

Fast Facts Just for Students Living at Home

Office of Student Activities and Union Services

Student Union Room 211 | www.newpaltz.edu/saus/commuters.html | 845-257-3025 | saus@newpaltz.edu

Many of our students choose to live at home and commute to New Paltz for their classes. The reasons for living at home are different for everyone – for some, it makes best financial sense, while for others their families depend on them. Regardless of your reasons, living at home and commuting to college is a big transition! Here are some things to consider – with the hopes of making the transition as simple as possible for you (and for those who live with you!).

Campus Resources:

COMMUTER ASSISTANTS – Commuter Assistants with the Office of Student Activities and Union Services are student leaders who live off-campus and can help answer your questions.

MEALPLANS – Get a Commuter Meal Plan at the Campus Card Services Office (lower level of the Student Union). These plans are ideal for commuter students who want to grab a quick bite to eat between classes!

CAMPUS SERVICES – All campus services that residential students utilize are equally available to commuter students. Whether it is the library, health center, Athletics and Wellness Center facilities, student clubs and governance, or computer labs, use them. They are for commuters, too!

STUDENT UNION – It is the best place to hang-out, socialize, and meet fellow commuters. Don't think about going to your car between classes, come hang out in the Student Union - your living room right here on campus.

COMMUTER LOUNGE – Located on the first floor of the Student Union, this is a space just for students who live off-campus. There are tables to study or grab a bite, microwaves to warm your food, charging stations for your phone/laptop, a TV, couches, and a printer. This is your space!

COMMUTER LOCKERS – Rent a commuter locker to store away items or other personal belongings while on campus. Visit the Office of Student Activities and Union Services for rental information.

NP ALERT – Sign-up for NP Alert to make sure you are aware of any campus closures, delays, or other emergencies. You can also sign up to get texts about events specific to you with the Commuter Student Group option.

Public Transit Options:

UCAT – Ulster County Area Transit manages public transportation in New Paltz and to Poughkeepsie, Kingston, and Newburgh. Check out their website for all route schedules: www.co.ulster.ny.us/ucat/schedule.html

- The Loop - A shuttle through the Village of New Paltz
- Ulster Poughkeepsie Link - Bus Service from New Paltz to the Poughkeepsie Train Station

TRAILWAYS – Need Tickets elsewhere throughout the state? The Office of Student Activities sells Trailways Bus Tickets Monday-Friday from 9AM - 4PM. Check out this website: www.newpaltz.edu/saus/trailways.html

Commuting from Home Tips:

BOUNDARIES – If you're living at home with your parents, talk about how your life will change now that you're a college student. What do you expect from them regarding your privacy and your personal space? It's challenging for college students living at home to feel like they have independence and autonomy - discuss it!

STUDY TIME – It's important to have a place to do your schoolwork. Talk to your family about setting aside space for studying, and discuss some study expectations (noise, interruptions, etc.). Don't forget to utilize the spaces on campus – like the library, the Student Union, or various computer labs.

CURFEW – If you live with your parent/guardian, it's important to discuss expectations regarding your social life. Do you have to be home at a certain time? Check in with family? What are the rules now that you're in college?

MONEY – You are probably saving some money by living at home, but what are the expectations regarding your finances? Talk to your family about gas money, paying for books, etc. Also, will you be expected to contribute "rent" money to your parents? Be honest and upfront with your family regarding how taking college courses will impact your finances!

MEALS – If you live with your parents, are you still expected home for dinner at night? If you're the head of house hold, are you still expected to cook meals for your family? Talk about how meals will change as you start taking college courses. Also, consider getting a meal plan or Hawk Dollars so that you could eat meals here.