

## **The Student Community**

Students at Berry College enjoy the privileges and responsibilities of self-governance. The Student Government Association handles matters concerning the general welfare of the student body, subject to the supervision of the Student Life Council. The association, through its officers elected by the students, provides an educational experience that enables students to have the opportunity to grow in their knowledge and use of the basic democratic process. Every student is a member of the Student Government Association.

## **Counseling Center**

The Counseling Center offers a variety of services for personal and academic concerns. Individual counseling is the center's primary service, and counselors adhere to a policy that assures confidentiality. Other services include group counseling, outreach programs, peer education and testing. The resource library includes books, pamphlets, software, audiotapes and videotapes on topics related to personal development and academic skills. When appropriate, referrals are made to other agencies on or off campus.

The Counseling Center provides and fosters leadership in the prevention of drug and alcohol abuse and other health and wellness issues at Berry and in the surrounding community. Through the student-work-opportunity program, counselors hire, train and supervise a team of Berry students called Peer Educators who provide educational programs to promote responsible choices, attitudes and behavior. To support this cause further, the Counseling Center actively supports the Health and Wellness Concerns Committee and serves at-risk students through counseling and referral.

The Counseling Center is committed to promoting student development intellectually, spiritually, socially and emotionally. This commitment both complements and supports students' academic learning experiences.

The director of the Counseling Center administers all services and programs of the office under the direct supervision of the associate vice president for student affairs.

## **Multicultural and International Student Support**

The Associate Dean of Students Office exists to foster a supportive environment for international students and students of color to live, learn and grow as active members of the academic community. Its responsibility is to implement programs and activities, thereby creating a more informed understanding of cultural awareness on campus.

The associate dean of students serves as the chair of the Multicultural Student Committee. The associate dean also serves as advisor to the Black Student Alliance organization and the International Club.

The associate dean sponsors and coordinates programs such as the Cultural House, Pathways, PLUS (Preparing Leaders for Ultimate Success), Multicultural Student Reception, Welcome Back Pack Program, Day of Dialogue, MLK Celebration and Black History Month activities,

International Fair and the host family program.

The associate dean administers all services and programs of the office under the direct supervision of the vice president for student affairs.

## **Religion in Life**

Berry College believes that an educational experience should include growth in the understanding of the meaning of life. Through voluntary participation in Berry's religion-in-life programs and the Christian foundation of the campus community, it is intended that each student will experience the openness, concern and responsible freedom to facilitate personal spiritual growth.

The college is a specifically Christian institution in purpose, although nonsectarian in character. The college chaplain serves as minister to all persons on the campus and is available as a trained counselor. Services of Protestant, Christian worship is held in the Berry College Chapel each Sunday of the academic year for the entire Berry community. Roman Catholic mass is celebrated each Sunday evening. Information on the programs of the local synagogue and various churches is coordinated through the chaplain's office. Local places of worship participate in Berry's Worship Opportunities Fair, where students learn of the community's many ministries.

Mount Berry Church (MBC) is an interdenominational, Christian congregation serving the campus community. Prompted by its motto to "follow humbly, love boldly," MBC provides ministries of Christian worship, discipleship, fellowship and outreach. Weekly worship services are offered Sunday evenings in College Chapel. Berry's chaplain serves as the pastor of the congregation, and several student leaders oversee the church's many ministries.

The Interfaith Council provides religious programs and opportunities to ensure that Berry is welcoming to all people regardless of their religious background. Educational programs are offered to inform the campus about diverse religious traditions, and assistance is given to students looking for a specific religious community in the area.

The religion-in-life program is guided by a Religion-in-Life Advisory Council (RiLAC) composed of students, faculty and staff. Lectures, service projects and special-emphasis programs by guest leaders are a part of the total religion-in-life emphasis.

Various student organizations, such as the Baptist Collegiate Ministry, Catholic Students Association, Canterbury Club, Campus Outreach, Presbyterian Student Fellowship, Heirway, Exaltation, In His Name Gospel Choir, Wesley Foundation, Habitat for Humanity and others, provide an opportunity for further denominational or interdenominational activities.

## **Career Center**

The Career Center provides a variety of resources and services to assist students in making academic and career decisions. Students are encouraged to visit the Career Center early during their college lives and become involved in activities that promote career exploration, jobs skills development, and life-long learning. The center provides assistance with career-related decisions, identifying career shadowing and internship opportunities, applying to graduate/professional school, and developing job-search campaigns.

The Career Center offers individual career advising sessions, a variety of on-line resources to supplement career library holdings, assistance with preparing resumes and cover letters, graduate school applications, networking, interview preparation, interviews with on-campus recruiters, on and off campus career fairs, and special workshops and career events. By registering with the career center on-line, students have access to career management software, including internship and job listings, and document management resources. Services provided by the Career Center are available to graduates as well as currently enrolled students. Additional information regarding the Career Center is available at [www.berry.edu/stulife/career](http://www.berry.edu/stulife/career).

## **Health and Wellness Center**

Prior to enrollment at Berry College, each student must complete a health-history/immunization record form. Services can be rendered in the Ladd Center only when this form is on file. All information contained in the student's record is strictly confidential.

The college provides limited medical care on campus. Registered nurses are on duty from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The college physician visits the campus three times a week for an hour each visit to see students with appointments. Students needing treatment for minor injuries and illness receive out-patient care in the Health and Wellness Center.

Students are referred to off-campus facilities for treatment for more serious injuries or illness. Medical care at facilities other than the Health and Wellness Center and ambulance services are the students' financial responsibility.

Students are required to participate in a group accident-sickness hospitalization plan unless proof of coverage is received. Complete details of the plan may be obtained from the office of the dean of students or from the Health and Wellness Center.

The director of the Health and Wellness Center administers all services and programs of the center under the direct supervision of the associate vice president for student affairs and the medical director.

## **Residence Life**

The concept of residence halls embodies much more than mere residential accommodations. The residence-hall community is an integral part of the college. Residence within this

community implies certain obligations and standards of citizenship. When these obligations and standards are met, a meaningful experience will result. A large measure of responsibility is delegated to residents through their elected officers and representatives in the areas of social life, extracurricular activities, discipline and the protection of college property.

The college maintains residence halls for approximately 1,700 students. All residence halls are air-conditioned.

Berry College recognizes that every experience of college life is an integral part of the education of the students. In keeping with this ideal, residence halls are designed and staffed to provide facilities that are stimulating to personal, social and academic growth.

All residence halls are staffed with student resident assistants (RAs) whose general responsibilities are to make the residential experience as worthwhile, as productive and as pleasant as possible. The RAs assist students with academic and personal problems and/or refer them to the appropriate resource persons on campus. The RA is an official staff member who is also charged with maintaining order in the living areas.

Each room is equipped with single beds, desks, chairs, dressers or chests, and mirrors. Rooms are equipped for telephone and cable-television accessibility. All residence halls have the capability to connect to the Internet and e-mail. The student must supply a pillow, sheets, pillowcases, bedspread, blankets and towels as well as the necessary personal articles.

The residence halls are furnished with card as well as coin-operated washers and dryers. Residence halls have kitchenettes equipped with stoves and microwave ovens that allow students to cook light meals. Ice machines and vending machines are also provided for the students' convenience. Living rooms in the residence halls are available for relaxation and various social events. Study rooms are also available for private or group study.

Berry College is a residential college, and students are expected to live on campus unless given permission to do otherwise.

The housing contract is binding for the entire academic year and may not be terminated by the student. Students must live on campus unless they meet one of the following criteria:

- \* 25 years or older.
- \* Married.
- \* Residing with their parents within a 40-mile radius of Berry College.

If a student believes he or she meets one of these criteria, the student must complete an Off-Campus Application to request permission to move off campus before he or she may do so. Please note that this is an application process, and approval is not automatic. The Off-Campus Application may be accessed from the Residence Life website.

The Office of Residence Life communicates with new students about room assignments,

policies and roommates prior to enrollment. Information re-gard-ing room selection is distributed to returning students in the spring semester. Returning students who fail to select a room during room selection and are not approved to live off-campus will be assigned to a traditional room by the Office of Residence Life.

The Director of Residence Life manages all services and programs of the office under the direct supervision of the Vice President for Student Affairs.

## **Intramurals, Fitness, Outdoor Recreation and Athletics**

An extensive program of physical education, intramural, recreational sports, outdoor recreation and athletics helps students fulfill their needs in physical fitness, personal social development and competition. A wide range of activities is offered for students of varying abilities.

All students are required to participate in the health and physical-education program as part of their general-education requirements. This program includes individual and team sports, dance forms and outdoor-recreation activities.

Two gymnasiums; an expansive, well-equipped weight-training room; three sand volleyball courts; many running and hiking trails; 10 tennis courts (four lighted); numerous intramural fields; and many acres of land are available for student, faculty, staff and alumni enjoyment.

The intramural and recreation area of the department offers a wide range of activities in individual, dual and team sports for men and women as well as coed activities. Richards Gymnasium sponsors aerobic-exercise classes, water aerobics, intramural and an overall weight-training and fitness program. Some of the activities include basketball, flag football, softball, volleyball, golf, bowling, soccer, tennis and racquetball.

Intercollegiate varsity athletic competition offers student-athletes opportunities in both men's and women's sports. Programs for women include basketball, soccer, tennis, cross country, volleyball and golf. Programs for men include basketball, soccer, tennis, cross country, baseball and golf. Academic requirements must be met to be eligible for a varsity athletic team. Berry's athletic teams have achieved honors at the conference, regional and national levels.

The Cage Athletic and Recreation Center is slated for completion in February 2008. A multipurpose facility, it will house the Health and Physical Education, Athletics, Intramural and Recreation departments. A 25-meter pool, fitness and weight-training rooms, multipurpose courts, basketball courts, aerobics and fitness rooms, classrooms and a walking track will be located in the center.

The director of athletics administers all services and programs under the direct supervision of the vice president for student affairs.

## **Student Activities and Organizations**

To enhance its outside-the-classroom advantages, the college provides a number of student organizations and special activities in which students may become more adept in social and cultural areas, may learn more about subjects of particular interest to them, and may take added steps toward realizing their leadership potential.

These student organizations and activities have a wide range of interest areas, including music, drama, debate, business and the sciences; clubs and honor societies in various academic areas; student publications, with a newspaper, yearbook, closed-circuit television channel and literary magazine; and numerous service clubs as well as other groups centering around religious concerns. Full information on these varied activities of more than 60 organizations is provided in the student handbook, Viking Code. The Krannert Center Activities Board consisting of students, faculty and staff coordinates student activities open to the college community.

The director of student activities administers all services and programs of the office under the direct supervision of the vice president for student affairs.

## **New Student Orientation**

The Berry College orientation program for incoming freshmen and transfer students is a two-step process. The first step is called SOAR—**S**tudent **O**rientation **A**dvising and **R**egistration. SOAR is held during the month of June and is designed to assist incoming freshmen, transfers, and their families with the transition into the Berry community. Five overnight sessions are scheduled for 2009 starting on June 15th. Students register for SOAR sessions online, and each SOAR session can accommodate up to 100 students. All incoming freshmen, including commuter students, must attend a SOAR session. All new transfer students are highly encouraged to attend a June SOAR session as well.

The purpose of SOAR is the following:

- Become better acquainted with the Berry Community including programs, facilities, faculty, and staff
- Connect students with their academic advisor and complete registration for fall courses
- Introduce students to their work supervisor and review work description and schedule
- Meet the SOAR Leaders—16 upperclass students who will share their Berry experiences and facilitate small group discussions
- Establish new relationships with other new students
- Address question and provide resources to parents and/or other family members
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International students are invited to attend a special orientation program that will start Monday, August 17, 2009.

The second component of the Berry College orientation program is called Viking Venture. This is a continuation of the orientation activities provided at SOAR and takes place the week prior to the beginning of fall semester and continues on into the first week of classes. All new students—freshmen and transfers—participate in activities designed to welcome them to

campus, provide resources which will assist them in the transition to Berry College, and help them connect with their new peers, faculty, and staff. Many of the activities during Viking Venture take place within their first-year or transfer seminar (BCC 100) course and are coordinated by the Office of First-Year Experience. The total cost for the freshman and transfer orientation program is \$135, and this charge will be posted on your student account.

The Associate Vice President for Student Affairs is responsible for planning, evaluating, and administering new student orientation programs at Berry College.

### **Basic Policy on Student Life**

Berry College accepts responsibility for directing the academic, work- opportunity and religious programs for students. The college also accepts responsibility for the conduct and development of students. “Berry College” includes the Board of Trustees, the president, all faculty and staff, all students and all worthy traditions of this institution.

Every student is expected at all times to recognize constituted authority, to abide by the ordinary rules of good conduct, to be truthful, to respect the rights of others, to protect private and public property and to make the best use of time at Berry toward acquiring an education.

Every student has rights which are to be respected. These rights include respect for personal feelings, freedom from indignity of any type, freedom from control by any person or persons except those in proper authority and freedom from rules and regulations not authorized by authorities of Berry College. Every student is entitled to pursue opportunities available in this institution. No faculty or staff member or student, regardless of position or rank, shall violate these rights. Those persons who may become parties to violations, either by lack of positive preventive action or by participating in administering, or in submitting to indignity of any type, will be held personally responsible. Every effort will be made to eliminate any unjust customs, traditions and practices in conflict with these rights. It shall be the personal responsibility of every faculty or staff member and student to cooperate with other administrative officers, work supervisors and officers of the student government in carrying out the provisions of this basic policy.

### **Additional Policies**

In addition to the various policies of the college referenced elsewhere in this catalog, the following are important:

Students maintaining motor vehicles while at Berry must have them properly registered in the office of campus safety and must park in a student parking lot. Regulations for operation of vehicles on the campus may be found in the student handbook and in the traffic code.

The college does not permit the use or possession of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs on the campus. Visitation in college residence halls is provided on a limited basis.

The college may at any time require the withdrawal of a student whose conduct or general influence is considered harmful to the institution.

Berry College's annual security report includes statistics for the previous three years concerning reported crimes that occurred on campus, in certain off-campus buildings owned or controlled by Berry College, and on public property within, or immediately adjacent to and accessible from, the campus. The report also includes institutional policies concerning campus security, such as policies concerning alcohol and drug use, crime prevention, the reporting of crimes, sexual assault and other matters. A copy of this report may be obtained by contacting the Campus Safety Office or by accessing the following Web site:

<http://berry.edu/stulife/safety/>, then click on the link to the Campus Safety Report.

Additional policies concerning student conduct, including Computer Use and Ethics Code, may be found in Viking Code, the student handbook. A copy is available upon request in the office of the vice president for student affairs.