

The Ultimate College Packing List

Compiled by Linnell Chang – Last Update 2010

Note: Do not be intimidated by this list. Use it as a springboard for your own ideas. Cross out items your child will not use and add items you think your child will need. Happy packing!

Bed Articles

- Pillow wedge for reading
- Bed pillows
- 2 top sheets – extra long?
- 2 pillowcases
- 2 fitted, bottom sheets – extra long?
- Mattress pad – extra long?
- Foam mattress pad – egg crate or memory foam
- Blankets
- Comforter with a duvet cover highly recommended for ease of washing or a thin bedspread
- Stadium/picnic blanket for sitting outdoors while studying
- Space saver bags for blanket storage
- Sleeping bag - for guests, trips, etc.

Desk Items

- Backpack or messenger bag
- Electric pencil sharpener
- Bookends
- Clock radio with battery back up
- Grounded extension cords (4) and multiplex plugs (with surge protector)
- Cat 5 ethernet cable (optional for Resnet service)
- Address book – for old and new friends, family
- Business envelopes
- Manila envelopes
- Stamps
- Journal
- Thank you notes
- Stationery
- Calendar (Filled in with special dates such as family birthdays)
- Scotch tape
- Masking tape
- Paper clips
- Rubber bands
- Stapler and staples
- Staple remover
- Scissors
- Pencils – regular or mechanical

- Pens – ballpoint and Sharpies
- Colored pencils
- Colored markers
- Highlighters
- White board markers
- White board (for door or room)
- Binders and binder paper
- Computer paper
- Graph paper, depending on major
- Construction paper
- Spiral notebooks
- File folders or Trapper type folders
- Accordion folder
- Clear report covers
- Push pins
- Index cards
- Hole punch
- Ruler
- Glue
- Liquid paper
- Erasers
- Post It Notes
- Labels
- Hole reinforcements
- Dictionary, if not taking a computer
- Thesaurus, if not taking a computer
- Atlas, if not taking a computer
- Writing style manual
- Reference books and high school notes
- Sticky putty to mount posters
- Photos of friends & family
- Scrapbook/album
- String
- File box & dividers or plastic accordion file (for medical info, warranties, instruction booklets, etc)
- Stacking crates
- Computer, monitor, computer lock for laptop, and printer or printer/fax machine
- Desk chair pad
- Desk lamp
- Clip on lamp for bed
- Replacement light bulbs
- Flash drive
- Calculator
- Blank CDs and DVDs

First Aid/Health/Safety

- Plastic stacking storage drawers to hold first aid supplies

- Thermometer
- Band Aids, assorted sizes
- Acetaminophen (Tylenol)
- Ibuprofen (Advil)
- Pepto-Bismol
- Imodium
- Rx medications
- Eye drops
- Tums
- Multi-Vitamins, Vitamin C, Zinc lozenges, Echinacea, etc.
- Benadryl capsules
- Cough drops
- Cough medicine
- Cortisone cream
- Desenex spray (public showers!)
- Antibiotic ointment
- Bactine or alcohol wipes
- Head cold capsules
- Flu – multi symptom medication
- Antibacterial hand sanitizer
- Sunscreen
- Q-tips
- Lip balm
- Flashlight
- Batteries – flashlight, calculator, camera etc.
- Bathroom scale
- Hot/Cold packs (for athletes)
- Ace bandage (for athletes)

Eating Related Items

- Microwave oven, if not provided by college
- Small refrigerator, if not provided by college
- Plastic dishes or paper plates (bowls and plates)
- Plastic forks, knives & spoons
- Mug
- Sport thermos
- Can opener/bottle opener
- Sharp knife
- Small cutting board
- Plastic wrap
- Ziploc-type plastic bags in assorted sizes
- Foil
- Plastic drink glasses
- Small food storage containers
- Britta water pitcher
- Powdered drinks
- Box juices

- Plastic juice pitcher/container
- Instant noodles
- Rival hot pot (if permitted and if microwave oven is not available)
- Hot chocolate mixes, tea bags, instant coffee, etc.
- Cans of soup
- Cans of ravioli
- Microwave popcorn
- Breakfast bars
- Bag clips
- Potholder/oven mitt
- Paper towels
- Sponge
- Dish detergent
- Multi-purpose cleaner

Recreational Equipment

- Deck of cards
- Frisbee
- Padlock (for gym locker)
- Sunglasses
- Balls – tennis, football, soccer etc.
- Games – favorite board games or travel versions
- Gym bag
- Tennis racquet
- Bicycle & bike lock
- Sticker for bike seat for quick identification of student's bike
- TV
- DVD player, if not one on computer
- Favorite DVDs & CDs
- Wonder stars for ceiling
- Beach chair (not just for the beach!)

Toiletries

- Drainable caddy to hold bath supplies
- Kleenex
- Kleenex packets
- Covered soap dish and toothbrush holder
- Bath soap/ body gel (Body wash is neater than goopy bars of soap)
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Deodorant
- Razor
- Toothpaste & toothbrush
- Dental floss
- Bath towels
- Washcloths

- Hand towels
- Beach towel
- Shower cap
- Pads, tampons
- Hairbrush & comb
- Manicure supplies
- Curling iron
- Hairdryer
- Oxy pads or cotton pads & astringent
- Lotion and face cream
- Nail polish remover
- Tweezers
- Make up
- Make up mirror

Clothing & Related Items

- Swimsuit
- Winter gear - gloves, scarf etc.
- Raincoat
- Robe
- Slippers
- Good walking shoes
- Sweats
- Plastic sandals to wear in shower
- Sandals
- Watch
- Laundry basket/hamper/bag
- Quarters, unless using a laundry card
- Laundry detergent (Consider using snack-sized Ziplocs to carry single-load amounts of detergent; eliminates carrying whole box or jug of detergent to laundry room).
- Pre wash spray or stick
- Fabric dryer sheets
- Clothes drying rack
- Mesh lingerie bags
- Over the door hooks
- Large duffel bag for trips home or side trips
- Iron, if your child plans on using one!
- Portable ironing board, if your child plans on ironing!
- Wrinkle-free spray
- Closet bar (to make 2 hanging levels)
- Hangers
- Bed lifters and under bed storage containers

Miscellaneous

- Registration forms
- Social security card or copy

- Copy of medical insurance card
- Copy of immunization record
- Personal ID
- Copy of birth certificate
- Credit card, ATM card
- Checkbook & extra checks
- Cell phone and charger
- Camera and charger
- Portable phone if getting a land line
- Lock box w/combination or footlocker with padlock (store valuables while gone on weekends)
- Key chain
- Shelf liner
- MP3 player
- Sewing kit & safety pins
- Flower vase
- Umbrella
- Loud timer for naps
- Poster, pictures, memorabilia
- Plastic organizers with drawers
- Tape measure
- Electric fan
- Bulletin board
- Full-length mirror (over-the-door type)
- Wastebasket w/ extra liners, if not provided by college
- Area rug
- Tools – hammer, screw drivers, pliers, & wrenches (fix bike, change bunk beds to platform beds)
- Vacuum - hand version
- Bean bag or Butterfly chair
- Step stool