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 and read this year’s common reading book.** You are expected to have read the book prior to arriving on campus for First Week. Copies are available from Campus Exclusives (at the top of the stairs across from Turner Hall) during Orientation.

2. **Apply for LIFT.** Leaders Inspired for Tomorrow (LIFT) is in its second year as a selective leadership development organization for incoming students. Selection into the LIFT program is the highest nonacademic honor for incoming students at the College. Applications are due June 17, 2015. You can learn more and apply at www.lagrange.edu/lift.

3. **If you haven’t found a roommate already,** be honest when completing and submitting your roommate selection questionnaire to housing.

4. **Submit your health form** if you have not done so already.

5. **Make sure that you have complete all your financial aid paperwork.** Questions? Contact Jackie Belcher at 706-880-8241 or jbelcher@lagrange.edu.

6. **Plan what you will bring with you!** Once you receive your rooming assignment, visit the housing webpage to view room descriptions and floor plans. If you already have a roommate, coordinate things with them to avoid bringing duplicate items.

7. **Set realistic ground rules** with your parents about how often you will come home, call, text, or who you will contact in case of emergency.

8. **Establish good sleeping patterns.** Did you sleep until 10 a.m. this summer? Get out that the habit as soon as possible before it damages you productivity this first semester. Start waking up at 7 a.m. and try to keep busy to acclimate your body to what life will be like beginning August 26.

9. **Bringing a car?** Have it serviced before you leave home. If you’re coming from a different climate, tell your service provider about the hot and humid weather in West Georgia.

10. **Do a health assessment.** Is it time for a check-up? Do you have prescriptions that need to be filled or transferred to a local pharmacy? Will your 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.
11. **Establish a budget.** Make sure that your parents/guardians have put pen to paper on just how much you have to spend. Factor in free-time activities: pizza, movies, or joining a student organization. If you know you will need a part-time job when you get to campus, there will be a part-time job fair during First Week or visit the Panther Job Board at: www.lagrange.edu/careers. Also, have your bank account set up so there will be no issues following the move.
12. Get a calendar! One of the greatest obstacles to success in the first year is failure to properly organize. Go ahead and get a calendar (print or digital); make sure that you go ahead and put in everything you already know (i.e., classes, practices, church, etc.). Make it a priority to list everything on your calendar.

13. Read a book or two. The best way to prepare for the rigors of college academic life is to read as much as you can over the summer. We asked some of our faculty and administrators to suggest a quick list of books for summer reading:

- *I’m the Teacher, You’re the Student: A Semester in the University Class* by Patrick Allitt
- *The Palace Thief* by Ethan Canin
- *Everything is Illuminated* by Jonathan Safran Foer
- *A Prayer for the Dying* by Stewart O’Nan
- *Narcissus and Goldamund* by Hermann Hesse
- *Housekeeping* by Marilynn Robinson
- “Why are all the Black Kids sitting together in the Cafeteria?” by Beverly Tatum
- *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* by Alexander Solzhenitsyn
- *Night* by Elie Weisel
- *John Wesley for the Twenty-First Century: Set Apart by Social Witness* by John Gooch
- *Native Son* by Richard Wright
- *A People’s History of the United States* by Howard Zinn
- *All the King’s Men* by Robert Penn Warren
- *The Dive from Clausen’s Pier* by Ann Packer