



THINGS TO DO THE SUMMER BEFORE COLLEGE

How to Prepare for the Transition

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By now, most schools have announced their [plans for reopening in the fall](#). If you're a freshman, chances are, you'll have to start college in-person at some point, even if it's for a shortened term. Regardless of how your college is conducting classes this fall, starting college is a big deal and you'll need to be prepared. Use the checklist below to make sure you've got all your bases covered before embarking on this new adventure.

	Make a list of everything you need from your dorm room to the classroom. This includes bedding, decor, furniture, kitchen materials, laundry supplies as well as school supplies, electronics, clothing, and medication.
	Do a big run at a store such as Target or Bed, Bath & Beyond to buy the items on your list.
	Get a calendar or planner — or familiarize yourself with an app that can help you schedule and stay on track.
	Write down the important dates you know so far on your calendar, such as the orientation timeline, registration period, and school breaks.
	Browse the course catalogue more closely as you start to think about classes you want to register for in the fall.
	Research student organizations and make a short list of clubs you want to talk to when campus opens.
	Read — for fun or on a topic relevant to your academic interests.
	Make a list of all the places you want to visit near campus.
	If you live close to campus, go on a trip to explore the nearby town and local attractions.
	Join the admitted student Facebook group and connect with other incoming freshmen.
	If you know who your roommate is, friend them on social media and start getting to know each other.
	Take any placement exams that you might need to before classes start.

	Take a look at your finances. Make sure your bank accounts and credit card accounts are set up.
	Complete the school's immunization requirements if you haven't already done so.
	Go over the "new student checklist" on your university's portal and see what else you need to do: upload an ID photo, add your emergency contact, enroll for health insurance if applicable.
	If you're taking a car to campus, take it to the mechanic to make sure it doesn't have any issues.
	Think about what you might miss about your hometown – eat at your favorite restaurant or visit your neighborhood park.
	Spend time with friends and family at home before you leave (maintain social distance if you don't live with them!)
	Make a playlist for your travels.
	Double check your packing list to make sure you've got everything.

There isn't one particular way that students spend the summer before college. However, it's essential that you think about your needs ahead of time so that you can best prepare, regardless of how your campus has decided to open for the fall. While the circumstances certainly aren't ideal and your summer plans may have been completely disrupted, make the most of the time you have to pack, reflect, and anticipate. You've got an exciting semester ahead!