

COLLEGE PARENT
GUIDE



2012 | **Keystone College**

CAMPUS RESOURCES – LOCAL INSIGHT – HELPFUL INFORMATION

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Keystone College

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About the College

Keystone College is a small, private, liberal arts college located in the beautiful Endless Mountains Region of Northeastern Pennsylvania. With a 10:1 student-faculty ratio, the College offers a hands-on, student-centered learning environment. The College is consistently recognized for its top performance by organizations such as US News and World Report, and Colleges of Distinction.

With over 40 programs of study, students can write their college stories in a variety of ways. Many Keystone students choose to include majors like Psychology, Education, Environmental Resource Management, and Pre-Medicine in their college stories.

However they choose to write it, each student's story at Keystone College will be characterized by small classes, individual attention, the College's Student Success Center, and, of course, the Keystone Promise.

The Promise is the College's written guarantee to all new, first-time students

who meet specified requirements, that they will be successful. Keystone promises that within six months after graduation every student will have at least one job offer or, where applicable, will have gained entrance to graduate school.

Academic Advising

Each Keystone College student will be guided by dedicated faculty and staff members, particularly their academic adviser. Students are assigned academic advisers based upon program of study. Academic advisers assist students in maintaining an efficient path through college to ensure that students complete

the necessary number of classes and requirements in a timely manner.

Admissions

The Office of Admissions reviews over 1,000 applications each year, and each applicant is evaluated on an individual basis. Admissions decisions are based upon high school GPA, quality of classes taken, SAT or ACT scores, and class rank.

We understand that every student has an individual story, and Keystone's Enrollment Advisers look at each applicant holistically. Maybe your student has straight As but couldn't master the SAT - that's OK. We understand that one test does not determine a student's academic potential. Enrollment Advisers work very closely with applicants to ensure that Keystone is the best fit.

Your student's Enrollment Adviser knows that the college application process can be overwhelming, so the Admissions Office has simplified the process to make it as stress-free as possible.

A Hands-On Learning Environment

Keystone College is unique in that it allows students to create their college stories through hands-on experiences, as well as in the classroom. For instance, Criminal Justice students may find themselves investigating a mock crime scene while Wildlife Biology students have class outside where they analyze the world around them. Students interested in pursuing the culinary arts will benefit from Keystone's on-campus restaurant, where they'll prepare and serve meals to real customers. The College prides itself on preparing students to positively contribute to their career fields.

Study Abroad

Keystone College students can:

- Study abroad for a 4 or 8 week summer program, semester program, or a year
- Participate in a Semester at Sea Program
- Apply for international internships with Sodexo regardless of major
- Participate in a short-term (10-15 day) program led by one of Keystone's faculty

Traditions/Highlighted School Events

Founded in 1868, Keystone College has a strong history and lengthy roots in the community. The President's Convocation, Homecoming/Reunion Weekend, Family Day, All-College Convocation, Winterfest, Christy Mathewson Weekend, and Commencement are opportunities for all members of the Keystone community to come together and celebrate the tight-knit Keystone Family.

A Truly Unique Orientation Program

The bond between a new student and the College occurs before classes begin. Keystone's distinctive program takes orientation to a whole new place - literally! Students may choose to participate in a variety of activities including hiking/canoing, high/low ropes courses, and creative writing. New students travel to local destinations with other new freshmen, upperclassmen, and faculty and staff members on a three-day, two-night orientation adventure. Before the end of their journey, bonds are formed that last a lifetime! ■



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Is financial aid available for my student?

A: Yes. Over 90% of Keystone students receive need-based aid. Students must file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Q: Are merit scholarships available?

A: Yes. Scholarships start at \$3,000 per academic year and go up to full tuition. Any student who is accepted to the College is automatically considered for an award, which is based upon a student's academic performance in high school, class rank, SAT/ACT scores, and extracurricular involvement.

Q: Is housing guaranteed?

A: We guarantee housing for all first-year students. Housing deposits must be received no later than May 1.

Q: Does my student get to choose his/her roommate freshman year?

A: Students may request to live with a friend, though it's not guaranteed. Students are matched with roommates based on a questionnaire and personal preferences. If students are having issues with their roommate or things are not working out, they should speak with their Resident Assistant or Area Coordinator. The Office of Residence Life encourages roommates to try to work out their problems. Moving in to another room or switching roommates will be the last resort if mediation between

the roommates fails and if there is space available for students to move.

Q: Can my student bring a vehicle to campus, even if they're a freshman?

A: Yes. All students are permitted to bring their own vehicle.

Q: What if my student doesn't have a car?

A: There is a free shuttle that runs Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings and all day Saturdays and Sundays to various "hot spots" in the area. Students must sign up a day in advance to ride the shuttle.

Q: What if my student is a commuter? Will he/she feel left out?

A: No! The Office of Commuter Life and the Commuter Student Council are designed specifically to keep commuter students informed and engaged in campus life.

Q: My student has special dietary needs. Are they going to have options?

A: Yes. Keystone's food service provider will work with your student to ensure there are healthy options available according to your student's needs.

Q: My student learns differently. Does Keystone offer any additional services for students like mine?

A: Yes. Keystone has a variety of

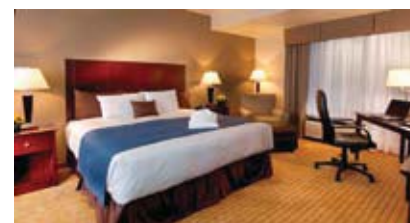
services available for students. The Student Success Center (SSC) will work with your student to ensure he/she meets his/her maximum potential. In addition, the SSC offers peer and professional tutoring to all students.

Q: What kinds of activities are available on campus?

A: A ton! Keystone is home to 15 NCAA Division III athletics teams and Keystone's Student Activities Office hosts on-campus events every other weekend. With over 30 clubs and organizations on campus, no student should be bored!

Q: Is the campus safe?

A: Keystone's Campus Safety Department strives to make Keystone as safe as possible. Officers are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. ■



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What Parents Say

As my daughter Lyndsey enters her fourth year at Keystone College, I am even more proud of the decision she made three years ago. As a parent, I know that the college search process seems overwhelming. Let me reassure you that the Admissions Staff are eager to help answer any questions and guide you every step of the way. The Keystone Community is committed to all the same things you are as a parent; the education, health, well-being and future of your son or daughter. The Keystone experience for my family has been more than rewarding.

-Barb L., Keystone College Parent

As an incoming freshman mom I am so proud to call Keystone College 'home' for the next four years for my son Michael. From the very beginning of the college selection process Keystone stood out! The friendliness, understanding and caring was so comforting for me as a freshman mom. Coming from New Jersey (three hours away) and Michael being an only child of course I had many concerns about him being away from home and succeeding in college. The college selection process is a tough one, but everyone at Keystone made it easy. Starting with Kristen Greene in admissions, to Professor Terri Wise in Sports and Recreation Management and all the wonderful people that we have met so far in our Keystone Experience - thank you! I am a PROUD KEYSTONE MOM!

- Janet C., Keystone College Parent

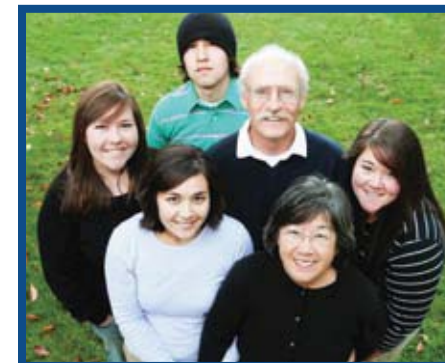
As the mother of a current Keystone student, I thought I'd share some tips that will help you through this exciting journey: If you have not already visited Keystone, I encourage you to do so. It's the best way for you and your student to decide if Keystone really is the best fit. Be sure to sign up for the monthly parent e-mail newsletter. This is a great way to find out about campus events, campus safety, staff updates, and statements from the President that your student might not remember to tell you about. I have found this most helpful in keeping up with what's going on on campus. I have found that Keystone College embraces their students throughout the entire college experience. Chelsea and I are proud members of the Keystone family!

- Helen C., Keystone College Parent

Tips for Parents

Keystone College is committed to keeping parents engaged in their student's success while attending Keystone. To this end, the College has created both a Parents Association as well as The Parents Advisory Council, which provide opportunities for parents and families to stay connected to their student; offer input on issues of importance to parents, families, and students; assist in the development and implementation of parent activities and more. You can help us to help your student by:

- becoming a partner with us in the success of your student.
- staying in touch with your student while allowing him/her room to grow.
- understanding that adjusting to the college experience and workload can be stressful.
- learning something about what college life is like and what to expect.
- preparing yourself to deal with your student's homesickness and perhaps your own "empty nest" syndrome.
- attending Family Day, if possible. ■



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Conversations to Have With Your Student

1. Learning takes place both in and out of the classroom

As an intellectual community, educational opportunities abound. All offer the possibility for growth and understanding of our world and our roles in a global society. Encourage your student to keep an open mind to the learning opportunities that take place outside the classroom such as guest lectures, national and international excursions, career training, and interactions within the community. An added benefit is the potential for building lasting relationships.

2. Emphasize the importance of making responsible decisions

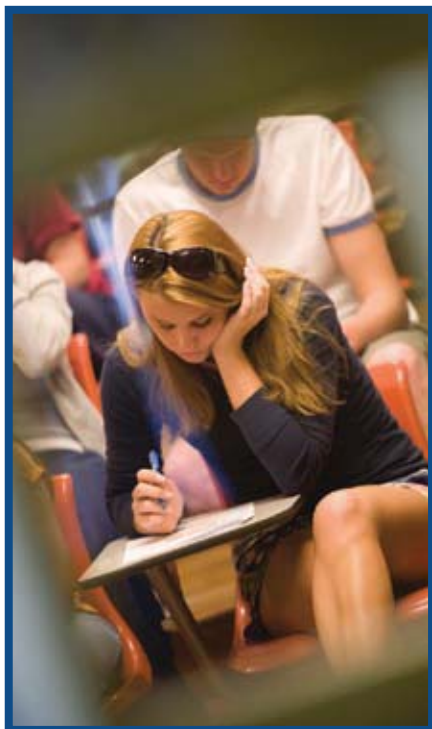
Your student's life will be full of important choices. They are the ones who are responsible for choosing healthy or unhealthy behaviors. Encourage them to:

- develop, implement, and maintain a balanced schedule that allows ample time for classes, homework, eating, socializing, and sleeping.
- establish a workable budget and stick to it in order to help alleviate money worries.
- choose their new friends carefully to make sure they share important values.

Whether your student's goal is to find employment after graduation or continue his/her education, these decisions most likely will affect his/her potential for success now and in the future.

3. Get involved on and off campus

Students who become an active part of the college community are generally more successful both academically and socially. Encourage your student to



join clubs, attend athletic and cultural events, participate in student activities, and volunteer for community service.

4. Take advantage of on-campus resources

There is a variety of people including academic advisers, counselors, faculty, tutors, coaches, residence hall staff, and others who are willing and able to help students. Students need to take the initiative early in the semester to avail themselves of these resources. Students are encouraged to identify and enlist the assistance of a faculty or staff member to act as a mentor during their years at Keystone. ■



FERPA At-A-Glance

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), also known as the Buckley Amendment, protects the privacy of a student's educational records. All of the rights under FERPA belong to the student, once he or she has enrolled in a post-secondary institution.) FERPA is administered by the U.S. Department of Education, and maintains a website for parents at www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/parents.html.

Under FERPA, no one other than the student is granted access to the student's educational records unless the student

has signed a waiver specifically for that person. First-year and transfer students are given the opportunity to sign the waiver when they attend a Mapping Day. A waiver remains in effect throughout a student's time at Keystone College, unless he/she revokes it in writing in the Registrar's Office. Persons identified on the waiver may obtain information regarding the student's educational record; however, the waiver does not provide the ability for the designee to act on the student's behalf. Waivers are only in force while the student is enrolled at Keystone College. ■

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Campus Resources

The staff and faculty at Keystone College are committed to the success of each student's story. There are many resources available to ensure that each student reaches his/her full potential.

Student Success Center

Keystone's Student Success Center was created to provide our students with the individual support and attention that they need to achieve their full potential and reach their goals, both academically and personally. Here, students have access to academic advising assistance, counseling, peer and professional tutoring, disability services, and student success advocates.

Career Development Center

The Career Development Center assists students in clarifying career goals, preparing professional resumes and cover letters, planning a job or internship search, preparing for job interviews, applying to graduate schools, and more. As part of the Keystone Promise, first-time, full-time students who complete requirements set by the CDC may be eligible to return to Keystone College for additional courses and career counseling

in the event that they have not received at least one job offer, or where appropriate, been accepted into a graduate program within six months after graduating.

Diversity Services

Keystone College acknowledges and embraces the importance of diversity in today's world. We foster an environment of respect and appreciation for diversity, including, but not limited to race, ethnicity, nation of origin, gender, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, and disabilities. This is accomplished by working with individuals and groups on issues of awareness, understanding, and acceptance of diversity through creative programming, workshops, training, and special events.

Campus Ministry

The mission of Campus Ministry of Keystone College is to work closely with the Campus Ministry of Northeast Pennsylvania and to strive

to promote a caring community that provides services to students, staff, and faculty among different faiths.

Health Services

The faculty and staff at Keystone College know that a healthy student is a happy student. We provide on-campus services to all students. Our physician's assistant is available for whatever students may need.

Campus Safety

We understand that the safety of your student is your number one priority, so we also make it ours! Our Campus Safety department is staffed by skilled individuals who are available 24 hours a day; 7 days a week. If needed, help is just a phone call away. The Office of Residence Life also provides a 24-hour on-call service. ■

Interesting Campus Sites

Woodlands Campus

The 165-acre Woodlands Campus, which includes three interpretive trails, the Sugar Shack, and the Biology Pond, among others, provides students with invaluable educational resources that are not available in classrooms or textbooks.

www.keystone.edu/woodlands/woodlandscampushighlights.dot

Cupillari Observatory

In the fall of 1971, the dome and telescope were transported to Keystone College and have served the campus and surrounding communities ever since.

www.keystone.edu/observatory ■



Academic Calendar

2011 - 2012

October 15	Homecoming
October 17 - 21	Fall Midterms
November 12	Open House (Admissions)
November 19	Information Session (Admissions)
December 10	Information Session (Admissions)
December 12 - 16	Finals
December 15	Application Deadline (Spring Semester)
December 17- January 15	Winter Break
January 16	Spring Classes Begin
January 14	Information Session (Admissions)
January 16	Visitation Day (Admissions)
February 4	Information Session (Admissions)
February 18	Open House (Admissions)
February 20	Visitation Day (Admissions)
March 5 - March 9	Midterm Exams
March 3	Information Session (Admissions)
March 12 - March 16	Spring Break
March 24	Spring Open House (Admissions)
April 14	Information Session (Admissions)
April 23	Financial Aid Priority Deadline
April 29	Open House (Admissions)
May 1	Merit Scholarship/Housing Priority Deadline
May 7 - May 11	Finals Week
May 19	Commencement
June 4	Summer Session I begins
June 18	Sneak-A-Peek Day (for rising seniors)
June 19	Freshman Mapping Day (tentative)
July 1	Application Deadline (Fall Semester)
July 16	Sneak-A-Peek Day (for rising seniors)
August 6	Sneak-A-Peek Day (for rising seniors)
July 6	Freshman Mapping Day (tentative)
July 20	Freshman Mapping Day (tentative)
August 25	New resident move-in
August 26 - August 28	Compass Weekend (all new freshmen)
August 27	Fall Classes Begin
September 21 - 23	Family Weekend

Important Phone Numbers & Websites

PHONE NUMBERS	Admissions Office	(877) 4COLLEGE, Option 1
	Financial Assistance and Planning Office	(877) 4COLLEGE, Option 2
	Student Accounts	(877) 4COLLEGE, Option 3
	Registrar's Office	(877) 4COLLEGE, Option 4
	Campus Book Store	(877) 4COLLEGE, Option 6
	Campus Ministry	(570) 945-8253
	Campus Safety	(570) 945-8077
	Career Development Center	(570) 945-8312
	Dining Services	(570) 945-5300
	Diversity Services	(570) 945-8253
	Health Services	(570) 945-8254
	Residence Life	(570) 945-8271
	Student Affairs (Dean of Students)	(570) 945-8252
	Student Success Center	(570) 945-8303
Study Abroad	(570) 945-8252	
WEBSITES	Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)	www.fafsa.ed.gov
	PHEAA State Grants & Special Programs	www.pheaa.org
	Tuition Management Systems	www.afford.com/keystone
	Obtaining a Federal PIN Number	www.pin.ed.gov
	Counseling Loan Exit or Entrance Complete	www.aessuccess.org
	Apply for a Student or Parent Plus Loan	www.elmselect.com/oil/Agreement
	U. S. Department of Education, Student Aid Programs	www.elmselect.com/oil/Agreement
Sallie Mae's Education Investment Planner	http://go.salliemae.com/plan	

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