

College Packing Checklist

A category-by-category list of everything a student should pack for college.

Clothing

- Pack everyday tops, bottoms and underwear for a week or two.
- Bring layers and a warm jacket for cold weather.
- Add at least one dressier outfit for events.
- Pack comfortable shoes plus sandals and shower shoes.
- Include workout clothes if you plan to exercise.
- Bring a laundry bag or basket and detergent.

Bedding and linens

- Pack sheets sized for your dorm mattress.
Many dorm beds are extra-long twin — confirm the size before buying.
- Bring a comforter or duvet and a blanket.
- Pack pillows and extra pillowcases.
- Include a mattress topper for comfort.
- Bring bath and hand towels plus a washcloth.
- Pack a small throw blanket for the couch or floor.

Electronics and tech

- Bring your laptop, charger and a protective case.
- Pack your phone charger and a backup cable.
- Add a power strip with surge protection.
- Bring headphones or earbuds for shared spaces.
- Pack any cables, adapters and a small flash drive.
- Include a desk lamp and extra batteries.

School supplies

- Pack notebooks, folders and a planner or calendar.
- Bring pens, pencils, highlighters and sticky notes.
- Add a backpack or sturdy bag for class.
- Include a stapler, tape and basic scissors.
- Pack a calculator if your courses require one.
- Bring printer paper if you have a personal printer.

Toiletries and health

- Pack a shower caddy for shared bathrooms.
- Bring shampoo, soap, deodorant and a toothbrush.
- Add any daily medications and refills.
- Pack a basic first-aid kit and pain relievers.
- Include nail clippers, tweezers and a small mirror.
- Bring tissues, cotton swabs and hand sanitizer.

Room and storage

- Bring storage bins and under-bed containers.
- Pack hangers and a few command hooks.
- Add a small trash can and bags.
- Include decor like posters and photos for a homey feel.
- Bring a fan if your dorm has no air conditioning.
- Pack a few basic tools and a measuring tape.

Documents and money

- Bring your ID, insurance card and a copy of each.
- Pack important documents in a labeled folder.
- Add a debit or credit card and some cash.
- Bring keys and any housing or parking paperwork.
- Include a copy of your class schedule.
- Pack emergency contact numbers on paper.