### How are jobs obtained?

New students complete a work qualification/application form and are typically assigned positions in the large campus service operations such as grounds, food services, and housekeeping. After their first semester, students can choose to remain at their initial work site or can choose to apply for open positions posted on the Student Work web site.

### How does the work program relate to academics?

The work experience at Berry enhances the education of students by teaching work, supervisory, and management skills. Many students will also eventually have a position that is directly related to their academic studies. The positions include research and laboratory assistants, dairy and beef cattle workers, elementary school teachers, etc. Also, all work sites offer opportunities for students to test theories learned in the classroom. Finally, students can enhance classroom discussions by drawing upon their experiences in the work setting. Research shows that students who work on a college campus up to 20 hours per week tend to do better academically and have a better retention rate than those who do not work on campus.

### What questions should academic advisors ask?

It is important for the academic advisor to know as much about the student's plans for the semester as possible. This includes work schedules as well as extracurricular activities which will be taking some of the student's time.

1. Do you plan to work next semester? On or off campus?
2. How many hours do you plan to work? Freshmen should not work more than 15 hours per week. Upper-class students may work up to 20 hours per week. The academic advisor must approve any request to work over 20 hours per week.
3. Where do you plan to work? This is important in terms of the kind of schedule a student will need. Many departments need students to work longer blocks of time while others, such as food services, need students during specific times.
4. What work schedule will you have? Since students know their work schedules before their class schedules, classes can be scheduled around the work schedule where possible.
5. What work experiences are you planning for future semesters? Students can search a database of positions by major, department, and classification level.

