Parent and Family Guide to Life on Campus

2016-2017

Binghamton University
Residential Life
Welcome to Residential Life at Binghamton!

At Binghamton, we view families as essential partners in an important relationship encompassing students, parents/guardians and the University. Our staff is here to help your student make the most of the living and learning experience. Through this team approach, we hope to create a positive alliance that can provide your student with the optimal support system for a successful University experience within a secure and happy environment.

This booklet has been designed to assist families and students with the move-in process as well as provide additional information we feel will benefit you while your student is living in the residence halls here at Binghamton University. Additionally, throughout the year you can find information and monthly tips on our Parents and Guardians website: reslife.binghamton.edu/parents

Living on campus is a unique experience which can be one of the most memorable and rewarding of your student’s life. As your student transitions from home to residence hall, remember we are here to help. Our 200+ live-in staff are available 24/7 to assist, direct or just listen. The best part about living on campus is, it’s not just a place to stay, it’s a place to call “home.”
Preparing your student for community living

Chances are, your student may not be used to the unique living style that is university residential life and as parents or guardians, you may not be used to living without them around. It will be an adjustment for both of you that will likely evolve over time and help prepare for the important phase of life after college. Open lines of communication will be essential to adjust through this transition. Some things to consider:

**Choices:** As new freshmen, your student will face a variety of situations where they may need to make a personal choice. Alcohol, drugs, and intimate relationships are possibilities in any college environment. As a parent or guardian, being open to discussion and questions about these topics without judgment will help your student make the right choice for them. Part of becoming an adult is solving problems independently. Let your student make their own informed decisions as part of their growing process.

**Responsibilities:** At college, your student will need to manage and often juggle multiple responsibilities that at times may seem overwhelming. Making it to class, studying, cleaning up after themselves, getting along with their roommates, laundry, are all part of independent community living at college. This is an opportunity for them to practice good organizational skills that will be key to coping in their future lives. Making your student aware of what will be expected of them and talking them through ways to navigate will make this transitional time less stressful.

**Communication:** Although we might all wish communicating was as simple as an emoji and as abbreviated as a text, real life often calls for more. This is a good time for your student to practice their verbal and written communication skills and also a good time for you to practice restraint in how often and quickly you respond to their problems. Give them space and support and let them handle most issues themselves. You’ll know when an issue goes beyond their ability to cope and can step in at that point.

What to check before the move

To make your move-in as stress-free as possible, prepare and check that these things have been taken care of before your trip.

**Roommates:** Your student should have received the name and e-mail of their roommate(s). We recommend students contact their roommate(s) before coming to campus so they can work out shareable items as well as lifestyle preferences: how late they like to stay up, when they like to study, how clean they keep their spaces, etc.

**Student ID cards:** Your student was issued a Binghamton University student ID card during orientation. This card is necessary for residence hall and room access as well as many other student services including: meal plans and BUC$; free rides on Binghamton city buses; access to on-campus fitness/gym facilities; checking out library books. More information on ID cards can be found here: binghamton.edu/registrar/services/id-cards.html

**Meal plans:** All residential or on-campus students are required by the University to purchase a resident meal plan, with the exception of Hillside and Susquehanna apartment residents. The meal plan will be active as soon as your student gets to campus. Our default meal plan is Plan C. For more information about dining options, and BUC$ accounts (a debit card accessed with a Binghamton ID card): https://binghamton.sodexomyway.com/dining-plans

**Hotel reservations:** The Greater Binghamton area has multiple options from locally owned B&Bs to large hotel chains, but it’s a good idea to reserve room(s) for your stay here. For more information: binghamton.edu/visiting-campus/lodging.html

Don’t forget to bring this booklet and the colored dashboard pass for your student’s residence hall with you on Move-In Day!
What to pack for the move

Every room has beds, desks, chairs, dressers and a place to hang clothes, but what your student and their roommate(s) bring will really be what makes the room feel like home. It’s also a good idea for students to contact their roommate(s) before coming to school to coordinate who is going to bring what and what can be shared.

**Necessities:** TRASH BIN and bags • BEDDING: pillows & pillowcases, sheets (2 sets twin extra long), blanket and bedspread, mattress pad • TOILETRIES: hand soap, shampoo • ALARM CLOCK • SHOWER STUFF: towels, wash cloths • CLOTHES HANGERS & laundry detergent and supplies • HANG UPS: poster hanging putty (CIW, Hinman, Mountainview and apartments only) look for the blue kind for easier removal; push pins/thumb tacks (Dickinson and Newing only) • SILVERWARE: cups, plates, bowls • COMPUTER CONNECTIONS: 25’ ethernet (RJ45) cable for Internet connectivity or computer with wi-fi capability; surge protector • any necessary MEDICATION prescribed to the student • CLEANING: dish detergent, paper towels

**Useful:** COMPUTER, coax cable • OFFICE SUPPLIES: stapler, tape dispenser, notepads, highlighters, markers, desk drawer organizer, 3-hole punch, note cards, pens and pencils • SHOWER caddy and sandals • SNACKS can opener, bag clips, re-sealable plastic bags and twist ties • FIX IT: sewing kit, screwdrivers/small tool kit • COMFORT: fan, flashlight, extra batteries, umbrella and/or raincoat, clip-on light/arm lamp (no halogens), personal-type water filter and extra filter cartridges

**Nice to share:** single-cup COFFEE MAKER • TV/DVD/ blue ray player and/or stereo • VIDEO GAME CONSOLES • REFRIGERATOR (5.5 cubic feet or less) • RUG • free-standing SHELVING system (no cinder blocks)

**Not allowed:** halogen and multi-headed LAMPS • FIREFWORKS • WEAPONS • ALCOHOL (if under age 21) • EXTENSION cords or cube adaptors • exposed HEATING element or open coil appliance (multi-cup coffee maker, hot plate, toaster, toaster oven, etc.), space heaters • AIR CONDITIONERS • CANDLES or incense • supplies to LOFT your bed • FLAGS, TAPESTRIES, or other cloth decorations

*For a complete listing of what is not permitted in the residence halls, please see the 2016-2017 Housing License found at binghamton.edu/residential-life/housing/forms.html

**Amenities:** On-campus students are provided with furnished rooms, utilities, cable access to over 60 channels, laundry and maintenance services. All residential communities are also equipped with Wi-Fi as well as at least one ethernet outlet in the bedrooms. Throughout campus, students can also find public computing areas (Pods) where they can access computers and the University computer network. Each residential community also has recreational areas including basketball and volleyball courts, full-service kitchens and lounges.
The residence halls will open for new students at 8 a.m. Sunday, August 21.

Please note, the entire move-in process can take 1-2 hours. In order to provide our students the best service possible, we have staggered arrival times:

Students living on **ground or even floors** should arrive between **8 and 11:00 a.m.** Students living on **odd-numbered floors** should arrive between **11:30 and 2:30 p.m.** Make sure your student logs in to the housing system (https://housing.binghamton.edu/login.aspx) to find out whether they’re on odd or even floors.

**Arrival:** Before arriving on campus, please place the enclosed color-coded card naming your student’s residence hall on your dashboard. This will enable staff to direct you to the appropriate area for unloading. Please note: Apartment Communities residents will not have a color-coded card.

When you arrive at your hall, you’ll need to unload your belongings and then move your car to a designated parking area. Shuttles will be available to transport you back to the residence hall. Ideally, your student will be checking in while someone is moving the car and a third person is staying with the belongings. Aren’t traveling in threes? No worries. We’ll have staff and volunteers on hand to help.

**The Welcome Back Crew** includes returning students who volunteer to assist new students and families on Move-In Day. The Crew will help load your belongings into large carts to transport to your room. Though these students are more than willing to help, they will not be able to move all belongings for you and your student.

**Checking in:** To check in, your student should be prepared to show picture identification (Binghamton ID, driver’s license, etc). There will be signs on the main doors of the building that will direct the student to the check-in location.

Upon arrival at the check-in location, your student will be greeted by staff members and given keys and/or key cards to the room.

Your student will need to complete an online **Room Condition Report (RCR)**. This is a document that must be filled out immediately upon arrival in the room. It reports the condition of the room and room contents at the time of move in. RCR’s are used to determine damage billing when a student moves out. This must be filled out correctly to ensure your student is not held responsible for a pre-existing condition in the room. Students will need to submit this RCR online as soon as possible.

**Welcome Back Events start:** Once students have moved in, Welcome Back events begin with Sunday afternoon floor-, building- and area-wide meetings for students. This is an opportunity for the student to get oriented to the building and community and to meet important staff like their resident assistant, assistant residential coordinator, resident director, assistant director of Residential Life and collegiate professor. Events continue throughout the week including New Student Picnic, movies, University Fest, academic programs, tours of campus and sports in the quad.

Families should plan to say goodbye to their students before the floor and building-wide meeting begins. Family members are welcome to attend the parent and guardian session in their area as a “primer” to life with a college student.

Check our website for the latest Schedule of Events and things to do for Welcome Week: reslife.binghamton.edu
Welcome home

**Student support:** The Residential Life staff is a great resource; we have 30+ live-in professional staff and 200+ resident assistants (RAs) in the halls. Each college/community at Binghamton is overseen by an assistant director of Residential Life whose primary responsibility is to develop an environment where our students can study, socialize and grow.

A tenured faculty member serves as the **collegiate professor**, who works to promote faculty-student interaction.

In the traditional residential areas, the assistant directors supervise resident directors (RDs). In the apartment communities, the assistant director supervises a community director (CD). RDs and CDs are full-time professionals who live in the residence halls with your students. Additionally, graduate-level assistant residential coordinators (ARCs) and assistant community directors (ACDs) work with the RDs and CDs to ensure that the residence halls foster a sense of community and a living-learning atmosphere for the residents.

**Resident assistants** (RAs) play a vital role in developing and maintaining an atmosphere of academic, personal and social growth in the halls. RAs are students here who assist other students with the transition to college, serving as mentors and friends.

**Maintenance and security:** Our halls and campus have staff on call 24/7 to respond to any maintenance or medical issues. Non-emergency maintenance requests can be addressed by filling out a form via our home page. In emergency maintenance or emergency medical, mental health situations, etc. – your student should contact the floor RA or University Police immediately.

**Transportation:** **Bus** – With a valid Binghamton University ID card, students can ride the Broome County Transit and Binghamton University OCCT Transport buses at no charge. **Taxi** – Binghamton has several taxi services that are available to university students. See our orientation transportation page here: binghamton.edu/orientation/resources/transportation.html

**Binghamton University Bike Share** provides free bikes to students and faculty, check here for details: https://binghamtonbikeshare.com/

**Air** – The Greater Binghamton Airport is less than 20 minutes from campus with taxi service available.

**Breaks:** Check our cling calendar included with this booklet for important dates concerning breaks. Our halls will close for Thanksgiving, Christmas, winter, spring and summer breaks. Students who haven’t signed up for break housing (in Windham/Mountainview; Delaware/Newing; Mohawk/CIW; Susquehanna or Hillside) will have to find other accommodations.

**Computers/wi-fi/printing:** All residence halls have high speed wi-fi. For directions on connecting, go here: binghamton.edu/its/organization/ops/wireless.html. Mac and PC computer PODS and printers are located in many locations in the residence halls and around campus. For more information on location and setup: binghamton.edu/its/facilities/pods/

**Mail:** You can stay up-to-date with students through their BMail accounts which all students receive upon registering. To find out what’s going on around campus, visit our home page for our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram happenings as well as your student’s residence hall Facebook page. To mail items:

Your Student’s Name  
BU Box # (will receive upon check in)  
PO Box 6020  
Binghamton, NY 13902-6020

**Residential social life:** Living in our communities provides a great opportunity for your student to interact and connect with other students from all over the world. We are proud of our diverse culture and provide multiple occasions for our residents to meet, play and learn. Sponsored RA events are planned weekly and every community has multiple traditions (competitions, concerts and dinners) held every semester. Check specific communities for details and dates. We have over 280 student-run clubs ranging from the Animal Alliance to the Zombie Student Association. Whatever your interest, connect with other students here: binghamtonsa.org/organizations/
For more information and resources for parents:
reslife.binghamton.edu/parents

Admissions ................................................................. 607-777-2171
binghamton.edu/admissions

Alumni Office ................................................................. 607-777-2431
binghamton.edu/alumni

Fleishman Center for Career and Professional Development ........................................................ 607-777-2400
binghamton.edu/ccpd

Dean of Students Office/ Parent and Family Programs ................................................................. 607-777-2804
binghamton.edu/dean-of-students

Decker Student Health Services Center ................................................................. 607-777-2221
binghamton.edu/health

Financial Aid Services ................................................................. 607-777-2428
binghamton.edu/financial-aid

Information (Campus info center) ................................................................. 607-777-2000

Information Technology Services (Computer Help Desk) ................................................................. 607-777-6420
its.binghamton.edu/helpdesk

LGBTQ Center ................................................................................. 607-777-6028
binghamton.edu/lgbtq

Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion ................................................................. 607-777-4775
binghamton.edu/diversity-equity-inclusion

Ombudsman ................................................................. 607-777-2388
binghamton.edu/ombudsman

Police (University), non-emergency ................................................................. 607-777-2393
binghamton.edu/police

Registrar/Student Records ................................................................. 607-777-6088
binghamton.edu/registrar

Residential Life ................................................................................. 607-777-2321
binghamton.edu/residential-life

Student Accounts Office ................................................................. 607-777-2702
binghamton.edu/student-accounts

Student Conduct ................................................................. 607-777-6210
binghamton.edu/student-conduct

University Counseling Center ................................................................. 607-777-2772
binghamton.edu/counseling
Are you ready?

Office of Residential Life
Binghamton University
P.O. Box 6000
Binghamton, NY 13902

607-777-2321
e-mail: reslife@binghamton.edu
web: reslife.binghamton.edu
facebook.com/BinghamtonResLife
Twitter: @BingUnivResLife
Instagram: bingreslife

College-in-the-Woods: 607-777-2637
Dickinson Community: 607-777-2826
Hinman College: 607-777-4716
Mountainview College: 607-777-7660
Newing College: 607-777-2864
Hillside Community: 607-777-4455
Susquehanna Community: 607-777-2904