

February 17, 2020

Dear Parents of Students in the Class of 2022,

The spring semester is now well under way. Students have settled into their schedules and are preparing for the flurry of mid-term exams, papers, and projects that will be coming due in the next couple of weeks. All of this activity leads up to spring break, which starts at the end of the day on Friday, March 6, and continues until Monday, March 23 at 8 a.m.

There are a few important matters that sophomores should attend to before the end of the semester. First is declaring a major, which should be done before course pre-registration planning, which begins on March 31. The [Major Declaration website](#) is a useful source of information, with links to all the major departments and programs, and features an especially helpful set of [FAQs](#).

While most sophomores have already made this decision, some are still not quite ready to finalize their commitment to a particular field of study. Again, while this is not a matter of making a “right” or “wrong” decision, declaring a major is nonetheless a big academic commitment that demands careful thought and self-reflection. Students who are struggling with this question should consult with faculty advisors, department chairs, or me as the class dean for guidance and advice.

The second big thing on the minds of sophomores is [General Room Selection](#) (GRS), which is the process that determines where and with whom students will be living next year. GRS can be a complicated process that can preoccupy students as they seek to form friend groups in the quest to find desirable housing for next year. Please encourage your student to attend the sessions that ResLife offers to all students detailing the process and providing information about housing options available for the class.

The third thing sophomores should be thinking about is their summer plans. The summer between the sophomore and junior years can set the tone for the last two years of the undergraduate career. Whether spent at a career-related internship, volunteering, or simply working to put money in one’s pocket, the summer offers valuable opportunities for service and self-reflection in preparation for life beyond Wesleyan. Even if your student is unsure about how the summer will be spent, I would suggest recommending a visit to the [Gordon Career Center](#) for tips and pointers on how to make the summer worthwhile. Another option to consider is the [Wesleyan Summer Session](#) which provides opportunities to explore of areas of the curriculum in which there simply was no time to take classes during the regular school year.

I will be writing again before the end of the semester. In the meantime, please encourage your student to take advantage of the numerous opportunities and resources available at Wesleyan. Please do not hesitate to be in touch if you or your students have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

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