Tips for using Summer to Prepare for College

Here’s a quick list of things to do before Move-In Day (August 27). Specific information about move-in dates can be found here.

1. Purchase, this fall’s common reading book. And make sure your student has read it prior to arriving on campus. The College also listed some other recommended books on the practical advice section for students.

2. If your student does not already have a roommate, encourage him or her to submit a roommate preference questionnaire ASAP, with the reminder that honest answers on the card will help make the residence hall experience a happy one.

3. Make sure your student submits a health and immunization form and has had the appropriate vaccinations.

4. If you have questions about the completion of all your financial aid paperwork, contact Jackie Belcher at 706-880-8241 or jbelcher@lagrange.edu. And keep in mind that there will be more paperwork to complete and submit during First Week, including:

   • Parking sticker registration (Business Office).
   • Campus post office box registration (at the post office, located on the ground floor of Pitts Dining Hall).
   • Changes to the meal plan (if necessary). All incoming students are automatically registered for an unlimited meal plan. Changes should be made in the Business Office by the first week of classes.

5. Plan what you will be hauling to campus. Once your student has received a rooming assignment, visit the housing webpage to view room descriptions and floor plans. If he or she already has a roommate, they should talk beforehand in order to avoid bringing duplicate items.

6. Set realistic ground rules with your student about how often they will come home, call, or text you, and make it clear who they should contact in case of emergency.

7. Help them establish good sleeping patterns. Was he or she able to sleep until 10 a.m. this summer? Help them get out of that habit as soon as possible. Have them wake up at 7 a.m. or 8 a.m. and try to keep busy to acclimate their bodies to what life will be beginning August 26.

8. Are they bringing a car? Should it be serviced before they leave home? If coming from a different climate, let your service provider know about the hot and humid weather in West Georgia.

9. Do a health assessment. Is it time for your student to have a check-up? Are there prescriptions that need to be filled or transferred to a local pharmacy? Will your family’s health insurance work in LaGrange? If you have questions about college-sponsored health insurance, contact the Business Office at 706-880-8278 or bcarter@lagrange.edu.
10. **Establish a budget.** Make sure that you and your student are clear on how much spending money will be available to them, factoring in free-time activities such as a pizza run, movie night, or joining a student organization. If you know your student will need a part-time job when they get to campus, there will be a part-time job fair during First Week or they can visit the Panther Job Board at: www.lagrange.edu/careers. Also, setting up a bank account early means fewer issues as the semester gets under way.
11. **Insist that they get a calendar!**  One of the greatest obstacles to success in the first year is failure to properly organize. Have your student get a calendar (print or digital) and encourage they to go ahead and put in everything they already know (i.e., classes, practices, church, etc.). Emphasize the importance of listing everything on a calendar.

12. **Most importantly – set expectations!**  Whether it’s grades, communication or who will balance the checkbook, clear expectation between you and your new college student will pay off in the long run. Your student needs to understand that she or he is now responsible for balancing time, keeping up with money, registering for classes, etc. This may be a rude awakening for students accustomed to having parents do everything for them, but success in college demands accountability.

13. **Looking for something to read** to help you understand what your student will be going through next year? Our admissions staff suggest: *I’m the Teacher, You’re the Student: A Semester in the University Classroom* by Patrick Allitt.