

***FINAL REMINDERS:**

- Tomorrow, February 23 is the final **Off-Campus Housing Fair** at Evansdale Residential Complex Blue and Gold rooms from noon to 3 p.m.: <http://bit.ly/OffCampHousing>
- March 1 is the **priority deadline to file the 2019-20 FAFSA**: <http://bit.ly/WVUFAFSA1920>
- March 1 is the **last day for students to register to graduate** in May 2019: <http://bit.ly/WVUGraduationApp>

Spring Break is but two weeks away! *Parents Club Spring Break Buses* homes still have limited room and we have included some info about spring break *parking “storage” options* for those who may need it. While we typically share info, this time we’d also love to hear back from you. **Hit reply and let us know what your student has planned for spring break** - where are they headed (sunny/snowy destinations or home are all great options!) and are they going alone, with you, or with friends! Education Abroad recently shared that we have a record number of students headed abroad over Spring Break – is one of them your student? Check out the *Spring Break* section below for that and other study abroad opportunities for summer and beyond. (Speaking of summer, we have been hearing from several of you with summer term questions. In the next Parent E-News (in two weeks) we will be sharing details on *All Things Summer Term* so stay tuned for that to get answers to all your questions.)

Before students completely decompress and head out for Spring Break, please also know that we are right at the midsemester mark, advising for summer/fall terms is underway as well as midterm exams and midterm grades will be posted no later than midnight on March 1. Hopefully students are on schedule and those grades will be a good send off. Details follow for *Midterm Help*, if needed. Going to class regularly is important and President Gee actually also headed to class recently and took to the stage with some of our Creative Arts students in his latest [Gee-Mail](#). With a view ahead, we have also included some great *Upcoming Events* (including the final Off-Campus Housing Fair taking place tomorrow as noted above!) Encourage your students to check out these events. Don’t forget to let us hear from you about your student’s spring break plans! In this edition:

TIMELY UPDATES

- Midterm Help
- Legislative Update
- REMINDER: WVU Student 1098-T Tax Forms Available

SPRING BREAK REMINDERS

- Education Abroad for Spring Break and beyond
- Parents Club Spring Break Buses
- Limited Spring Break Car Storage Parking

- Student Health offers Travel Clinic and more!

PARENTS OF INCOMING STUDENTS – Helpful Resources for Common Questions

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Registration open for 2019 Demo Day – until March 1
- TEDxWVU returns – March 2
- Spring Suit Up Event – March 24
- Spring 2019 Calendar

TIMELY UPDATES

Midterm Help

Faculty are in the process of beginning to enter midterm grades now as we approach the eight-week point in the 16-week semester. All grades are to be posted by midnight, March 1. Students (via their STAR account), as well as parents with [Parent/Guest Portal](#) access can view midterm grades online. If your student is struggling, please encourage them to explore the resources listed below. The good news is there is still time to get back on track but this is a critical point for student success.

- Free tutoring, student success coaches and other help is available through our Office for Student Success. <http://bit.ly/WVUSuccessServices>
- Instructors' office hours are listed on every course syllabus. Encourage students to not only go regularly to class but also stop by during office hours to discuss class progress with their faculty.
- If living in the residence halls, students have a wealth of resources including residence hall coordinators and resident assistants (RAs).
- WellWVU offers tips and <http://bit.ly/WellWVUstress> partners with the Rec to offer free yoga, meditation and exercise classes to help students destress: <http://bit.ly/RecStress>
- Career Services <http://bit.ly/WVUCSC> can help students with a four-year plan to launch a successful career or when considering changing their major.
- Academic advisors can assist with options for adding and dropping courses or changing majors. Note the last day to drop a course is March 22. Advisors can also help explore midsemester classes (many start March 4), summer school or other options to help get back on track.
- The Carruth Center for Counseling offers individual and group counseling. <http://bit.ly/CarruthCounseling>
- Accessibility Services enhances educational opportunities for students with disabilities and provides required accommodations. <http://bit.ly/WVUOAS>

It is important to remain a full-time student in good academic standing (at least a 2.0 GPA) to graduate in a timely manner and maintain scholarships and financial aid. Students have higher GPA requirements for [scholarship renewal](#). Students with below a 2.0 GPA at the end of the spring 2019 semester could be suspended as well as lose their financial aid due to not making

required [Satisfactory Academic Progress \(SAP\)](#), which is evaluated on the attempted versus earned credit hours and overall grade point average. Students worried about their academic progress should consult with their advisor as well as the Mountaineer Hub about their aid status.

Legislative Update

Parents - You may have heard or read articles about a current piece of legislation in the West Virginia State Legislature, House Bill 2519, the Campus Self Defense Act.

Under current law, if an individual brings a firearm onto WVU property without a permit, the University has the authority to ask them to leave. House Bill 2519 would allow individuals with a concealed weapons license to carry a concealed weapon on certain areas of our campus.

WVU leadership has been actively engaged with the Legislature on this issue. The House Judiciary Committee recently held a public hearing at the State Capitol where several representatives of the University voiced major concerns with the bill. Other college representatives from across the state and members of the public also raised concerns and objections.

While the University maintains its preference to retain local control, University representatives are advocating in the best interest of our campus and our students. As the bill continues to move forward, the University continues to advocate for exemptions that will retain our authority in many sensitive areas on our campus. The safety of our students and WVU community is of the utmost importance.

Please take time to read the ‘campus carry’ Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) to educate yourself on this bill and what WVU is doing to protect our campuses. The FAQ, as well as other information, can be found at the [WVU Government Relations website](#).

In addition, visit the [West Virginia Legislature website](#) for contact information if you wish to speak with local representatives. You can find rosters for both the House and Senate there along with contact information.

REMINDER: WVU Student 1098-T Tax Forms Available

With April 15 Tax Day just around the corner, I have heard from several parents who are still trying to track down 1098-T forms. Just as a reminder, WVU Tax Services partners with a ECSI Heartland in preparation of Form 1098-T Tuition Statement for use by either the students or their parents in the filing of their 1040 personal tax return. Each year Form 1098-T for the recently completed calendar tax year becomes available online starting in mid- to late January through [ECSI Heartland](#). Hard copies were mailed by January 31st to the student’s permanent mailing address as listed in the student’s STAR account. Log on to obtain a copy or contact ECSI Heartland with questions concerning your Form 1098-T through online chat at the link above or at [866-428-1098](tel:866-428-1098).

SPRING BREAK REMINDERS

Education Abroad for Spring Break and beyond

This spring, we are sending a record number WVU students abroad over Spring Break 2019! 317 students are enrolled in Spring faculty-led courses that travel abroad during the Spring semester, the majority of which travel the week of Spring Break. Throughout the week, we will have students on our trips managing our Instagram account @WVUAbroad for constant updates from around the globe (21 individual programs!) so follow along to see these great adventures our students will be taking. On March 26, Education Abroad will host a returnee dinner with students, faculty, and university administrators to hear more about the students' experiences. If your student is interested in studying abroad, more opportunities exist for summer, fall or full year experiences:

- We are currently accepting applications for [Summer 2019 faculty-led programs](#). Deadline is April 1.
- Students can also apply for the WVU Exchange program for [Fall 2019 or Full Year 2019/2020](#). Students can [make an appointment](#) with an Education Abroad Coordinator online today!

Parents Club Spring Break Buses

Still looking for transportation home for your student? There's still time to make a reservation. The Mountaineer Parents Club offers spring break buses to a variety of locations: Allentown, PA; Carlisle, PA; Hagerstown, MD; Secaucus, NJ; King of Prussia, PA, and Highland, NY (which serves Connecticut, New York and New England). Local clubs also sponsor buses to Central Maryland, Northern Virginia, Long Island and Southern New Jersey/Delaware. [Make your reservations today!](#) Last day to cancel and still receive a refund is Thursday, February 28, 2019.

Limited Spring Break Car Storage Parking

Parking Management is offering students leaving campus for spring break the option to store their vehicle on campus. Temporary student permits can be purchased for \$10, which covers March 9-17. To receive this rate, students can download the [Parkmobile app](#) and enter the appropriate zone number. The zone number for the Mountainlair garage (upper level) is 52004 and Mountaineer Station (area 81) is 52003. Questions? 304.293.5502.

Student Health offers Travel Clinic and more!

At Student Health, our [Travel Medicine Clinic](#) has been busy preparing for students to head abroad over Spring Break. For students considering travel abroad in the coming months, students can be seen onsite at Student Health in this Clinic for an in-depth assessment of any itinerary with specific recommendations and on-site vaccinations with appointments starting at \$75* (*can increase depending on what vaccinations may be indicated depending on the area the student will be traveling to.*) Payment for this service is due at the time of service. Insurance is

not accepted but receipts can be obtained to submit for reimbursement. As a reminder, Student Health also provides the following other services onsite:

- Students can establish **Primary Care** with one of our physicians for their yearly wellness visits or employment and sports physicals. We offer routine **Vaccinations** including flu, Gardasil, tetanus, and others. If your student needs **Allergy Shots** during the school year, just have your allergist fax us the medical plan.
- Two nurse practitioners and two physicians on staff have extensive training in **Women's Health Services**, where students can establish care and schedule women's health appointments five days a week. Walk-ins are welcome for acute complaints. Student Health is also an LGBTQ friendly clinic. All of our providers have had training to address the needs of the entire student body.
- The [Mountaineer Pharmacy](#) is located down the hall from Student Health for a convenient one-stop-shop, when needed. Students receive a pharmacy discount.
- Student Health operates as an **Urgent Care** setting for major and minor illnesses and injuries so students and their friends and family can walk in to be seen Monday – Saturday. A wait time app is available if they wish to check that before venturing over.

[Student Health](#) is conveniently located on the Evansdale Campus on the first floor of the Health Education Building (next to the Rec Center.) Urgent care is walk-in while primary care, travel and gynecology appointments can be scheduled by calling 304.285.7200.

PARENTS OF INCOMING STUDENTS – Helpful Resources for Common Questions

The Families of the Class of 2023 Facebook page provides a resource for your to virtually meet other families with students looking to enter WVU this fall. If you have not already joined, feel free to search for the page and join today. Below is some more info on some recent topics and some quick resources that we are seeing being discussed on the page currently:

Clubs to join and be involved in – We know there has recently been some talk online about our various ROTC programs at WVU. WVU offers both [Army ROTC](#) and [Air Force ROTC](#) programs if your student is interested. These programs are a great way for students to get involved. In addition, we offer hundreds of other ways for students to get engaged, meet others and find their own place at WVU whether through [Adventure WV First Year Trips](#), one of our diverse [450+ clubs or organizations](#), a job or [student employment](#), our [Honors College](#), athletic events including [intramurals](#) or [club sports](#), the [creative arts](#), in [Undergraduate Research](#) or [Service Learning](#)!

Financial Aid/Loans – For questions related to loans and financial aid, the Mountaineer Hub is our central office to address these and we always suggest students reach out early to give themselves time to plan. This is also a great time for students to still be exploring and applying for external scholarships. The search engines like those found [here](#) are a great help. Also some great resources exist to compare and contrast various [loan programs](#) and [Elm Select](#) provides an easy way to search for those that might best fit your family. Still have questions? Call the Hub

at 304-293-1988 or come to one of our [Decide WVU visitation days](#) March 23 or April 13 and attend the financial aid session.

Transportation – Getting around campus and getting home are also hot topics! These [transportation tips](#) are directed to parents and student to help address some of these questions and provide you with some resources and tips.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Registration open for 2019 Demo Day – until March 1

The WVU Idea Hub encourages students, faculty, staff and community members to participate in WVU's second annual [Demo Day](#) on April 25. Students can showcase innovative ideas, leading-edge inventions, working prototypes and unique business ventures across the University and gain the opportunity to win cash and prizes. Individuals, groups or classes must register between February 15 – March 1 to become eligible to participate.

TEDxWVU returns – March 2

Following a successful debut at West Virginia University, [TEDxWVU](#) returns March 2 at 9 a.m. in the Gladys S. Davis Theatre in the Creative Arts Center with five speakers who will support the theme “Bridging the Gap,” challenging people to look at their similarities instead of their differences.

Festival of Ideas Lectures – March 5, 19 and April 10

[Festival of Ideas](#) lectures allow students to meet and engage with national speakers and thought leaders. Encourage your students to check out the upcoming lectures.

Spring Suit Up Event – March 24

WVU Career Services and JCPenney are partnering again for the [WVU Suit-Up Event](#) designed to help students dress for success and jump start their careers. This private event on Sunday, March 24, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. provides students deep discounts on career and professional attire at our local JCPenney store. WVU students will receive an EXTRA 40% discount with a valid school ID on men's and women's career dress apparel, accessories, and shoes, including those items already marked on sale. Students should register in advance at the link above.

Spring 2019 Calendar

As a reminder: there are no classes the Friday before Easter, but there are classes the Monday after Easter (April 22). Residence halls remain open that entire weekend. Here are some important reminders and key dates for the rest of the spring school year:

Friday, March 8 at 7 p.m. – Residence halls close for Spring Break.

Sunday, March 17 at noon – Residence halls reopen.

Friday, March 22 – Last day to drop individual classes with a W; consult adviser first.

March 26-April 8 – Online fall class registration dates according to class rank.

<http://bit.ly/OURRegDateF19>

Friday, April 19 – University Holiday – Friday before Easter – no classes/offices closed/residence halls remain open

*Thursday, April 25 – Last day to withdraw from the University; consult adviser first.

*Monday, April 29-Friday, May 3 – Finals Week.

*Saturday, May 4 at noon – Residence halls close (students must vacate rooms 24 hours after last final).

Tuesday, May 7 – University Holiday – Election Day – offices closed

Friday, May 10-Sunday, May 12 – Commencement weekend. <http://bit.ly/WVUMayGrad>

* *These dates are adjustments from the original academic <http://bit.ly/OURCalendar> and residence hall opening/closing calendars <http://bit.ly/ResHallOpenClose>.*

/Katie Gallagher and Lisa Hanselman

Office of Parent Relations

West Virginia University