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The Journey to College and Beyond: A Parent's Guide to the College Transition [brochure and streaming video]

Zachary Inman

Western Kentucky University, zachary.inman@wku.edu

Krista Rosner

Western Kentucky University, krista.rosner@wku.edu

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College Application Process

Application Tips

Below are some tips for completing college or career school applications.

1. Keep it real
2. If you are asking teachers, coaches, counselors for letter of recommendations, ask several weeks before the letters are due
3. Beat the deadline
4. Apply online. It's easier and faster
5. Emphasize your uniqueness
6. Keep it clean online, especially with your different social media pages

FAFSA Information

To receive federal student aid, you'll need to...

1. Qualify to obtain a college or career school education by having your High School Diploma or GED.
2. Be enrolled or accepted as a regular student in an eligible degree or certificate program
3. If male, be registered for Selective Service
4. Have a valid Social Security number
5. Sign certifying statements on your FAFSA stating that you are not in default of a federal student loan and that you will use your aid only educational purposes.
6. Maintain satisfactory academic progress

In addition, you must.. Be a U.S. citizen or National or have a Green Card, or Have an Arrival-Departure record or have a battered immigrant status or Have a T-Visa

Registration & Orientation

Registration is where your student's journey truly begins. This often means that you need to let them go into their advising appointment alone. It is a time for them to learn and begin accepting responsibility. It is important to hear your student's voice and them to be responsible for their own schedule.

A few reminders since now your student has made their decision on where to go to college:

- Send in your student's tuition/housing deposit
- Work with your student to accept their financial aid offer
- Choose housing
- Select a meal plan
- Make sure your student has communicated with their high school about where to send a final high school transcript

Orientation

- If you have to option to attend a Parent & Family Orientation along-side your student when they go to their New Student Orientation, it is highly recommended that you go.
 - *Parents will have the opportunity to learn about the offices, services, and academic programs your student's new school has to offer.
- Find out if your student's school has a Parents Association as they might provide a monthly newsletter or outlet for important information such as details about Parent and Family Weekend or important things to speak to your student about.

Move-In Day

While there are a plethora of resources available for what to bring and what to leave at home. We encourage you to review the residence hall and university policies with your student to ensure that everything they bring is permitted. Please keep the following in mind when planning for Move In Day:

- Be **Open-Minded** to the roommate and residential experience.
- Be **Patient**, as there may be hundreds students, parents, and family members attempting to move in the same day.
- Encourage **Autonomy** by allowing your student to unpack and decorate how they wish.
- Homesickness** is to be expected, as this may be their first time to be away from home for a long period of time.
- Part of being safe is using **common sense**. This can include locking your door when you aren't in the room, keeping your belongings in a safe place, and walking with friends at night and in secluded areas on campus.
- It's okay for parents to **worry**. Be sure to take time for yourself and do what you need to do to ease those fears while allowing your son/daughter the opportunities to learn and grow.