



What to pack when going off to college – Some things you may not have thought of!

campus, and a pair of sturdy boots will be essential in the winter and during the occasional downpour.

Umbrella/Raincoat: A nice, portable umbrella or a raincoat is another essential. I got into the habit of checking the weather forecast every morning after waking up after I had gotten soaked a couple times in an unexpected downpour.

Foam mattress topper: A foam mattress pad will make the uncomfortable university mattresses just like your bed at home. Invest in a nice memory foam mattress pad—it’s absolutely worth it. Sleep is a valuable commodity in college, a nice mattress pad will make it much more comfortable. Also, check to see if your school uses Twin XL beds! Twin sheets and mattress toppers will not fit these beds, however, twin comforters will do.

Command hooks: Most universities don’t allow students to put nails in the wall, and charge fees at move-out if the paint job has been damaged. Command hooks are great for hanging up robes, bags and coats, and they don’t leave a mark when they are removed at the end of the year. If you plan on hanging posters or pictures, buy some painters tape, or command tape. Using duct tape or scotch tape will rip the paint off when you remove them.

Bathrobe: A bathrobe will come in handy in co-ed dorms, especially for women. It’s nice to not have to worry about your towel slipping when going from your room to the bathrooms.

Stepstool: You may decide to loft your bed. In that case, a stepstool will come in handy so you don’t have to vault into your bed every night. It will also help you reach high shelving and tall drawers in your room.

Extension cords and surge protector: My side of the room only had two outlets, and my dresser blocked one of them. Extension cords and surge protectors will come in handy to plug in all of your charging devices, lamps, and appliances.

Shower slippers/flip-flops: Most schools clean communal bathrooms daily. Some only clean on the weekdays. Regardless, make sure to wear flip-flops when showering, to prevent athlete’s foot and nasty bacteria on the bathroom floors.

Lots of “[what to pack for college](#)” lists out there. Here are a few wise words from college intern, Kristina Zhang, with her recommendations.

www.collegepackinglist.com is a great resource for students looking for an interactive packing list. Make sure you go to your school’s residential services website to see if they have any tips or lists as well. Different schools have different rules for what can or cannot be in dorm rooms. For example, bed risers and coffee makers are not allowed at my university.

“Essentials”:

Rain boots/all-weather boots: A good pair of rain boots (girls) or all-weather boot is essential. You will be walking a lot all over

Bike/scooter/long board/skateboard: A lot of campuses are quite big. My campus is $\frac{3}{4}$ of mile long, and it's very hard to get from one end of campus to the other in 10 minutes. While it's not necessary, it's nice to have a bike or long board for those longer trips across campus.

Business casual and formal clothing: There will often be on-campus job fairs and events where it will be necessary for you to dress up. If you plan on joining a Greek organization, you will need to have a lot of formal wear for various events. Even if you're not in Greek life though, dorms and clubs often organize formals for residents and members where you will need to dress up.

Extra underwear: The frequency that you need to do laundry will depend on the amount of underwear you own. Having enough underwear to last two weeks means that you can make laundry a biweekly chore.

Talk to your Roommate(s)

Talk to your roommate(s) and figure out what things that you can each bring from home. Things like printers, floor lamps, rugs and refrigerators can be split between roommates.

Printer: A printer is not absolutely necessary. Libraries and dorms often offer printing for a small fee or even for free at times. Having one is nice though for last minute papers and printouts.

Refrigerator: Many dorms have communal kitchens with refrigerators, so it's not necessary to bring one. Check and see what your dorm offers. If you decide to buy a refrigerator, make sure the size specifications are within the dorm regulation size.

Floor lamp/desk lamp: I highly recommend bringing a floor lamp and a desk lamp. Often times the built in light fixtures don't provide enough lighting for a dorm room.

Vacuum cleaner: Some dorms will have one for residents to use. If not it's nice to have a small vacuum cleaner to keep the floors clean.

Floor fan: It can get hot in the spring and summer, especially if your dorm doesn't have AC. A floor fan is really nice for those days.

Things to leave at home:

Old high school tee shirts: Leave your old tees at home, and refrain from buying too much new college apparel. You will get plenty for free during in the upcoming years.

Off-season clothes: You most likely won't need that down parka before Thanksgiving break, so leave it at home. Try to leave off-season clothing at home, and instead, rotate your clothing when you go home for breaks.

Irons: There won't be many occasions where you will need to iron your clothes. Bringing an ironing board and iron takes up way too much space. If you really need to iron something, hang it up in the bathroom while you're showering, and the wrinkles will come out from the steam.

Bring only the essentials. Many people will find that they brought way too many unnecessary things. I made the mistake of bring all of my clothes from home. I wore less than half of the clothes I brought. Let college be an opportunity for you to reduce your material possessions. ***Reducing the clutter in your life will keep your room neat and keep you clear headed at the same time.***