Practical Tips of Commuting

This newsletter reflects several student discussions that centered around the benefits and challenges of the commuting lifestyle. Many upperclassmen have made the adjustment and have put together some practical tips to share. Consider the following "tips”

**Benefits:** being able to maintain a local family life while going to college, you don't have to give up home cooked meals, enjoying the privacy of home, saving money and being able to get away when desired.

**Challenges:** potential transportation problems, initially utilizing the University resources to the fullest, managing time for work, study and travel, helping family members adjust to your new life and schedule.

**Tips for managing your time and commuting:**
Schedule enough time for travel including traffic, weather conditions, construction etc.; keeping an agenda with all your activities and commitments written in one place (make sure to get you WNE daily planner and student handbook from your PA during Opening Weekend); bring course materials of other classes other than the ones for the day, in case there should be unexpected free time, you can get ahead in some other assignments; use the library and writing center as much as possible, the more you can accomplish on campus the less you have to do once you get home.

Try to manage your work schedule to be flexible and leave time for group projects, daytime studying and last minute work at the end of the semester. Select one club to become involved and be an audience member at events.

**Commuter Connection**

The Student Senate, the Office of Student Activities and Leadership Development and the Academic Success Center have established a Kodiak classroom for commuters in order to stay in touch and to be sure you are not missing out on campus news or events. The classroom has been set up exclusively for the commuting population. The Commuter Classroom provides an opportunity to network with each other. It also provides a forum for the commuters to voice unique concerns or questions for this population. It can provide an opportunity to coordinate a carpooling system for those interested in sharing the cost of gas and rides to cut down on gas prices or in the upcoming months of bad weather. Let your voice be heard!
Closing and Delay Information

Please be advised of the various ways that we make important announcements concerning weather or emergency cancellations and delays:

1. Through the RAVE notification system (registration required).

2. Go to the University’s website homepage at www.wne.edu a banner will be posted regarding any closings or delays.

3. You may call the University’s main telephone number at 413-782-3111 for a recorded message of the announcement.

4. You may listen to or watch the following radio or television stations:
   - Springfield, MA stations: WWLP-TV, WGGB-TV, WSHM-TV, WHYN Radio 560 AM or 93.1 FM, WPXK Radio 100.9
   - Pittsfield, MA stations: WBRK Radio 1340 AM or 101.7 FM
   - Chicopee, MA station: WACE Radio 730 AM
   - Hartford, CT stations: WTIC Radio 1080 AM or 96.5 FM, WRCH 100.5 FM, WZMX 93.7 FM

Every effort will be made to finalize decisions about cancelling day classes by 6:00 a.m., and, if necessary, the decision to cancel evening classes will be made by 2:00 p.m.

Each individual must make his or her own decision as to whether or not to travel to the campus if classes are not cancelled.

Students should be advised that, if classes/exams are not canceled and a student is unable to get to campus, it is the student’s responsibility to contact the faculty member(s) to make appropriate arrangements.

WNEU Alert*, a product of RAVE Mobile Safety is the new Western New England University emergency notification system. This system is the University’s means of notification to our community for emergencies, weather related announcements, and Student Activities alerts.

With it, the University can send emergency notifications straight to your phone. As a Western New England University student, you are automatically enrolled in this service; faculty and staff are, too. However, we encourage you to frequently log in to the system using your Connect2U ID and password to check and/or update your information. That way, we’ll be able to reach you in an emergency situation—wherever you are.

In addition to WNEU Alert, we encourage you to download the RAVE Guardian app, which transforms mobile phones into personal safety devices. With this app, you can create a virtual safety network, immediately connect with public safety, and even submit anonymous tips that can help keep the University safe. You can get more information about RAVE Guardian and its features by clicking on the following link:

Click here to download the app for an Android device.

Click here to download the app for an Apple device.

Together, WNEU Alert and the Rave Guardian app can help us do what matters most: keep you safe. Please take the time to go to your account and verify your information and contact numbers. Also, please test the communication from RAVE Alert to your cellphone and e-mail address using the test buttons provided on your account page.

Manage Your Account at – https://www1.wne.edu/connect2u/external/rave_sso.cfm

* Western New England University has contracted with the emergency notification system company Rave Mobile Safety to provide WNEU Alert. The service is free. (Standard text messaging rates may apply.) WNEU Alert will not be used to distribute advertising or other unsolicited content, nor will it be used to communicate routine notifications; the service is for emergency contact purposes only.

Original message from Chief Adam Woodrow on 6 December 2016.
First Semester Activities—Don’t Miss Out!

The fall semester is packed with activity. Here are just a few so you can mark your calendars and plan ahead with work schedules etc. Get into the habit of checking the calendar on the Student Activities Online Calendar for updates. Don’t miss out on the programs and your student activities fees! You have paid for these activities, why not attend and enjoy them? This is a very small list of upcoming events.

**September**
2: Football v. Springfield College 1 p.m.
3: WNEpalooza Music Fest 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.
5: Student Employment Job Fair/Community Engagement Fair 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Rivers

**October**
11-15: Make a Difference Weekend
13: Friday the 13th Monster Mash Dance 9 p.m. Rivers
14-19: CAB Freak Week
28-29: Family & Friends Weekend

**November**
3: MIDNIGHT MADNESS 9 p.m. AHLC
4: World Fest 6 p.m. Rivers
5: Dance Team Fall Showcase 6 p.m. AHLC
7: Commuter Appreciation Day 12:30 p.m. Rock Cafe
10-11: Stageless Players Fall Production 7 p.m. with a 2 p.m. matinee on Saturday, Wood Auditorium
17: The Golden Voice Singing Competition 9 p.m. Rivers
18: Fall Music Showcase 3 p.m. Wood Auditorium

**December**
6: Festival of Lights 5 p.m. Rivers
7: Stress Relief Therapy Dogs 12 p.m. - 2 p.m. Rivers

Campus Center Serves the Commuter

The Campus Center is often described as the “living room” for the Campus. It is a gathering place for the many constituents that use the services in the building. The services that are offered hopefully help the commuters to feel at home in between classes or meetings.

The Campus Center is more than a place to dine. One is able to stop into the offices in Student Affairs on the second floor or to the Career Development Center for assistance with jobs, resumes, internships. Student Activities and Leadership Development, Residence Life, Learning Beyond the Classroom and Center for Civic Engagement, Diversity Services all await your questions.

The first floor of the Campus Center hosts the Game Room, the Office of First Year Students and Students in Transition, student organization offices of Student Senate, Campus Activities Board and the Residence Hall Association. The “Blue and Gold” campus store offers imprinted WNE apparel and don’t forget Starbucks and the P.O.D. Commuters find it convenient to buy Bear Bucks and may dine in the Rock Café or upstairs in Dining Room A. Bear Bucks may also be used in the P.O.D. for snacks or the endless list of beverages in Starbucks. The Campus Center serves as a backdrop for many Mall programs, FRIDAYS, SATURDAYS and Late Night events.

The Campus Center is your living room on campus, visit with friends, get some work done, or just relax and watch some TV.
A Commuter Student's Guide To The Full College Experience

By Uzma Jamil

As commuter students, it's not as simple as running back to your dorm to grab a snack or taking a nap in between your classes. I know people who commute as little as ten minutes to some who commute over an hour just to get on campus; regardless of how long it may take to get on campus, it is inevitable that some commuter students feel like they're missing out from the full college experience that comes along with living on campus. As a fellow commuter, I know how that feels. Through both my experiences and what others have told me about commuter life, I've decided to make a guide for other commuter students so they can get the college experience while not living on campus.

1. Double check everything.
As commuter students, we don't have the luxury of going back to the dorm to grab something we forgot or to take a nap. Every night, make sure you have everything you need to in your bookbag and double check in the morning. The worst feeling in the world is getting to campus and realizing you forgot your paper on the printer.

2. Plan smart.
If possible, plan your classes to be back to back and to your liking. If you aren't a morning person, don't schedule your classes in the morning to avoid the possibility you sleep in instead of going to class. If you prefer to be done with your day by two pm, take your classes in the morning. Also, invest in a planner! Planners are so important so you are on track with everything you need to do and by when. Don't know why you should invest in a planner? Check out this article.

3. Keep a survival kit in your car.
This is so incredibly important for commuter students to do. Your survival kit should have a spare change of clothes in case you get rained on or you drop your Starbucks coffee on yourself, a bunch of snacks instead of spending ridiculous amounts of money on the vending machines, a blanket and pillow if you need to take a nap between classes. Doing this will be a life saver.

4. Make friends with people that do live on campus.
If you have friends who live on campus, you will always have that security blanket if you're bored in between your classes or you need to room to nap in for a few hours. Also, having a friend on campus will keep you in the loop in regards to any campus events going on.

5. And make friends with fellow commuter students.
Whether or not you join the commuter student organization at your school, having friends who go through what you do is nice and encouraging. If you ever feel trapped or tired of commuter life, you can rely on these people to encourage you to push through.

By joining clubs and organizations on campus, you aren't limiting yourself to the cycle of going to class, the library and then home. These clubs will allow you to have something to look forward to and introduce you to several of your friends. Joining organizations will also allow you to be more cognizant of what is going on around campus.

7. Take advantage of every opportunity you can.
Just because you don't live on campus doesn't mean you can't use the facilities your school offers. Make sure to hit up the gym, go to the tutoring sessions and everything in between. You are paying for these services so be sure to take advantage of it.

8. Consider traffic, weather and the time it may take to find parking.
As commuter students, it is important to be cognizant of the problems that come along with commuter life. Always factor in traffic, the weather and parking; your professor won't care...
Dining on campus isn’t one size fits all. Our meal plans were designed with our students in mind. If you are looking to enjoy a meal or just a snack on the go - we’ve got a plan to fit every appetite.

**ALL ACCESS VS. BLOCK MEALS:** All Access Meal Plans come with unlimited meals at the RFoC either 7-days or 5-days per week. Block Meals are good for the entire semester and do not have to be budgeted on a weekly basis. Use 1 meal this week and 20 meals next week; just use them all by the end of the semester.

**MAGIC MEALS:** Magic Meals come with the All Access plans and the NEW 115 Block plan only. These meals can be used to treat a friend or family member to a meal in the RFoC or you can use them to purchase a meal exchange at any of our retail locations.

**BEAR BUCKS:** Bear Bucks can be spent at any on-campus dining location. They have a $1 for $1 value and work just like a debit card. If you’re running low, you can always add more.

**7-DAY ALL ACCESS**
- Unlimited meals/week
- 100 Bear Bucks/semester
- $3,199/semester
- MAGIC MEALS: This plan comes with 20 Magic Meals

**5-DAY ALL ACCESS**
- Unlimited meals/week, Mon. - Fri.
- 200 Bear Bucks/semester
- $3,116/semester
- MAGIC MEALS: This plan comes with 20 Magic Meals

**115 BLOCK**
- 115 meals/semester
- 350 Bear Bucks/semester
- $1,791/semester
- MAGIC MEALS: This plan comes with 10 Magic Meals

**85 BLOCK**
- 85 meals/semester
- 300 Bear Bucks/semester
- $1,339/semester

**55 BLOCK**
- 55 meals/semester
- 150 Bear Bucks/semester
- $855/semester

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**REAL FOOD ON CAMPUS (RFoC)**
This all-you-care-to-eat location provides unlimited variety! The style of service features a variety of menu options freshly prepared and cooked to order.
- Made-to-Order
- Vegetarian / Vegan Friendly
- Nutritious Choices
- Ethically Inspired Cuisines
- Monthly Events

**P.O.D. MARKET & STARBUCKS**
Whether you’re looking for a quick snack, household essentials or a good cup of coffee, we’ve got you covered. The P.O.D. Market has everything you need to fill your fridge and keep you going.

**ROCK FOOD COURT**
The perfect venue when you want to change it up. The Rock Food Court features a Subway, G Olive Works and Bene Pizzeria.

**AHLC & COURT CAFE**
Quench your thirst or get a boost at the AHLC Smoothie Bar. The Court Cafe, conveniently located in the Law School, offers a variety of breakfast, lunch and dinner items.
about your complaints about traffic if you are late. In case of any accidents on your main route to school, know an alternate so you aren't late. Also, familiarize yourself with all of the parking spaces available on campus so you don't spend an hour looking for parking.

9. Have breaks in between classes? Don't waste them. It is inevitable that you'll have a long break in between your classes at least one semester of your college career – don't waste them. Whether you go to the library to get a head start on your essays or you get a workout in, take advantage of your free time instead of wasting it. Keep yourself busy and active.

10. Get a part-time job on campus. Through a part-time job on campus, you'll not only be surrounded by more of your peers but you will also be getting money. It's a win-win!

11. Go to sporting events. As a basketball fanatic, I'm so incredibly excited for the season to start and to join the student section to scream as loud as humanly possible. Sporting events are a great place to meet new people and truly enjoy college. Regardless of if you scream as loud as me or not, make it a point to attend the sports events at your school.

12. Treat the campus as if you actually lived there. While it may be tempting to go home right after your last class of the day, avoid that. Treat the campus as your home away from home and explore it. Find your favorite spots to study, go to events your school hosts and enjoy being a college student.

13. Stay positive. Life will throw you a lot of curveballs and you just have to be positive. There will be days you'll be late and days where you want to do anything but drive to campus; however, always remember college is what you make it so push through. I promise you that the hardest part is getting there and it'll be worth it when you step on campus ready to conquer a new day.

While commuter life isn't ideal, it's perfect for me and several other students. Blast up the music on your next commute to school and best of luck!


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The Office of Student Activities and Leadership is excited to announce that there are limited number of lockers available in the Campus Center for commuter students to rent.

Locker rental fee (including the combination lock) is $10.00 refundable deposit.

Stop by the Office of Student Activities and Leadership Development, located on the second floor of the Campus Center, to get your locker starting Monday, August 28 at 9 a.m.
Writing Center
Tutors are available Monday through Thursday between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m, and Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.
For additional information or to schedule an appointment, please contact the Office of Writing Support Services at 413-782-1263, stop in to the Writing Center (Herman 107), or fill out a form online.

Math Center
Tutors are available Monday through Thursday between 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m, and Friday between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.
For additional information or to schedule an appointment, please contact the Math Center at 413-782-1692, stop in to the Math Center (Herman 309C), or fill out a form online.

D'Amour Library Hours
Monday - Thursday  7:45 a.m. - 12:00 a.m.
Friday  7:45 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Saturday  9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Sunday  12:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.
Basement Computer Lab is open 24 hours

Question or Concerns?
Please contact:
Tom Donovan, Assistant Director Student Activities & Leadership Development
413-782-1203, td345126@wne.edu
Dominic Seguro, Director for Student Success and Engagement
413-782-1312, dominic.seguro@wne.edu