

Dear Parents of Students in the Class of 2020:

It's hard to believe that the senior year is now upon us. With summer drawing to a close, the Deans Office has been busy preparing for the return of students to campus, as well as for the arrival of new students in the Class of 2023. University housing opens on Saturday, August 31, and classes will start on Monday, September 2. Fall Break begins at the end of the day on Friday, October 18, and continues through Tuesday, October 22. [Homecoming/Family Weekend](#) will take place Friday, November 1, through Sunday, November 3.

To participate in the graduation ceremony on May 24, 2020, seniors must meet all four of Wesleyan's [degree requirements](#) by the end of the spring 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 [Alumni & 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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