Arrival Survival Guide for Moving to Marquette University
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One Week Before Move-in Day

The week before you leave for college is a hectic one. You are saying goodbye to the last of your friends, finishing up that annoying summer job and packing the last of your new school supplies in plastic cube crates. It’s also an exciting week. Soon you’ll be in Milwaukee, Wisconsin starting a new chapter of your life. This chapter is a fun, yet serious one. Luckily, you chose the best place to experience college-Marquette University!

Now, you could be like me, coming from far away (if you consider Cleveland, Ohio far away. Its about eight hours by car), or you could be coming from right down Wisconsin Avenue, from Wauwatosa. Either way, you’re probably nervous. Here are a couple of things you can do to finish preparing for your trip to your new home:

Collect your friends’ addresses at their new schools. You’re probably going to want to write to them (yeah, snail mail is old-fashioned, but who doesn’t like getting a letter once in a while?)

Get Skype! You’re going to miss seeing your friends and family. Skype is a great way to stay connected. It’s also great to have if you choose to study abroad. You can call home from halfway across the world. (www.skype.com)

Eat at your favorite fast food joint or restaurant. You never know if it will be walking distance (or driving) from campus or not!

Only bring two towels! Yes, I’m sure your family’s linen closet has about 15, but that’s for more than one person. You’ll do laundry enough to keep them clean.

Also bring two sets of sheets. This will be helpful so you don’t have to wash them right away after you change them. Oh yes, you’ll have to change your own sheets.

Set up an “Early Drop-Off” time with the Office of Residence Life. Early Drop-off days are the Sunday-Tuesday before move-in when you can drop off all of your belongings in the middle of your room. You can’t unpack anything but it ends up being much more convenient when all you have to do on move-in day is get your key and unpack. This means you’re avoiding the stressful lines for the elevators! (Plus, it’s usually hot out and we all know how Dad can get when he’s overheated).

Parents! Give your student all the help they can get this week, without being overbearing. When they go out with their friends, go through and check to make sure that what they’ve packed will be sufficient (or not) for school.

Call ORL to set up your appointment: 414-288-7208

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Welcome to McCormick Hall and your first year at Marquette!!
The Week of Move-in, Sunday-Tuesday

Ok, so now the countdown really begins. You are going to be at Marquette THIS WEEK! You’ll be spending this next weekend in your residence hall. You anticipate meeting so many new people and finding life-long friends. If you’re from far away like I was, you might already be in Milwaukee and taking advantage of the Early Drop-off days. (Seriously, it’s a great idea...so much less stressful!)

Make sure the last of your graduation party thank-you notes are sent out. This is a good way to give your relatives your new address at school; they might send you cards (maybe with money) throughout the year.

Spend time with your siblings. They might not seem like they’re going to miss you, and you are probably really excited to get away from them, especially since you may share a room or a car with your brother or sister.

You will end up missing them! Plus, your roommate could be more annoying than them.

Parents! Sneak in a tool kit, extension cords and a first aid kit into your son or daughter’s packed items. Also, bring nails, sticky tack, tape, cleaning supplies, etc. The more you bring from home, the less Target trips you have to make! Also, pack your car the day before you leave, even if you are driving 20 minutes down Wisconsin Avenue.

The big day is finally here! You are moving into your residence hall at Marquette University! If you had a tail, you’d be wagging it. This day, however, is going to be exhausting. The lines for the elevator (ahem, McCormick) are out the door and your dad is most likely yelling at you for taking that big box out of the car before you take out your bedding or something like that.

You’ve probably noticed a bunch of hyped-up college students running around in the same colored shirts saying “Welcome to Marquette!!” at every passing. That’s the Orientation Staff. Ask them for help! They’re trained to answer almost every question in the book and if they don’t know the answer, they sure do know where to find it.

One of those students will be leading your discussion group all week. Find them and befriend that person. Getting to know an older student in college (outside of class) during the first week is key.

There are also other students waiting outside of the residence halls. They’re there to help you take your 50 boxes and bags of clothing up to your room. Get to know them too! Those students are probably part of an organization like a club sport or a fraternity or sorority here at Marquette. You might want to join it one day!
Move-in Day, continued

Make sure to head on over to the AMU for Orientation check-in. You’ll get a huge packet of information that you’ll need throughout the week. This is also when you pick up your student I.D. You’re officially a Marquette student when you have that baby in your possession. (Don’t lose it!!!)

Parents! Today you are an assistant. It is your job to help (and support) your student as they move into their new home at Marquette. Yes, you may have an opinion as to where the dry-erase board should be hung, but remember: this is their room! Let your child take control. They’re in charge of their own life from now on.

Orientation Week 2011

Orientation Week (O-Week) is so much fun. You’ll be meeting a bunch of new people and you’re going to learn your way around campus and Milwaukee. Consider yourself lucky. Many schools don’t have an orientation the week before classes start. You can ask any of your friends who go to other schools- they move in the day before classes start. Talk about stressful!

There are about five mandatory events that you have to go to during O-Week. I know they probably seem lame and you’d rather be hanging out with your new friends, but those events are worthwhile. Listen up: you’ll learn about Marquette’s policies on drinking, safety, over night visitors, and just about everything else.

Go to the Square Dance! And the Block Party. And to the Late-Night event. Take advantage of all of the fun events during O-Week.

Yeah, the Square Dance sounds lame, but take it from me, an ex-O-Staffer who has gone for three years...it’s fun! Let loose and learn how to square dance. Big Mike, the caller, is one funny guy and its just a fun and silly way to introduce yourself to other students. Plus you never know- you might meet your future spouse! Trust me, it happens!

The excursions into the city are pretty fun, too, definitely worth the money that they might cost. My favorite one is the boat cruise. You set sail in the Milwaukee River and sail into the harbor in front of the city. You’ll see gorgeous views of the city and it will make you appreciate your choice of Marquette even more.

Talk with your R.A. Yep, their job is to enforce the rules, but they can be a wonderful resource and a friend. I’m totally that kid who watched Ghost Hunters with my R.A. every Wednesday night. Liz (my R.A.) is still my friend and still gives me great advice: she’s been through it all before!

Parents! LET YOUR CHILD CALL YOU FIRST! Don’t have a panic attack if they don’t check in with you every day. Their schedule is jam-packed!

If your child forgets something at home, DON’T drive it up to them. You can get it to them through postage. That way, you can add in little treats for your son or daughter and their roommates.
These next few weeks are going to be a lot of fun and hopefully not too stressful. You'll be starting your first classes of your college career (don’t be afraid of the big lectures but make sure you pay attention!), and you’ll be meeting a ton of new people. You are about to find your own place at Marquette. Relax, have fun and yes, it does take this long for everyone else to settle in too!

The number one most important thing to do the first week of classes is to go to O-Fest. O-Fest (Organizations Fest) is the first Thursday of every semester when all of the student organizations put out tables along the academic quad. This gives you the chance to sign up for e-mail lists, audition for groups like The Gold N’ Blues, gather more information about fraternities and sororities, try-out for the club sports teams or intramurals and more.

Don’t be afraid to do things by yourself. It is okay to work out or eat alone. This gives other people the opportunity to come up and introduce themselves to you, or for you to sit by them.

Have a love-hate relationship with Club Raynor (that’s what we call the library). And don’t forget about Memorial! Learn how to use our libraries. They can be a little confusing, like the stacks of Memorial (bring food and water in case you get lost) and the digital reserves. Ask for help! Our librarians are very helpful.

Meet your professors. Get to know them. Go to office hours and ask for help on that first paper or big exam. Its so important to make these connections because your professors are great resources for recommendation letters and job connections. Oh, and to give you life advice or help you through the course.

DON’T use your cell phone during class. No one wants to be that kid who gets called out for playing Angry Birds when they should be taking notes on 17th century exploration. Yes, your professors do notice.

Parents! Check in with your student. Make sure that they’re going to class and that they still like Marquette overall. Remember, they may not find their niche for a few weeks. As long as they are comfortable and healthy, that’s all that matters. Marquette is a community for your son or daughter. Marquette is a home for them, too. Allow them to settle in and survive without you for a while.

Following Weeks After Move-in

One Last Thing!

Be patient with yourself. You will not find all of your activities, friends or community within the first semester. It takes time to build academic success and college is a lot different and HARDER than high school, no matter how great of grades you got. You’re going to be frustrated. You’re going to miss home and your mom’s voice and the breakfast your dad used to cook for you every morning. Give yourself time to adjust to Marquette and the community it offers you. You’ll find great people and great things to do. Soon enough, Marquette will truly be your home.

Goooooo Marquette! Go! Go! Go! Go!