



Berkeley College F.A.Q.s

KEY DATES up to your arrival

Now and ongoing: Get to know your fellow Berkeley classmates and Freshman Counselor

By July 31, 2015: Complete the 5-minute Berkeley Freshman Survey <http://tinyurl.com/bkfreshmansurvey>

August 28, 2015: Move-In Begins at 9 am. Family Reception is at 4 pm (125 High St).

What do I need to know about my room?

Berkeley freshmen live on Old Campus, directly across Elm Street, in Lanman-Wright Hall, fondly known as “L-Dub.” Most students live in quads, with four students sharing a two-bedroom suite. There is also a smattering of triples and doubles in L-Dub, as well as one quint. The first thing you will notice about your L-Dub room is that it is Very Small. Common rooms are approximately 12’ x 16’, and bedrooms are roughly 7’ x 11’, just enough room for bunks. Closet space is extremely limited, so you should pack carefully, concentrating on the bare essentials. Bedrooms are assigned, but bunks aren’t, so your first mission is to decide who goes where. We highly recommend that you talk with each other before staking your claim.

What is the best way to talk to my new suitemates?

First of all, please take the time over the summer to introduce yourselves, through whatever medium you prefer. That said, we would like to remind you to take care to listen as well as to inform, starting from your very first encounter. Please receive others’ introductions of themselves with grace, patience, and warmth. This is simultaneously a moment of excitement and anxiety for all concerned, and – as we all know – excitement and anxiety can sometimes produce awkward first encounters (especially over email or Facebook). Go easy, be compassionate and calm, and allow your new dynamic to establish itself. We took great pains to make suitable matches between suitemates, following the Berkeley ethos of a healthy, congenial balance between differences and affinities. The ultimate success of the system, however, depends on your willingness to learn how to get along with each other. The good news is that you will find plenty of support here in Berkeley for this challenge and all the other tests of freshman year.

What kind of support is available to me?

During the academic year, your first line of support is Dean Genoni and the Freshman Counselors. Don’t be afraid to ask them all your questions, from the small and picayune to the large and important, and everything in-between. You will also be assigned a Freshman Adviser, whom you will meet at the end of August. The FA is a professor, dean, or other learned member of the Yale Community chosen from the Berkeley College Fellowship. We also recommend that you take advantage of Berkeley’s Big Sib program, which will match you to a sophomore who is here to welcome you and to share enthusiastically his or her hard-earned wisdom from last year.

How should I read the Blue Book? Should I arrive with my schedule all planned out?

You should read the Blue Book (physically or virtually), and *think* about courses you would like to take. Don't decide on one schedule immediately, but come up with some options. Try different approaches – take away a Math course and substitute Philosophy. Drop a History course and consider Cultural Anthropology. Pick one new field and develop a schedule around it: a new foreign language, or Linguistics, or Environmental Studies, or Computer Science, or Humanities, or History of Art, or Psychology (Rumor has it the last three are quite good choices). Play around with your options, and know that it is only by experiencing classes and talking over your options that you will make your final decisions – enjoy the freedom that comes with these possibilities, explore your options, and embrace the act of questioning. Plan to make changes, and to enjoy the smorgasbord that is Yale!

What should I know about Move-In Day?

There are really two things to think about here. First is the logistical and physical information. Upon arrival, you will immediately be surrounded by an army of returning students who have volunteered to help you convey your boxes to your room. Do not be alarmed by this outpouring of enthusiastic support. You will soon see that your fellow Berkeleyites are delighted to meet you and eager to help: this is their way of showing their affection for you, and also repaying the debt they owe to those who performed the same service for them on their Move-In Day. If you have any problems with your room (e.g., missing pegs for raising beds, etc.), there will be a help desk on Old Campus, or you can contact Georgetta Sheppard at 203-432-0147.

Secondly, it is worth your while to take a few minutes and envision the day in its fullness, with the heady emotions that come with the first day of college. For you, the day will rightly feel like the start of a great adventure; for a parent or guardian, the day can bring mixed emotions. Unchecked, these feelings can sometimes produce some pretty serious weirdness in otherwise lovely people. Small inconveniences – like a problem with a room key or a stuck dresser-drawer – can lead to disproportionately large reactions – and these responses can then take on an awkward life of their own. The good news is that you can plan ahead. This summer, make time to sit down with your family and discuss the reality of your departure for college. Be sure both to discuss the details of Move-In Day, as well as to come up with a plan for the first semester. Consider how and when you will be able to communicate with home, and home will be able to communicate with you. If, despite your best efforts this summer, your “support team” from home is still a little anxious on the big day, you can seek help from your Freshman Counselor, the Master's Office, or the Dean's Office (contact information below). Remember that Master Chun and Dean Genoni will be there to welcome you, and to help you navigate the day.

Where can I send packages ahead of time?

We recommend that you bring with you your most important items. Please be mindful that because of the logistics of all students moving onto campus, your packages may not be immediately available for pickup on Move-In Day. In addition, please also note that there is no storage space on campus, and remember that there is limited space in your room.

Please be aware that you should not ship anything before Friday, August 7. The address for all UPS, DHL, and Fed Ex packages is:

Your Name
Yale University
Berkeley College
135 Prospect Street
New Haven, CT 06511

For additional information about shipping, please see: <http://yalecollege.yale.edu/new-students/welcome-yale>.

I'm trying to arrange vacation plans for Winter Break – what do I need to know?

Because final exams cannot be rescheduled to accommodate travel plans, we encourage you to wait to purchase airplane or train tickets until you have finalized your classes and thus know your exam schedule. The last scheduled final exam in the Fall Term ends at 5:30 pm on Tuesday, December 22. Dormitories close the next day at noon, at which time you must leave campus until Wednesday, January 13, which is the earliest date on which you can return. You must be sure to be back in time for our mandatory Spring Registration meeting, which begins at 9 pm (on the dot) on Monday, January 18 – the night before classes start. You can find the 2015-16 academic calendar at <http://yalecollege.yale.edu/academics/calendars/2015-2016-academic-calendar>.

I have another question not answered above. Whom should I ask?

During the summer, any questions about the college can be addressed to the Master's Office; please call 203-432-0500 or email senior administrative assistant Sue Matteo at susan.matteo@yale.edu. Questions about academic matters can be directed to the Dean's Office; please call 203-432-0502 or email senior administrative assistant Damaris Cardona at damaris.cardona@yale.edu. Your Freshman Counselor will also be in touch with you and will be able either to answer your question or to help you figure out who can.