



Residential Life Courier

WESTFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY JULY 2011

2011 FALL CALENDAR SEMESTER HIGHLIGHTS

SEPTEMBER

- 4 9am - Halls open for new students
11am-4pm – Ely One Stop
6-9pm – check-in for returning students with approved early arrivals
Welcome Week activities begin
- 5 9am – Halls open for returners
- 6 University Opening Day & activities
- 7 Classes begin
- 19 Room change request period begins
- 24 FAMILY DAY – great day for students and family to catch up! Details & registration info will be sent in August

OCTOBER

- 10 Columbus Day holiday – no classes
- 26 Annual Haunted House and Fun Stop Charity Fundraiser

NOVEMBER

- 11 Veterans' Day holiday – no classes
- 23 2pm - halls close for Thanksgiving recess
- 27 Noon – halls reopen
- 28 Classes resume

DECEMBER

- 5 9 pm – continuous quiet hours begin
- 13 Last day of classes
- 14 Reading day
- 15-20 Finals Period
- 20 5pm - all residence halls close for fall semester

JANUARY 2012

- 22 Noon – halls reopen for spring semester
- 23 Classes begin

ARRIVAL DETAILS

New resident check-in is on Sunday, September 4 from 9:00AM-3:00PM at your residence hall.

Follow the signs on Western Avenue to your hall. Directions for parking and unloading will be provided by Public Safety staff at your hall.

Returning resident check-in is on Monday, September 5 from 9:00AM-5:00PM at your hall.

Returning residents with exceptional needs may request early move-in - print out the form at www.westfield.ma.edu/reslife and submit it. If approved, you will be billed \$25 for the extranight. Early move-in for returners is set for Sunday, September 4 from 6-9 p.m. at your hall.

The Ely One Stop will be available for students and parents on Sunday, September 4 from 11am-4pm and on Monday, September 5 from Noon-4pm including these offices and services:

*Student Accounts *Financial Aid
*I.T. support *I.D. cards
*Bookstore *Class schedule printing
*Welcome Week, Family Day, Parent Association and banking information
All offices will be open for regular business hours on Tuesday, September 6.

A full slate of Welcome Week activities will take place beginning on Sunday; a complete schedule will be posted on campus when you arrive.

The first meal on the meal plan is lunch on Sunday, September 4th in the Dining Commons.

Hours of operation for other campus eateries will be posted on campus for your convenience.

Classes begin on Wednesday, September 7th.

RESIDENTIAL LIFE:

Who we are and what we do

Success at college is only partly about whether you can handle the coursework. Most of you should be fully up to that job, and there are plenty of resources here (Academic Advising Center, Tutoring, Reading & Writing Center, etc.) to assist you. But, what about the 90% of your time here that isn't spent in the classroom? That's where Residential Life comes in.

Residential Life's mission at Westfield is simple:

We promote personal development
and civic engagement.

In practice, this means that we work to:

- ▽ Create an environment where people know - and feel comfortable with - each other
- ▽ Develop relationships with each resident
- ▽ Be a resource for students with questions and concerns
- ▽ Encourage students to balance individual rights with the needs of their community
- ▽ Promote awareness of, respect for, and appreciation of diversity
- ▽ Ensure that our living environments are conducive to sleep, study and education
- ▽ Help students get the most out of college
- ▽ Facilitate residents' active participation in their residence hall, on the campus, and in neighboring communities.

There are many skills that you can learn by living on campus that will come in handy now AND later in life, including communication, negotiation, assertiveness, collaboration, community development and problem solving, to name just a few. Successful residence hall environments depend on the active involvement of each community member.

Who's Who in Residential Life

- R.A. = Resident Assistant – Full-time studentstaff who are trained as peer advisors. R.A.s provide support and advice, plan events, identify and address community needs, serve as resources, and respond to issues.
 - S.D.A. = Staff Development Assistant – An experienced student staff member who serves as a resource for R.A.s and an assistant to the Residence Director.
 - R.D. = Residence Director – The full-time professional staff member who lives in your hall and works with the residents and the in-hall staff. The R.D. advises the hall council, works with students on counseling, advising, mediation, conduct and other matters, and is an excellent resource person.
 - G.A. = Graduate Assistant – part-time staff members who provide extra support for major departmental projects and initiatives.
 - The Residential Life Central Office is on the garden level of Scanlon Hall in the Annex section (closest to the Apartments and Dickinson – our main entrance faces onto Scanlon Road). The offices for the Executive Director, Assistant Directors, Accountant and Secretary are located here. We're open from 8am-5pm Monday-Friday during the school year.
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The Owl Advantage Program & "Get Going" with CollegiateLink at Westfield

The Owl Advantage Program offers incentives for you to get out and sample the many things the University has to offer – activities, speakers, workshops, entertainers, etc. By doing so, you'll meet other students and learn more about yourself, the campus and the world.

Before you even get to campus you can check out the New Co-Curricular Record Program from the Portal under the "Campus Life" tab. Select your interests and enter your involvement on campus so you can have a complete picture of

your time here at Westfield. More information will be available when you arrive to campus!

HOUSING UPDATES

Housing will be reflected on your Fall Semester bill, which was sent in early July. Look on the bill for either a 3-4 letter building code or the code 'HPP', which means 'Housing Placement Pending.' **IMPORTANT:** If you DON'T see this line on your bill and believe you should have on-campus housing, please call us immediately at 413-572-5402.

NEW STUDENT housing placements are mailed out starting in mid-July and continuing in August.

RETURNING STUDENTS who did not choose a room in the spring will also receive written notification from us as your assignments are made throughout the summer.

WHAT'S IN MY ROOM?

- Computer internet access through the University's server. All bedrooms have both wireless and hard-wired internet service. The University serves as your internet service provider from now on, so you don't need another I.S.P. Your computer does need an Ethernet card, as dial-up modems can't be used over our phone lines.
- On-campus and local telephone service including voice mail (bring your own phone). For long-distance, use a cell phone, calling card, or get service through a provider.
- Furniture including desk, desk chair, dresser/built in drawers, bed and closet.
- Expanded basic cable TV in all student bedrooms and apartment living rooms.

WHAT SHOULD I PACK?

- **BED LINENS** - extra-long twin size, such as: bedspread, pillow, mattress cover, blankets/comforters, and sheet sets (NOTE: look for the mailing on the University's linens program)

- **DECORATIONS** - carpet, memo board, plants, pictures/posters, mementos
- **EQUIPMENT** - computer & surge protector, printer (+ extra ink cartridges) desk lamp
- **CLOTHES** – don't bring everything you have all at once; bring things up as you need them and take other things home so you don't have a HUGE packing job at year's end
- **DESK SUPPLIES** - metal wastebasket, pens, pencils, highlighters, notebooks, paper
- **HOUSEHOLD ITEMS** - storage systems/shelving, hangers, iron/ironing board, broom/dustpan, laundry detergent/laundry basket, window fan, cleaning supplies
- **SNACK ITEMS** - (air) popcorn poppers, snacks (soups, crackers, cocoa, cookies)
- **OTHER ITEMS** - towels/face cloths, toiletries, alarm clock, foot locker, medical/first-aid supplies, sewing kit, shower caddy, etc.
- **APPLIANCES** - these items are permitted in student rooms: blenders, clocks, coffee makers and irons with auto shut-off, computers, fans (floor or window), hair dryers/curlers, air popcorn poppers, radios, razors, refrigerators up to 4 cu. ft. (one per resident, bearing the UL seal and operating on up to 2.5 amps), stereos, and TVs. Please use appliances in the intended manner and turn off items when not needed. Use of surge strips is recommended.

WHAT NOT TO BRING – We're committed to providing a safe residence hall environment. Based on state health and safety and fire requirements for residence halls, we ask you to help us in this area by NOT bringing the following items into any of our residential areas:

- ◆ Air conditioner
- ◆ Halogen floor lamp
- ◆ Heat lamp/heater
- ◆ Hotplate/hotpot
- ◆ Sandwich maker/George Foreman grill*
- ◆ Toaster/toaster oven*
- ◆ Other cooking devices
- ◆ Refrigerators over 4 cu. ft.
- ◆ Large upholstered furniture
- ◆ Pets (except service animals)

- ◆ Microwaves (exc. approved Polarwave units)*

*NOTE: Apartment Complex & New Hall residents may have one microwave oven, toaster/toaster oven and sandwich maker per apartment.

If any of these items are found on campus, our campus policy requires that they be confiscated and donated to a local charity to prevent their reappearance on campus.

SAFE AT HOME

Westfield State University is among the safest campuses in Massachusetts, as demonstrated by several years of statewide statistics; but no community is completely immune from crime.

YOU can take an active role in preserving a safe, secure environment for yourself and other students. How?

- ALWAYS LOCK your room door when asleep or out of your room (even if it's only a few minutes). Most campus thefts are 'crimes of opportunity' – remove the opportunity and prevent the loss.
- REPORT suspicious activity. Call Public Safety at x5262 AND tell your in-hall staff.
- LEAVE THE BUILDING IMMEDIATELY BY THE CLOSEST FIRE EXIT EVERY TIME AN ALARM GOES OFF. Learn your alternate exits in case a primary exit is blocked.
- LOOK OUT for each other – awareness is a key element of maintaining safety.

INSURANCE - Students and parents should check their homeowner's/renter's insurance to ensure that student belongings at college are covered. If not, see if this can be added to your existing policy or pick up renter's insurance for residence hall students. It's available from traditional insurance agencies as well as agencies specializing in the collegiate market (for example, www.nssi.com)

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Most residents spend more time in their rooms than in classes and the library combined. So, since environment shapes attitude and attitude shapes success, consider these ways to make your room more accommodating:

- MICROFRIDGERENTAL– A brochure on our Microfridge refrigerator/freezer/microwave lease program is on this site. Since demand exceeds supply, mail your reservation form and check ASAP: units will be in the room and ready to use when you arrive. We allow one Microfridge per room; if more than one roommate requests a unit, we split the cost and issue partial refunds to each person.
- LIGHTING – Studies show a relationship between lighting levels and mood. Consider both floor and table lamps (but no halogen floor lamps, please, due to fire safety issues).
- PLANTS – Something alive in your room (besides pets, which are prohibited) can add a homey touch. Look for plants that tolerate low light and don't require a lot of tending and keep them watered, especially in the winter when humidity in the halls is low.
- POSTERS – Find something that sends a message about your tastes and personality. [Tip: we usually have a poster sale in front of Ely early in the fall – check it out!]
- PHOTOS – An easy way to personalize your room. Getting enlargements of favorite photos is relatively cheap and makes your room feel more like YOUR room.
- STORAGE – Bins, under-bed boxes, closet organizers, shelving units, small tables/night stands, and similar items can provide decoration and function for your room.

For many of these items, you may want to wait until you and your roommate are present before deciding what to get – it's better when all

residents of a room have a say in how the room looks and works for everybody.

ROOMMATE TIPS

Whether you're a new or returning resident, these tips can improve your living experience:

1. Communicate. Most blow-ups come when people don't talk about something when it's tiny and let it fester until it's HUGE. Open the communication channels right away and check in regularly to ensure they stay open.
2. Compromise. So your roommate's not perfect – who is? Like any relationship, give and take is necessary on all sides.
3. Don't assume you'll become best friends with your roommate. If it happens, great, but many roommate relationships have been torpedoed by unrealistic expectations.
4. Set some shared ground rules for your room early and revisit them as needed. Consider what you need to succeed and respect your roommate's needs too. If you like music when you study and your roommate needs quiet, figure out a way (earbuds? agreed times?) to keep everyone happy. If you're touchy about people touching your things, say so. Some sources of roommate angst:
 - *Territoriality over their space and stuff;
 - *Seriously messy rooms;
 - *Guest issues (lack of advance notice, guests there too often or for too long);
 - *Money issues (unpaid shared bills, etc.);
 - *Conflicting sleep/study schedules.If you can agree on these five, you'll greatly improve satisfaction with on-campus living.
5. Have a problem? Try to settle things in CONFIDENTIAL, COOPERATIVE, CONSIDERATE manner. Don't make it public information and talk to everyone in the world, as this always finds its way back to your roommate eventually – a sure route to more issues.

Still need help? If you have tried to work things out but seem to be stuck, suggest that you go talk to your RA or RD together. They know how

to help you, and your roommate will appreciate that you didn't go behind his/her back.

WANT TO BE AN R.A.?

If you're a sophomore or higher with at least a 2.2 OPA who is interested in helping other students, developing leadership and teamwork skills, and making some spending money as well, have we got a deal for you! Consider applying for a Resident Assistant position. We have several vacancies for this fall and will be conducting interviews this summer. Please contact us at RAselection@westfield.ma.edu for information.

HOW WE'RE SPENDING OUR SUMMER VACATION

Westfield State is having a particularly busy summer, with the following major projects underway to benefit students for the coming academic year.

DINING COMMONS ADDITION & RENOVATIONS – a substantial addition holding over 300 new seats and changes in the existing building from top (new roof) to bottom (new carpeting) will greet students in September. Students chose the new interior color scheme via a spring vote.

LAMMERS HALL CONSTRUCTION – Lammers is getting a major facelift including brand new windows and shades and work in several common areas (landings and lounges).

DAVIS and DICKINSON LOUNGES are receiving new carpet, paint and furnishings.

And speaking of spending: the price tag for all of these projects is in excess of \$7 million – so we REALLY hope you like what we've done with the place!