

SUMMER TO-DO LIST FOR NEW COLLEGE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

By CollegiateParent



- Help your student make a list of expenses they'll have during the school year and create a budget. There are websites with free budget software (such as mint.com) and free or low-priced budgeting apps on iTunes (Pocket Budget, Toshl Finance and LearnVest to name a few).
- Consider opening a bank account near campus if your student's home bank doesn't have a convenient branch.

Before move-in day

- If living on campus, what is supplied with the room? (Check the college website.)
- Decide what to bring from home, borrow or buy. Basics include: clothing, toiletries, laundry detergent, bedding (extra-long twin), pillows, towels, a backpack and school supplies.
- Connect with roommate(s) about shared items.
- Confirm the date/time of move-in and any Welcome Week programming.
- Plan a family celebration to mark this important milestone!

On move-in day

- Your student will receive instructions about how and when they can move into the residence hall. Arrive early in the time slot.
- Let your student take the lead during the process but be available to help.
- They may want to say goodbye quickly or they may have trouble separating — both are normal.
- If you have a chance to meet your student's roommate and family members, exchange phone numbers and email addresses (in case of emergency).

**Books and other academic supplies, laptop computer and transportation expenses can all be paid for with financial aid.*

Paperwork for the school

- Create the student online account needed for advising and course registration and for viewing tuition and financial aid.
- Register for new student on-campus orientation or complete online orientation. Sign up for parent and family orientation, too, if offered.
- Take required academic placement tests.

Housing, transportation, supplies*

- Apply for freshman housing if planning to live on campus.
- Look at textbook requirements for classes and research renting or buying used books.
- Research laptop purchase.
- Make transportation arrangements for the move to campus. If your student will commute from home, look into public transportation options or parking availability.

Medical

- Health insurance coverage is required for college students. Decide whether your student will stay on the family insurance plan or buy the school's plan.
- Complete health forms required by the college including immunization records.
- Make doctor, dentist, eye appointments.
- Transfer any prescriptions to a pharmacy on or near campus.
- Fill out a HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) release form.

Finances

- Review the fall semester tuition statement and financial aid award. Make a plan for paying your family's contribution.



Article originally published by CollegiateParent