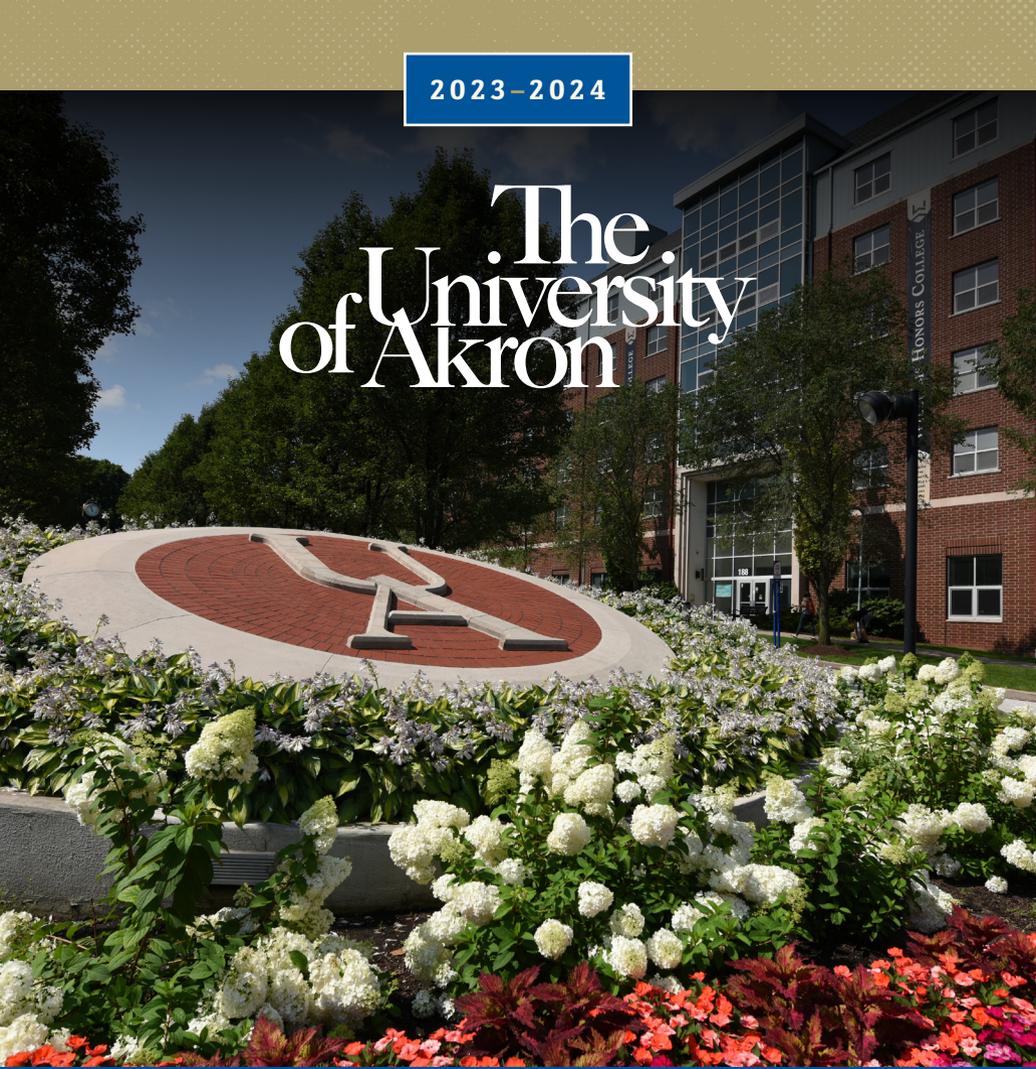


2023-2024

# The University of Akron



Parent & Family

# GUIDE

# CollegiateParent

## About This Guide

CollegiateParent has published this guide in partnership with the University of Akron. Our goal is to share helpful, timely information about your student's college experience and connect you to relevant campus and community resources.

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The  
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### For more information, please contact:

The University of Akron  
Office of New Student Orientation

 (330) 972-2622

 [uakron.edu/nso](https://uakron.edu/nso)

 [orientation@uakron.edu](mailto:orientation@uakron.edu)

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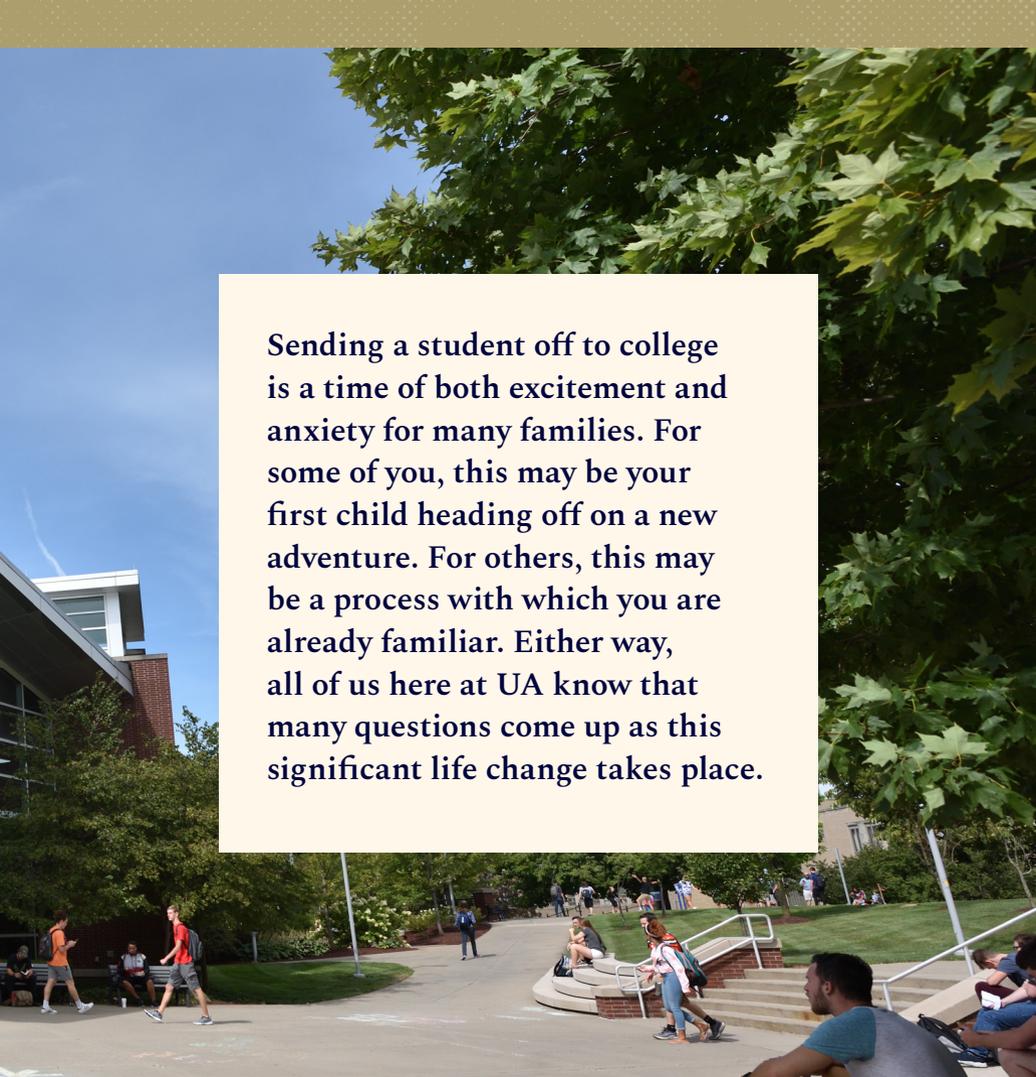
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# Welcome to The University of Akron

The time your students spend in college will be one of the most memorable in their lives! As the parent or family member of one of our newest Zips, you play an essential role in supporting your student's success in college. Though many of the experiences students have in college happen on their own, we know that it is so helpful for students to have the support of parents and family members along the way.

This parent and family guide was created with you in mind. It is meant to be an informative resource and to serve as a conversation starter for you with your students as they encounter different opportunities, experiences, and challenges during this first year of college.



**Sending a student off to college is a time of both excitement and anxiety for many families. For some of you, this may be your first child heading off on a new adventure. For others, this may be a process with which you are already familiar. Either way, all of us here at UA know that many questions come up as this significant life change takes place.**

We hope you will use this resource and the many others provided during your New Roo Orientation program to help start and continue those important conversations with your students. Parents are often our greatest allies in student success! We thank you for partnering with us to help your student become a successful Zip from day one to graduation day.

Sincerely,

**Carly DeBord**  
*New Student Orientation*

[\(330\) 972-2622](tel:(330)972-2622)

[uakron.edu/nso](http://uakron.edu/nso)

[nso@uakron.edu](mailto:nso@uakron.edu)

# WORDS OF WELCOME FROM Residence Life & Housing



One of the things that we hope you and your student will find in the Department of Residence Life & Housing is a cheerful and honest invitation to become engaged with The University of Akron.

Our residence hall student organizations have won numerous national awards over the years. Our residential program collaborates with our academic partners to create Living Learning Communities with a classroom component and offers themed housing for students who want to live with others with similar interests.



Whether listening to a singer-songwriter during one of our award-winning coffee houses, running for an office in a hall government, or just spending time with their new friends and the resident assistant, your student will have an opportunity to become a part of our traditions. And we hope this process will begin as soon as your student sets foot on campus during our annual Week of Welcome. We have learned time and time again that students who learn to laugh with us will also love to learn with us.

While we cannot invite the families of our students to be a part of each of these opportunities themselves, we are excited to extend a special invitation to you to partner with us. The love and support you offer your student, combined with the guidance and experience of our administrative, hall, and student staff, makes realizing your student's dreams one step closer to reality. In turn, we offer our support to you as well as your student and encourage you to call or email us.

## Housing Availability and Assignments

We encourage all students to live on campus. Studies have shown that students who live on campus have strong academic outcomes, and our one convenient bill helps students and parents understand the financial costs associated with living on campus.

All residence hall students are required to have a meal plan, except residents in the Exchange Street Apartments, where kitchen facilities are available. Residents with kitchen facilities may purchase a meal plan if they so choose.

We encourage students to apply for housing early. Online housing applications and contracts are only made available to students who have committed to the University by paying the confirmation fee. Students who have completed their housing application and made their housing prepayment by the housing priority deadline of May 15 will be eligible to select their room.

# RESIDENCE LIFE & HOUSING

## FAQ

### When will my student find out where they are living and who their roommates are?

All students who completed the housing application before the priority deadline will select a room and meal plan online. The specific date your student will have access to choose a room can be found in the confirmation email sent to students after the priority deadline has passed. This access also provides roommate information if permission has been granted to release contact details. We are unable to guarantee all roommate placements. As such, please do not purchase coordinating décor until your student receives official confirmation of the assigned roommate.

### What are the essentials my student needs to bring to furnish their room?

Housing will provide a bed, desk, chair, dresser or nightstand, and wardrobe or built-in closet. The rest is up to your student's imagination. Check out our departmental FAQs, to find a list of items to bring and what items to leave at home: [uakron.edu/reslife/move-in-guide/what-to-bring.dot](http://uakron.edu/reslife/move-in-guide/what-to-bring.dot).

### When does my student move into their residence hall?

Typically, Emerging Leaders who live in Ritchie, Sisler-McFawn, and Honors Complex move into the residence

halls about a week before the start of the fall semester. All remaining students move in over the days leading up to the beginning of the fall semester. Students will sign up for move-in appointments typically made available to students in mid-June.

### Does my student have to get meningitis and hepatitis B vaccinations/boosters before they move in?

While your student is not required to have the vaccinations, the University highly recommends it. All students are required by law to let us know either way by completing the disclosure question when applying for housing.

### What if my student needs to cancel their housing contract?

Students should complete the online cancellation petition available through "My Housing." Students are subject to the prevailing refund schedule, which can be found in the Contract Terms & Conditions.

### What happens if my student was assigned to a building that wasn't one of their choices?

Your student should complete the online room change request form. Our office will make every effort to facilitate a room change, provided space is available in the preferred building.



# Living Learning Communities

Themed Housing has been established to provide distinctive settings where student success is supported through residential experiences. Our Living Learning Communities bring academics and other interests into the residence halls.

Recent studies have emphasized the unique potential for living-learning communities and themed housing to positively impact student success and retention. Not only do students perform better in class, but also they feel more connected to their peers, the faculty, and the University. As a

result, students are more likely to return the next year and continue their academic pursuits.

After fully completing the housing application, students will be able to express their interest in living-learning communities in their "Personalize Your Experience" section. Students will be referred to a supplemental application, or contract, or be copied on an email for further instructions from our academic partners. Students only interested in themed housing will be able to see themed housing options during room selection.

## Summit Federal Credit Union



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330.376.3626

# OFFICE OF Student Accounts / Bursar

**This office is responsible for bursar functions, such as tuition calculation, billing, accounts receivable, collections, refunding, and 1098T tax reporting.**

The Office of Student Accounts/Bursar recommends that the student refers to their My Akron account online to confirm daily updates of their registration, financial aid, or other changes to their charges, such as meal plan and housing. Students are notified by their university email to view their e-Bill online. Paper bills are not mailed.

Students may view their account, pay online, set up a payment plan, authorize parent access, and address other financial matters by entering their UANet ID and password and clicking My Experience followed by Student Center.

The Office of Student Accounts/Bursar also offers Authorized Parent Access for parents or other persons, if authorized by the student, to view the student account balance, pay the bill, or receive an eBill. Sign-up is located on the student's My Akron account.

## **Direct Deposit (Refunding)**

Is your student signed up for direct deposit yet? What are you waiting for? Enroll in direct deposit today!

The University of Akron currently offers direct deposit for the convenience of students who expect to receive a refund.

**The steps are easy:**

- 1.** Log into My Akron with your UANet ID and password.
- 2.** Click on Student Center; select "enroll in direct deposit" from the other financial drop-down box.
- 3.** Enter the required information (checking or savings account number and routing number), and acknowledge the terms and conditions agreement.

For a tutorial, visit [uakron.edu/student-accounts/refunds/direct-deposit.dot](http://uakron.edu/student-accounts/refunds/direct-deposit.dot).

## **Promise to Pay Plan (PPP)**

The Promise to Pay Plan is an option offered by The University of Akron to help students and their families spread out payments of tuition and University of Akron housing/meal plan expenses over the course of the term.

If the student has Anticipated Aid displayed on their account, this amount will be used to reduce the amount due. 25% of the net balance is required as the down payment on the payment plan, along with a \$35 application fee. Sign up online through the student's My Akron account on their Student Center. The payment plan closes after the first week of the term.

If financial aid paperwork is complete, funds will be disbursed 10 days prior to the start of the term.

For information about billing, due dates, payment options, refund policy, tuition, and fees, visit [uakron.edu/student-accounts](http://uakron.edu/student-accounts).

# Dining Services

Dining Services at The University of Akron strives to provide students with an exceptional dining experience.

Our dining program offers a variety of on-campus dining locations, including Rob's Café, our all-you-care-to-eat dining hall, Union Market, Starbucks, Chick-fil-A, Panda Express, Qdoba, Auntie Anne's, and much more.

Dining Services also offers a variety of meal plans to fit your student's needs. Whether your student is living on campus or a commuter, Dining Services has a plan that will provide convenience, flexibility, and real value.

## Resident Meal Plans:

Gold Plan, Blue Plan, and White Plan.  
*Designed for students living on campus.*

## Commuter Meal Plans:

Commuter 75, Apartment 50, Commuter 25 Plus, and Commuter 25.  
*Designed for commuters and students living in the Exchange Street Apartments.*

When you purchase a meal plan, your student will receive the following:

- All-you-care-to-eat at Rob's Café *OR*
- One meal swipe per meal period, to use at any Meal Exchange location for a full meal solution
- Dining Dollars can be used at all on-campus dining locations including, but not limited to, campus convenience stores, Chick-fil-A, Panda Express, Union Market, Starbucks, Qdoba, and Auntie Anne's
- Five guest meal swipes on every plan to treat a friend or family member

For more information about Dining Services, including Nutritional Resource Guides and Meal Plans, visit [akron.campusdish.com](http://akron.campusdish.com).

## UPSCALE STUDENT LIVING

UNIVERSITY OF AKRON'S PREMIER OFF-CAMPUS STUDENT HOUSING

Two, Three, and Four Bedroom Apartments

393 SUMNER STREET, AKRON, OH 44304  
(330) 810-2400 | [LEASING@UNIVERSITYEDGEAKRON.COM](mailto:LEASING@UNIVERSITYEDGEAKRON.COM)

UNIVERSITY  
EDGE





MAPS.UAKRON.EDU



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# PARENT'S GUIDE TO THE Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) protects your college student's privacy and grants them exclusive rights to view and share education records such as grades, transcripts, disciplinary records, contact information, and class schedules. Under the law, colleges and universities may not disclose education records to anyone other than the student.

FERPA's restrictions often frustrate parents, especially parents who pay for tuition. But, as *College Parents of America* suggests, "Rather than seeing this legislation as a barrier to good college parenting, parents might see this as an important opportunity for meaningful dialogue with a student."

Building a healthy relationship with your student is about giving enough independence to grow while offering support when a mistake occurs. When it comes to grades, talk to your student as an adult. Voice your opinions but respect your student's decisions.

There is much more to being a college parent than just checking in on grades at the end of the semester. At that point, it's too late to have an impact.

Regarding working within the restrictions of FERPA, support your student in taking personal responsibility for transcripts and financial obligations. Although this legislation restricts parents from involvement in many ways, it also empowers students to grow in independence. Encourage your student to be aware of their rights, which will help them take ownership of their education.

**For parents whose students are not forthcoming with grades, there are several things to do to build trust and communication:**

- Be available early in the semester to help set academic goals for studying and grades.
- Show support during stressful times like finals week by sending encouraging emails and care packages.
- Ask questions about your student's classes and what is being learned; show interest in more than just grades.
- Then, after supporting your student through the whole semester, ask if your student would like to share grades with you.
- Respect the decision, whatever it might be. Continue to support your student academically.

**Key things to remember about FERPA:**

- Colleges and universities cannot disclose academic information to parents without written consent from the student.
- Don't be frustrated by this law. Use it as an opportunity to help your student grow more independent.
- Support your student academically throughout the year, not just when grades are released.

# Connecting Your Student to Career Success

Career Services & Student Employment helps students and alumni explore majors, reach career goals, and connect with employers. All services are available virtually.

Students also meet with a college-specific career advisor to:

- Create a job search strategy
- Develop transferable skills, soft skills, and professionalism
- Develop resume and cover letter-writing skills
- Learn about career paths and jobs in demand in Ohio
- Find on-campus and part-time employment, including federal work-study positions
- Prepare for graduate school
- Prepare for interviews, including how to navigate virtual environments
- Review a career checklist and identify annual goals

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) now has a College2Careers counselor to offer services for students with disabilities.

## EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING OPTIONS

UA strongly supports experiential learning opportunities, many available remotely. Experiential learning helps students gain experience related to their major and increases their marketability upon graduation.

Experiential learning can include:

- Career-related on-campus employment and other part-time jobs
- Clinicals, practicums, field experience, and student teaching
- Faculty-led research and projects
- Internships, micro-internships, and co-ops
- Student organization leadership and campus involvement
- Volunteering
- Service learning
- Study abroad

Virtual and in-person Career Services programs include career fairs, etiquette events, workshops, job interviews, and networking events with employers specifically seeking to hire UA students.

Career Services also maintains an electronic job board called Handshake, with full-time/part-time, co-op/internship, and on-campus opportunities. Students and alumni can upload their resumes, view job postings, connect with employers, and register for career events.

Student Union 211  
[uakron.edu/career](http://uakron.edu/career)  
(330) 972-7747

# ZipAssist and Parents & Family Relations

ZipAssist serves as a student advocacy and support office on campus, intentionally designed to share available resources and assistance to help students be successful at UA.

ZipAssist provides various resources related to campus offices and services and offers guidance about university policies and procedures and community programs.

If your student is in distress, needs help determining where to go for guidance, or intends to leave UA, please complete a Help-A-Zip referral. Through one-on-one meetings with our caring student-support professionals, our goal is to empower and educate students by providing resources, referrals, and consultation regarding ways to be successful. Referrals for categories such as academic, tuition/fees, emergency assistance, personal/social, and ZipsTech can be made at [uakron.edu/referral](http://uakron.edu/referral).

ZipAssist is also the home of Off-Campus Living and Commuter Resources, the Campus Cupboard program, financial literacy education, the Student Emergency Financial Assistance (SEFA) program, and the Parents & Family Relations. ZipAssist also works with several local community partners to provide additional social services and support programs.

Encourage students to visit ZipAssist in Simmons Hall, email [touazipassist@uakron.edu](mailto:touazipassist@uakron.edu), or learn more at [uakron.edu/zipassist](http://uakron.edu/zipassist).

## PARENTS & FAMILY RELATIONS

The Parents & Family Relation (PFR) is coordinated by university staff, advised by a Board of fellow Zip parents or family members, and guided by our parents' and families' needs and interests.

PFR provides information and support for parents and families through a monthly electronic newsletter, webinar series, and social events such as Family Weekend. Stay connected through the PFR Facebook page ([facebook.com/ZipParents](https://facebook.com/ZipParents)) and [uakron.edu/pfa](http://uakron.edu/pfa). Please contact PFR ([pfa@uakron.edu](mailto:pfa@uakron.edu)) with specific questions or concerns!

## OFF-CAMPUS LIVING AND COMMUTER RESOURCES

If your student is commuting from home or looking to live off campus, visit ZipAssist!

Our team is here to help keep your student connected to the University through networking events and free programs. More information and guides for commuters or those renting off campus can be found at [uakron.edu/offcampus](http://uakron.edu/offcampus).



# Top 10 Questions Parents Ask

## 1. Why can't I go to my student's advising appointment?

In 1974, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) was passed as a United States law. FERPA passes the right to privacy on to students when they reach the age of 18 or attend an institution beyond the high school level. This right to privacy means that you are not permitted into your student's academic advising appointment at Orientation, even though you may be helping to pay for school.

Don't worry. Because UA's course registration is completed online, you will have a chance to see your student's schedule and talk about the courses they will be taking during the upcoming semester. If a change needs to be made to your student's schedule, the change can be made online with the permission of your student's academic adviser.

## 2. Why is Orientation mandatory?

It takes a great deal of hard work, persistence, and determination to be successful in college. Students need information about academics, registration, housing/commuting, campus life, financial aid, and student services, all of which will be covered at Orientation! This important event provides students with all of the tools they need to succeed at The University of Akron.

## 3. How safe is UA's campus?

The University of Akron has taken many steps to ensure the safety of its students. We have our own campus police department, along with the City of Akron's police department patrolling our campus. Emergency phones that have a quick response time in case trouble arises are placed in strategic areas all across campus.

Despite the many safety precautions in place, students need to be smart when they are on campus, especially after dark and in more secluded areas of campus. Students are encouraged to walk in groups. If students need to be on campus alone, they can call UA's police department for a campus escort to walk them to their cars or residence hall rooms until midnight every night. Students should always use caution, just as they would in any city at night.

#### 4. Can my student earn a degree in four years?

Earning a degree in four years depends on many factors. Most degrees at The University of Akron require 128 hours of coursework. This can be completed in four years if they complete 16 hours per semester. However, depending on the program, there may be additional requirements that coincide with your student's coursework. For example, students seeking specific engineering degrees must complete a yearlong multi-semester co-op internship experience in addition to 120 hours of coursework. These specific degrees are designed for students to graduate in five years. Another factor that plays a role in a student's graduating pace is how much developmental coursework is needed. Developmental courses are designed for students to develop the skills they need for general college-level classes. These additional classes are then added to the total number of required credit hours.

Moreover, many students have outside obligations that can limit the number of credit hours attempted in one semester. Students who work and volunteer either full-time or part-time, as well as go to school, may not be able to handle 16 credit hours every semester. If a student is not on pace to graduate in four years, summer courses are available and serve as a great way to catch up on coursework.

#### 5. Which is better: living on campus or commuting?

Residence Hall life and commuting both have positive aspects. Living in a residence hall provides students with a sense of independence and personal responsibility, even though they have a strong community around them! Living in the halls is a great way to meet new people and become immersed in college social life. Living on campus puts you closer to many student resources. Conversely, commuting gives students an excellent opportunity to save money and focus on schoolwork while adjusting to the many challenges of college life and academics.

#### 6. Does my student need a car on campus?

Unlike some schools, UA's first-year students are allowed to park on campus. Students in the Tuition Guarantee Program have a portion of their undergraduate service fees to cover the parking permit cost and use of the Roo Express Campus Shuttle. Students who are not in the Tuition Guarantee Program and taking more than five credit hours per semester are charged a \$175 transportation fee that covers the cost of a parking permit and the use of the shuttle.

Students with vehicles must order their electronic parking permits (there are no hangtags to display) from [akron.thepermitstore.com](http://akron.thepermitstore.com) each semester. While having a car on campus has its perks, it is unnecessary. Everything your student would need is readily available on campus. The Roo Express shuttle connects with the wider Akron METRO RTA system, which students can use without fare by swiping a Zipcard.

## 7. How can I get money to my student?

The easiest way to give your student money (and to know what it's being used for!) is to put it on their Zip Card. Your student's Zip Card can be used like a debit card anywhere that they are accepted, including locations such as on-campus eateries, campus fast food restaurants, pizza places, and health services on campus, just to name a few. You can add money to your student's Zip Card online at [zipcardonline.net](http://zipcardonline.net).

## 8. What is there to do around campus?

The city of Akron has a great deal to offer! The Akron RubberDucks play baseball in their state-of-the-art stadium downtown. Free concerts are given at Lock 3 Live all summer long. UA is also home to E.J. Thomas Performing Arts Hall, where Broadway shows are presented throughout the year! All locations are a short walk from campus.

If the city doesn't offer enough, there are three shopping malls within a half-hour's drive from campus: Chapel Hill in Akron, Summit Mall in Fairlawn, and Belden Village Mall in North Canton. Even Cleveland is only about 40 minutes away!

## 9. Should my student bring a desktop computer or a laptop?

It's all about preference. Students do not need to have their own computers to be successful at UA. We have computer labs in almost every building, and because the Student Union and the library have laptops available for checkout during their hours of operation, computers are available all over campus.

Many students, however, prefer to have their own computers. Desktop computers are a good choice because they are easy to upgrade and have a very small chance of being left behind or stolen. An Ethernet connection is available in all residence hall rooms, along with free Wifi. On the other hand, laptops are very convenient because students can take them to class to take notes on or complete homework wherever they are on campus.

## 10. Should my student have a job?

Many students want to work to earn spending money or to help pay for school. Part-time jobs during college can help students gain skills, make valuable connections, and build their resumes. It's been proven that working 20 hours or less per week on campus positively affects student success. Students who work on campus tend to participate in collaborative learning activities and positively interact with faculty and other students. On-campus jobs often offer flexible hours with the understanding that students need to prioritize their education. Many federal work-study and other job opportunities are available on UA's campus. Visit [uakron.edu/career](http://uakron.edu/career) to learn more about on-campus and off-campus positions that are available.

# UA Counseling & Testing Center



**The Counseling and Testing Center offers students free, confidential, and comprehensive psychological services.**

Our diverse staff of licensed psychologists and doctoral trainees provides culturally responsive counseling and psychotherapy, career decision-making counseling, psychological assessment, psycho-educational outreach, and consultation with the university community. Our testing personnel administers a variety of national standardized and on-campus tests.

College can be an exciting and also stressful time for students. Counseling and Testing Center services teach students to manage stress, increase self-confidence, enhance relationships with family and friends, and decrease depression and anxiety. Students can also attend psycho-educational

workshops on various topics such as study skills, substance use, identity development, and eating concerns. Career decision-making counseling and testing are also available for students who need to choose or change their major.

Testing assesses ADD/ADHD and learning disorder concerns to help students identify their academic strengths and growth areas. The Center administers nationally standardized tests such as the ACT, LSAT, and the CLEP Exam, where students can earn college credit, thereby saving money and graduating more quickly.

For more information, please visit [uakron.edu/counseling](http://uakron.edu/counseling).



# International Programs and Education Abroad

Students at The University of Akron have various education abroad program options in almost any academic field and geographic location, including exchanges, faculty-led programs, internships, service-learning programs, and programs through affiliated partners.

Program durations vary from a few weeks to a full academic year. Scholarship and grant information is available. Planning ahead helps students determine the best fit academically, personally, and financially.

Studies have found that education abroad contributes to improved academic performance upon returning to the home campus, higher graduation rates, and increased knowledge and appreciation of diverse cultural practices. In addition, it helps rather than hinders the academic performance of at-risk students. Studies also show that students who participate in education abroad have a high employment rate within 12 months of graduation.

International Center  
Simmons Hall 205  
[uakron.edu/study-abroad](http://uakron.edu/study-abroad)  
(330) 972-7430



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# Helpful Phone Numbers

DEPARTMENT NAME	PHONE NUMBER
Campus Operator	<a href="tel:(330)972-7111">(330) 972-7111</a>
Career Services	<a href="tel:(330)972-7747">(330) 972-7747</a>
Cashiers	<a href="tel:(330)972-7219">(330) 972-7219</a>
College of Applied Science & Technology	<a href="tel:(330)972-7220">(330) 972-7220</a>
Counseling & Testing Center	<a href="tel:(330)972-7082">(330) 972-7082</a>
Dean's Office	<a href="tel:(330)972-7066">(330) 972-7066</a>
Financial Aid	<a href="tel:(330)972-7032">(330) 972-7032</a>
Multicultural Development	<a href="tel:(330)972-6769">(330) 972-6769</a>
New Student Orientation	<a href="tel:(330)972-2622">(330) 972-2622</a>
Residence Life & Housing	<a href="tel:(330)972-7800">(330) 972-7800</a>
Student Health Services	<a href="tel:(330)972-7808">(330) 972-7808</a>
Student Life	<a href="tel:(330)972-7866">(330) 972-7866</a>
Undergraduate Admissions	<a href="tel:(330)972-7100">(330) 972-7100</a>
University Bookstore	<a href="tel:(330)972-7624">(330) 972-7624</a>
University Police	<a href="tel:(330)972-2911">(330) 972-2911</a>
University Registrar	<a href="tel:(330)972-8300">(330) 972-8300</a>
ZipAssist	<a href="tel:(330)972-7272">(330) 972-7272</a>
Zip Card Office	<a href="tel:(330)972-5637">(330) 972-5637</a>

# 2023–2024

## ACADEMIC CALENDAR

### 2023 FALL SEMESTER

DATE	EVENT
August 25	University Convocation
August 28	Day and Evening Classes Begin
September 4	Labor Day — University Closed
November 23–26	Thanksgiving Break
November 27	Classes Resume
December 10	Final Instructional Day

### 2024 SPRING SEMESTER

DATE	EVENT
January 15	Martin Luther King Jr. Day — University Closed
January 16	Day and Evening Classes Begin
March 25–31	Spring Recess
May 5	Final Instructional Day

Please visit The University of Akron website for the most up-to-date calendar information at [uakron.edu/registrar/dates/acadcal.dot](https://uakron.edu/registrar/dates/acadcal.dot).

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