Dress Regulations for Women Students of Berea (1937)
by Orlela Daniels

Orlela Daniels was a member of the clothing class in 1937. This statement was revised and adopted by the Faculty Dress Committee in May of 1938.

Simplicity, good taste, and inexpensiveness should guide us in the selection of our clothes

The Administration is determined to keep Berea true to her purpose. We shall consider those students only as desirable who conform to our dress regulations and who support our simple and inexpensive program. Loyal cooperation of students in connection with these rules has proved to be a large factor in the maintenance of ideals of economy and democracy.

We are guided in our regulations for women by the following principles:

1. Dress should be suitable for the occasion.
2. Materials should be such as will give the most wear and can be laundered.
3. The dress should enhance and truly represent personality. It should not be so conspicuous as to draw attention to clothes rather than to the personality of the girl.
4. Berea girls are encouraged to buy for “dress” wear, clothes that can be worn later for school and second best.

General Rules
1. Cotton, linen, wool, and wool-like rayon only may be worn for dresses. (Rayon fabrics of a wool-like nature, such as alpaca and challis may be substituted for wool. Other types of rayon may not be used for dresses.)
2. Dresses of silk or silk-like rayon may not be worn.
3. Fur coats and fur jackets may not be worn.

Clothing for School
1. Simple dresses of cotton, linen, or wool are appropriate for school wear.
2. Wool skirts with sweaters or cotton or linen blouses give variety to the wardrobe.
3. Rayon underwear may be worn.

Clothing for Dress Occasion
1. Blouses of silk or rayon or a dress with upper part silk, may be worn for dress occasions.
2. Formal dress is not in keeping with Berea’s principles of simplicity and, therefore, may not be worn.
3. Simple afternoon dresses of street length are appropriate for any social occasion.

Note: Garments for “dress occasions” may be worn on Sundays, holidays, Monday afternoons, and after 4:30 p.m. on other days.

Clothing for Sports and Outings
1. For classes in Physical Education a special uniform is worn which must be bought at the College Store (to be worn for class work only).
2. For outings: knickers, slacks, and culottes may be worn. Shorts and pajamas may not be worn.
Shoes and Hose
1. Shoes
   a. Satin, velvet, or other fancy shoes may not be worn.
   b. Low heels are encouraged from the standpoint of health, comfort, and good habits of walking. Heels may be no higher than one and one-half inches, inside measurement. We strongly urge the girls to wear oxfords.
   c. *Soft-soled bedroom slippers without heels are required* for dormitory wear.
2. Hose
   Only cotton hose and anklets may be worn. Silk and wool mixtures may be worn in winter.

The Berea College Standard

“The Berea standard is the level of simple good taste in which it is possible for each girl to express her individuality in the most attractive and serviceable way in order to promote the highest efficiency in her threefold life of classes, work, and social activities.”

Berea College maintains a store where shoes, hose, and other clothing, conforming to these regulations, may be purchased at very reasonable prices.