

# FAQS FOR INCOMING COLLEGE STUDENTS

Congratulations on all your accomplishments thus far. Deciding to continue your education is a big step in preparing for the future. Starting your first year of training after high school, whether it is college, career and technical education or enlisting in the military, can feel overwhelming at first. Feeling overwhelmed or stressed is completely normal. This list provides tips for preparing for your educational pathway and staying on track.

» **The standard method of communicating with students is via their college/university email account.** If you have not activated your college/university email account, you need to do so as soon as possible, and you need to make a habit of checking it regularly.

» **Pay all required deposits.** Make sure you've paid any required deposits by the deadline or in a timely manner. Colleges vary in what types of deposits they require, but common types include enrollment/academic, housing and orientation. If you're unsure if your college requires these, contact your admissions office.

» **Tuition Bill:** Most colleges require that students pay their tuition/fee and room/board bills prior to classes starting or within the first week of the semester. If you cannot pay your bill, call your college's financial aid office to discuss your options. Some colleges also allow students to set up payment plans.

» **Complete your admission acceptance form.** Some colleges require you to complete an admission acceptance form once you've been accepted and have decided to attend the school. Ask your admissions office if you're not sure about this process, and make sure to meet any deadlines for making your final decision.

» **Take out or update insurances.** Many colleges require you to submit proof that you are covered by health insurance. If you need health insurance, you may be able to take out a low-cost plan through your college. If you are moving to a new town to attend college, check to see which healthcare providers are covered by your policy. If you still live with your parents when you're not at college, you may want to contact their home insurance company to make sure your belongings are covered while you're at school. You also may want to consider renter's insurance.

» **Make arrangements for parking and transportation.** Some colleges have rules about whether or not students can bring cars. Many schools charge for parking and require students to obtain a parking pass. Also consider other transportation that might be available to you, such as local bus systems. Contact the admissions office at your institution for further assistance about this process.

» **Virtual Orientation:** Many institutions have decided to host New Student Orientation online this year. Institutions usually require all first-year student to attend orientation. During orientation you will receive important updates regarding the upcoming year, schedule classes and learn about resources on campuses. If you have not signed up to attend orientation or missed your orientation date contact the admissions office at your institution.

» **Institutions will continue to follow the mandates provided by Governor Justice.** Your institution is working tirelessly to ensure your safety. At this time, the institutions are currently working on a hybrid (online and in person) class schedule. Please stay in contact with your advisor for changes should they occur.

» **Academic Calendar:** The start date for the academic year varies at each institution. If you would like to know when classes start at your institution refer the academic calendar. The calendar provides a list of important dates and deadlines for the academic year. The academic calendar can be found on your institutions website by searching Fall 2020 or Spring 2021 academic calendar in the website's search bar.

» **It is important to stay in contact with your advisor during this time.** Do you have your advisor's email and phone number? If you are not

sure who your advisor is, reach out to the admissions office at your campus and staff will be happy to help you.

» **Scheduling:** happens during your orientation, if this did not occur, contact your advisor.

» **If you have completed your FASFA and are eligible for financial aid you will need to view your financial aid packet and accept/decline awards.** The Financial Aid Award Letter outlines the financial assistance available to you at your institution. You can usually accept/decline awards through your school's student account. Please follow the instructions on the Award Letter to accept/decline federal work study and student loans. Questions regarding this process can be directed to the Office of Financial Aid.

» **PROMISE Scholarship:** If you have received the Promise and it is not showing up on your student account, contact your institution's Financial Aid office for further assistance.

» **Complete student loan entrance counseling and sign and return any promissory notes.** If you accept any student loans from the federal government, you will have to complete entrance counseling and sign a promissory note. Entrance counseling can be done online. If your parents are helping you pay for college and decide to take out loans, such as Parent Plus loans, they also will have to complete these processes. Additionally, some scholarship programs might also require you to sign a promissory note, if your receipt of the scholarship is contingent on fulfilling a promise, such as working in a particular career field or geographic area.

» **The beginning of July is usually the deadline at most institutions for students to send in their final transcripts.** If you are unsure if your institution has received a copy of your transcript contact the admissions office at your institution.

» **Purchasing books and supplies.** Colleges require that you purchase your own textbooks and many of your classroom supplies. Once you have your class schedule, contact your campus's bookstore for a list of required books and supplies. Your college may also include this information on their website. If you choose to buy your books from an online source, make sure to check their refund policy. Professors may choose to change their reading list at the last minute. Some students prefer to wait until the first week of classes to purchase books, as professors will provide a final list on the syllabus. This approach is typically fine. However, if you go this route, make sure you can get your books quickly (within a day or two) and are prepared to play "catch up." Homework usually begins on the first day of class!

» **Read school handbooks and policies.** Your school's catalog will outline the rules for your campus and provide information on academic regulations. If you are living on campus, read the residence hall policy guidebook as well.

» **Move in:** If you are living on campus, your college will contact you to let you know the move-in date mostly via your college/university email account. Freshman are often allowed to move in a day or two earlier than upperclassmen. If you plan to live on campus and have not received any information from your institution, please contact your institution's Residential Life/Housing Office for further assistance.

» **Many campuses require students to submit immunization records before the first day of classes.** For some campuses this is only required for students who will be living on campus. To receive a copy of your immunization records, contact your family doctor.