

Recommendations for a Successful First Semester

Begin your new way of life the right way!

Before school starts:

- Prepare for any placement exams during Orientation (ask your high school teachers and/or guidance counselor).
- Contact your roommate!
- Expect freshmen and upper class students to live together.
- Begin gathering and packing linens and school supplies.
- Expect things to be a little tense at home.
- Make sure family and friends have your new address and telephone number as well as your email address.

September:

- Attend all Phase II orientation events.
- Create the Ultimate Blugold Experience (CUBE) by attending [CUBEfest](#) 2009 activities. Events begin Monday, August 31st.
- Make specific plans to get involved in opportunities such as studying abroad, student organizations and recreational activities.
- Ask about hall government and explore leadership opportunities on campus.
- Attend your first wing meeting on Sunday, August 30th at 7:00 p.m.
- Familiarize yourself with your residence life planner and important dates. You'll receive your planner at check-in.
- Meet as many students as possible.
- Don't hesitate to interact with faculty and staff.

October through November:

- Talk with returning students to find out what course selections and professors they recommend.
- Make arrangements for rides home or to stay in Towers, Thomas or Chancellors Hall over Thanksgiving Break, if necessary.
- Don't be surprised if long distance relationships become challenging.
- If you're struggling with course work, NOW is a good time to get a tutor. See the [Academic Skills Center](#).
- Drop notes to friends and relatives to stay in touch.
- Prepare early for midterms, group presentations and big projects.
- Watch for the opportunity to change your room for next semester.
- If you're planning on working at home over the winter break, contact former/potential employers.
- Watch for registration information for next semester's courses.

December:

- Study hard for finals and expect large-term projects to be due.
- Hold on to your notes from old courses; they may come in handy for future classes.
- Make arrangements for rides home or to stay in Towers, Thomas or Chancellors Hall over the winter break, if necessary.
- Don't be surprised if friends and romantic interests at home seem a little bit different.

Topics to discuss ahead of time with your *parents*:

- Work
- Bank accounts
- Budget allowance
- Frequency of visits home
- Specific times for family phone calls
- Bringing friends and roommates home
- Health insurance coverage

your *roommate*:

Who's bringing what?

To save both space and money, it's important to coordinate and determine who will bring what and what you are willing to share. Make sure to discuss the items listed on the [Move In Checklist](#).

When is your roommate moving in?

Try to coordinate moving in if possible.

Get to know each other by asking...

- Where are you from?
- Do you have any brothers/sisters/pets?
- How did you choose what things you posted on your Facebook or MySpace profile?
- What do you enjoy studying?
- What TV shows do you like?
- What music do you listen to?
- What activities have you been involved with? What do you hope to be involved with in college?
- What jobs have you had?
- Will you have a job at college?
- What do you do in your spare time?

Learn each other's habits & preferences...

- When do you get up & go to sleep? (Are you a morning person or a night owl?)
- Can you sleep when there is noise or when the lights are on?
- When are guests allowed or not allowed? Overnight guests?
- What possessions are you willing to share? To lend? Never want to share?
- How important is it for the room to be neat and clean?
- When is it important for you to be alone? How will your roommate know?
- What are your pet peeves?
- Are there health issues your roommate should be aware of?
- Smoking, drinking, etc? What are the ground rules?
- How do you communicate messages?

Everyone here is interested in your success.

