Living and Dining on Campus

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Topics we’ll cover:

- Residence hall safety
- Residence hall amenities/items to bring
- Living with roommates
- Residence life staff
- Ways for students to get involved
- Avoiding homesickness
- Dining on campus
- Future housing options, move-in
Residence Hall Safety

- Residence hall exterior doors are locked 24x7, accessed by residents only through use of the Cardinal ID Card
- Many halls require use of the Cardinal Card to access doors to resident floors
- Campus Police are on call 24x7 and walk through residence halls regularly
- Residence life staff are on duty every night from 9 p.m. until Midnight, doing hourly rounds of building, assuring doors are secured
- Security cameras are in place near primary entrances
Residence Hall Safety

- Room door placards provide safety information in each resident room
- Campus Police provide training on safety topics in the residence halls throughout the year
  - Upcoming fall semester programs
    - September 7, Mayne Hall, 7 p.m. – Crime Prevention
    - September 8, Davis Hall, 7 p.m. – Crime Prevention
    - October 24, Davis Hall, 7 p.m. – Sexual Assault Awareness
      (co-presented by the Office of Student Conduct & Wellness)
- Westerville Police and Fire also provide training on special topics throughout the year
Residence hall amenities

• Wireless internet access
• 24 hour computer lab with laser printer
• Vending machines (soda & snack)
• Lounge with TV and DVD player
• Laundry machines (included in fees, no quarters needed!)
• Microwave
• Many halls have at least one study lounge and a kitchen
• Students can borrow a shop vac and board games from the RA on duty
• Most halls have a pool table and Wii
Room furnishings & amenities

- Wireless and wired internet connections
- Local phone connection
- Cable TV connection with over 70 channels
- XL Twin bed & mattress
- Desk & desk chair
- Closet & drawer space
- Mini-blinds on windows
- Mirror
- Carpeting (except in Engle Hall and select rooms in other halls)
Living with roommates

• Students are encouraged to talk early and openly about their preferences for sharing belongings, having guests in the room and quiet time needed – preferably before moving in.

• Students will be asked to participate in a conversation with their roommate and RA during the first three weeks of school to put into writing a roommate agreement.

• Keep in mind, many roommates are not best friends. At the end of the year, most students reported being satisfied with their roommate relationship.
Living with roommates

Roommate satisfaction reported on the Spring 2011 Residence Life Survey
When conflicts arise...

- Most roommates have small conflicts on a regular basis, just like any pair of people living together.
- Most conflicts can be resolved by talking about the disagreement and deciding how each party can give a little to find a resolution.
- RAs are available to work with roommates if they cannot reach an agreement on their own.
Residence Life Staff Can Help!

Student Affairs Office staff
• Director of Residence Life
• Assistant Director of Residence Life
• Administrative Assistant

Residence Hall Staff
• Residence Hall Directors - Live in the building/complex, trained in mediation, counseling, etc.
• Assistant Hall Directors & Resident Assistants - Upperclassmen students who live on each residence hall floor.
Becoming involved in campus life

Hall councils are open to all residents of the building and typically meet weekly in the lounge. Hall Directors will provide information about meeting day/time.

Hall councils typically host social activities for residents like movie nights, watching weekly TV shows (Glee, The Office), game nights, Wii & pool tournaments, study breaks during finals and creating Homecoming banners.
Becoming involved in campus life

The Center for Community Engagement (CCE) will host their Connections Fair the first Thursday of fall term to connect students with weekly community service opportunities.

The Center for Student Involvement (CSI) in the Campus Center hosts First Friday Festival to help student organizations, including Greek life, religious life and spiritual growth, diversity and special interest (such as Outdoor Adventure Club or Gamer’s Guild).

Intramural sports will have a full schedule of activities for athletic and non-athletic students (putt putt golf) and the Clements Center offers a variety of fitness classes for free.
Avoiding homesickness

Parents can help students avoid missing home by:

• Encouraging them to talk about campus activities – ask which class is most interesting and why
• Limiting phone calls, emails and texts – keeping them positive and not worrying student you are missing them
• Encouraging students to stay on campus for the first few weekends – there are activities and others are staying too!
• Sending care packages after the first weekend on campus to start the second week with a surprise in their mailbox!
• Plan first visit to campus for Homecoming on September 24
Dining by Bon Appétit

Three Meal Plans
- 210 Meals/$150 Dining Dollars
- 150 Meals/$225 Dining Dollars
- 120 Meals/$260 Dining Dollars

Four Dining locations
- **Cardinal’s Nest** – all-you-care-to-eat buffet for breakfast, lunch & dinner (brunch & dinner on weekends & holidays)
- **OtterDen** – grill & convenience store
- **OtterBean** – coffee bar, grab & go sandwiches & salads
- **Roost Express** – grab & go sandwiches, salads & soups

*Made from scratch with locally grown ingredients*
Freshmen, sophomores AND JUNIORS are required to live on campus unless commuting from the primary residence of their parent(s) within a 30 mile radius of campus.

Sophomores have the option of living in suite-style housing (two bedrooms sharing a bathroom) and theme houses. Juniors and seniors may live in the Commons apartments, suite-style or traditional halls.
Arriving on campus

• New Student Move-In is Wednesday, August 24

• Arrive with enough time to be unpacked by 5 p.m. when New Student Week activities begin

• Early arrival camps (sports/band) move directly into their fall rooms
  • Early arrival check-in times will be included with room assignment email (Football, band, Men’s & Women’s Soccer, Volleyball, Cross Country, Shades of Success, Cardinal Corps Leaders, etc.)
  • Meals are provided by the camp until New Student Week meals begin with dinner on August 24. Meal plans will begin with dinner on August 28.
True or False?

1. Smoking is allowed in all residence halls.
• Smoking is NOT allowed in ANY area of Otterbein College’s residence halls.
• Smoking is not allowed in ANY campus building.

False!
2. Overnight guests of the opposite sex are **not** allowed in Otterbein University’s residence halls.

**True or False?**
• Overnight guests of the SAME sex are allowed, but only for a few nights and with the permission of roommate(s).

• Opposite sex friends can spend an evening on campus if the student arranges for them to stay with a friend of the same sex of the guest.

• Guests must be signed in at the front desk of the residence hall when entering the building.
3. Parents are encouraged to call daily and visit their student at least once a week.

True or False ?
• Parents are encouraged to call weekly, but try to refrain from daily calls. Students need to develop new friends and support systems. This requires time and energy.
• Parents are encouraged to send encouraging notes, emails, etc. on a regular basis.

False!
4. Students should bring everything they own to college, including the family pet.

True or False ?
• Students should leave at least HALF of their belongings at home.
• Residence hall rooms average 12’x15’, typically about the same size as their bedrooms at home and there will be at least two students living in the room.
• Pets are not allowed in the residence halls (unless fish, hermit crabs, small turtles or stuffed).

False!
5. Students should learn how to do their own laundry before coming to college.

True or False ?
• Laundry rooms are provided in every residence hall and students are expected to do their own laundry.
• Washers and dryers are high efficiency (HE).
• There is no charge per load, so students can do as many as they need!

True!
6. Parents should try to solve roommate conflicts by requesting a room change.

True or False ?
• Students need to work (talk) through roommate issues with each other.
• Parents are a great resource for students to discuss their concerns about roommates and role-play discussions.
• Often students need someone to listen, help them figure out how to discuss the issue with their roommate and then praise them for handling the situation.

False!
7. Sending students emails, letters and care packages from home are appreciated by all students.

True or False ?
• Every student loves hearing from their parents via email, letters and especially, packages.
• Quick tip – print mailing labels with the student’s Otterbein SMC address and hand out to family and friends so everyone can stay in touch!

True!
8. Students should not contact their roommate before move-in day. It’s more fun to be surprised!

True or False?
• Students should contact their new roommate as soon as they receive their roommate assignment information via email in late July.

• Roommates should discuss who will bring which items to the room, how they wish to set up the room, and other items listed on the conversation guide sent with the room assignment information.

False!
9. Students are encouraged to use their existing belongings instead of buying everything new.
• Most students do not need a lot of new belongings for college. Using what you have is more economical and environmentally friendly than buying new.

• Just beware of secondhand upholstered items, especially from unknown sources (i.e. sofas & chairs found along the curb.)

• Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (in that order)

True!
10. Roommate conflicts rarely occur and when they do, they are always very serious.
• Most roommates have small conflicts on a regular basis, just like any pair of people living together.
• Most conflicts can be resolved by talking about the disagreement and deciding how each party can give a little to find a resolution.
• RAs are available to work with roommates if they cannot reach an agreement on their own.

False!
11. Students should limit the number of electrical appliances they bring to campus.

True or False?
• Most residence hall rooms have three double outlets in them. Students may use a power strip with a circuit breaker to add outlets, but their electrical supply is still limited.
• Students should try to consolidate electrical appliances with their roommate and decide if they can utilize hall appliances (such as TVs, microwaves, computers) instead of having one in their own room.
12. Students should bring lots of candles in case the electricity goes out while they are studying.

True or False?
• Candles are not permitted in residence halls because they are a fire hazard.

• Students are encouraged to have a battery operated flashlight in case of an electrical outage (or even better for the environment, a hand crank flashlight!)

False!
13. Every student will meet people different than themselves living in the residence halls.
• Students are bound to meet someone within their residence hall from a different background, religion, culture or sexual orientation from themselves.

• These differences can provide great insight into another person’s life experiences.

• Staff are ready and willing to discuss with students how to manage differences if conflict occurs.

True!
14. Most students switch roommates at least once during the school year.
Most students remain in the same room with the same roommate as assigned.

Most roommates do have conflicts which they have to talk through at least once or twice a term.

False!
15. Residence halls are locked 24 hours a day. Students use their Cardinal Card (ID) to enter the building where they live.
• Residence hall exterior doors are locked at all times.
• Cardinal Cards are used to enter any swipe-card access exterior and interior doors. Lost cards can be deactivated by Campus Police and a temporary card provided.
• Students are expected to escort any guests (non-residents of the building) at all times in the hall.
• Guests are to be signed in at the front desk of the building.

True!
16. Housing contracts are signed for an academic year and are legally binding.

True or False ?
• Students are expected to reside on campus during the entire academic year. Housing contracts include J-term housing for those enrolled in a J-term course.

• Students experiencing a major, unforeseen circumstance, can petition to be released from their housing contract for spring semester to commute from home (if their parent(s) live within a 30 mile radius of campus.)

True!
17. Parents can always access Otterbein policies & resources online at www.otterbein.edu

True or False ?
• Students and parents have access to the Campus Life Handbook which contains the Student Code of Conduct and other important information.
• The University’s Catalog is available on the Registrar’s website and contains all course information and academic policies.
• Parents are strongly encouraged to review both documents with their student.