

Dear Parents of Students in the Class of 2021:

It's hard to believe that the senior year is now upon us. This has been a challenging season for us all, but we are hopeful and have been busy preparing for the return of students to campus, as well as for the arrival of new students in the Class of 2024. You may access important updates about the ways Wesleyan is preparing to safely welcome students back to campus through the [Reactivating Campus](#) website. There is also useful information on the website for students who will pursue remote study from home for the Fall 2020 semester.

University housing opens on Monday, August 24th along with the drop/add period, and classes will start on Monday, August 31st. In compliance with Connecticut guidelines, parents and other family members will not be allowed to move students into their housing assignments this fall. These measures have been implemented to reduce the likelihood of overcrowding and the potential spread of COVID-19 during the move-in process. You may access more information about fall opening protocols on the [COVID-19 Opening FAQ](#) page for Residential Life. Recess begins on Wednesday, November 25th and will end on Sunday, November 29th; note Fall Break is scheduled for Monday, November 30th. In anticipation of the convergence of flu season and COVID-19, students living on campus should plan to complete the remainder of the semester from home starting with Thanksgiving Recess.

Seniors must meet all four of Wesleyan's [degree requirements](#) by the end of the Spring 2021 semester—32.00 credits without oversubscription (of which at least 16.00 credits must be earned at Wesleyan), completion of a major, a GPA of at least 74.00, and six semesters of residency (four semesters if a junior transfer or five semesters if a sophomore transfer). While most students are well aware of exactly where they stand in relation to these requirements, if you sense that your student may have questions, please urge them to contact me as soon as possible.

Graduation requirements aside, it is important for seniors to think beyond the regulations as they make their plans for the coming year. In terms of the academic experience, seniors will enroll in some of the most rigorous and intellectually-challenging courses during their time at Wesleyan, and will have more opportunities to work closely—often one-on-one—with faculty. Encourage your student to take advantage of this opportunity by making an effort to cultivate meaningful relationships with professors, advisors, and mentors. Not only is there an immediate benefit to doing this (e.g. letters of recommendation and referrals for jobs and graduate schools), but sometimes these relationships can become enduring sources of wisdom, counsel, and career advice that last a lifetime.

The importance of building meaningful relationships extends beyond academic life. As many of us know, friends from college often become friends for life. Indeed, when making an unexpected mid-life career change, it is not unusual for it to be a friend from college—a former roommate, teammate, or classmate—who is the source of connection to new opportunities. While the [Gordon Career Center](#) and [Office of Alumni & Parent](#)

[Relations](#) can help students make these connections after graduation, it is just as important for students to make the personal effort to ensure that the social network they have been building during their time at Wesleyan will endure as a source of connection and support long after graduation.

I will be writing to you again before the end of the fall semester. In the meantime, please feel free to call or write if you have any questions or concerns.

Best wishes,

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