

Complete List

Roommates

Top 10 Items

What NOT to Pack

Bring or Buy

**1 Excessive clothing** — There's nowhere to put it. For students bent on bringing an entire wardrobe, suggest dividing clothes by season and swapping things out whenever they make a visit home.

**2 Excessive paper and school supplies** — College academics are different from high school. Your student should take a few notebooks and purchase the rest after finding out what's required for each class. Many students take notes on laptops and tablets.

**3 Printer** — Students who tend to procrastinate may need their own printers. But printers are bulky, and free or low-cost printing is available in libraries, dorms, and other locations on campus. Consult with the roommate. Can you share?

**4 Pets** (yes, even the goldfish) — Most college residence halls prohibit pets (except for service animals).

**5 Costly bling** — High-priced jewelry and other valuables should not be taken to college. With so many people coming and going in residence halls, theft happens.

**6 Extra books and knickknacks** — If your student's a bookworm, consider investing in an e-reader. Most stuffed animals and trinkets should stay at home.

**7 Flat-screen TV/large speakers** — There will probably be a TV in the dorm common room, and most students watch on their laptops anyway. When listening to music, ear buds or headphones help keep the overall noise level down.

**8 Large furniture** — The overstuffed couch won't fit. Send an extra chair (butterfly or camp-style) instead.

**9 Appliances** — Mini fridges can be purchased or rented on/near campus. There won't be room for much, so coordinate with roommates and also check the school's list of allowed/prohibited appliances.

**10 Banned items** — A list should be on the school website. At the top will be potential fire hazards (such as candles, halogen bulbs, tapestries, bean bag chairs, appliances with exposed heating elements) and weapons of all kinds (including paintball, bb, and air guns).