

The Freshman Essentials



Dear Parents,

On behalf of the University and the Student Affairs 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 Affairs 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 Affairs

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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 taking control of their lives to reap the natural benefits and fulfillment 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.



THE CAREER CENTER

Need help preparing for and finding an internship? Looking to land that first professional job? Or get into graduate school? At the Roger Williams University Career Center, we're committed to preparing students to succeed professionally in life after college. Alumni, too, are welcome to take advantage of our services.

Our goals include helping students understand what careers may interest them, what types of employment they'd best be suited to, and how to acquire the skills necessary to succeed on their chosen career path and/or advanced degrees.

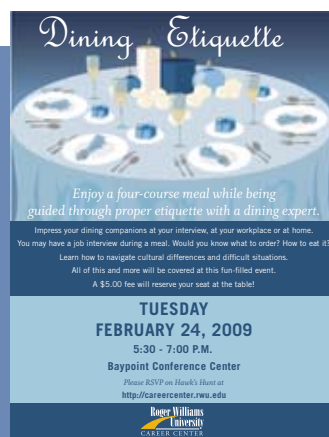
Additionally, the Career Center sponsors a variety of on-campus events including the annual Career Fair, and opportunities to meet employers in a variety of venues.

The Career Center is located across from the Dining Commons.

We're open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Please call to schedule an appointment.

For more information, contact us at:

(401) 254-3224 or visit <http://careercenter.rwu.edu>



HERE'S A LIST OF JUST SOME OF THE MANY SERVICES WE OFFER:

- One-on-one career counseling
- Resume and cover letter critique
- Job search assistance
- Career path assessment
- Aid in securing internships
- Interview preparation advice
- Guidance with graduate school
- Decision making

IMPORTANT HOUSING BILLING INFORMATION

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

- Since incoming students do not yet have room assignments, the housing and meal plan charges on the first billing statement are based upon the traditional double room rate and default meal plan associated with a traditional hall: Carte Blanche Gold. Student room assignments and roommate information will be sent via RWU email during the first week of August. Please be sure that your son or daughter has completed his/her new student room and roommate preferences on myRWU. Students requesting single rooms, and transfer students assigned to apartments, should expect additional charges, and/or changes with meal plan assignment.
- Once your son or daughter receives his/her housing assignment, meal plan changes may be modified online via myRWU.
- Active Meal Plan options selected in fall, automatically duplicate into spring billing. Students who wish to make changes or cancellations (where applicable), may do so no later than **4 p.m. on Wednesday, September 9, 2009**. All meal plan cancellations which occur during the first two weeks of the semester will be billed for meals used. *Changes or cancellations will not be accepted after the deadline of 4 p.m. on Wednesday, September 9, 2009.*
- Commuter students (those who do not have a University Housing assignment) may make changes in person at the Student ID Office in the Lower Commons, or in the Department of Residence Life & Housing.

Note: The Bursar Office is **Going Green**. All students will receive billing statements electronically. Students must enroll parents and any other alternate payers to receive e-bills at:

<http://www.rwu.edu/about/administration/bursar/ebilling/>



UNIVERSITY HEALTH SERVICES

At Roger Williams University Health Services, we provide health care, disease prevention and health education for all students. Our staff, an experienced group of nurses, nurse practitioners and doctors, is committed to providing quality care with compassion, professionalism and excellence.

At Health Services, we believe that individuals share the responsibility for their health and well-being. Therefore, part of our mission is to help students know when and how to provide self care, when to seek medical assistance and how to navigate health care systems both on and off campus.

To assist in this process, parents and students should ensure that each student:

- Completes and returns a copy of his/her health history/physical/immunization form to Health Services by July 1
- Carries a copy of his or her private insurance card
- Has been instructed on how and when to use insurance
- Brings basic self-care items to school, such as Tylenol, cold medicines and a thermometer
- Keeps a backup pair of eyeglasses on hand in case the student develops problems with his or her contact lenses or loses a pair of glasses
- Exercises proper nutrition, sleep and hygiene habits
- Visits Health Services if he or she wants to quit smoking or has health-related questions or concerns

Health Services is located on the second floor of the Center for Student Development.

For more information on our services, call (401) 254-3156 or visit <http://healthservices.rwu.edu>

Immunization Information

The state of Rhode Island requires that all students enrolled at Roger Williams provide proof of a number of immunizations; the state also recommends that students receive a bacterial meningitis vaccination (see below).

As a reminder, July 1 is the deadline for returning health forms and immunizations. (The forms can be downloaded at the Health Services website.) Failure to comply with this requirement will delay the student's ability to obtain a residence hall key and register for classes.

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 eleven 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.



Bacterial Meningitis Vaccines: Bacterial meningitis is a potentially life-threatening illness that may be prevented with a vaccine. Meningitis is spread through close contact with nasal secretions and saliva. Therefore, young people living in close proximity are at increased risk. Over the past several years, there has been a significant increase in the number of cases of meningitis at colleges and universities across the country. The Rhode Island Department of Health and the American College Health Association recommend that all entering college freshmen receive this vaccine if they have not had it within the last three years.

HPV Vaccines: The HPV vaccine is a three-shot series that helps protect an individual against human papilloma virus. This vaccine is highly encouraged for all women.

For a fee, both the meningitis and HPV vaccines are available at Health Services. Contact Health Services to make an appointment or ask any questions.



WEEKS OF WELCOME

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 back returning students.

This year, Weeks of Welcome will kick off with an interactive concert by Dave Binder. The concert 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. The highlights of W.O.W. include late night socials, the annual off-campus trip to Providence, a comedian, a concert, and “Drawing the Shades”, a performance put on by current students that addresses relationship violence and sexual assault.

A more detailed schedule of all events for Weeks of Welcome will be made available when students arrive on campus in August.

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 Aug. 24, the RWU Class of 2013 will participate in

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.

SOAR is a cohort-based leadership development program designed to refine personal leadership abilities and encourage students to make social change in society. Students from all class years are welcome to apply to the program—applications are available from Student Programs and Leadership, which is located in the Campus Recreation Center.

The program features three levels. The first, Emerge, helps students focus on self exploration and define what congruent, committed leadership actually means. The subsequent levels, Develop and Lead, are designed for upper class students and help to develop a distinct leadership style for use in working in groups and teams and in creating social change in society as active, engaged citizens.

In the Emerge track, students complete an eight week learning experience, which is kicked off by a leadership retreat and culminates in a graduation. Students are encouraged to continue in SOAR.

More information on how to participate in SOAR will be available during Weeks of Welcome and at the Student Involvement Fair. For questions, contact the Department of Student Programs and Leadership at (401) 254-3088.



Community Connections, 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 more than 4,800 volunteers to more than 100 non-profit agencies in Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts to engage in service.

Our commitment to service doesn't end there—RWU students participate in tens of thousands of hours of service each year through nonprofit internships, community service work study, AmeriCorps programs, academic service-learning experiences and other opportunities coordinated by the Feinstein Center for Service Learning and Civic Engagement. We look forward to all students becoming an important part of this proud tradition!

WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

Under the direction of the newly hired Director John Blessing and Associate Director Pamela Moffatt, Public Safety is committed to creating a safe and welcoming campus community. Mr. Blessing, a member of the Rhode Island State Police since 1985, recently retired after achieving the rank of Lieutenant and had been assigned as the Acting State Fire Marshal. He has also been in charge of several detective units, including the Major Crimes Unit, during his career. Mr. Blessing has served on the State Traffic Commission and currently serves on the Rhode Island School Safety Steering Committee. Ms. Moffatt, a member of the Rhode Island State Police since 1985, who recently retired after achieving the rank of Lieutenant, is specially trained in areas of domestic violence, sexual assault, narcotics and auto theft investigations. She also has served on the Governor's Commission on Prejudice and Bias and presently serves on 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:

Students, faculty and staff are urged to report any suspicious activity to:

- Public Safety at (401) 254-HELP or (401) 254-3611 and/or Residence Assistant
- Bristol Police Department at 253-6900

Sound Training, Local Police Support

The Roger Williams Residence Life Staff is thoroughly trained in dealing with a wide range of emergencies and problems. In addition, the University has trained EMTs on the Public Safety squad. The University has worked closely with the Bristol Police Department on emergency preparedness. And our proactive Public Safety personnel also have good working relationships with law enforcement in other neighboring towns. A Rhode Island State Police Barracks is also 15 minutes from campus in Portsmouth, R.I.

Notifying Students of an Emergency

The highlight of the University's emergency communications plan is *Connect-Ed*, 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 *Connect-Ed* broadcast in any emergency.



Beyond *Connect-Ed*, here are additional ways in which we keep our students, faculty and staff informed of developments:

- Post notices in a bright red banner on the front of our website
- Record a message on our campus hotline (254-4400)
- Send an all-campus voicemail message to land lines in student housing and staff offices
- Place ads with the campus radio station and cable TV channel
- Use low-tech communications measures, such as posters on dorms and other buildings
- Develop cell phone contact trees for staff, who will reach others via word-of-mouth

Our campus is compact enough that we can cover it physically rather quickly if we need to reach specific buildings or persons in an emergency.

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.

Encouraging Responsible Behavior in First-Year Students

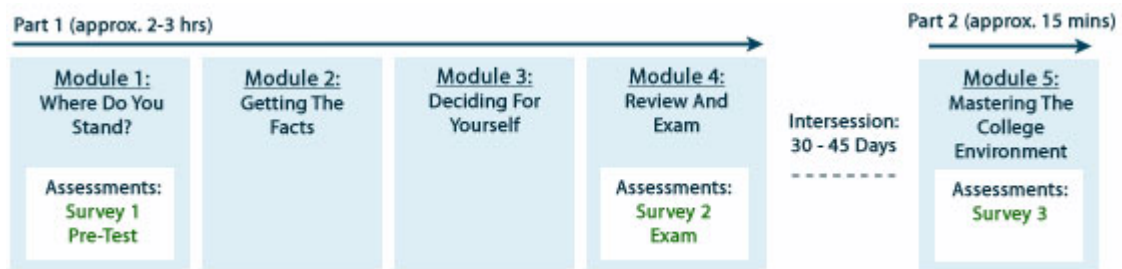
Roger Williams University has a comprehensive, best-practice, environmental management approach to dealing with alcohol issues on campus. An active Alcohol and Other Drug Task Force works to provide a safe environment, but ultimately it is up to your son or daughter to make responsible choices. Studies show that parents remain a key influence in student drinking behavior. Your opinions and guidance make a difference! College is a huge investment of time and money. Set clear expectations that your son or daughter will focus on academic work and personal development in their first year. You are the Prevention Specialists because you know your son or daughter so well! Talk about drinking alcohol and the college party scene and make your expectations clear.

AlcoholEdu for College

As part of our prevention efforts, AlcoholEdu for College, an online, population prevention, alcohol course used on more than 500 campuses nationwide is once again being required of all incoming 2009 first-year students.

Feedback from freshmen who have taken the course in the past has been consistently positive (80% found it helpful; 77% would recommend it to others); Eighty-three percent (83%) of last year's freshmen said that it helped them feel more prepared to handle situations that might come up at college that involve alcohol and decision-making around drinking.

The course has two sections, both of which must be completed to fulfill this requirement:



- Part 1 of the course will be available online the week of August 10, 2009. It takes approximately 2.5 hours to complete and can be taken in multiple sittings. Part 1 has 4 Modules. Simply go to: www.my.rwu.edu and click on AlcoholEdu on the bottom left hand side of the screen. Part 1 is completed only after taking the Exam and Survey 2. You must earn a grade of 75% or higher to pass. We require you to finish Part 1 before arriving at RWU. the deadline for finishing part 1 is thursday, august 20, before arriving to campus. failure to complete the survey by this deadline could result in loss of housing priveleges.

- About 45 days after you complete Part 1, you will receive an email asking you to complete Part 2. This takes only about 30 minutes. You must complete Part 2 immediately following your email invitation. If you do not complete Part 2 by Friday, Oct 16 your registration for spring housing will be cancelled.

All survey responses are strictly confidential; the school will only receive information about the student body as a whole and will never see an individual student's answers.

To take the AlcoholEdu survey you will need a computer with Internet access and audio capabilities. You will also need to use your RWU email address to access the course. In early August you will receive detailed log in instructions sent to your RWU email account. Please check your RWU email regularly throughout the summer so you will be informed appropriately about many important dates.

Thank you, and enjoy the course!

Sincerely,

Donna Lynn Darmody, MS
Director of Health Education
ddarmody@rwu.edu
(401) 254-3413

INTERCULTURAL CENTER

Welcoming everyone of all nationalities, faiths and personal identities

The Intercultural Center (IC) is a friendly environment where ideas concerning personal identity and diversity may be discussed freely. The Center supports Multicultural Affairs, International Affairs, Spiritual Life, Bridge to Success, LGBT Student Affairs and many other student clubs and organizations.

The IC, also known as “the Center,” is open to the entire community. We encourage students to embrace the welcoming atmosphere and utilize our facilities. The IC has a spacious lounge area for conversing, watching an occasional movie or taking a nap. When you get sick of EasyMac and microwaveable meals, come and make a real dinner in our full kitchen which is open to the entire community. Our computer lab downstairs is a great place for working on homework, papers and projects. Our large multi-purpose room can be used for meetings, gatherings and study sessions. There are always friendly students and staff around if you are looking for new friends.

The Center sponsors many events during the school year including speakers, movies, “An Hour With...” a specific country, dinners, dialogue discussions, community conversations, interfaith breakfasts and dinners and many other fun and educational programs. The entire RWU community is encouraged to come and share ideas of diversity, social justice and global citizenship at the Center



and at our events. We support and challenge the RWU community to become critical thinkers and compassionate global citizens.

The hours of operation are:

Monday through Friday 5 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Saturday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Sunday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

For any questions about the Intercultural Center and our programs and services, please call (401) 254-3121 or visit <http://multiculturalaffairs.rwu.edu>

WHAT EVERY STUDENT SHOULD KNOW ABOUT LIVING LEARNING COMMUNITIES

Living Learning Communities (LLCs) can enhance a student's college experience by connecting their academic experience with their life outside the classroom. For more than a decade, RWU has offered a variety of experiences that build these bridges between the curricular and co-curricular. Over the last two years in particular, the LLC programs have grown in new and exciting ways. Currently, there are eight structured communities – **Aquaculture** (designed for Marine Science majors), **Healthy U** (designed for individuals interested in personal wellness), **Law & Order** (designed for Criminal Justice majors), **P.E.A.C.E.** (designed for People Enthusiastic About Cultural Experiences), **Building and Design** (designed for Architecture and Historic Preservation majors), **Reaching New Heights** (designed for students looking to enhance their leadership experiences) and the **Honors Area** (designed for students in Honors Program). In addition, we offer a unique LLC program known as **FYSOP** (Freshman Year Student Opportunity Program), which connects students both in their living area, and with several shared academic courses. Each area has an RA carefully assigned who has a passion for the focus of that particular Living Learning Community.

An exciting new addition to RWU's Living Learning program this year was the opportunity for students to propose their own unique community, based on their own special interests. Groups of 4, 6, 8 or 10 students joined together to develop their own LLCs based on an academic or thematic interest. Sixteen groups were approved for the 2009 – 2010 Academic Year. These themes include: Education, Alcohol Awareness, Alternative Entertainment, Art Appreciation, Animal & Environmental Appreciation, to name a few. 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://www.rwu.edu/studentlife/residencelife/universityhousing/livingcommunities/> or contact the Department of Residence Life and Housing at (401) 254-3161.

CENTER FOR COUNSELING AND STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

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. Two services top that list: freshman support groups to help students discuss and deal with homesickness, and the support of PEERs, upperclassmen trained to provide confidential, supportive listening and referrals. In addition, our PEERs offer interactive and informative programs in the residence halls on various topics including freshman adjustment, stress management and relationships.

All full-time students, excluding law school students, are eligible to take advantage of our services free of charge. And free consultation and referral services are available for part-time undergraduate students. Our staff adheres to Rhode Island's legal and professional confidentiality guidelines, which means we cannot share information about a student's visit without the student's permission.

The Center for Counseling and Student Development is located on the second floor of the Center for Student Development. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

To contact the center, call (401) 254-3124 or visit <http://counselingcenter.rwu.edu>

For after-hours emergency services, students should contact the on-call CORE in their residence hall. (COREs are Coordinators of Residence Education, full-time professional staff members who live in the residence halls and oversee everything that goes on in the buildings.) Or, of course, students can contact Public Safety at (401) 254-HELP or (401) 254-3611.



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 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