

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What is the best way to get to/from campus? A: The following is a list of transportation options offered in Northwest Indiana and Valparaiso. For directions to and from the Valparaiso University campus, click here. You can also view a list of area hotels.

[V-Line](#) - Valparaiso's brand new public bus service. Four routes take students throughout the community including shopping areas. Buses depart from the Valparaiso Union on campus. Weekend service drops students directly at the Dune Park South Shore Line station. [Online Ride Board](#) - Communicate online with students who offer rides - or post your request if you are looking for a ride. Pipeline People Mover - Door to door airport transportation serving Lake and Porter counties and Midway and O'Hare airports. Call 219.769.4900.

[South Shore Line](#) - Commuter rail line offering regular service between South Bend and Chicago. The nearest station is Dune Park, approximately 15 miles north of campus. [Coach USA](#) - Charter bus service that picks up in both Portage and Michigan City and drops off at Midway and O'Hare airports. [MidWest Air Link](#)- Custom charter flights from Porter County Airport in Valparaiso to Midway and O'Hare airports.

[Greyhound](#) - National bus service with a stop in Michigan City and U.S. 421 and U.S. 20.

Q: What if my student does not get along with his/her roommate? A: Please visit the [Office of Residential Life Web site](#) - complete with a [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page.

Q: How will I know how my student is doing with his studies? A: The only way for you to know is to ask your student. First-year mid-term reports will only be sent to your student.

Q: What kind of organizations are there for my student to participate in? A: There are a number of student organizations available! There are currently over 75 organizations recognized by Student Senate. A list of student organizations can be found at http://www.valpo.edu/studentlife/student_organizations/index.php or by calling 219.464.5411.

Q: How do we order cakes and care packages? A: These programs are sponsored by the [VU Guild](#). [Click here](#) to view the cake and care package order form (PDF).

Q: I do not live near Valparaiso. How will I know what the weather is like? A: Indiana experiences all four seasons. You can check the weather at the VU Department of Geography and Meteorology web site at <http://www.valpo.edu/geomet/met/wthrddata/wthrddata.html>.

Q: How safe is the campus? A: The VU Police Department patrol's campus and is available 24 hours a day. Emergency telephones are found in all major parking areas. The VU Police established a Student Escort Service (SES) on the Valparaiso University campus to enhance security and to increase crime prevention services already in operation. The SES provides daily transportation for students

needing to travel between 6p.m. and 2 a.m. from one point to another point on campus or nearby off-campus areas. There is no charge for the service.

Q: What do we do if our students are homesick? A: The best thing you can do is give them time to adjust. They are encouraged to speak with their RA. Professors, academic advisors, clergy, and the counseling center are also available.

Q: What should my student do if he/she is ill? A: The VU Health Center is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. In the case of emergencies, students are instructed to go to Porter Memorial Hospital, 814 LaPorte Ave. More information can be found at valpo.edu/health.

Q: If my student needs to go shopping, is there transportation? A: The [V-Line](#) is Valparaiso's brand new public bus service. Four routes take students throughout the community including shopping areas. Buses depart from the Valparaiso Union on campus.

Q: Can items be left at Valpo over the summer? A: Arrangements need to be made with the RA.

Q: What is Family Weekend? A: A weekend sponsored by the VU Parents Council offering parents time each fall to visit their student(s) on campus. The weekend offers athletic, cultural and informational activities for the entire family. For many, this is the first opportunity to see their student since the semester began. Come learn what your student is up to. More information can be found at <http://www.valpo.edu/parents/events/fam-week.php>.

Q: What is Kids and Sibs Weekend? A: Kids and Sibs Weekend is sponsored by Union Board and held in the spring. For more information, call 219.464.6710 or visit <http://www.valpo.edu/student/ub/sibskids/>.

Q: What does the Valparaiso University Parents Council do? A: In addition to Family Weekend, the Parents Council sponsors several activities including:

- Welcome Weekend - Each fall, mom, dad and student pack-up half of the house and move it to Valpo. Parents Council members are on campus to help with refreshments, directions, information, or just a seat and a tissue - the Parents Council Welcome Center provides useful information and a place to rest. Council members also host a Parents Panel, where parents ask questions and get answers based on Parents Council member experiences.
- Valpo FOCUS Sessions - Members are on hand at a VUPC sponsored booth to answer questions and help incoming students and their parents see firsthand what Valpo student life is all about. At FOCUS, parents get to attend class, live in a residence hall and eat delicious cafeteria food. This is one of the few opportunities they have to immerse themselves in the college experience.
- Meetings - The council gathers on campus twice a year, once in the fall and once in the spring, to plan the year's activities. We also meet with faculty, staff and the administration to receive state-of-the-campus updates.
- Communication - *Valpo Parent*: Working with the office of admissions, the council produces newsletters for parents of incoming students. *Parent E-news*: The Parents Council sends quarterly e-mail newsletters to parents, keeping them current on what happening and what to look forward to. Visit valpo.edu/parents to send us or update your e-mail address.

Q: How do you join the Valparaiso University Parents Council? A: You can start by letting us know you're interested in finding out more! You can fill out the form on the interest brochure and mail it in, or you can give us a call or e-mail at 219.464.5142 or parents@valpo.edu. We will contact you to tell you more and to answer your questions.

Q: What "parent" events do I need to make reservations for? A: [Family Weekend!](#) You also are invited to visit during Homecoming and Reunion Weekend or any other time!

Q: Where can I find a list of area hotels? A: You can find a list of hotels and other information at valpo.edu/alumni/homecoming/returning.

Q: What if I have questions about technology at Valpo? A: For specific questions related to technology, computers, and the telecommunication system at Valpo, visit the Information Technology (IT) Web site at valpo.edu/it.