



# **Class of 2013 Information Guide for Freshman Parents**

**Produced by:  
Penn Parents Program**

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# New Penn Parent Frequently Asked Questions:

***Q: How long should I stay during my child's move-in and orientation?***

A: All family events are scheduled for Thursday, September 3 between 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. After that time, students will be very busy with orientation events, so parents and families are strongly encouraged to depart Thursday evening to allow students to adjust to their new surroundings.

***Q: What will I need to know for move-in and orientation?***

A: Housing and Conference Services has set-up a website to specifically answer parent questions: [www.business-services.upenn.edu/housing/parents.html](http://www.business-services.upenn.edu/housing/parents.html). Additional move-in information can be found by visiting the Housing website: [www.business-services.upenn.edu/housing/movein.html](http://www.business-services.upenn.edu/housing/movein.html). A full calendar of events for new student orientation can be found online at [www.upenn.edu/nso](http://www.upenn.edu/nso). Events for parents and families will take place the afternoon of Thursday, September 3 and include a New Penn Parent Orientation Panel and a welcome from the President and Provost.

***Q: What are the meal plans and dining hall options for my child in his/her freshman year?***

A: All freshmen are **required** to have a meal plan during their freshman year at Penn. However, the options vary based on the individual needs of each student. Please see the Dining Services web site for more detailed information: [www.business-services.upenn.edu/dining](http://www.business-services.upenn.edu/dining) or call (215) 898-7585.

***Q: How are students assigned academic advisors?***

A: Each student has been assigned an academic advisor who is a member of either the school's faculty or the professional staff. This advisor will work with the student throughout his or her first two years at Penn to assist in planning courses each semester. Each school has a different advisor policy. You will be sent information over the summer from the school regarding the specific set-up for your school and program.

**College:** [www.college.upenn.edu/advising/index.php](http://www.college.upenn.edu/advising/index.php) or call (215) 898-6341

**Engineering:** [www.seas.upenn.edu/under/aas.html](http://www.seas.upenn.edu/under/aas.html) or call (215) 898-7246

**Nursing:** [www.nursing.upenn.edu/students/Pages/StudentAdvising.aspx](http://www.nursing.upenn.edu/students/Pages/StudentAdvising.aspx) or call (215) 898-9494

**Wharton:** [undergrad.wharton.upenn.edu/advising](http://undergrad.wharton.upenn.edu/advising) or call (215) 898-7608

***Q: Do first-year students need cars on campus?***

A: Since parking spaces are limited, we strongly discourage students from bringing cars to campus. The campus is easily walkable and there are various shuttle services available, as well as plenty of public transportation.

***Q: What is the telephone system like? What cell phone plan should my child have?***

A: If a student lives in a College House, Sansom Place East or West, basic common line telephone service is mandatory to meet the University's public safety standards. All other on-campus residents are signed up for this service automatically. This service provides a common line that works throughout each College House suite and provides free Philadelphia local and metropolitan calls. However, most students will use their cell phone as their primary phone and we encourage students to use a plan with free national coverage, as students they meet will be from across the country. Students should be sure to choose a minute plan that suits their calling needs.

***Q: Does it matter if my child uses a laptop or desktop computer?***

A: No. Students find that the type of computer they choose is based solely on personal preference and does not seem to dictate their use of the computer or study habits. The library has free laptops that can be used while studying in the library, so students will always have a laptop available to study remotely. Wireless technology is becoming more prevalent and can be found in more and more indoor and outdoor areas at Penn. To purchase a computer you can visit Penn's Computer Connection which serves as an on-campus computer retail center offering educational discounts to the University of Pennsylvania community. You can visit their web site at: [www.business-services.upenn.edu/computerstore/index.html](http://www.business-services.upenn.edu/computerstore/index.html) or call (215) 898-3282.

***Q: How do I send mail or a package to my student?***

A: First class mail is sorted into student mailboxes Monday through Saturday. Correct addressing is vitally important to speedy delivery of mail through the postal system and to residents! Packages are accepted from most couriers; students will receive an email notifying them that a parcel has arrived. The email and a valid PennCard must be presented in order to retrieve the package.

If you are mailing items for move-in, be careful to use the exact mailing address you receive with your room assignment. Each College House and Sansom Place has a mailroom and a package room, and every resident is assigned a mailbox. (Please note that if a package is sent via US Mail with a return receipt, the receipt information provides the time that the package arrives at the main Philadelphia post office, and not the time the package actually arrives on campus.)

**USPS ADDRESSING REQUIREMENTS:** The United States Postal Service (USPS) has specific requirements governing mail addressing. The Postal Service has introduced new bottom up address scanning, where the SECOND line from the bottom of the address is scanned for the exact location. Below are examples of proper automation compatible addresses.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN		Recipient's Name
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA	or	Room # College House name
LEFT BANK COMMONS		Street Address, Mail Box number
3160 CHESTNUT ST STE 500		PHILADELPHIA, PA 19104-Building code
PHILADELPHIA PA 19104-6280		

During move-in, alternate notification may be used, for example package slips in student mailboxes, or lists posted at pick up locations during this high volume time. For more information please visit: [www.business-services.upenn.edu/housing/mail.html](http://www.business-services.upenn.edu/housing/mail.html) or call (215) 898-3547.

***Q: When is Family Weekend?***

A: Family Weekend 2009 is from Friday, October 23 to Sunday, October 25, 2009. A complete guide for Family Weekend will be mailed to all families in early August. For more information you can call (215) 898-6533. We encourage freshman families to attend the activities and join in the fun. Make sure to book your room ASAP! For a list of hotels visit: [www.pennparents.org/Resources/hotellist.shtml](http://www.pennparents.org/Resources/hotellist.shtml).

Parents are invited and encouraged to attend *A Conversation with President Amy Gutmann* on Friday, October 23, 2009 from 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm in Irvine Auditorium.

***Q: What are some of the campus programs and resources that Penn Parents should know about?***

A: When you visit the Parents Program web site at [www.pennparents.org](http://www.pennparents.org), you will be able to find links to campus programs and resources that are important for Penn parents. For additional information, you can call us at (215) 746-4646.

***Q: As a parent, do I have the right to view my student's grades and other records?***

A: Students have the right to consent to the disclosure of information contained in their education records, except to the extent that FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) authorizes disclosure without consent. In order to release sensitive information, like grades, your student must complete the form located at: [www.upenn.edu/privacy/Brochures/FERPA%20Waiver.pdf](http://www.upenn.edu/privacy/Brochures/FERPA%20Waiver.pdf).

***Q: What are the health insurance requirements for students?***

A: Full-time students are required to have adequate health insurance. The Penn Student Insurance Plan (PSIP) is available for students who do not have alternative coverage. Your child must file his/her selection for insurance coverage (including details of alternative coverage) each year. If we do not hear from your student, s/he will be automatically enrolled in PSIP. Students who have adequate, alternate health insurance are required to request a waiver using the online system starting July 1, 2009. **Proof of alternative insurance that are mailed, emailed, or faxed will NOT be processed.** Students must do this EVERY year. Please see: [www.vpul.upenn.edu/shs/index.html](http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/shs/index.html) for more information.

***Q: Where can I learn more about campus safety?***

A: The public safety website, [www.publicsafety.upenn.edu](http://www.publicsafety.upenn.edu) is a wonderful resource for the latest news in campus safety. Also please review this list of additional contact numbers:

**Special Services:** (215) 898-6600

**Escort Services:**

*Walking* (215) 898-9255 (WALK)

*Van* (215) 898-7433 (RIDE)

**General Information** (215) 898-7297

To reach the University police dial (215) 573-3333 or 911 to reach Philadelphia police. The Philadelphia Fire Department can also be reached by dialing 511 on campus or 911. If counseling, support, or crisis intervention is needed, the Public Safety Special Services Unit Hotline is (215) 898-6600. For other important numbers please visit the following website: [www.upenn.edu/directories/emergency.php](http://www.upenn.edu/directories/emergency.php).

**UPennAlert:** The University of Pennsylvania emergency notification system will enable fast and efficient dissemination of critical information to members of the University community during a major emergency. UPennAlert will allow the University to send simultaneous alerts through text messaging, voicemail and email to numerous devices, such as cell phones, landline phones, fax machines and PDAs, and permits two-way communication between each recipient and the University. It provides students, staff and faculty with an additional layer of security and protection in an emergency, in conjunction with our already well-established emergency communication methods, such as University-wide broadcast emails, online updates via the Penn homepage, coordinated use of public media outlets, and public address systems within all College Houses. For frequently asked questions regarding UPennAlert please visit [www.publicsafety.upenn.edu/UPennAlert/faq.asp](http://www.publicsafety.upenn.edu/UPennAlert/faq.asp).

## Student Financial Services contact information

Website: [www.sfs.upenn.edu](http://www.sfs.upenn.edu)

E-mail: [sfsmail@sfs.upenn.edu](mailto:sfsmail@sfs.upenn.edu)

Phone: (215) 898-1988

Fax: (215) 573-5428

Fax documents to expedite processing and ensure their security. Use a coversheet and please include your *full* social security number. A cover sheet template can be found at: [www.sfs.upenn.edu/pdf/2009-10/US-coversheet-taxID-2009-2010.pdf](http://www.sfs.upenn.edu/pdf/2009-10/US-coversheet-taxID-2009-2010.pdf)

### Mailing Address:

Student Financial Services  
University of Pennsylvania  
005 Franklin Building  
3451 Walnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6270

### Mailing Address for Bill Payments

University of Pennsylvania/Tuition  
P.O. Box 785551  
Philadelphia, PA 19178-5551

## Frequently Asked Questions about Financial Aid:

### *Q: Does financial aid continue after my freshman year?*

A: Yes. Penn is committed to meeting your full need throughout your undergraduate years. If family circumstances remain stable, your financial aid will remain relatively constant. You will need to reapply for financial aid each year.

### *Q: What if my family's financial situation changes?*

A: Upon request, Student Financial Services will review your aid package if your family experiences a change in financial circumstances.

### *Q: What if I am not eligible for need-based financial aid?*

A: Payment options can provide families flexibility in meeting educational expenses. These low-cost programs enable you to distribute educational costs over an extended period of time.

### *Q: Can I use Payment Option Programs even if I receive financial aid?*

A: Yes. Many families of aided students use one or more payment options to assist them with their family contribution.

For billing information, please visit: [www.sfs.upenn.edu/billing/index.htm](http://www.sfs.upenn.edu/billing/index.htm)

**Please note that you will receive your first bill in July.**

# Move-in

## **Move-in for first-year students:**

**Thursday, September 3, 2009, 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.**

- Early move-in for first-year students is available at an additional charge. Early move-in is on Wednesday, September 2, 2009. If you have any questions, call (215) 898-3547 or visit the housing web site: [www.business-services.upenn.edu/housing/movein.html](http://www.business-services.upenn.edu/housing/movein.html).
- Early move-in support will be limited due to the small number of staff and volunteers available. Cart loans, traffic and unloading support will be provided, but at a reduced level from that normally associated with official move in and move out operations.

## Move-in Instructions

- There will be unloading areas designated throughout the campus. Plan to unload your vehicle in those areas and then immediately move your vehicle to alternate parking. Please be advised there is heavy congestion associated with move-in traffic.
- Complimentary garage parking for the entire day of your arrival will be available on peak move-in days in order to facilitate unloading for all, and convenience for you. Enforcement of unloading time limits is fairly stringent, and is done in the interest of accommodating the arrival of many students to an urban campus.
- Unloading passes and temporary guest passes can be created online at [campusexpress.upenn.edu](http://campusexpress.upenn.edu). Click to “My Housing” and follow the links to “My Move In”. You can schedule your own passes and bring them along. They will be validated upon your arrival. This service will become available beginning in early July.
- You are strongly encouraged to bring a hand truck or similar moving-type equipment.
- A limited number of carts are available for move-in. To borrow a cart, visit the Information Center in your building or the cart tent or table located near your building.
- If you plan to mail items to campus be sure to time the arrival of these packages to arrive at or after move-in, due to the lack of storage space for the high volume of parcels shipped at this time of the year. The University has arranged special pick up locations for UPS Ground parcels. Times and places will be posted on campus. There are several notification methods: a slip will be placed in a student’s mailbox, an email will be sent by the mail staff, lists of recipients of packages that have arrived will be posted at several locations.
- If you do not pick up your UPS Ground package the day it arrives it will be moved to your area package room.

# **New Student Orientation Parent Events**

**Thursday, September 3, 2009**

## **Proud Penn Parent Welcome Picnic**

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Class of 1976 Patio (behind Sweeten Alumni Center), College Green

Grab a quick bite and have questions answered by PHINS Orientation leaders, Penn Parents Program volunteers, and Penn Traditions staff.

## **New Penn Parent Orientation Panel**

3:00 pm

Irvine Auditorium

3401 Spruce Street

Join our distinguished Penn panelists to learn about finances, safety, housing, student life and much more in this interactive session. Our Penn experts will provide an overview of relevant issues facing many Penn parents and families and answer your questions.

## **President & Provost Welcome**

4:15 pm

College Green

Penn President Amy Gutmann and Provost Vincent Price welcome Penn families from the steps of historic College Hall in the heart of campus. Please join us to hear these inspiring addresses to the Class of 2013.

## **President & Provost Reception**

4:30 pm

Wynn Commons

Perelman Quadrangle

Following the President and Provost Welcome, join us for a Parents Program reception. Meet and speak with distinguished Penn faculty and staff. Learn more about Penn, Philadelphia and speak with Parents Program representatives.

## **Important Web Sites:**

Parents Program:

[www.pennparents.org](http://www.pennparents.org)

New Student Orientation:

[www.upenn.edu/nso](http://www.upenn.edu/nso)

Housing and Move-In:

[www.upenn.edu/housing/movein.html](http://www.upenn.edu/housing/movein.html)

Family Weekend

[www.vpul.upenn.edu/osl/fwcal.html](http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/osl/fwcal.html)

University of Pennsylvania:

[www.upenn.edu](http://www.upenn.edu)

# **Directions to Local Stores and Shopping Centers:**

## **5 Minute Walk from Campus**

### **The Fresh Grocer**

4001 Walnut Street

(215) 222-9200

Hours: Open 24 Hours

### **Radio Shack**

212 South 40<sup>th</sup> Street (bet. Walnut and Locust)

(215) 662-5949

Hours: Mon. – Fri. 9:30 am – 7:00 pm

## **10 Minute Drive/Accessible by Public Transportation**

### **K-Mart**

901 Market Street

(215) 629-2410

Hours: Monday – Friday 7:00 am – 7:00 pm

Directions: Take Market Street eastbound toward Center City, around City Hall to 9<sup>th</sup> St.

Bus: Take Route 21 which runs east on Chestnut St., bus returns west on Walnut St.

### **Staples**

15<sup>th</sup> and Chestnut Street

(215) 864-9520

Hours: Mon-Fri 7:00 am – 7:00 pm

Directions: Take Chestnut Street eastbound toward Center City to 15<sup>th</sup> St.

Bus: Take Route 21 which runs east on Chestnut St., bus returns west on Walnut St.

### **West Elm**

1330 Chestnut Street

(215) 731-0184

Hours: Mon – Fri. 10:00 am – 8:00 pm

Directions: Take Chestnut Street eastbound toward Center City to 13<sup>th</sup> Street

Bus: Take Route 21 which runs east on Chestnut St, bus returns west on Walnut St.

## **30 Minute Drive**

### **Bed Bath and Beyond**

70 East Wynnewood Road

Wynnewood, PA

(610) 642-9296

Hours: Mon. – Fri. 9:30 am – 9:30 pm

Directions: Starting at 38<sup>th</sup> and Walnut Street go north and turn left onto Lancaster Avenue and go 1.4 miles. Keep straight onto US-30 [Lancaster Avenue] and go 3.73 miles. Turn right onto East Wynnewood Road and go 0.10 miles.

**15 Minute Drive (all in one area on or off of Columbus Blvd.)**

**IKEA**

(215) 551-4532

Hours: Mon. – Sat. 9:30 am – 8:30 pm

**Lowe's Home Improvement**

(215) 982-5391

Hours: Mon. – Sat. 6:00 am – 10:00 pm

**Home Depot**

(215) 218-0600

Hours: Mon. – Fri. 6:00 am – 10:00 pm

**Target**

(215) 463-7311

Hours: Mon-Sat 8:00 am to 10:00 pm

**Wal-Mart**

(215) 468-4220

Hours: Mon. – Fri. 9:00 am – 7:00 pm

**Best Buy**

(215) 336-2212

Hours: Mon. – Fri. 10:00 am – 9:00 pm

Directions: Take Chestnut Street eastbound toward Center City. At 30<sup>th</sup> Street (next to the Post Office) make a left onto Schuylkill Avenue. Continue to follow Schuylkill Avenue (two blocks) and merge onto Vine Street Expressway/I-676 E toward Central Philadelphia (the right lane). Merge onto I-95 South passing the exit for the Benjamin Franklin Bridge. Continue toward exit for International Airport. Exit at the Columbus Blvd. (Exit 20 left lane) and stay to the right of the exit. Turn right onto Columbus Blvd. Turn left into Columbus Commons for the stores above.

**Philadelphia Banks** (with branches in University City of Center City)

**University City**

**Citizens Bank**

134 South 34<sup>th</sup> Street

(215) 387-1900

**Center City**

**Bank of America**

1818 Market Street

(800) 432-1000

**PNC Bank**

3535 Market Street

(215) 823-2300

**Sovereign Bank**

3131 Market Street

(215) 349-6000

**TD Bank**

3735 Walnut Street

(215) 387-1000

**Wachovia**

3431 Chestnut Street

(215) 222-2139

Fall		2009 Fall Term	2010 Fall Term
Move-in and registration for Transfer Students	Wednesday	September 2	September 1
Move-in for first-year students	Thursday	September 3	September 2
New Student Orientation	Thursday-Tuesday	September 3-8	September 2-7
Labor Day	Monday	September 7	September 6
New Student Convocation and Opening Exercises	Tuesday	September 8	September 6
First Day of Classes	Wednesday	September 9	September 8
Course Selection Period Ends	Friday	September 25	September 24
Drop Period Ends*	Friday	October 16	October 15
Fall Term Break	Saturday-Tuesday	October 17-19 (Sat-Mon)*	October 9-12 (Sat-Tues)
Family Weekend	Friday-Sunday	October 23-25 (Yale)	October 15-17 (Columbia)
Homecoming	Saturday	November 7 (Princeton)	October 30 (Brown)
Advance Registration, Spring Term	Monday-Sunday	November 9-22	November 1-14
Thanksgiving Break Begins at close of classes	Wednesday	November 25	November 24
Thanksgiving Break Ends 8 a.m.	Monday	November 30	November 29
Fall Term Classes End	Friday	December 10 (Thurs)	December 10 (Fri)
Reading Days	Saturday-Tuesday	December 11-14 (Mon-Fri)	December 11-14 (Sat-Tues)
Final Examinations	Wednesday - Wednesday	December 15-22 (Tues-Tues)	December 15-22 (Wed-Wed)
Fall Semester Ends	Wednesday	December 22 (Tues)	December 22 (Wed)
Spring		2010 Spring Term	2011 Spring Term
Spring Semester classes begin	Wednesday	January 13	January 12
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (observed; no classes)	Monday	January 18	January 17
Course Selection Period Ends	Monday	February 1	January 31
Drop Period Ends*	Friday	February 19	February 18
Spring Break Begins at Close of Classes	Friday	March 5	March 4
Classes Resume at 8 a.m.	Monday	March 15	March 14
Advance Registration for Fall and Summer Sessions	Monday-Sunday	March 22-April 4	March 21-April 3
Spring Term Classes End	Tuesday	April 27	April 26
Reading Days	Wednesday-Friday	April 28-30	April 27-29
Final Examinations	Monday-Tuesday	May 3-11	May 2-10
Alumni Day	Saturday	May 15	May 14
Baccalaureate	Sunday	May 16	May 15
Commencement	Monday	May 17	May 16
Summer		2010 Summer	2011 Summer
12-Week Evening Session classes begin		May 24 (Mon)	May 23 (Mon)
First Session classes begin		May 24 (Mon)	May 23 (Mon)
Memorial Day (no classes)		May 31 (Mon)	May 30 (Mon)
First Session classes end		July 2 (Fri)	July 1 (Fri)
Independence Day (no classes)		July 5 (Mon)	July 4 (Mon)
Second Session classes begin		July 6 (Tues)	July 5 (Tues)