



BEFORE STEPPING ONTO CAMPUS: Getting Ready for Your Freshman Year

Congratulations on your decision to go to college! Now that you have been accepted, here are a few things you'll need to do this summer to prepare for that first step on your college campus.

Be sure to give yourself plenty of time to complete each step. If you hit a roadblock or need help over the summer, ask your parents, family, friends, high-school counselors, teachers, or university admissions/financial-aid officers for help.



Ten Steps to Prepare for College

- 1. **Visit your college's custom portal (such as my.collegename.edu) where you can create/reset your PIN, set up your email account, find forms, and check your financial aid status and important deadlines.** Your username and password are usually sent with your acceptance packet or in a separate letter or email. If you can't find them, contact your college's admissions office.
- 2. **Check the status of your financial aid.** Check your most recent award letter and your college's custom portal to see if there are additional steps you need to take regarding your financial aid. Award letters may be updated several times, so pay attention and ask questions. Need more help paying for college? Check out <http://bit.ly/1TfgsYy>.
- 3. **Register for and attend your college's new-student orientation during the summer.** Many colleges hold mandatory summer orientations for all new students. Check the date for your orientation as some are held early in the summer. Register as soon as possible and check what documents you will need to bring with you to orientation. **Deadline to register for orientation** _____
- 4. **Take any required placement exams.** Placement tests determine which math, English, and language classes you need. Do your best on these tests and take them seriously. Check with your college to determine what placement tests you need. Some tests must be taken during the summer; others take place when you arrive in the fall. **Deadline to register for placement tests** _____
- 5. **Complete any housing forms, if your college offers housing.** Most require you to pay a deposit and complete a form to be eligible for on-campus housing. Some housing is limited, so do this as soon as possible. **Deadline for housing forms** _____
- 6. **Check when tuition and student fees are due.** Talk with your college's financial aid office about how to pay any balance that is left after your financial aid award. **Payments due by** _____
- 7. **Check your college's policy on health insurance.** Each college has policies about student health insurance requirements. Know your health insurance information.

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- 8. Submit other required paperwork and documentation.** Complete and return any medical/immunization forms. Confirm with your high-school counselor that your final transcript was sent to the college. If you have taken college courses, request that those transcripts are sent as well. *Forms due by* _____
- 9. Confirm move-in dates and your plan to get to campus.** *Move-in date* _____
- 10. Submit your high-school transcript.** If you have been awarded a Delaware Scholarship Incentive Program grant, check your email for scholarship updates from the Delaware Higher Education Office.

You also may want to:

- Look at the requirements for your major and start planning out your classes.
- Buy your books. Search online for deals or used books. Consider renting books to save money (sites like amazon.com).
- Purchase any technology you may need, such as a laptop and school supplies.
- Stock up on the basics—from essential toiletries to towels and sheets. Check to see if you need extra-long twin sheets, as many dorms require this size.
- Take care of your health! Make an appointment with your doctor to get a physical (requirement for some schools).
- Contact and get to know your roommates. Decide who is bringing what for common living areas such as a microwave, TV, refrigerator, etc.
- Learn how to cook a few basic meals and how to do laundry.
- If you are bringing a car to campus, get a tune-up. Explore parking options on campus.
- If you are going to school in a city, become familiar with its public transportation system. Check to see if there are discounts for students.
- Check out your college’s extracurricular activities. Start networking with other students on social media.
- Get familiar with your college town. Explore local restaurants, where to buy books, etc.
- Save the contact information for your family and friends so you can stay in touch.

Mark the Dates for the Following Tasks on Your Calendar

- ◆ Attend new-student orientation on _____
- ◆ Register for placement tests by _____
- ◆ Return housing forms by _____
- ◆ Register for classes by _____
- ◆ Return forms by _____
- ◆ Make payments by _____
- ◆ Arrive on campus on _____

For more resources and information visit
www.DelawareGoesToCollege.org

Sign up to receive text messages from the Delaware Department of Education about what’s next in the college process!
Text Student to 302-273-5310.

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