



# Summer College Orientation

Attending summer orientation with your soon-to-be college student may seem like a lot of effort. You may need to take off work or find someone to take care of younger children, but we promise, *IT WILL BE WORTH IT!*

- This is a great opportunity to see the place where your child will be spending the next years of their life!
- Orientation is specifically planned for you and your high school graduate! The day will be designed to help you both understand what life is like in college.
- There are people on campus primed and ready to answer any questions you might have.

### Questions parents should ask:

**HEALTH SERVICES:** Where are the health service offices located? What types of insurance does the student health center accept?

**TRANSPORTATION:** How do students leave campus? Is there a shuttle? Where does it go? When does it run? Are there public transportation options? If students don't have cars, how do they get around?

**COMMUNICATION:** Who is the point of contact for parents? Is there a Parent Relations office? If I have questions or concerns, who do I call?

**FINANCE:** How are housing and tuition payments made?

**ACADEMICS:** Who will be my student's advisor? Where does my student find help if he is struggling in a class?

**SAFETY:** Are there public safety pick up service available late at night? What measures are in place to ensure student

### Questions students should ask:

**WORK STUDY:** If I qualify for Federal Work Study, how many jobs are available on campus? How/when do you apply?

**ACADEMICS:** How is advising done? Will I have an academic advisor? How are advisors assigned? How do I follow up with my adviser if I have questions down the road?

**TECHNOLOGY:** Should I bring a computer to campus with me? Is there assistance for computer problems?

**FINANCE:** What documents should I bring with me to complete the financial aid process when I come to campus in the fall?

**DORMS:** Can I tour my residence hall? What is allowed in a dorm room (like a microwave, refrigerator, or TV)? What does the average student bring?

**ETS NOTE:** Coordinate with your roommate so you don't end up buying 2 of everything!

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“EDUCATION IS THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON YOU CAN USE TO CHANGE THE WORLD.”

~NELSON MANDELA

Don't forget to ask whether the college has a TRIO Student Support Services Program (SSS). SSS is the college version of ETS! SSS is designed to assist college students by offering Individual academic advising and tutoring. Participating in the SSS Program is a great way to get involved on campus!



# Cheat Sheet of College Vocabulary

**Academic Advisor:** Specially trained staff that advise students concerning academic programs and class schedules.

**Alumni:** This is a group of people who have graduated from a college or university.

**Associate's degree:** A two-year degree from a community or junior college.

**Bachelor's degree:** A four-year degree from a college, university or professional school.

**Community college:** Two-year college also known as junior college. Students can either transfer courses to a four-year university or receive an associate's degree in a certain field.

**Dean:** The head of an academic division or an area within the college.

**Dean's List:** A listing of students with outstanding academic records, basically the honor roll in college

**Doctoral degree:** The most advanced degree that can be earned.

**Grants:** Money for college that does not need to be repaid.

**Internship:** A job in a student's field of study; may be required in some academic programs and may include salary and college credit.

**Liberal Arts College:** A college where the academic focus is on developing the "whole student" not just specific training for certain career or job.

**Loans:** Money for college that must be repaid.

**Master's degree:** A graduate degree that usually requires two or more years of study beyond the bachelor's degree.

**Major:** A student's first and main field of study.

**Minor:** A student's second field of study.

**Prerequisite:** A course that must be taken prior to enrolling in another course.

**Private university:** A college or university, not funded by the state, that relies on private funding, tuition and fees.

**Public university:** A college or university that receives funding from the state, lowering costs students pay.

**Registrar:** The office on campus that is responsible for every student's class registration and enrollment.

**Residence Halls:** Dorms, apartments, houses, and other living quarters provided for students by the college or university.

**Scholarships:** Money for college based on merit; does not require repayment.

**Transcript:** This is the official document containing the record of a student's academic performance and testing history.

**Undergraduate:** A student at a college or university who has not yet earned a bachelor's degree.

**Virtual Tour:** This is an online feature offered by some colleges and universities to allow prospective students to view various aspects of campus life without visiting the school in person.

**Vocational or Technical School:** This type of institution is similar to a community college in that it offers specific career-oriented programs that last from a few months to a couple of years. Most are specialized and offer intense training in one specific skill area.

**Work-study program:** A federal financial aid program that allows students to work for pay on campus.



## Words from the Wise

Former ETS students share what they learned in their first years of college.



“Friends you make in college will feel different than the ones you made in high school, but in a good way! Friends become much more diverse in college. Don’t be afraid to discuss what makes you different, but a word of caution to maintain an open mind and to be sensitive to others. [...] As for experiences, try anything that peaks your interest. At the beginning of the year there will be an activities fair for clubs and

organizations on campus. Give your contact information out to the ones you’re interested in to learn more. You can always decide later if it is not for you.”

-Nevi Zerkle  
(Saydel HS ‘14; Drake University)

I learned that studying alone sometimes is not enough so getting help in groups with people that have the same class as you, or going to a tutor, helps a lot in classes that you don’t understand.”

-Shantell Cortez  
(North HS ‘13; William Penn)



“One thing I definitely wish I would have done more is talk to the schools that I wanted to go to and plan my schedule accordingly! I have wasted my first semester of college because I didn’t know what classes to take and now I have to take all the hard stuff at the end of the year. I wish I would have talked to more advisors of the schools I was interested in.”

-Breanna Severin  
(Saydel HS ‘13; Mercy College of Health Sciences)



“Grades are only part of the college experience. If all you have is a good GPA after college, most employers won’t be interested, so become involved with clubs and organizations on campus.”

-Brittany McQueen  
(Oskaloosa HS ‘14; Drake University)

**For reference or more information on the topics covered in this newsletter, check out these resources:**

<http://www.collegeview.com/articles/article/what-every-parent-of-a-first-year-college-student-should-know>

<http://www.collegeparentcentral.com/2010/02/college-parents-and-college-admissions-what-to-ask-during-your-campus-visit/>

<http://www.usnews.com/education/blogs/twice-the-college-advice/2012/05/29/6-questions-to-ask-at-freshman-orientation>

[http://www.firstinthefamily.org/highschool/Downloads\\_files/Glossary%20of%20College%](http://www.firstinthefamily.org/highschool/Downloads_files/Glossary%20of%20College%20Application%20Terms.PDF)

[20Application%20Terms.PDF](http://www.firstinthefamily.org/highschool/Downloads_files/Glossary%20of%20College%20Application%20Terms.PDF)

<http://howtochoose.unt.edu/college-glossary>

**To contact Central College's Education Talent Search office**

Address: 812 E University, Pella, IA 50219

Email: [centralets@central.edu](mailto:centralets@central.edu); Phone: 800-527-4047

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**high school graduate!**



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