

# New Student Essentials

Summer 2015



## Dear Parents,

On behalf of the University and the Student Life Division, we welcome you as members of the Roger Williams University community. This is both an exciting and anxious station in life for students and parents alike, and our Orientation programs and materials are developed with that in mind. While we will present a lot of information in person during your visit to campus, the deans and directors in Student Life have carefully selected key information and resources that will continue to be helpful for years to come. It is equally if not more important that your student become self-reliant in problem solving and accessing services on campus, and our professional staff, systems and policies are in place to reinforce that important developmental goal.

In some respects, the relationship that you have with your student begins an awkward but necessary transition similar to effective teaching dynamics – from *sage on the stage* to *guide on the side*. We look forward to your student's academic and personal development as a member of our University community, welcome your visits to campus, and value your continued support and love for your son or daughter.

Dr. John J. King  
Vice President of Student Life  
jjking@rwu.edu

Dr. Kathleen McMahon  
Assistant Vice President and Dean of Students  
kcmcmahon@rwu.edu



Welcome to the First Year Experience (FYE) at Roger Williams University. We are here to help all new students begin their journey at RWU with a comprehensive set of initiatives designed to promote the academic success and overall well-being of First Year students at RWU. Faculty, staff, and students collaborate to enhance the educational, social, and cultural experience of First Year students, facilitating a successful transition to college life and laying the foundation for students to flourish at RWU.

Our campus wide programs that help foster the success of our First Year Students include: **New Student & Family Orientation, Common Reading, Living Learning Communities (LLC), Community Connections, FY Core Classes, RWU xp, and Weeks of Welcome (WOW).**

**We are confident you will learn all about these initiatives during orientation and your first experiences at RWU. Please let us know if you have any questions or we can help in any manner.**

Robert Cole  
Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

Kathleen McMahon  
Assistant Vice President and Dean of Students

## OUR PHILOSOPHY

In an effort to assist students in becoming active and engaged scholars, we promote student learning both in and out of the classroom. Students who are active in our campus community, in both curricular and co-curricular activities, learn, grow and mature more profoundly. We are committed to enriching the learning experience with opportunities and challenges that will prepare our students for their role in an interdependent community. To this end, we see the value in students grappling with adversity as they navigate new waters and explore new terrain. Our professional staff is committed to fostering a supportive, learning-centered environment that aids students in their growth as they learn to thrive within a community. Our aim is to coach students in problem solving and thus take control of their lives to reap the natural benefits and fulfillments that come with employing self-advocacy skills. Ultimately, we are most proud when our students graduate as active learners who are well-positioned to succeed as engaged citizens.





## A Letter from the Student Body President

Hello, I am Matt Mazzie, a senior majoring in Political Science and double minoring in Economics and Business management. I am a Resident Assistant and your Student Body President.

I wanted to congratulate you on your acceptance to Roger Williams University and officially welcome you to campus!

I hope your experience here at Roger Williams is as amazing and beneficial as mine has been. I highly encourage you to get involved with the many clubs and organizations here on campus. We have a very diverse population of clubs and organizations here, so it is very easy to get involved and it will enhance your experience here. I've met some of my closest friends from involvement in clubs and organizations and also gained some experience that will help me later on in my career.

Please do not hesitate to email me if you have any questions or concerns; I would love to help make your transition into college life as easy as possible. In addition, please feel free to stop by the Student Senate Chambers, located above the Hawks Nest in the Rec Center, for Student Senate Meetings any Monday at 6:30pm to catch the latest agenda for upcoming events!

Sincerely,  
Matt  
mmazzie359@grwu.edu

### THE CENTER FOR STUDENT ACADEMIC SUCCESS



Dear First Year Student,

At RWU you will always have the support necessary to make a successful transition to college life with the help of your very own upperclassman Peer Mentor, a trained mentor who will assist you in making the most of your college experience. Peer Mentors will call you a few weeks before the semester begins to see what questions or concerns you have about moving on campus. During move-in day your Peer Mentors will greet you at your residence hall, give you a tour of your classrooms the day before classes begin and provide informed advice about hitting the ground running during your first few weeks at RWU. Throughout your whole first year you can rely on your Peer Mentor to provide support and advice tailored to your specific interests and needs.

In addition to this your Peer Mentor will:

- Assist you in solving problems common to first year students
- Introduce you to support services on campus and how to use them
- Work with you to develop strategies for improving grades and your overall experience
- Orient you to the academic expectations of RWU
- Help you navigate the academic advising system and other important processes at RWU
- Encourage you to get involved in campus activities, clubs, and organizations
- Provide instruction in the use of the University Portal

Peer Mentors co-facilitate Roger Williams' freshman year transition course, Roger Williams Experience (RWU EXP). This is a ten week course that meets one hour a week, covering a variety of fun and interesting topics that are essential to your success. In the class you will engage in interactive workshops that encourage bonding with other first year students and allow your Peer Mentor get to know you. If you are interested in signing up for RW EXP visit the Peer Mentor table during the registration rotation the second morning of orientation, visit us on the second floor of the Learning Commons or call us at 401-254-3579.

The Center for Student Academic Success is a student-centered office, staffed by peer mentors and professional advisors and administrators. In addition to the Peer Mentors, professional staff members are available to provide additional assistance and support to you.

We look forward to meeting you, and working with you to create a rewarding and successful experience at Roger Williams University!

Best wishes,

All of us in The Center for Student Academic Success



## THE SOAR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



For most college students, the chance to develop effective interpersonal skills is just as crucial as earning a solid academic education. At Roger Williams, the Department of Student Programs and Leadership offers the chance to take that one step further by helping students to develop valuable leadership skills through its SOAR Leadership Program.

The SOAR program is a three-tiered leadership series emphasizing the importance of the Social Change Model while involving the three components of leadership: the individual, the group and the community. The program explores the significance of understanding the

self and others in an effort to create positive community change. The curriculum also highlights the prominence of the leadership community and leadership as a process; and not just the leader on an individual basis. To complement each tier, the SOAR cohort will participate in various co-curricular activities, capstone projects, retreats and workshops.

The first level of SOAR is called Emerge and it helps students focus on self-exploration and defined what committed leadership actually means. Students begin the Emerge track with a Leadership retreat and then complete a 7 week seminar series. Students have graduated from the Emerge level and have taken an active role within clubs, organizations and leadership positions on campus.

If you would like to nominate your RWU student to participate in the SOAR leadership program, please submit their names to [studentprograms@rwu.edu](mailto:studentprograms@rwu.edu) and they will receive an Emerge Application over the summer. The program will begin during the middle of September and students will be notified of what section they will be in. For questions regarding this program, please email our office or call us at (401) 254-3088.

## WEEKS OF WELCOME

The Department of Student Programs and Leadership hosts a series of educational and social programs to help new students adjust to life on campus and make connections with our community. This Weeks of Welcome (WOW) Programming is done during the first 30 days of the Fall Semester. WOW programming begins

During the first four weeks of the fall semester, Roger Williams University sponsors a series of educational and social programs to help new students adjust to life on campus. These Weeks of Welcome events, known as W.O.W., are designed to introduce new students to each other and to welcome returning students. This year, Weeks of Welcome will kick off with “Play Fair” an interactive event hosted by our Orientation Staff. The event is a fun way for new students to get a chance to reunite with their Orientation Advisors from the summer and to meet other new students. Other traditional events include the Freshmen trip to Newport RI, RWU take over late night shopping at Target and our Student Involvement Fair.

Schedules for Weeks of Welcome will be given out during Freshmen Move in; we look forward to seeing your student at our events.

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Roger Williams University has a proud tradition of service. From our core values to daily campus life, members of the RWU family engage in service at a variety of agencies that focus on diverse community needs such as the environment, historic preservation, literacy, and social justice. Your introduction to this tradition of service will take place before you even attend a class. On August 24, the RWU Class of 2019 will participate in our 10th annual Community Connections program, a one-day service event designed to help

orient students to the local community and its needs, as well as assist them in meeting faculty, staff, returning student leaders, and fellow classmates. Since 2005, Community Connections has sent nearly 10,000 volunteers to more than 100 non-profit agencies in Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts to engage in service – all in one day!

Our commitment to service doesn't end there—RWU students average over 65,000 hours of service each year through non-profit internships,

community service work-study, fundraising, academic service-learning, and student club activities. The Feinstein Center for Service Learning and Community Engagement maintains a volunteer clearinghouse that can help you become engaged in your new community while you gain valuable hands on experience in community based problem solving. We look forward to all students becoming an important part of this proud tradition!

# ENCOURAGING RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOR IN FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS

Dear New RWU Students

As you may know, Roger Williams University has partnered with EverFi, whose mission is to help students address critical life skills such as alcohol abuse prevention, sexual assault prevention and financial literacy, in high schools and higher education institutions across the country. Each year over ½ million students complete these courses.

As part of our comprehensive prevention program for new students, Roger Williams University **expects you to complete AlcoholEdu and Haven**. These online courses will empower you to make well-informed decisions about issues that affect your college years and beyond.

**Completing AlcoholEdu and Haven is mandatory.**

**Your login directions and additional details are included in this communication.**

## Other Important Information:

- You will need Internet access and audio capabilities. If you get an error message and you are using Internet Explorer try to access AlcoholEdu by using Firefox as your web browser.
- To avoid technical issues, please use any major web browser released within the previous two years.
- You may take the course(s) in multiple sittings. Do not log out until you hit the next button or you will have to repeat the section.
- The courses may include surveys to help personalize your experience and measure students' attitudes and behaviors. All survey responses are confidential; the school will only receive information about the student body as a whole and will never see individual students' answers.
- Should you experience problems, technical support is available 24/7 and can be accessed from the "Help" link within the course or you can call 866-384-9062.

Thank you, and enjoy the courses!

Sincerely,

Kathleen McMahan, Dean of Students

## PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY:

You are expected to complete both Part 1 and part 2 of AlcoholEdu and Haven before arriving on campus.

You may begin the courses Monday August 3, 2015 and Part 1 of both must be completed by Thursday August 20, 2015, the day before you arrive on campus.

To Login to AlcoholEdu and Haven:

- Go to <https://alcoholedulogin.rwu.edu>
- Select Freshman/Transfer Student from the dropdown menu
- Type in your existing RWU portal password

(Your default password is your initials and the last 4 digits of your social security number and RWU (in capitals) e.g. lg0240RWU)

**Login problems?** Contact RWU's Institutional Technology at 401 254-5200 press 1.

Part 1 of AlcoholEdu and Haven is due Thursday August 20, 2015. After 30 – 45 days upon completing Part 1 you will receive an e-mail inviting you to take Part 2. Part 2 must be completed by October 23, 2015.

ALCOHOLEDU FOR COLLEGE - COURSE OPENS Monday August 3, 2015		
<p>4. Always sign in at: <a href="https://alcoholedulogin.rwu.edu">https://alcoholedulogin.rwu.edu</a>.</p> <p>5. Select AlcoholEdu as the Course you are taking.</p>	<p>Part 1 Due: Thursday, August 20, 2015</p> <p>Part 2 Due: Monday, October 19, 2015</p> <p>Passing Exam Score: 75</p>	
HAVEN UNDERSTANDING SEXUAL ASSAULT - COURSE OPENS Monday August 3, 2015		
<p>1. Always sign in at: <a href="https://alcoholedulogin.rwu.edu">https://alcoholedulogin.rwu.edu</a>.</p> <p>2. Select Haven as the Course you are taking.</p>	<p>Part 1 Due: Thursday, August 20, 2015</p> <p>Part 2 Due: Monday, October 19, 2015</p> <p>Passing score not required</p>	

## LIVING LEARNING COMMUNITIES – A WAY OF LIFE AT RWU



Living Learning Communities (LLCs) have been proven to enhance a student's college experience by connecting their academic experience with their life outside the classroom. For nearly two decades, RWU has offered a variety of experiences that build these bridges between the curricular and co-curricular. This year RWU will continue this great tradition with LLCs offered in the following academic areas: Business, Communications, Criminal Justice, Engineering, Marine Biology, Political Science, Psychology, Honors, Architecture, Art/Art History/Visual Arts, Undeclared Majors, as well as a variety of theme based areas including Fine & Performing Arts, Public Health, as well as Substance/Alcohol Free.

LLCs are not just for our first year students. Upper-class residents can work with their friends to design their own unique community, based on their own special interests. Groups of four, six, eight, or ten students join together to develop Self Proposed LLCs based on an academic or thematic interest. Nineteen new groups were approved for the 2015–2016 academic year. Some of the themes include: healthy living, cancer awareness, working with children, and animal rescue. As you can see, there are tremendous opportunities for students to extend their learning beyond the classroom and into their residential experience.

Students interested in learning more about Living Learning Communities can visit the web page at <http://rwu.edu/campus-life/housing-dining/llc> or contact the Department of Residence Life & Housing at (401) 254-3161.



## RWU E-MAIL AS OFFICIAL MEANS OF COMMUNICATION

A Roger Williams University-assigned student email account is an official means of communication between all students and the University. **Students are responsible for all information sent to them via their University-assigned email account.** Students are expected to check email on a frequent and regular basis in order to stay current with University-related communications, recognizing that certain communications may be time-critical. It is recommended that email be checked at a minimum daily. *(From the RWU Student Handbook.)*



## INTERCULTURAL CENTER

*Welcoming people of all nationalities, faiths and personal identities*

The Intercultural Center's (IC) mission is to develop world citizens capable of critical thinking, compassion and respect for differences. To accomplish this mission, we provide direct student services as well as programming and opportunities for intercultural learning. The IC supports Multicultural Student Affairs, International Student Affairs, the Office of Spiritual Life, the Diversity Leadership Program (a first-year mentoring program for underrepresented students), LGBTQQ Student Affairs and several other student programs.

The IC is an open and affirming environment where discussions flow freely, and where many of our students find their home away from home. The main floor has a lounge outfitted with comfy couches, a flat screen TV and computers with internet and printing access. Our kitchen is available for student use, and often acts as a gathering place for special meals. The lower level multipurpose room is used for meetings, social gatherings and study sessions. Our Prayer Room, a result of student suggestions, offers a quiet place for students of all faiths to pray and meditate.

The IC sponsors many events during the school year including speakers, dinners, open dialogue discussions, social justice-themed programs, sacred holiday dinners, and many other fun and educational programs. One of our most popular events is "An Hour with..." which gives our international students the opportunity to present their culture to the community (this is also a merit point event.) We encourage the entire RWU community to come to the IC and our events to share ideas of inclusion, social justice and global citizenship.

**The hours of operation are:**

**Monday through Sunday 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.**

For any questions about the Intercultural Center and our programs and services, please call (401) 254-3121 or visit <http://www.rwu.edu/campus-life/gender-culture/intercultural-center>, <https://www.facebook.com/RWUinterculturalcenter>, <https://www.facebook.com/RWUinternationalstudents>

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## IMPORTANT HOUSING BILLING INFORMATION

*What you should know about the first billing statement for Housing & Meal Plan charges*

Want to make a change to your 2015 meal plan? Changes and cancellations (where applicable) are accepted until 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 9, 2015. Changes can be made online by logging onto the RWU Portal: <https://portal.rwu.edu>. Then select the "Students" tab at the top of the screen. Scroll down to the lower left corner of screen and select "Modify My Meal Plan" located with the Housing Lottery tab.

If you cancel your meal plan for any reason during the first two weeks of school, you will be billed for all meals used. Meal plan options selected in the fall automatically renew for the spring semester. You will have the opportunity to change your meal plan, should you wish to do so, prior to the start of the spring semester. Again, changes to your meal plan for the fall must be received by 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 10, 2014. The South Campus Lounge is a great place for students to meet

### Diversity Leadership Program

What is the Diversity Leadership Program?

The Diversity Leadership Program is a new mentoring program for students of color, first generation college students, students who identify as LGBTQQ and other underrepresented first year students (freshman or transfer) at RWU. The program is committed to fostering an inclusive learning community that emphasizes the connection and support that can positively impact underrepresented students' success in college. The Diversity Leadership Program will focus on strengthening the diversity community at RWU through mentorship, relationship-building, ally development and extensive leadership development.

Diversity Leaders will be among the first to welcome underrepresented students who self-select to be a mentee in the Diversity Leadership Program (those who do not self-select into the program will be assigned a student advocate, similar to all freshman). Before they join the larger student body, students will have a chance to form relationships with student leaders who have successfully navigated their first year (or more) at RWU. For many students, especially those from urban communities, this may be the first time that they are in a setting where they are the "minority". It is our hope that this program will help to cultivate a sense of community very early on for underrepresented first year students.

### Why should I be part of the Diversity Leadership Program?

All incoming freshman and first-year transfer students are automatically paired with a student advocate. Students who elect to have a Diversity Leader student advocate will:

- receive one-on-one mentoring from an experienced student leader who is passionate about social justice
- participate in leadership development around issues of diversity and social justice
- attend social events and outings with the Diversity Leadership program family
- connect with other students who are from diverse backgrounds
- have an extensive support network of peers, mentors and adults to make your transition from home to college as successful as possible

Are you interested in being mentored by a Diversity Leader? Please contact Candice De Los Reyes for more information at [cdelosreyes@rwu.edu](mailto:cdelosreyes@rwu.edu) or (401) 254-3894.

and hang out! Located in Cedar Hall, the newly renovated lounge is outfitted with ping pong, foosball, air hockey, and pool tables as well as five TVs. It's the perfect place to play games, watch movies, and kick back after class. The lounge is open to all students from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on weekdays and 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. on weekends.

Visit our website at <http://rwu.edu/campus-life/housing-dining/living-rwu> or e-mail us at [RWUHousing@rwu.edu](mailto:RWUHousing@rwu.edu).

### Important dates to remember:

- Oct. 13 – Oct. 23: Health and Safety Inspections
- Nov. 25: Residence halls close for Thanksgiving break – 9:00 a.m. Wed.
- Dec. 15: Residence halls close for winter break – 8:00 p.m. Tues.
- Jan. 19: Residence halls open for spring semester – 8:00 p.m. Tues.
- Feb. 15 – Feb. 26: Health and Safety Inspections

## THE CAREER CENTER

Welcome to Roger Williams University... We are so glad you have chosen Roger Williams University for your post-secondary education and want to be sure you get the MOST out of the next four or more years of your life. Attending classes, participating in discussion, doing your assignments and performing well on examinations are vital to your success as a student. Critical to your success after Roger Williams University is what else you do while you are a student. Participating in experiential education is what everyone needs to do, beginning as a first year student.

During the fall, you will receive invitations to register for the Winter Externship Program. Open to all majors in all class years, this program is designed to allow you to job shadow professionals in your chosen field in a geographic location you have indicated on the registration. You can spend up to three days tagging along with a TV newscaster, school principal, a scientist, a marine biologist, an engineer, or any other professional you can consider. These shadows take place during January break so you can be at home while participating. Watch for emails to invite you to register.

Begin attending industry/major focuses career related events that will start on September 30. Bring professional attire (suit/nice pants/button down shirt) so that you impress the recruiters. It's never too early to start making contacts in your field. You are encouraged to attend as many events as you prefer to increase your professional network. These conversations lead to internships and full-time employment.

To be truly competitive for a successful professional life outside of Roger Williams University, you need to have related work experience. Gained via summer employment and/or internships, this experience needs to be seen often on a résumé. Our Cooperative Education/Internship program provides students with the guidance and education needed to be successful and to earn credits (and hopefully pay) while doing so. To see if your major requires you to have an internship, please visit the Career Center's website at <http://careercenter.rwu.edu>.

All students have a Career Advisor from the Career Center. Come and meet yours at our Open House on Thursday, September 3 from 2:00-4:00. Enjoy Del's Frozen Lemonade, a Rhode Island favorite, and leave with an introduction to your Career Advisor and all the resources available to you.



**To be truly competitive for a successful professional life outside of Roger Williams University, you need to have related work experience.**



## STUDENT CONDUCT AND COMMUNITY STANDARDS

At the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards, our goal is to support the development of students' personal, social and academic abilities. Roger Williams University is a community dedicated to learning. Students (along with faculty and administration) are a critical part of that equation.

Through our office, we define and uphold behavioral standards and academic integrity of the University. Students are expected to abide by the Code of Student Conduct, and we adjudicate alleged violations of the Code in a fair, consistent manner. We set and promote high standards for all Roger Williams students to create a community in which every student treats each other with dignity and respect.

For more information, contact us at: (401) 254-3042 or visit [www.rwu.edu/studentlife/studentconduct](http://www.rwu.edu/studentlife/studentconduct).

## HEALTH SERVICES AND STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE UPDATE

Health care and health insurance is often a concern of parents as their sons and daughters depart for college. We at Roger Williams University are actively involved in the health and well-being of our students. Use of the Student Health Service is covered by the undergraduate student fees. All full-time undergraduate day students have access to Student Health Services. There is no charge for visits to the Student Health Services for illness or injury. Charges will be incurred for routine well physical exams, immunizations, lab work, prescription medication and referrals to outside providers. These charges can be submitted to your private health insurance. Charges not covered by your private health insurance will be billed directly to the student by the provider of the service.

Health Service is open 8:30 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. After hours, emergency care is provided through Newport Hospital, Rhode Island Hospital or Bristol County Medical Center. Emergency transportation to and from these facilities is provided if needed. Students should contact their CORE/RA or Public Safety at 401-254-3333 for any after-hours medical concern.

I encourage you to check out our web site for specific details. <http://www.rwu.edu/studentlife/student-services/health-services/>

Looking forward to the Fall semester this is a reminder to all returning students.

1. If a student expects to play a sport during the 2015-16 academic year, an updated physical will be required. This is best done over the summer break. Please contact Athletics for details.
2. Non-athletes are only required to have the initial admissions physical.
3. Remember that Health Service is a great resource for health and wellness education.
4. Students should carry a current private insurance card and have a copy on file at Health Service as well.

### An Important Message for Parents Regarding Student Health Insurance at Roger Williams University

As you prepare for the 2015-16 academic year, we urge you to consider your health insurance coverage a top priority. It is important that students have access to comprehensive medical care while enrolled at Roger Williams University and we are pleased to make available an Accident & Sickness Insurance Plan for our students. The following provides additional information regarding the Plan:

**In accordance with the Affordable HealthCare Act, ALL students will be required to show proof of Health Insurance.**

ALL undergraduate students will be automatically enrolled in the University's Student Accident & Sickness Insurance Plan for coverage effective August 14, 2015 - August 13, 2016. Those students who provide proof of adequate coverage under an existing plan

may waive the University's Student Insurance Plan through the below process. Those students who do not waive the insurance and those not covered under an existing plan will see a separate charge of approx. \$1,961 on their bill. An explanation of the Student Accident and Sickness Insurance can be found online at:

<https://consolidatedhealthplan.com/group/112/home>

Waiver Process: If you are currently insured under another insurance policy and do not wish to have coverage under the Roger Williams University sponsored plan, you may waive out of the insurance. To waive out, students will be required to decline the University's Student Insurance Plan and provide information on their insurance plan by completing the online form here: <https://consolidatedhealthplan.com/group/112/waiver/1>

By completing a waiver, you are certifying that you have comparable coverage and agree that you will be responsible for your medical expenses, and that Roger Williams University will not be responsible for those expenses. Upon your waiver being accepted, the insurance fee will be removed from the student's account. FAILURE TO COMPLETE the on-line Waiver Form by the deadline, August 14, 2015, will result in your mandatory purchase of the University's Student Insurance Plan for the 2015-16 academic year, without the possibility of later waiver, refund or cancellation.

### Before Waiving

If you are considering waiving the University's Student Insurance Plan, please note that some insurance plans are restrictive and may leave students essentially uninsured while away at school. This could result in you incurring substantial out-of-pocket costs for medical care. In evaluating your plan and to assist you in making an informed decision, you must verify the following

- My plan provides adequate coverage that is accessible in the Rhode Island area for:
  - Lab tests and x-rays
  - Prescription drugs
  - Hospitalization (including room & board, physicians' fees and surgical expenses)
  - Outpatient hospital services
  - Mental health care
  - Emergency room care
- My plan will cover me from August 14, 2015 through August 13, 2016
- My plan does not have a high deductible that needs to be met before I am allowed to access coverage
- If I intend on studying abroad this upcoming year (including for a short-term study abroad trip) my plan provides coverage anywhere in the world

Please understand that the University reserves the right to decline a waiver request (and revoke an approved waiver) if it determines that the alternate insurance does not provide adequate insurance coverage.

## UNIVERSITY SMOKING POLICY

As you may already know, Roger Williams University is committed to promoting wellness on campus. As of January, 2008, the core of campus is *smoke free both indoors and outside*. For those who wish to smoke, the University has designated 11 smoking areas across campus; campus signs will indicate the locations of these areas, most of which will be covered gazebos. In addition, smoking is permitted in four University parking lots.



## PUBLIC SAFETY



Under the direction of Director Steven M. Melaragno and Associate Director Pamela Moffatt-Limoges, Public Safety is committed to creating a safe and welcoming campus community. Director Melaragno came to Roger Williams University after a 34 year career with the Providence Police Department where he attained the rank of Major. He was a Community Police District Commander and held command positions in the Administrative and Uniformed Divisions. Associate Director Moffatt-Limoges is a former member of the Rhode Island State Police where she served 22 years and achieved the rank of Detective Lieutenant. Ms. Moffatt is specially trained in areas of domestic violence, sexual assault, and narcotics investigations. She also has served on the Governor's Commission on Prejudice and Bias and the Rhode Island Sex Offender Board of Review. Roger Williams is dedicated to safeguarding the health and safety of each student. In the event of an emergency, the following procedures are in place:

- **Public Safety at (401) 254-3333 or dialing 3333 from a campus phone**
- **Portsmouth Police Department at 683-1936**
- **Bristol Police Department at 253-6900**

Students may also call the Resident Advisors (RAs) in the dorm they are living in.

### Sound Training, Local Police Support

The Roger Williams Public Safety Staff is thoroughly trained to manage a wide range of emergencies and issues, and the Department of Public Safety has trained EMTs on duty. The University has worked closely with the Bristol Police Department on emergency preparedness for the campus community. And our Public Safety Department has good working relationships with police and fire personnel in surrounding communities.

### Notifying Students of an Emergency

The highlight of the University's emergency communications plan is Rave Alert, a new tool the University has implemented to ensure that its emergency team has a way to communicate instantly with campus community members whose safety might be at risk. The system sends phone, e-mail, and text message alerts

in real time, so that students, faculty, and staff will never be left in the dark when it comes to incidents affecting their safety. Key to this program's success, however, is that students update their contact information via myRWU, the University's online web portal. Students should regularly check myRWU to ensure that phone numbers and e-mail addresses are up to date so that they'll be alerted by the Rave Alert broadcast in any emergency.

The University has also installed an outdoor Emergency Siren Warning System (ESWS) on its main campus. The system consists of four strategically-placed sirens that will be used to warn the University community in the event of a life-threatening emergency. If a potentially life-threatening emergency is identified where a campus-wide ESWS is deemed necessary, the Department of Public Safety will activate the system. The activation will consist of an alert tone generally followed by a voice message regarding the nature of the emergency.

In addition to the Emergency Alert System and Emergency Siren Warning System, we have purchased the Rave Guardian which is a smart phone app that allows the user to call for help by pushing a button, send an anonymous tip to Public Safety, or set up a safety timer with a friend on campus. The Guardian app also sends Public Safety the student's location via the GPS feature on the phone so even if they are unable to speak we can find them. This technology is like carrying a blue light emergency phone in the palm of your hand and is available at no charge to all students, faculty and staff.

### Emergency Planning is Continual

In addition, the University continually evaluates and revises the Roger Williams Emergency Response Plan, which has worked smoothly during the few times it has been activated in the past, typically in coping with power outages, severe weather, and to notify students of criminal activity. Even with this detailed planning already in place, we are constantly revising and refining our response plan.

### Remaining Alert

We continue to remind all our students, faculty and staff that the Counseling Center is available to anyone experiencing difficulty or seeking support. And we all need to remember that campus safety depends on each of us: Anyone who witnesses a person exhibiting any unusual or troubling behavior should immediately contact members of our Public Safety department, a Residence Assistant, a member of our campus Counseling Center, or any faculty member, staff member, or administrator.

We guarantee the strictest confidentiality.

## CENTER FOR COUNSELING AND STUDENT DEVELOPMENT



The freshman year of college is an exciting time for students and for their parents. When a college freshman arrives on campus, he or she confronts a variety of issues that can make the adjustment challenging. Initially, some freshmen worry about fitting in socially, making it academically or contending with homesickness. Issues concerning academic majors, roommates, relationships in general and balancing new freedom and responsibilities can also emerge as the year progresses.

At the Center for Counseling and Student Development, we provide a spectrum of services to ensure that students, particularly freshmen, succeed

at Roger Williams University. The Center offers individual counseling and provides freshman support groups to help students adjust to their new environment. The Counseling Center web page offers additional information such as mental health tips, brochures, and online screening tools to support students throughout the academic year. While the Center aims to support students through the challenges they may encounter as they adjust to college, the staff is also there to empower students to find their unique identity.

All full-time and residential undergraduate students are eligible for the Center's services, free of charge. All services are confidential, which means we cannot share information about the fact or nature of students' visits without their permission. However, parents are welcome to call us to share your concerns or to consult with one of our counselors. The Center for Counseling and Student Development may be reached at (401) 254-3124. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or visit <http://www.rwu.edu/studentlife/studentservices/counselingcenter/>.

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## PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Welcome to the Roger Williams University Parents Association (RWUPA)! As a parent of a current RWU student, you are welcomed into our community that supports parental advocacy on behalf of all students. As a part of the RWUPA, we encourage parents to serve as ambassadors of the University through philanthropic, educational, or career development initiatives that may be of interest to you and your families.

Regardless of whether you live close to campus or further away, there are varying degrees of involvement available. Over the course of the year, you may participate in on and off-campus events, provide feedback via email or phone, and attend the annual meeting held in October during Homecoming & Family Weekend. For those looking for a greater leadership role, we have openings on our Parents Council, whose members work with the administration on various University initiatives.

To get you started, please feel free to "Like" us on the RWU Parents Association Facebook page at <http://facebook.com/rwu.parents> for campus news, announcements, and resources. If you would like to volunteer or would like more information, please feel free to contact me directly. We welcome your questions and feedback, as we are here to serve you as a campus resource.

There is an exciting year ahead for you and your student, and I look forward to hearing from you in the months to come!

Sincerely,

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