

## Tips for Parents of soon-to-be college freshmen

If your child is 18, help them execute a health care proxy so that you can be part of their health care decisions if they are incapacitated. This will be very important when they are away at college. Boys are required to register for the draft.

If you know a parent of a student or recent graduate of your child's future college, contact them and get all the information and advice that you can - restaurants, hotels, travel, housing, courses, etc.

Go to the college website and print the upcoming year's calendar.

Reserve hotel rooms for parents weekend and for the August/September drop-off. Don't wait - especially if the college is in a small town. Find out what is expected of parents at the drop-off. Many colleges expect parents to spend a day or two and have orientation programs for parents. Consider booking flights for Thanksgiving. Exam schedules may make it hard to book flights for winter break.

Check in with your son or daughter about their college's summer deadlines, including:

- Roommate questionnaire

- Roommate assignments

- College e-mail address

- On-line placement tests (especially for foreign languages)

- Course or seminar selections

- Orientation trips

Go to the Bed, Bath, and Beyond website, click on college shopping, and print the checklist. Remember that the twin beds are XL, not standard.

Find out if there is A/C in the dorms. If not, purchase a fan.

If your student receives academic accommodations (extended time), make sure that his or her testing is up-to-date. Generally only testing from the previous three years is accepted, but check with the college.

Make doctor and dentist appointments before your student leaves for college. It is hard to coordinate once they are not at home.