

Move In and Move Out ...

The Residence Hall Shuffle

For years you will schedule your life around moving your student into and out of the residence halls. It can be a stressful time. For first-time students, it's a big adjustment, figuring out their place in a sea of people. And it'll be an adjustment for you and your family, not having your student at home anymore. Move in day is just the start.

Move In Day

Here are some tips to help make move in day as stress-free as possible:

- Watch the mail for move in information. This will tell you when to arrive, so you can plan accordingly. You'll receive a map telling you where to park and unload. Be prepared, you may need to move your car once you've unloaded it.
- Before moving in, make sure your student talks to her roommate(s). That way they can share the big-ticket items for the room, like a refrigerator, television, etc. Rooms may not be big enough for duplicates of these items.
- Give yourself time. You'll want to have enough time to unpack and help your student arrange a little. Leave the final decorating to your student and his roommate, though... they are the ones who have to live in the room after all. Make sure your student knows if there is a check-in program that he needs to attend. Take time to get to know your student's roommate and his family. Plus, in all of this, leave yourself some time to get something to eat. That way no one is cranky because they are hungry!
- Invest in a small handcart or call Residence Life to find out if they will be available during move in. This will make the whole process a little easier (plus it helps when it's time to move out, too).
- Be patient. Lots of people will be trying to do the same thing all at once. A little patience goes a long way in this situation.
- Stay hydrated throughout the day, especially if the sun is beating down. Bring along your own water because campus vending machines tend to run dry during the big day.

- If you are traveling a long distance, you might want to book a room at a local hotel. Move-in day is a long one and you want to be well rested for the drive home.

Storage Solutions

Most colleges don't allow storage, simply because they don't have the space. And since conferences often use the residence halls in the summer, it's not possible to leave items in the rooms. If your student has big furniture that needs to be stored, have her find out about local storage units. Many will offer college discounts and some will have pick up available.

Move Out Day

Moving out is not quite as stressful since not everyone leaves at exactly the same time. However, remember it will be an adjustment for your student to leave his friends for the entire summer. And then there's all that *stuff* to pack.

- Find out when your student needs to move out. Many schools require students to leave within twenty-four hours of their last final.
- Encourage him to bring home things at the Spring or Easter break that he no longer needs, such as heavy sweaters and blankets, old books and more.
- Leave enough time to clean the room adequately. Otherwise, your student could incur a room cleaning charge.
- Invest in a few plastic containers for last-minute packing. These can easily be re-used for next year's move-in process. Plus they will stack and store easily at home over the summer.

