

# JOIN US AT FOCUS

AN ORIENTATION PROGRAM FOR NEW VALPO STUDENTS

WELCOME TO  
**VALPO**

Dear Valpo Student:

Valparaiso University proudly welcomes you – the newest member of our community. This is an exciting time as you begin your personal journey at Valpo.

FOCUS provides you with the knowledge and support necessary to ensure a successful transition. You'll have the opportunity to meet your classmates, learn about campus services and student life, and register for classes.

The FOCUS staff is available to help throughout your visit. We're so pleased you have decided to join the Valpo community and look forward to getting to know you even better.

Sincerely,



Ryan Bye

Director of Student Involvement & New Student Programs

## TRANSFER STUDENT ORIENTATION SCHEDULE

Follow the FOCUS schedule for new students (next page), with the exception of the sessions listed below.

9:35–10:45 a.m.  
**Orientation Group Meeting  
& Student Life Advising**  
*Various Locations*

Leave Opening Welcome with your Orientation Group when your group number is called. Get to know classmates and discuss information you need for FOCUS. This session will also include a discussion about what you want your time at Valpo to look like!

11:20 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.  
**Transfer Student Lunch  
& Group Meeting**  
*Harre Union, Hearth Room*

Enjoy lunch with and get to know other transfer students. Your OA will also have meeting items to cover before the next session.

1:45 p.m. until complete  
**Transfer Student Academic  
Advising & Registration**  
*Christopher Center Library*

Meet in a small group with an academic advisor to build your fall semester class schedule. Bring copies of your unofficial college transcript(s) to help in your class selection process.

*College of Arts and Sciences – Christopher Center Library,  
Room 261B*

*College of Business – Christopher Center Library, Room 261A*

*College of Engineering – Christopher Center Library, Room 261A*

*College of Nursing and Health Professions – Christopher Center  
Library, Room 261A*

3:15–4:15 p.m.  
**Second Orientation Group Meeting**

After you register for classes join your orientation group for a final meeting to discuss your transition to Valpo. We are so excited to have you join the Valpo family!

After 4:30 p.m., transfer students should join the FOCUS schedule in progress (see page 6).

# NEW-STUDENT ORIENTATION SCHEDULE

Bring your FOCUS folder and pen to all sessions.  
All times are Central Time (the same as Chicago).

8 a.m. – 5 p.m. <b>Campus Offices Open</b>	
8 a.m. – 7 p.m. <b>Bookstore Open</b>	
8–8:45 a.m. <b>FOCUS Check-In</b> <i>Harre Union, Atrium</i>	Pick up your FOCUS materials from the check-in table and proceed down the hall to Harre Union, Grand Lounge to get your OneCard ID. Submit your ID photo online before your FOCUS session. Have someone take a head and shoulders photo of you against a white background (like a passport photo) and upload your photo at <a href="https://apps.valpo.edu/idExpress">apps.valpo.edu/idExpress</a> (log in with your Valpo username/password).
8–8:45 a.m. <b>Visit a Residence Hall</b>	Tours leave continuously. Meet the Residential Life staff in the Grand Lounge (first floor near Founders Table) for a brief escorted visit to Brandt Hall, a first-year residence hall.
9–9:30 a.m. <b>Opening Welcome</b> <i>Harre Union, Ballrooms</i>	Valpo staff and Orientation Assistants (OAs) officially welcome you to campus as we kick off FOCUS together!
9:35–10:15 a.m. <b>First-Year Student Orientation Group Meeting</b> <i>Various Locations</i>	Leave Opening Welcome with your orientation group when your group number is called. Get to know classmates and discuss information you need for FOCUS.
10:20–11:20 a.m. <b>Christ College Student Gathering</b> <i>Mueller Hall, Refectory</i>	Christ College – The Honors College Students: Meet your Christ College (CC) classmates, learn about typical CC class settings, and get information regarding CC class advising and registration.
10:20–10:50 a.m. <b>The Valpo CORE First-Year Seminar</b> <i>Center for the Arts, Theatre</i>	Learn about this first-year seminar focused on critical reading, writing, discussion, and research you take as you begin your Valpo academic journey.

10:55–11:20 a.m. <b>Information Technology for Students</b> <i>Center for the Arts, Theatre</i>	Learn about the campus technology systems you will use regularly, what you should and should not bring to campus in the fall, and how to grant parent/guest access to your Valpo account information.
11:30 a.m. – 12:10 p.m. <b>Lunch</b> <i>Harre Union, Founders Table</i>	Dine with and get to know your orientation group.
12:15–1:15 p.m. <b>Life On Campus</b> <i>Center for the Arts, Theatre</i>	Excited about living on campus? This session introduces programs, policies, procedures, and services for students who will be living on campus. Topics will include Residential Life, OneCard, Dining, Mail Services, and more!
12:15–1:15 p.m. <b>Commuting On A Residential Campus</b> <i>Center for the Arts, Recital Hall</i>	Students who will be commuting learn tips for diving into life at Valpo while commuting from home from returning Valpo students. This session will also introduce campus services such as parking, OneCard, Dining, and more!
1:20–1:40 p.m. <b>Student Account Overview</b> <i>Center for the Arts, Theatre</i>	Understand how Student Account Self-Service, payment plans, and other billing processes work.
1:45–2:45 p.m. <b>Student Life Advising</b> <i>Various Locations</i>	What do you want your time to look like at Valpo? At this session your group will meet with a member of the student life team and begin to map out what some of your co-curricular experiences could look like during your journey at Valpo!
2:50–3:10 p.m. <b>Honor Code Overview and OA Group Meeting</b> <i>Christopher Center, Community Room</i>	Learn about Valpo's Honor Code. Meet with your Orientation Assistant to talk more about how the Honor Code works at Valpo.
3:15 p.m. <b>Advising/Registration Announcements</b> <i>Christopher Center, Community Room</i>	All students gather for advising/registration announcements. From here, everyone in your college will go as a group to academic advising.

## NEW-STUDENT ORIENTATION SCHEDULE CONTINUED

3:30 p.m. until complete  
**Academic Advising and  
Class Registration**

Bring your FOCUS folder with its registration forms and your laptop. Meet in small groups with our specially selected FOCUS academic advisors to choose your fall semester classes. You will be instructed where to go to register based on your college.

Immediately following registration, complete the FOCUS evaluation and your housing preference form online in the computer lab area in which you register for classes. The housing preference form is also where students can request a roommate.

**When you finish class registration, go to the Student Services Fair, which is taking place until 5:30 p.m.**

After advising – 5:30 p.m.  
**Student Resources Fair**  
*Harre Union, Ballrooms A&B*

See resources you didn't even know existed! Gather program information and talk with representatives from various campus departments.

5 p.m.  
**Campus Offices Close**

5:30–6:30 p.m.  
**Dinner**  
*Harre Union, Founders Table*

Relax at the end of the day knowing you are prepared for the next steps at Valpo!

5:30–6 p.m.  
**Student-Athlete  
Information Session**  
*Christopher Center,  
Community Room*

**All NCAA athletes from all sports are required to attend.** Parents/Guardians are welcome as well. Meet with compliance staff to go over information for this stage in your transition to Valpo Athletics and get questions answered.

6:30–7:30 p.m.  
**All That We Share:  
End-of-Day Reflections**  
*Chapel of the Resurrection*

What if there is more that brings us together than makes us different? Explore this and learn how Valpo can assist you on your spiritual journey whatever your faith background. Your OA escorts you to this session.

## WELCOME WEEK 2021

Don't miss out on Welcome Week 2021! It will begin with new student move-in day on Saturday, Aug. 21, and continue through the first week of classes. Details will be announced by the end of July. See last year's schedule for a sampling of events that happen during Welcome Week. Valpo students are very involved in and out of the classroom. Plan to start your Valpo experience the same way by enjoying all the Welcome Week activities and Valpo will feel like home quickly!

See [valpo.edu/registrar/calendar](http://valpo.edu/registrar/calendar) for 2021–2022 dates including:

Aug. 21–24	Required Welcome Week Activities (Move-In Day is Saturday, Aug. 21)
Aug. 25	First Day of Classes
Aug. 25–29	Welcome Week Events Continue
Oct. 14–15	Fall Break – No Classes, Residence Areas Remain Open
Nov. 20–28	Thanksgiving Break – No Classes, Residence Areas Close
Dec. 13–17	Final Exams
Dec. 18	Residence Areas Close for Semester Break

## ROOMMATE REQUEST AFTER FOCUS

Have you met someone with whom you'd like to room on campus? You can submit this request when you complete your housing application after registering for classes. If you meet someone after FOCUS, you can log into [datavu.valpo.edu](http://datavu.valpo.edu) – Students Menu – Housing Self Service to update your housing preferences. The roommates need to confirm each other via the online housing system in order to be matched.

**All roommate confirmations must be completed on DataVU Housing Self-Service no later than noon on Wednesday, June 30, 2021.** If you have questions, contact Residential Life at 219.464.5413 or email [reslife@valpo.edu](mailto:reslife@valpo.edu).

## CAMPUS OFFICES

Campus offices are open 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday through Friday throughout the summer, including on FOCUS days. If you need directions to a campus office, ask any FOCUS staff member or stop by the Harre Union Welcome Desk for assistance. Locations of frequently visited offices include:

**Dining Services**  
*Harre Union, suite 170*

**OneCard, Parking, and Transportation Services**  
*Harre Union, suite 244*

**Financial Aid**  
A counselor is available in Harre Union Conference Room 231 during FOCUS or you can book an appointment for any day before or after FOCUS at [vufinancialaid.youcanbook.me](http://vufinancialaid.youcanbook.me).

**Residential Life**  
*Harre Union, suite 250*

# WHO IS YOUR ORIENTATION ASSISTANT?



**#1 RYAN DZIATKOWIEC**  
Ryan Dziatkowiec '23 is a Spanish and secondary education double major from Batavia, Illinois. Ryan is the fraternity educator as well as standards and expectations chair for his fraternity, is an Interfraternity Council general body representative, and serves as a resident assistant. Ryan's favorite thing about Valpo is the supportive community and how he was able to find a home here. Ryan loves to roller skate and bowl in his free time.



**#2 FAITH BRIARS**  
Faith Briars '23 is a psychology and criminology double major from Toledo, Ohio. This is Faith's second year as an OA. Faith chose Valpo because it seemed like a home away from home! She works as an Ambassador in Admission and Fitness Center building manager, and she holds leadership positions within her sorority and Voices for Animals. Faith's most memorable experience in college was when she studied abroad in London. Faith's dream job is to be a prosecuting attorney for the juvenile justice system.



**#3 ENZA FREDIANI**  
Enza Frediani '23, a communication and international business double major from Lindenhurst, Illinois, is in her second year as an OA. Enza holds a leadership position in her sorority and is a miracle maker for Dance Marathon, Torch journalist, Ambassador in Admission, and member of Voices for Animals. Enza chose Valpo because of the hands-on communication department, and she loves being a part of the University's success and passion. Enza loved traveling in Italy and she can't wait to study abroad in Cambridge for her junior year.



**#4 MAIAH DEOGRACIAS**  
Maiah Deogracias '24 is a communication and art (photography focus) double major from Fort Wayne, Indiana. Maiah is a member of a sorority, Public Relations Student Society of America, The Torch, and the University symphony orchestra. Her favorite part about Valpo is that we are small enough that students pass familiar faces around campus but also big enough that they are always able to meet new people. Maiah's dream job is to be a photographer for National Geographic. In her free time, she enjoys photography, traveling, making music, and spending time with family and friends.



**#5 HENRY DEBRUIN**  
Henry DeBruin '24 is a mechanical engineering major from Bloomingburg, Ohio. Henry's favorite part about Valpo is how personable and helpful the professors are. He loves how he is able to build strong relationships with his professors and how they support him in and out of the classroom. Henry chose Valpo because of the excellent engineering program and how welcoming everyone he met is, especially the professors. His favorite place he has ever been to is Costa Rica when he went during high school.



**#6 LESLEY PADILLA**  
Lesley Padilla '23 is a social work major from Hammond, Indiana. As a first-generation college student, Lesley enjoys all of the opportunities Valpo has to offer. Taking on leadership roles has helped her make connections for her success. Lesley chose Valpo because it is very welcoming, instantly felt like home, and everyone here wants to see you succeed. She holds a leadership position in her sorority, serves as a resident assistant, and is a member of Latinx in Valparaiso for Excellence. Lesley loves to take care of plants and meditate.



**#7 MERYN BURK**  
Meryn Burk '24 is studying health science on the physician assistant track. Meryn's favorite part about the Valpo experience is getting to meet so many new people and make many new friends while also getting involved on campus. Her role model is her mom who has shown her that she can do anything if she puts her mind to it. Meryn's dream job would be to be a professional cellist in any Broadway musical. If she could travel anywhere in the world, she would love to go to Greece.



**#8 KOBE HAYWARD**  
Kobe Hayward '23 is a psychology major from La Porte, Indiana. Kobe is involved in fraternity and sorority life and is a part of the men's soccer club. He chose Valpo because he knew he would be receiving a great education while still being close to home. For Kobe, the best part of the Valpo experience has been seeing himself grow as a person and seeing how he has been able to choose his own path through college while staying true to himself.



**#9 MARTHA APONBIEDE**  
Martha Aponbiede '24 is a computer science major from Abuja, Nigeria. Martha is a part of Alpha Phi Omega, Valparaiso International Student Association, African Student Association, Black Student Organization, and spectrum dance. As an international student, she loves how inclusive and welcoming Valpo has been. Since joining the Valparaiso University community in January 2021, Martha has been able to jump right in by getting involved, and she encourages all new students to do the same! Martha loves to be outdoors and spend time with family and friends.



**#10 LANE MADSEN**  
Lane Madsen '24 is a civil engineering major from Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Lane is a member of a sorority here on campus and the University Programming Council. Lane chose Valpo because they can not only pursue their engineering degree, but they can also have a little bit of everything because we are a liberal arts college. Lane's most memorable moments here at Valpo have been the small trips with friends, especially the Dunes! Lane loves spending time with friends in their free time, especially if being outside or coffee is involved.



#11

**EMMETT TWOMEY**

Emmett Twomey '23, a meteorology major with a history minor from Orland Park, Illinois, is in his second year as an Orientation Assistant. Emmett holds many leadership positions on campus including working as an Ambassador in Admission; is involved with VUDU Comedy, the storm intercept team, and public relations for Interfraternity Council; and serves as a resident assistant. Emmett's favorite thing about Valpo is the hands-on experiences he has received since he was a freshman. If Emmett could choose his dream job, he would love to be a master LEGO builder.



#12

**JACKIE SEPULVEDA**

Jackie Sepulveda '23, a meteorology major from Des Plaines, Illinois, is in her second year as an OA. Jackie's most memorable moment here at Valpo was serving as an Orientation Assistant last year, as she was able to be a resource for the new students and watch them grow! If she could travel anywhere in the world, she would like to travel around Europe, but specifically Greece and Italy. Some of Jackie's hobbies include drinking iced coffee, going on nature walks with her dog, listening to music, and hanging out with friends.



#13

**CAMERON BOBOS**

Cameron Bobos '22 is a psychology major on the pre-physical therapy track from Griffith, Indiana. This is Cameron's third year as an Orientation Assistant. His most memorable moment was during his second-ever FOCUS when he lost one of his group members, which turned out to be a really good laugh and allowed for his group to bond. Cameron holds leadership positions in his fraternity, he works as an Ambassador in Admission, and is involved with a cappella groups on campus. Cameron's dream job is to be a screen actor or to perform in a theatre.



#14

**LIZZY MESSERSCHMIDT**

Lizzy Messerschmidt '24 is a communication and German double major from Barrington, Illinois. Lizzy chose Valpo because it really felt like home and there are so many opportunities for students here. Lizzy loves doing any type of craft and loves anything Star Wars or Marvel. She is involved in Dance Marathon, Lumin, and a sorority here on campus. Lizzy's favorite place she has ever traveled to was Germany where she was able to visit family.



#15

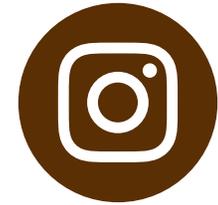
**TAYLOR AUSTIN**

Taylor Austin '22, a theatre and communication double major from Plainfield, Illinois, serves as the Lead Orientation Assistant. Taylor likes to spend most of her time backstage in the theatre. Taylor serves as vice president of recruitment for her sorority, is public relations chair for the theatre honorary fraternity, and works in the Scene Shop on campus. Her most memorable moment was meeting her best friend during Valpo's production of "Pippin." Taylor's dream job is to become a professional stage manager on Broadway.

# FOLLOW VALPO



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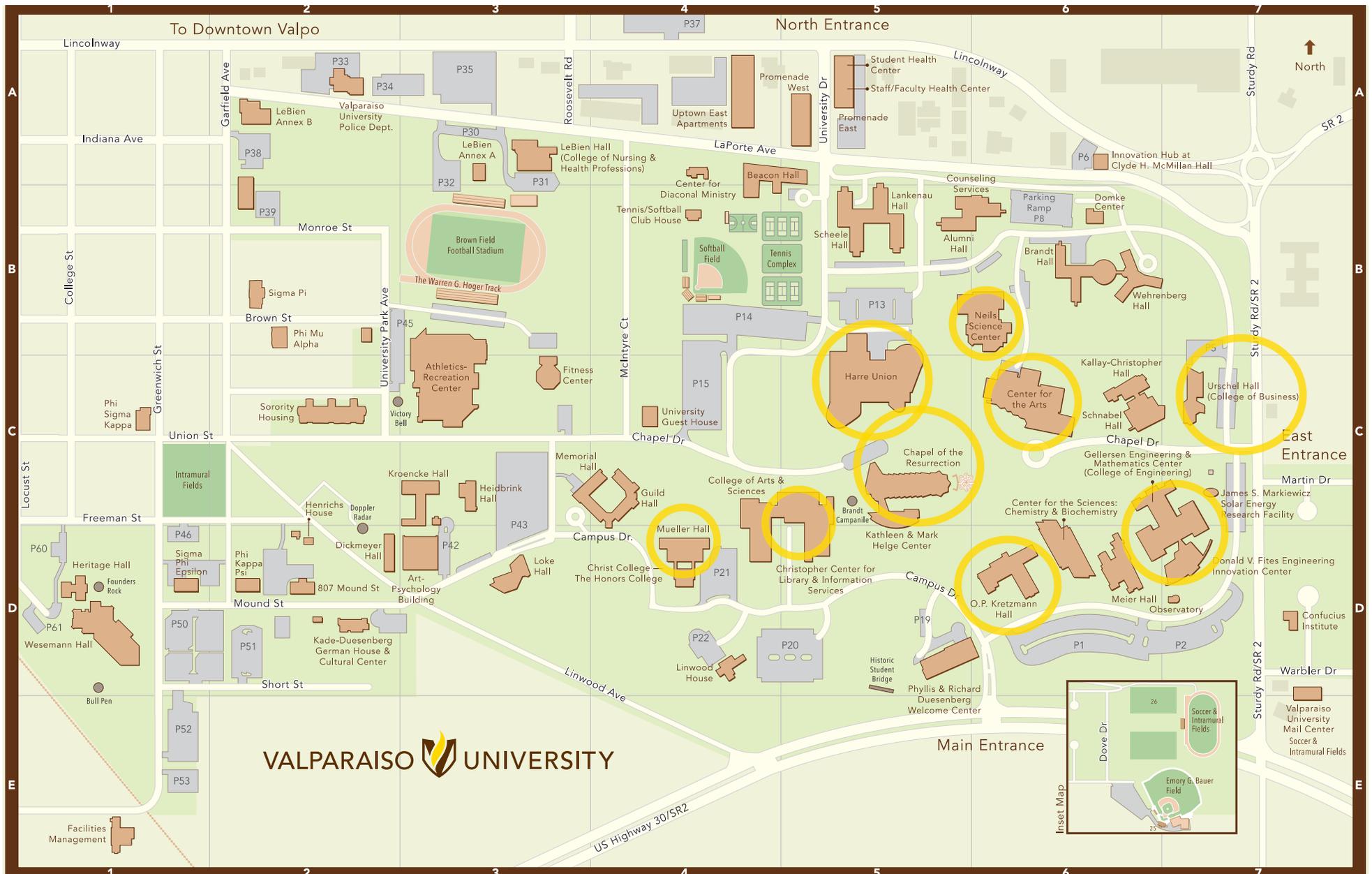


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**/Valparaiso.University**

# VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY CAMPUS MAP



## FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Visit [valpo.edu/about/maps-directions](http://valpo.edu/about/maps-directions).

## WHAT TO BRING TO CAMPUS

### NECESSITIES

- Back-up contact list
- Alarm clock with battery back-up
- Book bag/backpack
- Desk supplies – pens, highlighters, pencils, erasers, scissors, glue, stapler, paper clips, folders, note pads, theme books, organizers, rulers, tape
- Dishes – mugs, bowls, silverware, plates
- Fan
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Hangers, laundry bag/basket, supplies
- Portable phone charger(s)
- Basic tools (e.g., hammer, screwdriver)
- Storage containers, paper towels
- Toiletries – soap, shaver, shaving supplies, Band-Aids, toothbrush, dental accessories, hair products, deodorants, hair dryer, cotton balls, safety pins, eyecare products, make-up, face cleaning products, tissue, sunscreen, etc.
- Twin-size bedding: pillows, blankets, sheets, comforter, bedspread, mattress pad (Note: we recommend extra-long length)
- Umbrella/raincoat
- Wastebasket
- Face masks, hand sanitizer, and disinfecting wipes

### OPTIONAL

- Athletic equipment – tennis racket, racquetball paddle, rollerblades, baseball/softball glove, Frisbee, soccer ball, basketball, football, golf clubs
- Bicycle
- Bookends
- Collapsible drying rack for laundry
- Computer and supplies\*
- Mounting tape for hanging pictures on walls (3M strips work well)
- Entertainment equipment – radio, stereo, TV, video games, musical instruments, board games, cards, portable speaker
- Pictures and posters for walls
- Plants, plant food, watering can
- Shelves – crates, bricks, cinder blocks, and boards can all be used to make shelves anywhere in residence hall
- Shower tote
- Throw rug/carpet remnant
- Wipe-away message board and markers

\*Note: Computer required for engineering majors

## WHAT NOT TO BRING TO CAMPUS

- Duplicate TVs, carpets, etc. You'll find out your roommate's name and contact information in mid-July. We suggest you contact them, not only to introduce yourself, but also to make arrangements as to who will bring what items.
- Nails or tacks for hanging posters. Although you may hang up or tack them down with double-faced tape, you may not use nails or tacks on the residence hall walls.
- Pets, unless they're fish (aquariums limited to 10 gallons)
- Halogen floor lamps
- Candles
- Microwaves (each floor lounge has a microwave)

**If you or someone in your household is showing symptoms of COVID-19, please stay home and consult your health care provider.**

Visit [valpo.edu/reslife](http://valpo.edu/reslife) for details.



