



Suggested College Packing List

While every individual, dorm, and school will have different needs, requirements, and specifications, this list is what Bear Creek alumni and parents recommend. Always double check with the school for specific guidelines about technology (Ethernet cable vs. wireless, shared printers, etc.) and the use of small appliances such as hot plates and refrigerators, as rules vary widely.

- We recommend joining a Parents Only Facebook (or other social media) group for your university. There is often great college-specific information provided in those groups.

Bedding A good night sleep is key to success. Verify the bed size. Most dorms have XL Twin. Experienced parents recommend that you do **not** purchase the “dorm packs.” The quality is not as good as you can get at Target, Bed Bath & Beyond, JC Penney, etc.

- **Sheets** – 2 sets recommended. Wash your bedding before you leave home, so it is ready to go right on the bed.
- **Comforter and cover**
- **Blanket**
- **Egg crate/memory foam topper**
- **Mattress pad** - consider a bed bug/dust mite protector
- **Pillows and cases** – consider a bed bug/dust mite protector
- **Sleep mask and ear plugs**

Bathroom

- **Towels/washcloths** – 2 sets, prewash
- **Robe and slippers**
- **Shower shoes**
- **Shower tote/caddy**

Laundry

- **Iron/ironing board** (small)
- **Laundry basket/detergent** (pods), softener sheets
- **Hangers**

Room Basics

- **Alarm clock with radio or iPod dock**
- **Waste basket** – some schools provide
- **Bulletin board/dry erase board/pegboard**
- **Fan**
- **Extension cords** – check school requirements for size allowed
- **Power strip with surge protector**
- **Ethernet cable** – check school technology recommendations
- **Book light**
- **Febreze**



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School/Office Supplies

- **Laptop computer**
- **Printer with paper and extra ink** – *check with the school to see if it is needed. A lot of homework (even math) is submitted online and at some schools the students can print a certain number of pages per semester free on school printers. If you do bring a printer, get one with automatic double-sided printing; it will save time and money in the long run.*
- **Desk lamp**
- **Pen drive**
- **Desk supplies - stapler, scissors, tape, pens/pencils/sharpener**
- **Chargers**
- **Calculator** – *both scientific and graphing calculator if you already own them. STEM classes often have calculator restrictions for exams.*
- **Online computer backup subscription** – *Carbonite works well*
- **Backpack** – *waterproof in advance*

Décor Don't underestimate the value of things that make it look homey like a string of lantern lights, lots of photos, poster of a favorite sports team, etc. This can be a big deal when students who are far from home, even for guys!

- **Throw pillow**
- **Photos**
- **Posters**
- **Bulletin board**
- **Push pins**
- **Full length mirror**
- **Blue tape or Command Strips** – *to hang pictures/posters on the wall. Check dorm regulations.*

Storage/Organization Make the most of limited space. Wait until you get there to confirm the space and measure. Use every space available, under bed, on top of closet, etc.

- **Under bed storage** – *Purchase bins that maximize the space. Containers with wheels are **not** recommended because you lose storage space to accommodate the wheels. Large suitcases are a good storage solution for out of season clothing.*
- **Bed risers** – *Use to create additional under-bed storage space*
- **Over the door hangers** – *Multi-hook and single. These can be used not only on the door/closet door but on a lofted bed frame for holding coats/clothing/small baskets.*
- **Command Strips (large)** – *for coats/robes*

Kitchen/Snacks

- **Tupperware**
- **Ziploc bags (quart size)**



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- **Plate, bowl, mug, cup**
- **Spoon, fork, knife**
- **Fridge/microwave**
- **Coffeemaker/hot water maker**
- **Brita pitcher**
- **Dish detergent**
- **Sponge and dishcloth**
- **Disinfecting wipes**
- **Can opener**
- **Easy snacks** – *peanut butter, crackers, popcorn, soup, oatmeal packets, hot chocolate, etc.*
- **Paper towels**
- **Small stackable crates or drawers** – *for storing food and kitchen items*

Miscellaneous

- **Some included items depend on if you drive or fly to college. If you join a parents only group you can check to see what miscellaneous items you may need.**
- **Sewing kit**
- **Pool noodle** – *if the bed is lofted or bunked, cut a slit in the noodle lengthwise and put on the lower, front bed frame to cushion bumped heads.*
- **First aid/medicine kit**
- **Tool kit**
- **Mallet** – *useful to loft a bed, if allowed*
- **Duct tape**
- **Bike and U-lock** – *NOT a cable lock*
- **Flatten and keep your boxes** – *move-out is in only 9 months*
- **Duffel bag/small suitcase** – *to use to travel home for holidays*
- **Umbrella** – *your child will be thankful when it is pouring rain and has to walk across campus.*
- **Doorstop** – *prop your door open and be sociable.*
- **Note cards and stamps**

Clothing

- **Extra socks and underwear** – *your student may not have time to do laundry frequently*
- **Seasonal clothing only** – *closet space is very limited*



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As hard as it is to resist those fancy college displays in the stores, it is best to stick with the basics to start. Wait to buy most things until you have had a chance to see what you really need and will fit. Check with your roommate about major items (fridge/microwave/other furniture) so you don't duplicate purchases. Some schools sell second-hand items, particularly furniture, left in dorms from the previous year, so double-check before you buy large or expensive items.

Some stores offer the option of a sort of registry. Choose the items you want at a local store, then pick them up at a store near the college and save on shipping costs.