

Parent Electronic News
West Virginia University
October 22, 2018

Apologies for two messages today. Lots of important dates and details follow on housing for next year, spring payment plans, Thanksgiving buses and much more! Thanks for your understanding - Katie

This past week temperatures have begun to drop and so have the leaves. This means there is no better time to look ahead to all the other seasons as students begin to register for Spring, Winter and Summer classes this week! A few tips:

1. Plan ahead and monitor progress using [DegreeWorks](#) whether registering for [spring term](#), [winter term](#), and/or [summer term](#).
2. Students must meet with their advisor to have their advising appointment and this should happen in advance of their [priority registration date/time](#). Via this meeting, advisors lift the semester advising hold.
3. Before their registration date, students should be sure they have no holds on their account (balance, parking, judicial, etc.) that might restrict their ability to register for classes. They can view these on their STAR account.

Spring payment plans are now open (a six-month plan is available if registered by October 31 – see below). Now is also the time to start talking about (but not signing leases for!) where students are going to live next year. Our Office of Off Campus Housing and Student Legal Services are great resources and have included some helpful tips and pitfalls to avoid.

Thanksgiving Break buses are also filling. New this year, the Parents Club is offering a bus to Cleveland, OH. We reached out to Ohio families in August and there was an overwhelming interest. Unfortunately to date, we don't have many reservations. Keep in mind that for families in Michigan and Indiana this bus can also cut nearly six hours round trip off a trip to Morgantown from Detroit or Fort Wayne. Areas in northeastern PA such as Erie and Jamestown can also save an hour each way. Remember, any WVU student is welcome to take advantage of these buses! See below for more details.

Finally, a brief correction from the last edition. There was an error regarding December Graduation times in the body of the last e-mail but the website was correct <http://bit.ly/WVUDecemberGrad>. Apologies for the confusion. In this edition:

BILLING AND PAYMENTS - Spring Payment Plans Now available

MOUNTAINEER PARENTS CLUB

- Fall Family Weekend 2019 – Save the Date!
- Fall Family Weekend 2018 Feedback – Last call
- Thanksgiving Break Mountaineer Parents Club buses

TRANSPORTATION - Grey Line Updates

HOUSING CONVERSATIONS

- Leasing 101 – Helpful Tips and Reminders
- University Apartments
- Returning Student Residence Hall Housing
- Residence Hall Resident Assistant Recruiting

CAREERS AND GRAD SCHOOL

- The Career Corner
- Test prep classes available through WVU CPE

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON CAMPUS

BILLING AND PAYMENTS - Spring Payment Plans Now available

Spring payment plans via CashNet are now available. Signing up for a tuition payment plan is a great way to manage your budget, as it allows you to make smaller installments over a longer period of time. If you sign-up early (by October 31), you can make up to six monthly installments. If you sign-up by the payment plan enrollment deadline of December 31, you can still spread the payment over four monthly installments. The earlier you sign-up, the more time you have to pay!

Please note that the first installment plus the enrollment fee of \$35 will be due when your student signs up for a plan. Even though your student's charges won't show until mid-November, they can still sign up for the plan. They can stop by the Hub or call and our staff can help estimate the amount based on their fall 2018 bill. Any final adjustments can be made once their spring 2019 bill is ready. If you have questions about billing, aid or payment options, please contact the Mountaineer Hub at 304-293-1988. To stay updated on important spring payment messages or for more information, <http://bit.ly/WVUBilling>. **Key spring billing dates follow:**

Oct. 31 – last day to enroll in 6-month payment plan

Nov. 14 (on or around) – for registered students, spring 2019 charges will be available online in the student portal or the Parent/Guest Portal if your student has granted you that access. These will show authorized aid, charges and amount due.

Early Dec. – Spring 2019 e-bills will be sent to students' MIX accounts if they still owe a balance at this point

Dec. 28 – Financial aid for spring 2019 will disburse according to federal guidelines 10 days before classes start

Dec. 31 – FINAL PAYMENT PLAN ENROLLMENT DATE – last day to enroll in a 4-month payment plan

Jan. 4 – Spring 2019 payment due

Jan. 5 – A 2.25% late fee will be assessed for those who have not paid their bill down to less than \$200, signed up for a payment plan to cover their balance due or have sufficient financial aid to cover their balance due

Jan. 7 – First day of classes

MOUNTAINEER PARENTS CLUB

Save the Date!

Fall Family Weekend will be September 27-29, 2019!

Fall Family Weekend Feedback – Last call

Whether you were able to attend or not, please take a minute to share your thoughts to help us plan for upcoming events: <http://bit.ly/2018FFWSurvey>.

Thanksgiving Break Mountaineer Parents Club buses

Reservations for the Parents Club buses for Thanksgiving break are now being taken! Buses are confirmed to go to Allentown, PA; Carlisle, PA; Hagerstown, MD; Secaucus, NJ; King of Prussia, PA; and one to Highland, NY, for those in the Connecticut, New York and New England areas. **Remember, the deadline to cancel these reservations is November 1.**

New this year, we will also be offering a bus to Cleveland, OH. We reached out to Ohio families in August and there was an overwhelming interest. Unfortunately to date, we don't have many reservations. Remember, any WVU student living around these areas are welcome to take advantage of these buses. If you live in Detroit, MI or Fort Wayne, IN this bus could save you nearly six hours round trip verses driving to Morgantown. Erie, PA or Jamestown, PA this bus saves you over an hour of driving each way. Check it out today!

The Northern Virginia (spaces limited), Southern New Jersey, Central Maryland and Long Island local Mountaineer Parents Clubs also offer buses to their areas. For online reservations or to review all schedules and details, please go to <http://bit.ly/WVUMPCBuses>. No phone reservations for the buses will be taken.

TRANSPORTATION: Grey Line Updates

As a reminder and a few tips, Mountainline Grey Line asked that I share the following:

Grey Line service provides twice daily trips (three on Fridays), 365 days per year, connecting north central West Virginia to the Pittsburgh area including the Airport and Amtrak/Greyhound station. Unique to this industry Grey Line offers guaranteed seating when you book directly through Grey Line. While we do work with Greyhound we aren't aware of their bookings and cannot guarantee your seat. For more detail about Grey Line visit <http://bit.ly/GreyLineBus> or call 304-296-3869. Regular year-round bookings can be made here: <http://bit.ly/BookGreyLine>.

During the WVU breaks we add service to our regular trips to accommodate the demand. Those special trips are posted and can be booked here for ease of navigation: <http://bit.ly/GreyLineSendOff> but if you need to book prior to these trips posting (Winter should post to this link by next week) you can still book all route through the regular year round service link.

HOUSING CONVERSATIONS

Leasing 101 – Helpful Tips and Reminders

Every year we have parents who say, we wish we would have known... Please take the time to read to help you and your student avoid challenges next year. While 2019-20 leasing season in Morgantown begins during the fall semester, staff members from [WVU Student Legal Services](#) and the [Off-Campus Housing Office](#) would like to remind students and parents of the risks of signing a lease too early as well as other helpful reminders and tips to review with your student before he or she signs on the dotted line to avoid common pitfalls:

- **Plenty of Inventory:** While many landlords and property managers will tell students that they must sign early, in reality there is a healthy supply of housing. Students should wait until they and their roommates have at least one semester of grades and experience before signing a lease for next year.
- **Legally Binding:** Leases are legally binding contracts. After signing a lease – no matter what happens to their status as a student (not returning, academic suspension, etc.)– students are bound by the terms of that lease for the stated period. Thus, students should not sign leases unless they are certain they and their roommates are returning to WVU next year.
- **Roommates Matter:** Consider a roommate's progress, too. Also, will you still be best friends with the person you met just ten weeks ago in ten months when your new lease starts? Many leases in the Morgantown area are joint leases, so a potential pitfall is signing a lease with a student who will not return for next year or who you don't know very well. What are your rights? You might also ask about roommate matching options and how that works.

- **What are the terms of the lease? Read the Fine Print:** It is boring but important! What are the lease start and end dates? What is the early termination clause? For those graduating in May or December, or those considering study abroad or co-ops - are short term leases available? Check if there is an option for subletting or early termination and what this entails.
- **Have Your Lease Reviewed:** Before they sign, all students can have a free lease review performed by Student Legal Services. It is important for them to understand the legal document they are about to sign. To schedule a review, call 304-293-4897 for an appointment. (<http://bit.ly/StudentLegal>).
- **Develop a budget:** How much can your student really afford? Are utilities included? Is bus service available or can they walk to campus? Will they have to pay for parking at the apartment? On campus? Also, students should remember to include the cost of food. Upperclassmen meal plans will also be available for those living off campus <http://bit.ly/DiningOffCampus>. This is also important to figure into the bottom line.
- **Attend an Off-Campus Housing Fair:** Not sure where to start or what is available? How much is too much for rent? Students can drop in to meet landlords, check out housing options, shop around, ask questions, and educate themselves about the process. Encourage your student to plan to drop by (and/or mark your calendar to come check out the market and options):
 - o Downtown Housing Fair: Wednesday, November 14, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mountainlair Ballrooms
 - o Evansdale Housing Fair: Saturday, February 23, noon to 3 p.m., ERC Blue and Gold Rooms

University Apartments

As your students begin exploring living options for next academic year, keep in mind that University Apartments offers four properties managed and operated by WVU: University Place, University Park, College Park and Vandalia. These properties offer a secure and independent living environment with the freedom of 24-hour access all-year long. All utilities are included at each property and all payments and charges are processed through your student's account.

Open leasing will begin November 1st and staff members will be on-site at all the properties to provide tours and answer any leasing questions or concerns you or your student may have. For more information, visit our website <http://bit.ly/WVUApts> or contact us at 304-293-5840. We will also be available at our University Apartment Housing Fairs from 10am-3pm on Thursday, November 8th in the Mountainlair Vandalia Lounge and Friday, November 9th in Evansdale Residential Complex Blue and Gold Rooms. Also we will have representation at the Off-Campus Housing Fairs noted above.

A limited number of short-term housing, family housing, and ADA units are available through University Apartments. Students should inquire about these options prior to signing any leases. In conjunction with the WVU Offices of Off-Campus Housing and Student Legal Services, we remind students and parents that all leases are legally binding contracts and after signing a lease, students are bound by the terms of that lease for the stated period.

Returning Student Residence Hall Housing

Is your student interested in remaining in a residence hall next year? That is an option too and the good news is we want your student back! Besides being in the most convenient locations, residence halls are designed to help students succeed. Students living in residence halls typically have higher GPAs and are more likely to return for their next year of college. We take care of the details — meals, security, cleaning, maintenance, etc. — while students focus on academics and career development.

Convenience is important, and so is saving money. Housing and Residence Life is offering special discounts of \$100 to \$250 per semester for 2019-20, depending on the space selected (some exclusions apply). Payment is convenient, too. Your student (or you) can pay all expenses through their WVU account. And our contracts run for the academic year only; meaning you will only pay for the time your student needs to live on campus.

So why bother with moving off campus? All your student needs to do to is visit <http://bit.ly/WVUResHalls> to complete a form that will let the Assignments team know they are interested. We will contact them to tell them what spaces are available and how to reserve their space. It's that simple. And we'll say "Welcome Back!"

Residence Hall Resident Assistant Recruiting

With Resident Assistant leadership on their resume, your student could be one step closer to acing their first job interview and landing the career of their dreams. And with a free room, dining plan and a stipend, as well as the chance to help their fellow Mountaineers, being an RA pays off. Resident Assistants (RAs) are mentors, connectors, campus experts, and advocates. They are among the most important student leaders on campus. As an RA, your student will learn to lead, challenge themselves and hone critical thinking, time management, problem solving and communication skills. RAs have the chance to make a lasting impression on fellow students and make a mark on campus. ***And they'll earn FREE housing and a dining plan, and a stipend, too!*** Before applying, students must attend an information session. For more information about being an RA and the information session schedule (available October, November and early December) go to: <http://bit.ly/WVURAAApp>. ***Deadline to apply is December 10, 2018 at 12:00 noon***

CAREERS AND GRAD SCHOOL

The Career Corner

We've collected some of the most frequently asked questions on how Career Services can help students reach their career goals.

What services are available to students? We assist students with anything from career and major exploration coaching, to resume and cover letter reviews, customized internship and job search assistance, practice interviews, or graduate school advising. Students have access to thousands of internships and job opportunities through MountaineerTRAK and centralized campus recruiting events with targeted employers.

When should students be involved in Career Services? Students should take advantage of these services beginning in their freshman year by visiting <http://bit.ly/WVUCSC>, meeting with a career development specialist or coming to an event.

What is a career development specialist? Career development specialist are staff who focus on individual majors or career pathways who are available to meet with students.

Why does a great resume take four years to build? Employers are looking for candidates who have a combination of strong academic credentials, demonstrable communication and leadership skills, as well as applied volunteer and work experiences. These all have one thing in common—they are cumulative—and students who start as freshmen or sophomores have plenty of time to build upon their experiences.

What is MountaineerTRAK? This is WVU's premiere site for searching internship, part-time and full-time employment opportunities. Students and alumni can also sign up for on-campus interviews and learn about career fairs and professional development events through the system.

How can you encourage your student to visit Career Services? Ask your student, "Have you visited Career Services?" If you hear, "I already have a resume," or "You don't go there until you're a senior," then reassure them that meeting with a career development specialist should take place early and often throughout a college career.

Test prep classes available through WVU CPE

Is your student considering Graduate or Professional schools following their undergraduate career? In partnership with Educational Testing Consultants, WVU Continuing Professional Education is offering comprehensive test preparation classes in live-online formats for the GMAT, GRE and LSAT. ETC's test prep courses are designed by test-preparation experts and will help you prepare for these important exams with real-time interaction with expert instructors, recordings of classes to review, tips and strategies for answering examination questions, and practice tests from previous exams.

In addition to the graduate admissions test prep classes, ETC also has preparation classes for the PRAXIS Core Math and Verbal sections and preparation classes for college-bound students needing to take or improve scores on the SAT or ACT. Classes are scheduled on an ongoing basis so be sure to check back as they are available throughout the year at various dates. To see the current classes and register online, visit <http://bit.ly/WVUCETestPrep>.

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON CAMPUS

Mountaineer Week – October 19-28 – this annual celebration is underway, kicking off this past weekend with the annual Mountaineer Craft Fair, and offers fun fall activities: <http://bit.ly/MtneerWeek>

Last Day to Drop individual Classes – October 23 – Students should consult an advisor: <http://bit.ly/WVUAcademicCal>

File 2018-19 FAFSA by October 31 – students who file by October 31st have up to three chances to win a scholarship: <http://bit.ly/WVUFAFSA>

Six-month Spring Payment plans available until October 31 – Last day for a four-month plan is December 31: <http://bit.ly/WVUBilling>

Mountaineer Nation Day – November 3 – Parents, join in on contests or register your own watch party for the WVU/Texas football game: <http://bit.ly/WVUMND>

WVU Day of Giving – November 14 – WVU Day of Giving is a one-day fundraising event scheduled for Wednesday, November 14, for all members of the WVU community. Alumni, students, parents, faculty, staff and friends of West Virginia University are welcome and encouraged to participate: <http://bit.ly/WVUDayOfGiving>

PRT safety and zero tolerance – encourage your student to be aware and part of the solution: <http://bit.ly/WVUzerotol>

HVAC seasonal change coming to campus facilities – it is more than flipping a switch to heat and cool the University – more here: <http://bit.ly/WVUHVAC>

/Katie Gallagher and Lisa Hanselman

Office of Parent Relations

West Virginia University