

Guests of Commuter Students Orientation: Getting Connected

Student Activities Office

What is a commuter student?

- Definition: a student who does not live in University provided housing.
- NDSU has a requirement for all first-year students to live on-campus unless:
 - Students live with a legal guardian in their primary residence within a 35 mile radius of campus
 - Students enrolled in 11 or fewer credits
 - Married students
 - Students with custody of a child
 - Have extenuating circumstances such as a severe medical condition, financial hardship for which there is no other solution, or family consideration.
 - Student graduated from high school prior to Spring 2023 semester
- Be sure you have completed the exemption form
- Check out a Res Hall contract via the Res Life website

How may my students experience differ?

- Time Management
 - Commute Time
 - Downtime on campus
- Making Connections
- Support Systems



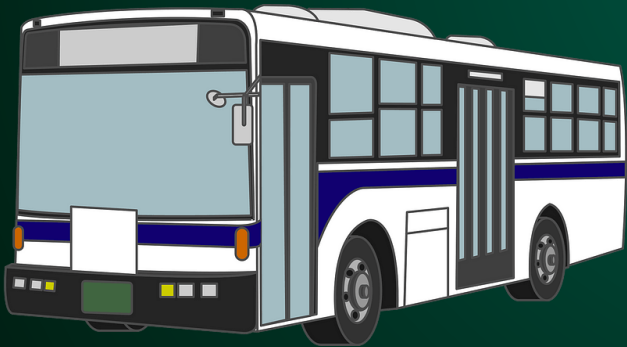
Time Management

Commute Time

- Drive/Bus Time
- Park Time
- Walk Time

Downtime on Campus

- Find their spot to study
- Make a plan for what/how to eat
- Pay attention to activities taking place they could participate in
- Go and exercise at Wellness Ctr
- Get a part-time on-campus job
- Hang-out places where they can meet other people



Frequently Asked Questions

- Does my student need a parking permit?
- What options exist for my student to eat on campus?
- Where can my student work on campus?
- Where can my student study on campus?
- Is my student able to use the Wellness Center?



Learning from the Best!

- Parents who have done this before:
 - What advice do you have for first time parents?
- Parents who are first timers:
 - What questions do you have?



Next Steps: Lunch & Student Activities Office Visit

- Reserved seating in the back of West Dining Center
- Find your seat first and then grab your food.
- Beverage stations are located in the reserved seating area as well as other seating areas.
- A dietician will be available near the check-in stand, if needed.
- For an escort to the Student Activities Office, meet at 1:30 outside the entrance of West Dining Center. If raining, we'll gather in the reserved seating area.

If you have any questions...

Contact Information

- Email us at:
ndsusao@ndsus.edu
- Call us at:
701-231-7799



Student Activities Office Visit

Families of Students Living Off
Campus

How may my students experience differ?

- Time Management
 - Commute Time
 - Downtime on campus
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- Making Connections



What Might Your Student Experience

- Feeling of isolation or disconnect
- Struggle to find a new community
- Reliance on friend group from high school
- Navigating parental relationships as an adult (but maybe still living at home)
 - Struggle to set boundaries
 - Parental expectations

Support System

On-Campus

- Student Activities Office
- Counseling Services
- Health Services
- CARE Team
- Career & Advising
- Academic:
 - ACE Tutoring
 - Writing Lab
 - Center for Accessibility & Disability Resources

At Home

- Understand dynamic of relationship may change as student exerts independence
- If you notice significant behavior change encourage student to reach out to campus resources

Making Meaningful Connections

- Takes time and effort
- Encourage your student to spend time on campus before, in between, and after classes
- Encourage your student to attend campus events
 - Welcome Weekend & Welcome Week
 - Campus Attractions Events
- Encourage and support your student joining clubs and organizations
- Encourage your student to try a new experience and go out of their comfort zone and then be open to new ideas and experiences your student might share



Looking Beyond The First Week

- 270 Student Organizations
 - Club Sports
 - Fraternity/Sorority Life
 - Academic; Faith; Cultural; Special Interest
- Volunteer Network
- Campus Attractions
- Campus Events
- Music & Theater
- Wellness Center
 - Intramurals
- On-campus employment
- Research with a faculty member
- Athletic Events

**SPEND TIME ON
CAMPUS!!**

Where to go to find out what's
happening on campus?



myndsus.ndsu.edu

Welcome Week

August 24-26

- Starts at 4pm on 24th
- myNDSU Group

First Day of Class: 4pm on Mon.
Aug. 26

Coffee w/Commuters

- Tues. Aug. 27 in SAO
- 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Student Involvement Expo

- Wed. September 4th



We Can Build It... But....

- Ask questions
- Try not to solve the problem for them but provide resources if known
- Listen for what is being said and not said
- Be supportive and encouraging
- Let them roam (as Bison do)



There is no elevator to
success... you have to take
the stairs

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