Welcome to WPI and the Office of Residential Services. Many of you are sending your students to campus for the first time. The transition process from home to college can be difficult for both parents and students; fortunately, our office has many services that help your students with this transition.

Living in our Residence Halls are 38 Resident Assistants to help students with homesickness, roommate conflicts, meeting new friends, as well as finding and using academic resources. The Office of Residential Services also plans social programs to help students make friends in their new community, and works with some local vendors to offer laundry/dry cleaning services, bed linen purchasing and affordable residence hall insurance, (to find out more information about our some of our vendors please see email address’ below).

The Office of Residential Services’ ultimate goal is to make our residence halls feel like home for your sons/daughters during their college experience.

More Info:
Please visit our website http://www.wpi.edu/Admin/RSO/ for more information about our office.

Mission Statement
2007-2008

The primary mission of the Residential Services Department is to provide on-campus residential facilities that are safe, attractive, and well-maintained by working in partnership with other offices. Recognizing that student learning takes place in the living environment, the Residential Services staff enhance and enrich students’ residential experience by providing services and opportunities for personal and intellectual growth, and by creating a community that fosters an appreciation of
Tips for Parents on What to Expect during College

1. Smile! When your teen leaves for college, you should be his/her biggest cheerleader. College students moving away from home need a confident smile to reassure that they are doing the right thing! Of course, you will miss them, but this is a very jubilant, yet apprehensive, moment in their lives. If you are dropping your student off at school, leave a note or card somewhere in their new abode (maybe tuck $10 in also!). After you have left, it will be surprising reminder of how much you care.

2. Do not call every day. So many of our students now have their own cell phone and it is tempting to want to keep in constant touch. Please start now in cutting the apron strings and talk only several times/wk. No freshman college student wants Mommy and Daddy checking up on them daily. Let your child know that you trust him/her.

3. Ask "generalized" questions. How are your classes? Are you having a good time? How is the food in the dining hall? These are great questions that will get better answers than the following: What is your roommate like? (he or she might be listening close by) All in all, the less you ask - the more they will tell.

4. Use e-mail to talk! College students are extremely busy, and e-mail lets you talk back and forth at one another's convenience (even if it is at 2 A.M.!)  

5. Be a shoulder to cry on. Sometimes college life can be stressful and frustrating, even for the most studious or sociable kids. Whether it is classes or friends just listen and do not judge. The easiest way to deal with their issues is to listen and reassure them and/or tell them to talk with their educational advisor to resolve class-related issues.

6. Have a discussion about “facebook” and “myspace” These websites can have a lasting effect on a person’s life and what is posted there is forever archived to follow the student throughout their lives (think applying for a job or joining the military). Even if your student removes a posting, someone else may have copied it and it can be in circulation forever! Students are notorious for posting information that is too personal and too informative about themselves. Encourage them to be judicious in what information they post. If you have no idea what these sites are about, look them up because they are an important part of young adult culture now.
Continued...

7. Encourage them to take over the daily tasks of their lives if they haven't already. We have laundry rooms! (don't let them tell you we don't!) Students are expected to keep a reasonably tidy room; we do Health and Safety inspections at least bi-annually.

8. Encourage involvement. College is more than classes and homework. Experience with extracurricular activities is valued by employers. Encourage your child to be active in their field of study; to join clubs and organizations. Students can visit http://www.wpi.edu/Campus/Activities/index.html to find out more about the various clubs here on campus. During orientation your student will have a chance to interact with his/her community advisor and resident advisor to take part in the various activities WPI has to offer.

9. Enjoy your freedom. You will miss your child, as any parent would. But remember that you have spent 18 years of your life guiding and raising this person. Now they are on their own. The university has many staff available to help out and ease the transition to college.

10. Have another discussion about alcohol and drugs. Utilize the parent guide to talking to your students about Alcohol and Drugs sent to you by the Healthy Alternatives Office. Your child may be faced with some difficult decisions while in college, it is helpful to regularly talk to them about the consequences of poor decisions.

11. Resist the urge to decorate your child's new room. One of the best ways for roommates to learn about each other and to forge a good relationship is to work together on how their room is to be arranged and decorated. Those who arrive later -- even by an hour or two -- are immediately at a disadvantage if one or more roommates has already established 'territory.' WPI provides the roommate's address and telephone number during the summer. New roommates might discuss room arrangements before they arrive on campus so no one is at a disadvantage.

12. Say good-bye before the last minute. Once your child is on campus, she or he has already begun making that important separation from you. It may be too awkward and public for everyone to have that intimate moment in the presence of other classmates, families and a roommate. It is suggested to parents that they spend some time earlier, perhaps the night before, having a quiet time together to celebrate their excitement and pride. Let your daughter or son know you will miss them.

13. Encourage your student to reach out to their new roommate. This is a great way to start forming bonds and set expectations between the roommates. In addition to starting the relationship, each student can discuss which items they will be bringing on move in day to cut down the number of duplicate items. WPI Residential Services will continue helping students foster these conversations through our roommate agreement forms.

14. Talk about credit cards and finances before school begins. We encourage parents to have a frank discussion about finances before the student leaves home. Will the student have a credit card? Should a parent be a co-signer and get copies of the statements? Banks bombard college students with credit-card offers. They start off with low spending limits but raise them rapidly as cards are used. As a result, students can get over their heads in debt and even ruin their credit ratings before they graduate. The bank on campus, Sovereign, offers student checking and other services. You may wish to visit their table during orientation for more info. Make an educated decision on banking and credit card needs.

15. Your student’s grades are no longer sent home via US Mail... They receive their grades electronically now, soon after the close of each semester. You will want to speak with your son/daughter to find out how they are doing; Federal law precludes the university from sharing this information with you as a parent.

Living on Campus:

Living on campus is a great opportunity for students at WPI. More than just a convenience, it is an important part of student academic growth. Research has shown that students who live on campus do better academically due to the easy access to academic support resources. In addition, living in close proximity to other students who are taking the same classes helps to develop social networks where it is easy to collaborate and organize study groups.

Understanding that college often provides the first experience for students to live away from home, our staff is trained to help make that transition as easy to possible.

Residential Services offers a living/learning community that strives to meet students’ social and academic needs. We support a community based on individual responsibility, where there is an appreciation of individual differences and a respect for individual rights. We offer a wide variety of activities, events, and programs, designed to offer not only fun, but also opportunities for student interaction, development and leadership.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES
TEL: 508-831-5645
FAX: 508-831-5870

Enjoy your summer.
We look forward to seeing you in August!
The Basics

Custodial Staff
Each residence hall has a Custodian. While custodians do not pick up after individual students, they do maintain all common areas (hallways and bathrooms.) It is important to keep the lounge area and bathroom free from clutter, especially the countertops and showers. The custodians do not clean individual rooms; that is the student’s responsibility! A vacuum cleaner is available from a Residence Hall Staff member. If students are living in upper-class housing it is important for them to understand that custodians do not clean bathrooms or any common areas in the apartments, and will only clean bathrooms in Founders Hall.

Laundry
Washers and Dryers: Washers and dryers are in the basement of each residence hall. Machines are both coin and Swipe Card operated. A word of advice: Do not leave clothes sitting around in the laundry room. Students should remove their laundry from machines as soon as it done. Otherwise, it may end up in a heap somewhere because someone else wanted to use the machine.

Financial Limits
Be clear before your son or daughter leaves about what you can contribute toward college expenses. You may need to talk about a part-time job to help pay for certain expenses. Students may also need some lessons on how to:
• Budget money
• Write a check
• Balance a checkbook
• Appropriately use a credit card
• Pay bills on time
• Use the ATM

WPI is pleased to offer LaundryView. Laundry View is the latest product in Mac-Gray’s suite of Intelligent Laundry Solutions™. In addition to presenting up-to-the-minute information about the laundry machines, it enables students to be notified of changes through alerts to their computers or cell phones. Each machine reports its status to LaundryView™ several times every minute and, from their computers, students can see if the laundry room is busy, and can ask to be notified when machines become available. Once a student has started a machine, they can ask LaundryView™ to remind them when the machine completes its cycle.

E&R Laundry Service: The E&R Laundry Service will wash or dry-clean clothes and linens. E&R’s toll free number is 800-890-7273

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES
100 INSTITUTE RD.
WORCESTER, MA 01609

Addressee Name
4321 First Street
Anytown, State 54321