

The College “Don’t Forget” Packing List

It’s been a little while since I last packed for living in a dorm room, but I thought it was worth bringing up again for you girls heading back to school– or for the moms who read with sons/daughters going back!



Clothing:

- Pack more underwear... really, the more the merrier! You’ll be glad you did when you can push out laundry day a little more
- Pack fewer t-shirts and pajamas... t-shirts are handed out like candy on campus so don’t overpack your old high school t-shirts and you really don’t need five pajama sets.
- Business suit... you never know when a presentation will pop up or if you land an internship interview, be prepared and ready!
- Rain boots... the time you realize you forgot rainboots will be the day you have to walk across campus during a September monsoon.
- Rain jacket... should definitely have a hood!
- Puffer jacket... for the seasonally-too-soon cold front in October you weren’t expecting until December.
- Some kind of costume... costume parties are inevitable, just make sure it’s one you’re okay with your grandma seeing photos of on Facebook.
- Formal dress... fancy schmancy events do happen from time to time, this way you won’t have to spend a fortune the day before.
- Cocktail dress... this should be appropriate for a reception with professors and deans in attendance.

Random:

- Duffle bag... for a roadtrip to visit your roommate’s parents (home cooked meals...)

- Carry-on luggage... when you eventually need to go home for Thanksgiving.
- Noise canceling headphones... the library is loud and your roommate chews gum even louder
- Playing cards... just good to have.
- Checks... sometimes Paypal and Chase quickpay just won't cut it.
- Medical history/prescription refills... for the Strep throat that the entire dorm gets, replacement contact lenses, and surprise allergic reaction.
- Emergency phone numbers... in hard copy: grandparents, doctors, best friends from home, etc.
- Extra post-its and index cards... the school supplies you'll use the most of.

Bed:

- Extra pillows... pillows make sitting on the floor with friends and studying on your bed better.
- Mattress pad... have you ever actually spent the night on a XL twin without one? It's not okay.
- 2 sets of sheets... again, the laundry situation...
- Stackable plastic bins with drawers... lifesavers for dorm storage. Two stacks of three drawers for under the bed
- Bed risers... so your stackable bins will fit.

Dorm:

- Tower fan... because you may be able to control the temperature from in your room, but the building is switched to "heat" until May.
- Tool kit... be the hero of your floor with the Phillips head.
- First aid kit... just to be safe.
- Batteries... half of the things you need require batteries and you won't know until your mouse doesn't work anymore.
- Wrinkle release spray... LOL, who's going to actually iron?
- Flashlight... the power will go off at least five times.
- Coffee maker... when you're inevitably in a rush the next morning.
- 3M Strips & Hooks... space savers and they won't get you in trouble with the RA during inspections
- Extension cords & Power strip... everything's gotta charge and there just aren't enough outlets.
- Duct Tape... something will break and you won't know how else to fix it.
- Zip ties... because electrical cords everywhere can be a messy nightmare.
- Curtains... you can sleep in without mom making you wake up!
- Air freshener... when you need to freshen up but don't want to do a dorm room deep clean

Closet:

- Slim hangers... more space equals more clothes.
- Closet door shoe organizer... great for organizing all kinds of accessories, not just shoes.
- Garment bag... to keep your nice clothes wrinkle free and smelling fresh.
- Jewelry storage... little boxes to store in drawers and things to hang your huge earrings on a door or

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