



Parent & Guardian FAQs



Who do I contact if I have questions during the program?

Our [Pre-College Summer Office](#) is the main point of connection for students and families with questions about the program. Our staff will be able to direct you to the appropriate staff to assist you and/or your teen. Our Associate Director, Youth Programs is the lead for academic or instructor concerns and prioritizing students' educational goals. Likewise, our Pre-College Summer Office is the point of contact for campus life outside of the classroom, including being the liaison for campus resources.

How can I make sure that my teen is getting the feedback they need on their work?

Our program is designed for students to receive endless feedback to enhance their skills over the summer. If your teen feels lost in their work, have them reach out to their instructor for guidance. We will also hold a virtual portfolio review event for students to show their portfolio to RISD alumni and admissions officers for feedback.

My teen is homesick. Who can I connect them with?

As you can imagine, this is common in the first week of the program. Have your teen reach out to their Resident Advisor (RA) and let them know that they are missing home. Our RAs attend a week-long training that includes working with youth that are homesick.

Can I take my teen off campus for a night or weekend?

Students are permitted to spend approved weekends away from campus. Weekend away requests must be approved and on file with Residence Life in order to leave for the weekend. Weekend away requests may be for an entire weekend (e.g. Friday night through Sunday by curfew) or for a single day/night. If a student does not request a weekend away, and/or is not approved, they may not leave the campus overnight. Nights away during the week when students have class the next day are not permitted.

Can my student have visitors during the program?

Family members aged 16+ are welcome to visit students in the halls anytime except during curfew. **Any guests must be registered.** Parents/Guardians are limited to registering five guests for the entirety of the summer for their student via the Housing Portal. All registered guests of Pre-College students must be listed on the approved visitors list (**submitted by the parent/guardian in the Student Life Housing Portal—Parent/Guardian by June 28**). Guests must check-in at Public Safety and students must accompany their guest(s) at all times when they are in the residence halls.



Should they be working on homework outside of class?

Yes. Students are expected to take time each night to work on their projects from class. The curriculum will require students to practice time management skills and prioritize projects. Unlike subject areas such as math or science, artmaking takes more time for concept development, practicing new materials and methods, and unexpected creative turns in the process.

Where do I mail packages to?

Student's Name

Mailbox Number (If you need your student's mailbox number, the Pre-College Summer Office can look it up for you.)

20 Washington Place

Rhode Island School of Design

Providence RI, 02903

Can my teen change their room if they find someone else they want to room with?

Residence Life places students based on the preference indicated on the survey they filled out on their online housing application. If roommates are having trouble navigating their living situation, they should contact Residence Life for mediation. Given the short nature of the program, room switches are only granted in extreme circumstances.

What does curfew check look like in the residence halls?

Resident Assistants will take attendance at 10 pm Sunday-Thursday and 11 pm on Fridays and Saturdays. Once the student is accounted for they are able to walk the interior of their building, visiting friends and workspaces. Students found to be outside of their building after curfew may be dismissed from the program.

What do I do if my teen is not calling me as frequently as they used to?

This is common when students fully engage in the program, attending evening events, meeting new friends and becoming invested in their work. We find it helpful when families set communication expectations at the start of the summer. If you are concerned about your teen's safety or well-being, call Public Safety to request a wellness check.

How can I see my teen's grades during the program?

We encourage students to keep open communication with their families about their grades and class attendance. Due to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), we cannot release information that lives with a student record unless the student has signed and submitted a FERPA waiver through the online student dashboard.

My teen called me with an issue. What can I do?

There is always someone on campus to help students navigate their concerns. This summer gives teens the framework to increase their independence. Encourage your student to reach out to one of our key campus offices found on the back of this handout.

What does the community for commuters look like?

We have a special Commuter Welcome and Social on Saturday, June 29 from 6:30–7:30 pm to kick the summer community off together. Evening activities and off-campus trips are open to commuting students. Commuters are also welcome to socialize in residential spaces as long as they are accompanied by a residential student from that building.



Summer Calendar Highlights

CHECK-IN WEEKEND

Move-In & Program Check-In

Saturday, June 29 8:30 am–2:30 pm

Student Orientation

Saturday, June 29 3–5:30 pm

Sunday, June 30 2–4 pm

Parent and Family Meet & Mingle

Saturday, June 24 3–5:30 pm

BEYOND THE STUDIO TALKS

Pre-College Orientation 2.0

July 2 5:30–6:30 pm

RISD Career Center Presentation

July 9 5:30–6:30 pm

Behind the Scenes: RISD Museum

July 11 5:30–6:30 pm

Applying for College Scholarships

July 16 5:30–6:30 pm

RISD Student Admissions Session

July 23 5:30–6:30 pm

Visit precollege.risd.edu/admitted-students/#check-in-&-orientation for the full events calendar

STUDENT TRIPS, ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Lawn Games in the Quad | July 4

Explore Providence | July 6

RISD FLIPS Thrift Sale | July 11

Roger Williams Park | July 13

Providence Gallery Night | July 18

Pre-College Artist Ball | July 19

RISD Beach Day at Tillinghast | July 28

Virtual Portfolio Reviews | August 22

END-OF-PROGRAM EVENTS

Fashion Show

August 1 6:00 pm

Majors Exhibition

Opening Night: August 1 5–8 pm

Foundations Exhibition

Opening Night: August 1 5–8 pm

Film/Video & Animation Screening

August 1 5:30 pm

Parent/Family Admissions Session

August 2 1–2 pm

Campus Contacts

PUBLIC SAFETY, 401 454-6666

RISD's Public Safety team works 24/7 to maintain a safe environment for RISD students. Public Safety Officers are trained EMTs and can respond to emergency situations on or near campus.

EMERGENCY.RISD.EDU

In the event of a major campus-wide emergency, up-to-date information and alerts will be posted

PRE-COLLEGE SUMMER OFFICE, 401 454-6551

This office is the primary point of contact for the program for students, families and campus partners.

Mon–Fri 8:30 am–5 pm

RESIDENCE LIFE, 401 454-6650

Staff are trained extensively to advise students and provide educational and social community building events.

Mon–Fri 8:30 am–4:30 pm

HEALTH SERVICES, 401 454-6625

Students can access confidential healthcare services, including RN triage for first aid, acute care visits and referrals to specialists. Call in advance for appointments.

Mon–Fri 8:30 am–4:30 pm (Monday evenings by appointment only)

COUNSELING & PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

CAPS provides students with relaxation techniques, tools to manage anxiety, and counseling for emotional and interpersonal functioning.

Mon–Fri 8:30 am–4:30 pm (Monday evenings by appointment only)

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES

DSS assists with coordinating accommodations for students who have cognitive (learning), psychological and physical disabilities. Students are strongly encouraged to register with the office in advance to receive accommodations in a timely manner.

Mon–Fri 8:30 am–4:30 pm