

## *Frequently Asked Questions of First Year Students*

### *What classes should I take?*

During Summer Orientation, you were registered for your first semester courses. Don't change the schedule - you are required to complete all these courses. Dropping any courses now means you will have an extra load in a future semester, or need to take a summer or intersession class. If you are concerned about particular classes, talk with your academic advisor (his/her name is in your myRWU account) or stop by the Advising Center in the Administration Building. Don't make changes without getting advice.

### *What if I don't get the classes I want, or I'm unhappy with a class I'm in?*

If you do have problems or concerns, you should talk to your Faculty Advisor, stop by the Advising Center, or speak with someone in your Dean's Office. Your Advisor tries to ensure that you are assigned to classes that you are required to take and that meet your degree requirements. Getting in to see your advisor early during the advisement period gets you ready to register earlier - when classes are still open.

### *What kind of relationship can I expect to have with my professors?*

You can expect to find professors who want to get to know you, who want to help you and who want to share their passion for their subject. However, you can't just stand back and wait! What makes Roger Williams different from larger schools is that you will have access to faculty members. They will teach you, take time to answer your questions and be available to you during posted office hours. They spend hours planning for the classes they teach, evaluating your assignments and staying current in their areas of expertise.

There are of course differences among the faculty and their teaching styles. Some are funnier than others. Some are more patient and express more compassion than others. Some may ask you to call them by their first name, while other will prefer you call them "Dr." or "professor". However, you can count on all faculty members caring about your future and helping you reach your potential.

### *How hard will my classes be?*

The college classroom is definitely different than the high school classroom. The University expects you to apply yourself and stretch yourself - intellectually and

socially. Your professors will give you assignments that will push you to further develop your reading, research, analytical and communication skills. They will ask you to think about new issues, to consider alternatives. You need to think about class work and homework differently than you did in high school.

In many cases, your professors will require you to submit assignments electronically. Many classes are managed through "Blackboard" - a course management system that is available through myRWU. If you are not familiar with on-line class instruction or tools, talk with your Student Advocate. He or she can help you navigate myRWU and learn how to use Blackboard.

If you are lost or confused in class, talk to your professor. He or she will be glad to support you in your learning. But remember, if you don't let your professor you are struggling, he or she can't help you.

Also, for all the Core and writing and math classes, peer tutors are available in the Tutoring Center in the Center for Academic Development.

*When should I declare a major?*

RWU students are required to declare a major by the third semester. A second major and/or a minor may also be selected. Additionally, all students must declare a core concentration. Please discuss University academic requirements with your advisor during the advisement period in October. Your advisor is there to guide you; however, you are responsible for knowing what the requirements are, and fulfilling them in a timely manner. Whenever you make any change to your program (major, minor, second major, core concentration) you must complete a **Curriculum Declaration Form** and submit it to the Registrar.

*When can I start taking an active role on campus?*

The Involvement Fair will be held September\_\_\_\_\_. Every organization and club on campus participates, and offers you a "one stop shop" to find out about all the different ways you can get involved. Getting involved on campus is one of the best ways to make this place feel like home. Not only do you meet new people and forge new relationships outside of your residence hall, you also develop skills and experiences that will support your job search process and your first full time professional job when

you graduate. Research demonstrates that students who are involved in campus activities also do better academically!

*What can I do if I don't get along with my roommate?*

It takes time getting used to living in a residential community, but having a roommate is part of the fun of college. If you have any problem with your roommate your Resident Advisor (RA) and your Coordinator of Residential Education (CORE) will be there to assist you in the transition to your new home, and working out new relationships with your roommates.

*Is it o.k. to use my cell phone or my laptop in class?*

During class, cell phones should be *turned off*. You won't be as attentive and engaged with the activity of the classroom if you are text messaging or receiving phone calls during class. It is also disrespectful and rude to use your cell phone during class. Your professor spends a great deal of time preparing for each class - respect that effort by being present for each class!

*How does my Unicard work?*

You and your parents can place money on the Unicard with cash, personal check or credit card at the Bursar's Office. You can use your Unicard at all food service operations on campus. You can also use it at Dominos Pizza, CVS, Wings to Go, and Jade Palace. Your Unicard can be used at all vending machines on campus, as well as laundry machines, the Campus Bookstore, the Library and Health Services. For more information on the Unicard, please check the website at [www.rwu.edu/about/administration/bursar/unicard/](http://www.rwu.edu/about/administration/bursar/unicard/)

*What is myRWU?*

The University's main portal link to the web for everyone on campus is called **myRWU**.

All official student emails can be accessed via myRWU. This is where you will register for classes, get the name of your academic advisor, and receive notification about important academic and social events on campus. This is your official electronic communication site with the University - use it every day!

Your initial password is set initially to the first initial of your first name, first initial of your last name, and the last four digits of your social security number. For example, Sharon Jones would be sj4320.

*How much spending money will I need per month?*

Everyone is different - it all depends on you. Some students survive with \$75 per month, while others spend \$400 per month. How much do you typically spend at home? Factors include whether or not you eat out a lot, how many visits you make to the mall, how much media you download. We encourage you to practice "fiscal responsibility". School is expensive. Start now to develop good *money management skills*.

*Where can I find employment at RWU?*

There are jobs available throughout campus - work/study and non-work/study. There are job opportunities in Bristol as well. Check out the student employment information at the Financial Aid website and Hawk's Hunt at the Career Center website:

[Financial Aid - Roger Williams University  
http://www.rwu.edu/studentlife/student-services/careercenter/](http://www.rwu.edu/studentlife/student-services/careercenter/)