Preparing for College Guide

Prepare for academics, finances, independence, move-in, and your first semester.

1. Academic Preparation

- ■ Complete required orientation/placement tasks
- ■ Understand registration
- ■ Know how to contact advisors
- ■ Set up a calendar/planner
- ■ Create a realistic study routine
- ■ Learn where to find academic support
- ■ Know how to access student email/portals

2. Financial Preparation

- ■ Create a basic monthly budget
- ■ Know payment deadlines
- ■ Understand your aid offer
- ■ Track spending
- ■ Plan for books and supplies
- ■ Plan for transportation/food/personal expenses
- ■ Keep financial documents organized

3. Life Skills

- ■ Do basic laundry
- ■ Prepare simple meals/snacks
- ■ Schedule appointments
- ■ Keep documents secure
- ■ Clean and organize your space
- ■ Manage deadlines independently
- ■ Know who to contact when you need help

4. Dorm & Packing Planner

Category	Items I Need	Already Have	Still Need
Bedding			
Clothing			
School supplies			

Category	Items I Need	Already Have	Still Need
Toiletries			
Laundry			
Room organization			
Electronics/chargers			
Important documents			

5. Important Dates & Contacts

Dates to record:

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

People/offices I may need to contact:

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

My first-semester goals:

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

6. First-Week Checklist

- ■ Attend orientation/required events
- ■ Find classrooms and key buildings
- ■ Learn campus transportation
- ■ Meet people and explore campus
- ■ Locate academic support
- ■ Access student portals/email
- ■ Attend a campus activity
- ■ Put deadlines into a calendar
- ■ Ask for help early

7. Final Readiness Reflection

What am I most prepared for?

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_____
_____

What am I nervous about?

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_____
_____

What skill do I want to improve before college?

_____
_____
_____

One action I can take this week:

_____
_____
_____