

Parent Electronic News
West Virginia University
January 4, 2017

***Important Health Insurance Survey Follows* We need to hear from you!**

We hope you have had a wonderful break with your students! Before they head back to campus, below are a few key *reminders and deadlines* related to everything from scholarships and dining plans to probation details and spring textbook refund deadlines. A message regarding *Winter Weather Procedures* as they relate to classes is included so you and your students can be ready. The start of a new term is a chance to get off on the right foot – we hope these reminders will help your students successfully start 2017!

As noted above, we have included a link to a **survey regarding Student Health Insurance coverage options** for the upcoming school year. We need your input! Like many health insurance plan sponsors, WVU is faced with increasing student health insurance premiums for the 2017-2018 plan year that begins on August 11, 2017. Please take a moment to complete a brief survey about potential changes to the WVU Aetna plan: <http://bit.ly/WVUAetnaSurvey>. WVU will use survey responses to help determine the WVU Aetna student health insurance plan for 2017-2018. **The survey will close on January 13**, so complete the survey today to make sure your voice is heard!

And with that, Happy New Year! Please always feel free to reply or call if you ever have questions or need anything. We are here to help. Here's to a great 2017! In this edition:

- Ten Important Reminders and Deadlines Before Spring 2017 Classes Start
- Winter Weather Procedures

Ten Important Reminders and Deadlines Before Spring 2017 Classes Start

1. If your student has not yet registered for spring classes, he or she should contact their adviser immediately. General registration will take place on **Friday, January 6**.
2. Students receiving financial aid (grants, loans, work-study, etc.) are required to satisfy specific academic progress standards to continue receiving such aid. Before classes start, students should explore these standards and make sure they are on track to meet Satisfactory Academic Progress standards for Financial Aid: <http://bit.ly/FinAidSAP>.
3. Now is the time to look ahead! Certain scholarships are now available for students to apply for the 2017-18. Students currently receiving WVU scholarships must know what they need to meet renewal guidelines for current scholarships. For more information visit <http://bit.ly/SchRenew>.
4. Students are placed on academic probation if their cumulative GPA falls below a 2.0. All students have been notified by e-mail if they are on academic probation. First-time freshmen on

academic probation are **required** to attend the Mid-Year Academy on **Sunday, January 8**. During the Academy, students will meet with advisers to make changes to their course schedule if needed as well as learn more about the terms of academic probation and strategies for transitioning to good academic standing at WVU. Starting fall 2017, all students will need at least a 2.0 to avoid academic suspension.

5. Students should pay their full University bill (tuition, fees, room, meals) minus financial aid by **January 9, 2017**, to avoid late fees. Log in here:

Students log in to WVU Portal: <http://bit.ly/WVUPortal>.

Parents log in to the Parent/Guest Portal, if granted access by your student: <http://bit.ly/PGPortal>.

6. If students have not already completed a student health insurance waiver for the year, visit <http://bit.ly/StudIns> before **January 13, 2017**.
7. If expecting a spring refund, sign up to get it in as little as 48 hours. Students can enroll in direct deposit (ACH) to their bank account at <http://bit.ly/WVURefund> if they haven't already.
8. If not already on a monthly payment plan for the year, students can enroll through the Higher One Tuition Payment Plan at <http://bit.ly/1M1t6TT> to spread payments over several months.
9. If your student has not already, now is the time to order their spring textbooks: <http://bit.ly/OSABookstore>. The WVU Bookstores offer a **full refund for customers through January 17, 2017** (*original receipt required; many of our competitors do NOT offer refunds*). Using the WVU Bookstore will ensure your son or daughter gets the **CORRECT** books for their courses using the convenient Registration Integration system. Parents have the option to use your credit card, while designating your son or daughter to pick them up (*other payment/delivery options are also available*). Textbook questions? wvubookseller@gmail.com. To check store hours and get official WVU gear, see <http://bit.ly/BNShop>.
10. Dining plans for the **spring** semester can be adjusted and off campus dining plans purchased **until 3 p.m. on January 17, 2017**: <http://bit.ly/1hzOJ6g>. Please note that this may cause adjustments to your students' account, so they should monitor this and make any new payment immediately to avoid late charges.

We want our students to be ready when classes start **January 9, 2017**. If there are questions about their bill, or they need help in paying their balance, please contact the Mountaineer HUB at 304-293-1988 or WVUHub@mail.wvu.edu. If students have changed their mind and don't plan to enroll, **they should be sure to drop all classes or they will owe tuition charges for the spring term.**

Winter Weather Procedures

As we prepare to start the spring term, students, faculty and staff have been notified of the procedures concerning possible inclement weather: <http://bit.ly/WinterMessage>. It is quite a rare occasion when the University will close entirely due to weather or low temperatures. As your students pack to head back to campus, be sure they have their winter gear!

If a closing or delays do occur at WVU, a "WVU Alert" will be sent: <http://bit.ly/WVUAlert>. Notifications will also be posted on the WVU main page: <http://bit.ly/WVUHome> and the Student Website: <http://bit.ly/WVUStudents>, e-mailed through MIX and broadcast through local media venues.

It is important to remind your students that they should treat classes as they would a job. If they feel it is unsafe, they should be proactive and contact the instructor to let them know why they will be missing or running late. Also remind your students to plan ahead. If inclement weather is in the forecast, they should leave early and allow extra time to accommodate any unforeseen circumstances or travel delays.

The beginning of the semester is also a good time to remind students that there are absences built in to nearly every syllabus. However, they should remember that these absences are there as a courtesy and should be used sparingly. As in any other situation, safety is most important and they should use their best judgment for their particular circumstances and follow up as needed.

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Office of Parent Relations

West Virginia University