



## Resources for Parents:

### **Academics:**

The registrar's office is a good starting point for academic matters. Through this office students register for classes, change advisers, obtain enrollment verification, discuss and seek approval of transfer credit, and learn of their progress toward graduation. Staff members also work with students on issues related to academic probation and waivers of policy, as well as changes to student records.

### **Academic assistance and tutoring**

Discussion of the need for help should begin with a student's instructor or adviser, and for some problems the answer is tutoring, arranged through the student services office. Other sources of help on a walk-in basis include centers for writing, mathematics, sciences, and quantitative skills. Students experiencing any type of academic difficulty can also consult with the deans in student services.

### **Support for students with disabilities**

Colleges are committed to providing needed services to students experiencing physical, psychological, attentional, or learning disabilities. These services can include referral for testing and diagnosis; arrangements for tutoring, interpreting or notetaking; elimination of physical barriers where possible; and communication with faculty members about academic adjustment or alternative ways of fulfilling course requirements.

### **Parents' access to student information**

The Department of Education's Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) protects the privacy of education records and establishes the right of students to review their records. Colleges should send each incoming student information explaining the options for release of information to parents. The student and parents agree on the notification option and return the access form to the registrar. If the form is not returned, information on academic records will not be provided to parents without the student's written consent.

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## **Life on Campus**

### **Food and board plan**

Students living in the residence halls are usually required to purchase the college's board plan and eat in the campus cafeteria. Some residence halls have kitchens for students to use for occasional meal preparation.

### **Off-campus housing**

Some students choose to live off campus, either in an apartment or a shared house. The college's Housing Office can provide assistance in finding off-campus housing.

**On-campus housing**

New students are encouraged to live on campus and are assigned a residence hall and roommate based on their housing application and preference form, which is usually included in the student welcome packet. A housing lottery is held each year for continuing students who wish to live on campus. More information is available at the college's Housing Office.

**Residence hall closures**

The residence halls are open during fall and spring breaks, but are closed during the winter break. A small number of rooms are available for international students who are unable to return home over the winter break. Residence halls close at noon the day after commencement.

**Residence hall room essentials**

Most colleges provide a twin bed (extra long), a desk with chair, shelves, a bureau, internet and phone connections, window coverings, and a closet or wardrobe. Students should bring a mattress pad, sheets, blankets, pillows, towels, a phone, hangers, desk lamp, an alarm clock, and personal items.

**Health services**

Free on-campus health care services are available to all students regardless of insurance coverage. The center provides management of emergencies and chronic health conditions, primary care for acute illnesses and injuries, and women's health care. Students may obtain general health and nutritional counseling, as well as testing for sexually transmitted diseases and HIV counseling. In addition to scheduled appointments, walk-in hours are available daily for urgent situations. Referrals to off-campus specialists are made as needed. Prescriptions, lab work, and certain medical supply costs will be charged to the student.

**Counseling services**

Confidential counseling services are generally provided at no cost and may be used for a variety of personal and academic reasons. Counseling services are designed to provide crisis intervention and short-term, intermittent, or longer-term treatment, as necessary.

**Drug and alcohol policies**

The use of potentially harmful and addictive substances, such as drugs and alcohol, is antithetical to the principles and practice of engaged intellectual inquiry and responsible community living. Consistent with these principles, and in fulfillment of its obligation to support federal and state law, most colleges implement policies which prohibit the use and distribution of illegal substances as well as the consumption of alcohol by those younger than 21.

**Health insurance**

Health insurance is required for all students. Although many students are covered by their parents' insurance plans, most colleges urge parents to consider it's own policy as

additional coverage. This is particularly important if the family's insurance coverage is other than an indemnity plan.

### **Health records**

Under FERPA, health and counseling records are confidential and will not be released to parents without the student's permission.

### **Immunizations**

Immunizations are available at the health center for a fee. Each U.S. State will have certain laws that require students to provide documentation of vaccines and tests, such as measles, tuberculin, tetanus, hepatitis B.

*Source: Reed College Parent's Handbook*

<http://web.reed.edu/parents/handbook/index.html>

Online Resources:

### **Admissions:**

Family Education's Parents' Guide to College Planning for Gifted Kids

<http://www.familyeducation.com/article/0,1120,59-22903,00.html>

College Board: Parent's Guide

<http://www.collegeboard.com/parents>

### **Money Matters:**

The Associated Colleges of Illinois (ACI) Parent's Online Guide to College:  
Finding & Funding the Right College for Your Child

[http://www.acifund.org/pages/programs/parents\\_guide.htm](http://www.acifund.org/pages/programs/parents_guide.htm)

FinAid: Parents Guide to Financial Aid

<http://www.finaid.org/parents/>

College Board: Parent's Guide to Paying for College

<http://www.collegeboard.com/parents/pay/0,,715-0-0-0,00.html>

### **Life on Campus:**

U.S. Department of Education, Higher Education Center: A Parent's Guide to Alcohol,  
Other Drugs, and College

<http://www.edc.org/hec/pubs/parents.html>

### **Life after College:**

JobWeb: A Parents' Guide to Career Development

[http://www.jobweb.com/Resources/Library/Parents/A\\_Parents\\_Guide\\_to\\_136\\_01.htm](http://www.jobweb.com/Resources/Library/Parents/A_Parents_Guide_to_136_01.htm)