

Parent Electronic News
West Virginia University
March 16, 2016

Shorts and flip-flops are once again gracing campus – spring weather has arrived! And that means spring break is upon us. Residence Halls will close this Friday at 7 p.m. and reopen Sunday, March 27 at noon. Read on for some details and reminders. Information on the Parents Club Spring Break Buses follows as well as details on Spring Family Weekend, which is just around the corner – April 15-17. Be sure to register below.

The countdowns are also on for summer/fall course registration, study abroad application deadlines and graduation (now just over eight weeks away), so we have included some reminders for students and helpful graduation updates. We have also highlighted some important policy updates, as well as part two of the Scholarship and Funding piece. So read on and share with your students.

With that, I bid you an early Happy St. Patrick's Day, spring break with your student and first official day of spring on March 20; lots to celebrate! Enjoy the spring sunshine! In this edition:

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PARENTS CLUB UPDATES

Parents Club Question of the Month

We are always interested in how students and families communicate. We recently updated our Parents Club Question of the Month to ask “How do you and your student communicate most frequently?” Just look for the Question of the Month on our webpage and let us know: <http://bit.ly/1R3QPGL>. We'll share the results in an upcoming edition.

Spring Family Weekend April 15-17

The Mountaineer Parents Club Spring Family Weekend is coming up April 15-17, 2016. There are lots of exciting events planned for you and your family. Please complete the online registration form and make plans today to come to campus next month. Visit <http://bit.ly/1y4Fkv9> for the registration form and schedule. See you soon!

Parents Club Spring Break Buses

Spring Break is just days away, but it's not too late to make a reservation on the Mountaineer Parents Club bus. Information, including times and locations, can be found at <http://bit.ly/1vStQFj>. Secaucus is SOLD OUT, but spots remain for the other destinations. Local clubs are also sponsoring buses to central Maryland, northern Virginia, Long Island and southern New Jersey.

Residence halls will close for spring break on Friday, March 18 at 7:00 p.m. and reopen on Sunday, March 27, at noon. Please note that Sunday, March 27 is Easter Sunday and classes resume on Monday, March 28.

SPRING BREAK

Spring into Spring Events

Spring into Spring events have been taking place all throughout the week. Before heading out for spring break, we are encouraging students to participate in fun, free, safe events. Thursday will

feature day-long events in honor of St. Patrick's Day. Check out the happenings and share with your students: <http://bit.ly/1VdjYo2>.

Spring Break Safety Reminders

This week, students have received the following message about safety during the upcoming Spring Break: <http://bit.ly/1QYHxhz>. Please help us remind students to take the proper precautions so they have a safe, enjoyable hiatus from studying. Also, the LiveSafe app is available to download from <http://bit.ly/1vPyHYz> and will work as long as students have phone service. This app includes an "electronic escort," where students can have someone virtually "walk" them home.

Cheer on the Mountaineers over Spring Break!

While March Madness is upon us and WVU Men's and Women's Basketball are on the brackets, many other Mountaineer athletic teams are also hitting the mats or diving in throughout the country over the next week – as well as part of NCAA championships. And baseball and volleyball are kicking off spring seasons as well. This is a great chance to check out the calendars <http://bit.ly/1sLTxKV> and head out with your student to cheer on the Mountaineers in your hometowns! Finally, we would be remiss if we didn't give a shout out to our Mountaineer Rifle Team who recently captured its 18th national championship title: <http://bit.ly/1QYHMZV>! Let's go Mountaineers!

GRADUATION

Accommodations for Families of 2016 May Graduates

As families plan to attend May graduation ceremonies, remember that lodging is available on campus from Friday, May 13 through Monday, May 16, 2016, in Lincoln Hall. Accommodations are both comfortable and affordable, and Lincoln is conveniently located on the Evansdale campus within walking distance of a variety of restaurants. Lincoln Hall offers suite-style rooms with semi-private baths. This type of room houses two individuals on each side of a bathroom. The beds are extra-long twin (36" X 80" mattress). Rooms are air-conditioned. Linen service, continental breakfast, afternoon refreshments and free parking will be provided. The front desk is staffed 24 hours a day for your convenience. Rooms are \$63.08 per night (price includes tax). Each room sleeps two people. If you would like to make reservations, please call 304-293-2790 or e-mail to Conferences@mail.wvu.edu. For more information this and other lodging options: <http://bit.ly/1Lrc7RX>.

Final Steps to Graduate

Students who officially apply to graduate in May by the March 4 deadline should complete these final steps.

1. Register to walk.
 - After you've applied to graduate, tell us if you would like to participate in the graduation ceremony. May graduates can register to walk through your WVU college/school's website.
2. Order the required cap and gown and other optional graduation products (announcements, invitations, etc.).
 - Official WVU regalia is available at the two WVU Bookstore locations and online at Herff-Jones: <http://bit.ly/1LuzSpZ>. Please purchase all caps, gowns, tassels and hoods prior to the day of your ceremony as no regalia will be sold at the venue. See our Commencement Attire Page for more information about attire requirements: <http://bit.ly/1PczQQy>.
3. Check for any outstanding fees and holds (unpaid parking tickets, overdue library books, fees, etc.).
 - Students are not allowed to graduate if there are any unpaid fees. They should make sure they are set to graduate by going to the WVU Portal <http://bit.ly/1m8XLtH> and looking for holds.
4. Students and guests can also visit the Graduation FAQ page to get answers to any other commencement related questions. <http://bit.ly/1RPgPp0>.

REMINDERS FOR STUDENTS

Advising Reminders

- Friday, March 18 is the last date that students can drop individual classes for the spring term: <http://bit.ly/1S4LfX2>.
- Students should have an advising appointment scheduled or completed with their academic advisor. Pre-registration dates start March 29 for summer and fall course scheduling periods <http://bit.ly/1ycPaJz>
- WVU is updating the core curriculum. What does this mean for your student? <http://bit.ly/22lgqFM>

April 1 Deadline for Summer Study Abroad Applications

Summer study abroad applications are now available. Students should complete their application before the April 1 deadline (varies by program) to ensure their spot: <http://bit.ly/1pMgGMA>.

POLICY UPDATES

Legislative Safety Updates - Concealed Carry

West Virginia University would like to reassure the community that, regardless of recent changes in West Virginia state laws permitting the concealed carry of weapons, including firearms, a different section of state code (61-7-14) permits the University to prohibit open or concealed carry of any firearm or deadly weapon on property within the custody or control of WVU. So while a person may be allowed generally to carry a concealed weapon without a permit, that permission will not extend to WVU property. Violation of this statute is a misdemeanor and can result in a fine of up to \$1,000 and up to six months in jail, or both. In addition, it violates University codes of conduct, and for students can result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. For employees, it can result in termination.

<http://bit.ly/1vPyHYz>

New Medical Amnesty Policy Encourages Students to Keep Each Other Safe

An important policy was implemented at WVU encouraging students to keep each other safe without retribution. The Medical Amnesty Policy, detailed in Section 16 of the Main Campus Student Conduct Code, encourages WVU students to seek help from the University community and first responders if they find themselves in a situation where they or their classmates have overindulged in alcohol or other substance consumption. <http://bit.ly/1UgyzQ5>

Financial Aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress

With the midpoint of the spring semester behind us, we want to remind you that students must maintain certain academic progress standards to receive financial aid. Academic progress is measured at the conclusion of the spring semester. Students are evaluated on the “attempted versus earned credit hours” and overall grade point average (GPA) as well as a maximum timeframe to achieve their degree objective. Those not making satisfactory academic progress at the end of the spring semester will no longer be eligible for federal or state financial aid. They will have the option to submit a satisfactory academic progress appeal if they can demonstrate extenuating circumstances. A personal statement outlining why they did not progress and what steps or actions they have taken to resolve the situation, as well as an Academic Success Plan developed with their advisor, is required.

Students can view their academic progress status by logging on to the STAR system after spring grades are released. If your student thinks they may be in danger of not meeting the academic progress standards, we strongly encourage them to contact the Mountaineer Hub. More information can be found at <http://bit.ly/1b2zSOP>.

Questions? Contact the Mountaineer Hub at finaid@mail.wvu.edu or 304-293-1988. For tips and reminders follow us on Facebook (WVU Financial Aid) and Twitter (@WVUFinancialAid).

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FUNDING 102

As a follow-up to the last Parent E-newsletter article, whether you are the parent of an incoming or current student, there are always questions about scholarships and funding. Below are a few tips that can help your students be savvy when it comes to funding their education.

1. **Leadership organizations and involvement payoff:** Was your student involved in leadership roles with the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, 4-H, Civil Air Patrol or Boys and Girls Nation? WVU awards Leadership Scholarships for students with outstanding achievement in these organizations: <http://bit.ly/1E6p9Kl>. Other opportunities might exist from groups such as the WVU Extension Service: <http://bit.ly/1EclpcB>. The WVU Alumni Association awards scholarships through the Loyalty Permanent Endowment Fund to deserving scholars who have shown exceptional academics, service and leadership to their communities. Applications can be downloaded online at <http://bit.ly/1BxzUXI>. WVU alumni chapters often provide scholarship opportunities, including academic and athletic-related scholarships. Visit <http://bit.ly/1puJBFj> to reach out to a chapter in your area.
2. **WVU organizations such as Army and Air Force ROTC also offer scholarships:** See <http://bit.ly/1HE5rZX> and <http://bit.ly/1wv3EVS>. Students who serve as residence hall assistants and wellness coordinators receive room and board waivers: <http://bit.ly/1HvgQg2>. Student groups and programs may provide funding, such as the McNair Scholars program, which works with students interested in doctoral studies <http://bit.ly/1OrYVpF>. Employment opportunities are also available through the WVU Office of Student Employment <http://bit.ly/1sv3eN8>.
3. **Parental connections:** Check with your place of work to see if they offer funding opportunities for students attending college. Were you in the military? Your military educational benefits might be transferrable to your student as a dependent: <http://bit.ly/1HE6iKg>. WVU is also a Yellow-Ribbon School, providing discounts: <http://bit.ly/18cw2kp>. Philanthropic or service organizations often sponsor student scholarships. If you are a WVU alumnus, the WVU Alumni Association provides a limited number of legacy scholarships to children, grandchildren or siblings of alumni. Visit <http://bit.ly/1wYe6Wv>.
4. **External searches:** Students should think broadly and explore other opportunities. A lot of money is given away by organizations across the country and globe. Perhaps a business or corporation affiliated with the field of study your student has chosen has a scholarship available. Perhaps a national branch of a student organization they are involved in provides funding. A list of free search sites for external scholarships can be found here: <http://bit.ly/1HE6I3b>.

/Katie Gallagher and Lisa Hanselman

Office of Parent Relations