List Of Things To Do Before College

☐ Designate a folder for all college materials
☐ Apply for a PIN with FAFSA
☐ Submit the FAFSA
☐ Haven’t heard from colleges? Call them to make sure they have all of your materials

After you have decided where you will attend:

☐ Let them know!
   - Contact the college to let them know you are coming. Likewise, contact the other schools you applied to and let them know you are not coming.

☐ Line up housing/meal plans
   - If you are planning to live on campus you will be receiving material from the Department of Residential Life and should work to return that information ASAP! In many cases there is a deposit that needs to be sent in with your housing application. If you are unable to come up with the money for the deposit, contact UB.

☐ Register for classes
   - You will need to sign up for a registration/orientation day. Some colleges will have registration days in the spring and it will only last a few hours, others will have dates in the summer and may last 2 or 3 days. Every college is different. Do everything you can to register for the earliest one to assure you get the best pick of course offerings.

☐ Understand your Financial Aid Award Letter
   - You will receive a letter stating the financial aid you are eligible for. You will automatically receive the money for all grants awarded, but if you qualify for loans you need to return the second page of the letter signed and state which loans and how much you will be accepting.

☐ Set up your student accounts
   - You will have multiple accounts to set up with the college. Make sure to get them set up as soon as you are prompted to do so and make sure to keep track of your log-in information. You will need to set up your university e-mail account and check it often. You will likely also be prompted to establish an online student services account which will be the way you register, check grades, etc.

☐ Complete Loan Counseling
   - If you responded to the FAFSA indicating that you were taking out loans, you need to complete loan counseling. This is done online through the FAFSA website.
☐ Update FAFSA regarding scholarships.
   - As you receive scholarships, you need to let the financial aid office know. As you receive outside money, the amount of money you are awarded though FAFSA is impacted.

☐ Banking
   You will absolutely need a checking account for college. Nearly everything is done through directly depositing money into your account. Despite this you may want to consider changing from a local bank to one on or near campus

☐ On Campus Employment
   Working on campus is the most convenient way to make money for college students. Look at your Financial Aid Award Letter-does it set aside money for ‘Work Study’? If so, that is money that you have to earn in order to get. All jobs on campus will be listed as either ‘Work Study’ or regular payroll positions. Start looking in early August on your campus’ website for open positions and start applying. If you do not have work study funds, apply for regular payroll positions.

☐ Have your final transcripts sent.
   - You need to prove now that you have graduated. Make sure your high school counselor has the correct college listed so he/she can send your transcripts after final grades have been submitted.

☐ Get in touch with your roommate
   - Talk with your roommate about potentially sharing bigger ticket items (ex: microwave, futon, tv, etc.) Make sure if you look your roommate up on Facebook that you give them a chance regardless of how you initially judge them based on their profile. Remember-they will be doing the same thing!

☐ Purchasing textbooks
   - Textbooks are something you can purchase once you get to campus. If you want to do so before hand, bookstores sometimes make books available to order online. Either way, purchasing used books if they are available is a great cost saving resource!

**Bring your Social Security Card with you as well as a copy of your birth certificate. These items are often needed to set up employment on campus.**