



Hamilton

2011-12
Housing Guide for New Students and Parents

Office of Residential Life

LIVING AND LEARNING AT HAMILTON COLLEGE

Housing Guide for New Students and Parents

Table of Contents

Welcome to Hamilton: Whew! You Made It!
Res Life Philosophy: What We Are All About
A Brief Note to Transfer Students
The Room: What you see when you arrive
Living with Roommates: Getting to Know Each Other
Residence Hall Descriptions: Home Sweet Home
The Questionnaire: This is the Important Part!
The Housing Agreement - Signing the Lease
Specialty Contract: Quiet & Substance-Free
What to Bring: The Necessities of Life! *and* What Not to Bring: Just Leave it!
It's All in the Timing: Getting stuff this summer
The Meal Plan: Let's Eat!
Just What Exactly Does a Resident Advisor Really Do?
How does the Area Director Fit In?
Transportation: Getting Around Town
Who's Who: People on Campus you should know & how to reach them
Other Important Phone Numbers
College Calendar: Planning the Year Ahead!
Campus Map: Help...I Think I'm Lost!
Tips for Parents
FAQs - Frequently Asked Questions
Hamilton Highs
Building Community at Hamilton College

Welcome to Hamilton! Whew! You Made It!

Okay, okay. You got those good grades in high school. You did well on the achievement tests. You applied to several good schools. You waited and waited anxiously by the mailbox. Then you were finally accepted at Hamilton College! Hurray! Now it's our turn to get down to the business at hand and find you a great place to live next year. That's our job. BUT we need your help!

This site contains almost everything you need to know, as a new student, about housing choices and residential life for your first year on the Hill at Hamilton. We believe that where and how you live can make a big difference in how successful your total education experience will be in the years to come.

So, let's explore the residential options available to you during your first year at Hamilton.

Residential Life Philosophy - What We are All About

Experiences outside the classroom contribute to your total education at Hamilton. Your residence hall is more than just a place to live: it also provides opportunities for you to learn from fellow students in an environment of community living. Hamilton offers a variety of living experiences, each uniquely contributing to the whole community. Special accommodations are available for students with disabilities. Please inform the Residential Life Office as soon as possible if you have any special needs. When you first arrive on campus, you will meet your Resident Advisor (R.A.). He or she is a student member of the residential life staff who will live in your residence hall to promote and maintain a positive living environment conducive to academic achievement, personal growth, and respect for the rights of all residents. Your R.A. will help you meet other students, learn about resources at the College, explain policies and procedures, and assist you with any questions or concerns you may have. In order to better acquaint you with the various residential options available for new students at Hamilton, this booklet contains brief descriptions of each hall (quotations following the descriptions are from students who have lived there), along with a map of campus. Please review this information carefully.

A Brief Note to Transfer Students

If you are transferring to Hamilton from another institution, there are a few things you need to know about housing. First of all, it's very important that you fill out the housing questionnaire on this site and submit it to us as soon as possible. Please indicate the types of rooms you have experienced, any roommate issues or concerns you may have and any community dynamics that are important to you. We would also like to know how many semesters you have completed in order to determine whether or not you qualify for an upperclass residence hall. We try to place incoming transfer students with other students who are transferring from somewhere else, but occasionally they are placed with incoming first year students. Please let us know what your preferences are and give us any information that will help us determine the best living situation for you at Hamilton. Read this information thoroughly! Everything in it also applies to new transfers.

The Room - What You See When You Arrive

There are twenty seven residences on campus located within a short distance of each other. We have ten accessible halls for students with disabilities, three of which are fully accessible. We have many doubles, triples and quads available for first-year students. First year students do not live in singles; singles are chosen by upperclass students during the spring room selection process. As a new student at Hamilton, you have your choice of coed areas (a gender mix by room) or single-sex areas by hallway. You can also choose to live in substance-free (no alcohol) or quiet designated areas on campus. All residence halls are smoke-free. Most first-year students room together and live in residence halls with upperclass students. Triples and quads at Hamilton are usually two-room areas. That means that you can use one room as a 'living room' and the other as a bedroom, depending on what you and your roommates prefer. The majority of doubles are one room areas. Windows come with either shades or blinds. Carpeting and types of flooring in the rooms can be checked in the individual hall descriptions in this booklet. We provide each student with a bed, dresser, desk, desk chair, mirror, a small closet/wardrobe. Please note: we are in the process gradually replacing our residence hall furniture; some rooms may have upgraded furniture and other rooms may not. This furniture replacement is an on-going project and will continue over the next few years. Each room has cable and computer network jacks and the capability of having a telephone line on the College Telephone System. For more information please email telephone@hamilton.edu.

Living with Roommates: Getting to Know Each Other

Your roommate will be the first friend you make at Hamilton. One of the best aspects of residence hall living is having a roommate. Roommates come in all shapes, sizes, colors and creeds, and they may have interests and personalities that are very different from yours. We believe that this relationship is one of the strengths of the Hamilton community. As the semester progresses, you and your roommate will learn to respect each other's needs, rights and belongings, and will, hopefully, develop a lasting friendship.

But, you and your roommate may not become the best of friends. Roommates often find that, although they may not want to spend every minute of the day together, they can still live comfortably together. If there is ever a problem between you and your roommate that you cannot solve together, your R.A. is always there to help.

The bottom line to a successful relationship with your roommate is clear, considerate, and continuous communication with each other.



Residence Hall Descriptions - Home Sweet Home

(also visit our Web site at http://www.hamilton.edu/college/residential_life/)

Dunham Residence Hall:

If you like to meet lots of people and thrive in a social environment, Dunham is the place for you. Many first-year students (about 50%) are placed in doubles & quads in this building. Dunham is the largest residence hall on campus and is conveniently located right in the middle of everything on the north side of campus. The first-floor main lounge, with couches, tables and cable TV, divides the first floor into equal halls for women and men. The second and third floors will be split by sex beginning at the Dogrun. On the second floor, all even numbers (Northside/football field side) will be female rooms. The reverse will be true for the third floor. Floors are linoleum and hallways are carpeted. Approximate room dimensions: 2 room quad 12' x 9', 20' x 8' and double 12.5' x 10'. A recreation room, kitchen and laundry room are available in the basement. Dunham houses 250 students.

"Always a friend nearby!"

"It's in the middle of campus; it's a short walk everywhere."

"Dunham is a very social residence hall. The likelihood of having a good friend just down the hall or up one flight of stairs is very favorable indeed."

Wertimer House:

Wertimer House is located near the Bristol Center, Skenandoa House and Wallace Johnson House. Wertimer has space for 42 incoming first years in 21 doubles. Two upperclass Resident Advisors will also live in the building. Wertimer is wheelchair accessible.

South Residence Hall:

Residential Engagement in Academic Life (REAL) is a unique housing option open to 60 members of the class of 2015. Students will live together on the 3rd and 4th floors of South residence hall and take one of their courses in the South residence hall 4th floor lounge and seminar rooms with one of Hamilton's best teachers. Your REAL professor is also your faculty advisor. Students have a chance to connect with faculty and one another around both intellectual and social activities. This has become a very popular housing option.

Quads and six-person living units define the style of this four-story structure capped by the distinctive "South Tower." South Residence Hall primarily contains two-room quads, each with a bathroom, for first-year students. In each quad the bedroom opens into a large central study room with a (non-working) fireplace, natural hardwood floors, and wood paneling on the walls. The building also contains two spacious study lounges, a recreation lounge, a laundry room and kitchen facilities. South houses 126 students and is wheelchair accessible.

"Everyone is very friendly and it's easy to get to know other people. Quads are fun because you meet more people and don't have to constantly be around just one other person."

"I love the interior of South. Each of the rooms has a large living area and bedroom. South has wooden floors and trim, and stone fireplaces. The atmosphere is comfortable and homey."

Keehn, Major, McIntosh and Minor Residence Halls:

All four of these buildings were constructed simultaneously in 1968. They are located in a cluster near the Kirkland Glen and share identical architectural design. All consist of two hallways per floor, accommodating female and male upperclass students in singles and first-year students in the double rooms. Experience has shown that such halls foster a close sense of community and the R.A., who lives adjacent to the lounge, usually acts as the focal point for bringing the two hallways together. The central lounge area is equipped with a kitchenette and comfortable furniture. The first floor lounge in each residence hall is larger than the other lounges and is furnished with a fireplace, cable TV and comfortable furniture. Laundry facilities and a kitchenette are also located on the first floor. Major houses 66 students; Minor houses 66 students; McIntosh houses 66 students and Keehn houses 52 students. All four buildings are carpeted throughout and each room has cable, telephone & network jacks. Room dimensions are approximately 16' x 10' for first-year doubles.

The third floor of Major is designated as the "Quiet floor" for the upcoming academic year. That means that any students residing there will agree to be respectful of noise and will help to establish quiet hours. All students living on the third floor of Major must sign a Quiet Housing Guidelines (see sample later in this document). The term 'quiet' is used to convey an attitude of respect for one another in this residence hall. Don't worry—you can still bring your stereo to school if you live on the Quiet floor; you just need to turn the volume down a bit during quiet hours.

"The view from my window is fantastic! I can see the glen and watch the sun set every night."

"Sometimes we see deer near the edge of the woods."

"Minor is modern-looking, with nice big rooms. The people make our hall special!"

"McIntosh has a wonderful social community that also allows for quiet, alone time. It has a close-knit community built on respect that everyone loves coming home to at the end of the day."

North Residence Hall:

Lots of positive interaction happens in North between first-year students and upperclass students. North is noted for its convenient location and strong sense of community. A stone building completed in 1842, North Residence Hall consists of four floors and a basement recreation area. Rooms in North consist of singles for upperclass students; with doubles and triples for new students. Men occupy the first and third floors; women live on the second and fourth. The basement includes a television room, a kitchenette, laundry facilities and a furnished lounge area. Floors in North are tile. North houses 91 students.

"One good thing about North is the fantastic location on campus. It is located near the library, Bristol Campus Center, and several other residence halls. I also like having a mixture of class years in North."

"I like living on a single-sex floor, while still being surrounded by students of different class years. Having laundry machines in the basement is also a bonus."

Root Residence Hall:

Students living in Root Residence Hall will experience a 'substance-free' environment for the upcoming year, agreeing to uphold an alcohol and drug-free lifestyle (see guidelines later in this document). Named for the Hamilton family that included statesman Elihu Root (distinguished statesman, Nobel Laureate and member of the Class of 1864), Root houses upperclass students in singles and first-years in doubles. It is also the home of the Clinton Child Care Center, where some students volunteer their time. Both the third and fourth floors have their own lounges furnished with couches, tables and kitchenettes. Laundry facilities and an additional kitchenette are available on the first floor. First-year doubles in Root measure 16' x 10' approximately. Root houses 78 students and is carpeted throughout the building.

"I like the bright, warm colors, ample walk-in closets, very nice view and good location, very comfortable beds and furniture, and interesting ceilings in Root—it's home."

"Root is probably the most homey of all the residence halls on campus."

Babbitt, Bundy East, Bundy West, Carnegie, Woollcott House (Co-Op), Eells Hall, Farmhouse Apartments, Ferguson Hall, Griffin Road Apartments, Milbank, Skenandoa, Rogers Estate, Saunders House, Kirkland and Wallace Johnson House:

These student residences are not available to first-year students but may be chosen for housing during your next three years at Hamilton. Skenandoa, Kirkland, Eells and Ferguson halls are handicapped accessible.

ALL HAMILTON COLLEGE RESIDENCE HALLS ARE SMOKE FREE!



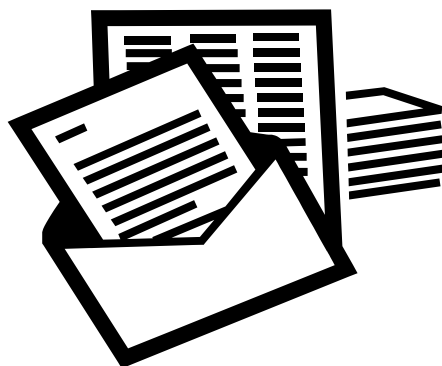
The Housing Preference Questionnaire - This is the Important Part!

Now That You Know All About Living at Hamilton –

The online housing preference questionnaire form will need to be completed **no later than June 10th**. The questionnaire is a part of the first year on line tour and is designed to give us information about your personal habits and environmental preferences. The information that you provide will help us to determine your housing assignment and your future roommate(s). It is important that you take some time to go through the questionnaire as carefully and as honestly as possible. Because we believe that learning to live with others is an important part of the residential experience, all students are assigned a roommate(s) their first year at Hamilton. We also believe that students will gain more from their residence hall experience if they live with students who share similar living habits but who have different backgrounds and perspectives. After June 10th, we will not be able to process your preference form. If you would like a paper version of the housing preference questionnaire, please contact the Office of Residential Life at (315) 859-4023.

The housing preference form is used to help determine your residence hall and to match you with a roommate(s). Please let us know characteristics about yourself that may have a bearing on your housing assignment (e.g., physical conditions such as allergies, the need for adaptive or accessible housing on the basis of disability, etc.). Any unique information you can provide (lifestyle, hobbies, interests, etc.) that can help us in this process would be great. Please understand that we do not put students who know each other before coming to Hamilton in the same room. We will, however, consider placing you in the same building or a building nearby. When you view your room assignment, we will be including the names, addresses and phone numbers of your future roommate(s) so you can contact each other before coming to school.

The housing assignment process for new students usually takes us several weeks in June and July to complete. We will take a careful look at the information you have provided and try to accommodate your wishes as closely as possible, although no guarantees can be made. You will be able to view housing assignment online at the end of July.



The Housing Agreement - Signing the Lease!

You will need to read the official Housing Agreement before you come to Hamilton. The agreement will be available to you once you have submitted your housing preference questionnaire. This agreement outlines the rules, regulations, and policies you are required to live by as a responsible member of the Hamilton residential community. It is important for you to take a moment to read this document thoroughly. This agreement explains important items that you are expected to know, such as liability, property damage, dates of occupancy, room changes and meal plan participation. A copy of this agreement is below.

Hamilton College - Office of Residential Life HOUSING AGREEMENT 2011-2012

As a full-time enrolled student at Hamilton College, I understand that I am expected to reside in College housing and participate in the meal plan. I understand and agree that I am responsible for all rules and regulations as outlined in the Hamilton Student Handbook and hereby understand and agree to abide by the terms and conditions as set forth in the Residential Life Policies and Procedures section of the handbook.

MEAL PLANS: All first-year and sophomore students participate on the full 21 meal plan. All junior and senior students have the option to participate on the 14 or 21 meal plan. Griffin Road, Farmhouse, Saunders and Keehn, Major, McIntosh, Minor, Milbank faculty apartment residents have the option of participating on the 7 (any 7) meal plan. Rogers Estate and Woollcott Co-op residents must participate on the full 21 meal plan. All students living in College housing and participating on the 7 meal plan will be charged a \$137.50 facility charge per semester. This charge covers the cost of maintaining the cooking facilities in the residence halls.

DATES OF OCCUPANCY: I agree to adhere to the dates of occupancy indicated on the college calendar in the Hamilton Student Handbook. I understand that my room assignment is binding for the entire academic year, unless I am granted a leave of absence.

RESPONSIBLE FOR COLLEGE PROPERTY & DAMAGES: As a member of the college community, I am responsible for all college-owned items in my assigned space and agree to accept financial responsibility for room condition and damaged or missing items. I agree to follow appropriate check-in procedures when I move into my room and check-out procedures when I vacate my room. When damage occurs within my individual residence and the responsible party is unknown, costs will be prorated among all building, suite or apartment residents. When general campus damage occurs and the responsible party is unknown, costs will be prorated among all students.

RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY: I agree to encourage and support a positive residential community that is conducive to the development of all residents. Furthermore, if I am selected or assigned to a residence hall with a specialty component such as quiet study and/or substance-free, I agree to uphold the guidelines established for that environment. I understand that all Hamilton College residence halls are smoke-free.

KEYS: I agree to return my room key to the Office of Residential Life immediately after vacating my room. If I fail to do so, I realize I am financially responsible for the cost of the new lock and key(s) @ \$25.00 per key.

ROOM CHANGES: I understand that room changes are granted on a case-by-case basis after consulting with both my Resident Advisor and meeting with an Administrator in the Office of Residential Life.

ROOM VACANCIES: I understand that this housing contract is for a space, not a particular room or apartment and that the College reserves the right to fill any vacancies in my room if deemed necessary. In the event a vacancy should occur, I agree to accept any roommate assigned by the College. In keeping with the principles of fairness and guidelines for equitable community living, I am expected to welcome and accept new roommates. If it is determined that I have been difficult with a new roommate or create a hostile environment for a new roommate, disciplinary action and/or reassignment to another space on campus may occur.

LIABILITY: I realize that Hamilton College is not responsible for personal property lost, stolen or damaged. To help recover the cost, I understand that it is my responsibility to obtain insurance coverage for my personal property. Furthermore, I will abide by safety regulations in order to ensure a reasonably safe environment for other students within my residence hall.

Failure to meet the above guidelines may result in your removal and/or reassignment of campus housing.



Specialty Housing Guidelines

Please read carefully the guidelines on these pages. If you are thinking about substance-free or quiet housing, you will be responsible for the regulations in these guidelines as well as the regular housing contract described above. All students living in Specialty Housing will be held accountable to these guidelines, so it's a good idea to become familiar with them and know what you are agreeing to.

***Major Residence Hall (3rd floor):*

**Hamilton College
Office of Residential Life
QUIET HOUSING GUIDELINES**

In choosing to reside in Quiet Housing, students will live in a unique environment where each member of the community agrees to support an atmosphere which is conducive to sleep and study at all times during the day and night. Furthermore, each person agrees to confront other students if that environment is not being supported at any time. If any student is found to disrupt this atmosphere during the course of the semester, the individual may be required to move from Quiet Housing to another residence hall or house on campus.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. I agree to abide by the quiet hours established at the beginning of each semester by all members of this community.
2. I agree to confront other residents if they are not upholding the contract.
3. I agree to hold all of my guests accountable to these guidelines.
4. I agree to hold all social activities within the established quiet hours.
5. I agree to respect the rights of other members of the community to request a quiet environment at all times and will comply with any given request to support this type of atmosphere in the residence hall.
6. I agree to support all programs that benefit the quiet housing community.



***Root residence hall:*

**Hamilton College
Office of Residential Life
SUBSTANCE FREE HOUSING GUIDELINES**

In choosing to reside in Substance Free Housing, students will live in an environment without the presence of alcohol and other drugs. This community is designed to ensure a substance free living environment where students will actively participate in activities and a healthy lifestyle that support an alcohol and other drug free philosophy.

Each person in this community agrees to confront other students if the substance free living environment is not being supported at any time. If any student is found to disrupt this environment while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs, the individual will face appropriate judicial action and may be required to move from Substance Free Housing to another residence hall or house on campus.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. I agree to neither use nor possess alcohol or other drugs inside or around my residence hall which includes a ten foot perimeter around the entire building.
2. I agree not to enter the residence hall under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.
3. I agree to confront anyone found using alcohol or other drugs inside or around my residence hall and will report those individuals to my Resident Advisor immediately.
4. I agree to hold all of my guests accountable to these guidelines.
5. I agree to support all programs that benefit the substance free community.



What to Bring: The Necessities of Life! *and* What Not to Bring: Just Leave It!

When furnishing your room, you can certainly brighten things up with posters, plants, even a big, over-stuffed, comfy chair from the Hamilton College Cram and Scram. For more information go to <http://www.hamilton.edu/news/story/3rd-cram-scram-brings-out-the-shoppers>. Remember, though, you will have to pack and haul all your belongings home at the end of the year--you'd be surprised how much stuff you will collect!

The following page lists suggested items to bring. Of course, if you forget an item, borrowing from your neighbors is a natural way to make new friends in a residence hall....as long as you return the borrowed items.

REMEMBER: Call your roommates BEFORE purchase many items for your room. Avoid duplication!

Absolute Basic Necessities -

- surge protector and/ or a multi-strip with circuit breaker (no extension cords)
- tape, scissors, stapler, pens, pencils, markers, notepads, stamps, duct tape
- container for shower accessories, shower footwear
- telephone/ cell phone
- desk lamp (no halogen lamps), wastebasket
- laundry detergent/ fabric softener
- any necessary medication
- alarm clock/ clock radio
- address book, calendar
- dictionary, thesaurus
- first aid kit (bandages, aspirin, etc.)
- crates for storage, under bed storage bins
- two sets of extra long sheets (mattress lengths vary from 76" to 80" in length, 33" width & 6 1/2" depth –non-fitted sheets are best)
- laundry drying rack
- laundry basket/ bag
- pillow cases
- towels, wash cloths
- clothes hangers
- message/ memo board
- blankets, pillows
- small fan

Optional Items You Could Live Without But Might Be Nice -

- trunk
- bike & bike lock
- refrigerator (no full size)
- sports equipment (racquets, etc.)
- throw rug
- flashlight and batteries
- tissues
- key chain
- dishes (plate, bowl, cups, mugs, glasses, knives, forks and spoons)
- music (stereo, MPS player/ docking unit)
- dry erase board & markers
- computer (you may connect to the campus network in your room)
- TV with a generous amount of coaxial cable to attach to jack
- small bookshelves
- non-halogen floor lamp
- coffeemaker
- iron/ ironing board
- screwdriver/ toolbox
- pictures
- posters
- microwave
- dish soap
- sewing kit

Prohibited Items - No Way!

- **NO CARS ON CAMPUS!**
 - halogen lamps (fire hazard)
 - pets (except fish)
 - hotplates or items with exposed heating units
 - electric/ kerosene heaters
 - BB guns/ air soft guns
 - George Foreman grill
 - holiday lights/ string lights
 - flags
 - cloth curtains
 - tapestries
 - toaster ovens
 - water beds
 - air conditioners
 - alcohol
 - dartboards
 - weapons of any kind
 - waffle iron
 - extension cord
-
-

It's All in the Timing - Getting Stuff from Hamilton this Summer

Now that you have committed yourself to Hamilton for the upcoming year, expect to be bombarded with mail from the College over the summer. Just about every office here at the College will welcome you and sometimes enclose various items you need to fill out and return. Please pay attention! Deadlines are important! We don't want to be hounding you at the last minute for your missing health form, financial aid questionnaire, or whatever. If you have questions about any of these mailings, just call the appropriate office.

The Hill Card

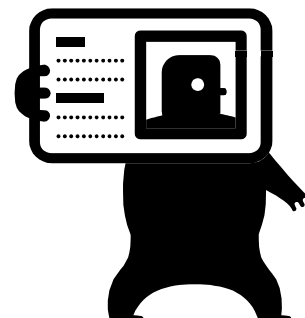
The Hill Card is your student ID card, and you'll find that you'll want to carry it with you everywhere you go because it has a lot of uses!

The Hill Card works on a proximity based system to give you access to the exterior doors of residence halls. By simply holding your card near one of the proximity readers you can gain access to most residence halls between 8am and 11 pm Sunday through Thursday and between 8am and 1 am on Friday and Saturday. You will also be able to gain entry to your own residence hall 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The proximity system is also set-up to work on the All Night Reading Room in the library. This space is available 24 hours a day for students who need some extra peace and quiet to get some school work done.

The Hill Card also carries your campus meal plan information. Anytime you head to a dining hall on campus make sure you have your Hill Card, a friendly checker will swipe the card in order to charge the meal to your prepaid meal plan.

Lastly, you can also add funds to your card online, or through the business office. These funds can be used at the campus bookstore, in vending machines throughout campus, even in laundry machines (no more carrying quarters around on laundry day!) and the Hill Card is accepted at many off campus merchants.



The Meal Plan

All new students are required to participate in the Full Meal Plan – most often called the 21 meal plan but because it will include unlimited dining hall access it is now called the Full Meal Plan. That means you can enter the two large dining halls as many times a day as you would like during their open periods (see schedule below). A diner and campus pub provide equivalency meals (you can eat one of their “specials” instead of eating in either of the two dining halls) but are not part of the unlimited access program. The meals are good, the choices are many, the dining facilities are clean and well-maintained, the set-up is creative, and our food service, Bon Appetit, does a great job attending to the culinary needs of students here at Hamilton. There is also Café Opus, an independent coffeehouse that provides specialty coffees, muffins, fruit and drinks daily. If you have special dietary needs or medical concerns, please indicate those needs on your housing preference form. Please note that dining halls will be officially closed for breaks during 11-12. Students on campus can eat on a pay-as-you-go basis during that time.

<u>Commons</u>	<u>McEwen</u>	<u>Howard Diner</u>	<u>LittlePub</u>
Hot Breakfast (Mon-Sun) 7:30am-10am	Breakfast (Mon- Fri) 7:30am-10am	Breakfast (Mon-Fri) 9am-11am	Lunch (Mon-Fri) 11:30am-1pm
		Lunch (Mon-Fri) 11am-4:30pm	
Lunch(Mon-Fri)/ Brunch(Sat-Sun) 11am-2pm	Lunch (Mon-Fri) 11am-2:30pm	Lunch (Sat-Sun) 3pm-4:30pm	
		Dinner 4:30pm-midnight	
Afternoon Snack (Mon-Fri) 2pm-4pm	Closed 2:30pm-4:30pm	“Late Night” Breakfast* (Thurs-Sat) Midnight-5am	
Closed 4pm-5pm	Dinner (Mon-Thurs) 4:30pm-8pm		*late night meals are a la carte priced and not included in the meal plan
Dinner (Mon-Sun) 5pm-8pm			

Just What Exactly Does a Resident Advisor Really Do?

Your Resident Advisor will probably be the first person you see when you get here and the last person you see when you leave at the end of the year. And for all the times in-between, your R.A. will be the one person you can really count on to help you get 'connected' to the Hamilton community. Resident Advisors act as teachers, administrators, counselors, programmers and leaders in the residence halls. They provide friendship, advice and guidance to new students in all aspects of their adjustment to college life. What person will sit up late at night with you discussing a problem? Your R.A. Who has the inside story on classes, registration and professors? Your R.A. Where do you go to find out if there's a vacuum cleaner in your hall? Your R.A. Who can fill you in on the social scene at Hamilton? Your R.A. Let's face it: Resident Advisors at Hamilton wear many, many important hats that help make the transition to life on the Hill a whole lot easier for you.

How does the Area Director Fit In?

The three Area Directors are full-time Res Life professional staff members living in the halls. They have lots of experience and a masters degree in the Res Life field. In addition to guiding, supervising and training the Resident Advisor staff, you may notice an Area Director attending a program in your hall, eating lunch in the diner, checking lounge furniture in your building, contributing in a campus-wide meeting, or attending to an emergency situation on campus. They work closely with RAs with room changes or roommate conflicts and mediation, and are involved with the Campus Judicial System. They may contribute to many groups on campus like the Dining Committee, Harassment Grievance Board, Campus Safety, Community Relations Board, to name a few.

Transportation: Getting Around Town

You already know that first-year students are not allowed to bring cars to campus. We just don't have enough parking space! But don't worry. Bicycles are encouraged and seem to be a good mode of transportation around campus. If you do bring your bike, you will need to keep it in your room; there are several bike racks outside to lock your bike to when attending class or eating in the dining halls. If you want to venture off the Hill, the College provides a daily jitney /shuttle service that runs regular trips to Clinton and to a local mall. Utica Transit makes frequent trips from the bus station in Utica to Kirner-Johnson Circle throughout the day.



Who's Who on Campus: People you should know & how to reach them

Residential Life:	Travis Hill, Director	315-859-4023
	Jean Burke, Staff Assistant	315-859-4023
	Ashley Place, Area Director	315-859-4023
	TBD, Area Director	315-859-4023
	Patrick Marino, Assistant Director	315-859-4023
Dean of Students Office:	Nancy Thompson, Dean of Students	315-859-4020
Dean of Faculty Office:	Patrick Reynolds, Dean of Faculty	315-859-4607
Business Office:	Shari Whiting, Controller	315-859-4313
Registrar's Office:	Kristen Friedel, Registrar	315-859-4637
Financial Aid Office:	Melissa Rose, Director	315-859-4434
President of the College:	Joan Hinde Stewart	315-859-4105
Campus Safety:	Francis Manfredo, Director	315-859-4141
Physical Plant:	Steve Bellona, Director	315-859-4502
Counseling Services:	Bob Kazin, Director	315-859-4340
Student Health Services:	Christine Merritt, Director	315-859-4111
Chaplains:	Jeff McArn (Protestan),	315-859-4130
	John Croghan (Catholic)	315-859-4129
	Anat Guez (Jewish)	315-859-4026
Student Activities:	Lisa Magnarelli, Director	315-859-4194
Opportunity Programs (HEOP):	Phyllis Breland, Director	315-859-4398
Disability Services	Allen Harrison, Assoc. Dean for Diversity & Accessibility	315-859-4022

Other important phone numbers (Partial list)

A Few Area Restaurants	Altieri's Restaurant, Clinton	315-853-6363
Pizza & Subs	Tony's, Clinton	315-853-4310
	Subway, Clinton	315-859-1000
	Pizza Place, Clinton	315-853-2100
Banks:	NBT Bank, Clinton	315-853-5501
	First Niagara Bank, Clinton	315-853-6134
	Access Federal Credit Union, Clinton	315-557-1000
Theaters	Marquee Cinemas	315-768-3184

Note: New Hartford is 15-20 minutes from the College. Some stores in this location are Walmart, Best Buy, Kohls and Price Chopper. There are also a number of restaurants to dine at in this area.

The 2011-2012 College Calendar - Planning the Year Ahead!

(also visit our Web site at <http://www.hamilton.edu/college/registrar>)

New student orientation begins Saturday, August 20. Don't worry; Saturday is usually a travel and unpack day, so you won't miss any important orientation functions if you arrive during the day. The first required event for all new students will be later in the afternoon. Events for parents that day include a reception and luncheon. If your parents need to stay overnight, there are many local motels in the area (refer to the list in this booklet). The academic calendar below will be helpful for you to plan future travel at the beginning and end of both semesters.

****Please take note that first-year students need to leave campus 24 hours after their last exam each semester.****

The following is an incomplete list of important dates in the 2011-2012 academic year to help you make travel plans:

August 20-24:	New Student Orientation
August 23:	Residence Halls open for upperclass students, 9am
August 25:	Fall semester classes begin, 8 am
September 23-25:	Family Weekend
October 12:	Fall recess begins, 4 pm
October 17:	Classes resume, 8 am
November 18:	Thanksgiving recess begins, 4 pm
November 28:	Classes resume, 8 am
December 17:	Residence halls close, noon
January 12-14:	New Student Orientation for January admits and transfer students
January 14:	Residence halls open for returning students, 9 am
January 16:	Spring semester classes begin, 8 am
March 9:	Spring recess begins, 4 pm
March 28:	Classes resume, 8 am
May 20:	Commencement
May 21:	Residence halls close for seniors, noon

Campus Map: Help.....I Think I'm Lost!

(also visit our Web site at http://www.hamilton.edu/applications/campus_tour/map.html)

We've all been there. A new place. New environment. You have ten minutes to get to a building and have no idea where it is located. Don't worry, you are not alone. Use the on-line map! Use your RA! Ask upperclass students! Ask employees! Hamilton's campus is not really that big and you will have the logistics covered in a few days. You can contact the Admissions Office directly for a campus map listing all buildings.

USEFUL TIPS FOR PARENTS:

- You both will experience certain growing pains while adjusting to life at Hamilton. Expect that your child will change in some ways, so don't be surprised to encounter change during the October break.
- Expect stressful phone calls. These are normal. Give good parental advice, as you always do, and then let them work it out.
- Get a campus map and keep it with you in the car, especially if you are not familiar with the Hamilton campus. It can be most helpful.
- Try to visit on Family Weekend. If you can't actually visit, make quality contact during that weekend. If a visit during this weekend is not possible, try to visit another weekend, but only with notice.
- Check the calendar and arrange reasonable drop off and pick up times at the beginning and end of semesters. No early arrivals are allowed unless the arrival is due to participation in an organized sport or College program. Students will need to clear out of their rooms 24 hours after their last exam at the end of each semester.
- Don't hold it against your child if he or she spends time at home during October break, November break, winter break, or whatever break sleeping, eating, doing laundry and not much else; this is also pretty normal. Students always need to relax and catch up on sleep during breaks!
- Your child is in good hands! There are many professional people at Hamilton who are trained in handling all the problems and experiences that many new students have when they come to school. People in the Health Center, the Counseling Center, the Chaplains' Office, Dean of Students Office, Registrar, Campus Safety, just to name a few, are all ready and willing to help your son or daughter in time of need. We really encourage first-year students to take the first step and contact one of us directly when facing an unusual problem or situation. Don't try to solve your son or daughter's problems; that's part of the learning experience at college!
- Damage and vandalism happen on any college campus, and while your son or daughter may not be responsible for any damage, all students are charged. We encourage students to help curb the cost of repairs and replacements by reporting those responsible for causing vandalism to Campus Safety, or by anonymously calling the TIPS line.
- Consider reading a book or two from assigned reading lists for classes. This might make for some interesting discussion and certainly shows that you are interested.

Useful Tips for Parents, continued.

- Discuss vacation plans for breaks before booking tickets and making reservations.
- Encourage healthy “risk taking.”
- Send periodic care packages to your hard-working student. You’d be surprised how uplifting a small package from home with candy, brownies, pictures, toothpaste, soap, etc., can be. Even a postcard to say you’re thinking of them is wonderful! From a student’s point of view, a care package can really make a difference in morale; especially before exams.
- You can reach the Office of Residential Life at Hamilton by calling (315) 859-4023 Monday - Friday from 8:30 am-4:30 pm during the academic year and from 8 am - 4 pm during the summer. Our email address is ResLife@hamilton.edu.



FAQs - Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What are the dimensions of my room?

A: Most quads are two room quads measuring 12' X 9' and 20' x 8'

Triples are approximately 16' x 22'

Doubles are approximately 16' x 10'

Please note that the rooms, especially after everyone moves in, are NOT HUGE, so you will need to coordinate what you bring to campus with your roommates to avoid duplication. Communication with roommates over the summer is key.

Q. Where can I cash a check on campus?

A: Personal checks up to \$50 can be cashed at the College Bookstore. There is also an ATM in the Beinecke Village complex on campus.

Q. Should I have a checking account in Clinton or use one from home?

A: That's up to you. Many students find it easier to set up checking accounts at one of the local banks after they arrive. NBT Bank, First Niagara and ACCESS Federal Credit Union are all located in Clinton.

Q. I'm planning to participate in the Adirondack Adventure program and will arrive on campus early. Do I bring all my stuff when I come?

A: Yes, when you arrive on campus you will receive your keys to your room, so please bring all of your belongings. You will have time to move all of your belongings in, but getting completely settled may be another story because the Adirondack Adventure team will be keeping you busy. We just ask that you are considerate of your roommate(s), if you arrive before they do, and be sure to leave them an equal share of space in the room.

Q. A good friend of mine is also coming to Hamilton. Can we be roommates?

A: Sometimes the fastest way to ruin a friendship is to live together; often our friends' individual lifestyles and habits are much different than ours and would not offer an ideal living situation. We do not put people who know each other before coming to Hamilton in the same room because it is our philosophy that all students need to have the consistent and valuable experience of meeting new people. We will, however, consider placing you in the same building or a building nearby. It's a small campus and you will have frequent contact with each other.

Q. Does my room have a carpet? What about curtains? Will I have a closet?

A: First-year housing areas in Dunham, North, South & Kirkland do not have carpeting. The areas in Keehn, Major, Minor, McIntosh and Root do have carpeting. Either way, it's a good idea to bring area rugs or measure & buy when you arrive on campus. Window treatments include shades on the north side of campus (Dunham, North, Kirkland, South) and blinds on the south side of campus (Keehn, Major, Minor, McIntosh, Root). Closets are either in the form of free-standing wardrobes in some buildings or regular built-in closet areas in other buildings.

Q. Can I visit the campus this summer and take a look at my room?

A: Unfortunately, no. Hamilton hosts various conferences and seminars throughout the summer and our residence halls are in use.

Q. Can I come to campus early?

A: No. Because we use our halls all summer long, we need to make many last-minute adjustments to the rooms before students arrive. Your room will be ready for you on August 20th when New Student Orientation begins. In case you need to come to the area early, we have attached a list of local hotels and motels for your accommodations.

Q. How do I get phone service for my room?

A: Information about telephone service for your room will be sent to you later this summer. Once you have signed up for telephone service, you will be notified of your on-campus phone number. You will need to bring your own telephone. Cell phones are a good idea. Voicemail service is also available through the College.

Q. Can I store my stuff at Hamilton over the summer or do I have to lug it all home when I leave?

A: The College does not have any storage areas on campus. A list of local storage companies can be found on our Web page .

Q. Is there somewhere I can cook?

A: Each residence hall has some sort of kitchenette that includes a small stove/oven, refrigerator and sink. No major feasts are prepared in these areas, but cookies, brownies, leftover pizza, etc., are certainly regular menu items.

Q. What will be my address at the College? How shall I tell people to address my mail?

A: Hamilton has a centrally located mail center in the Beinecke Village complex. You will be issued a mailbox and combination when you arrive on campus. Students usually check their mailboxes on a daily basis. Your friends and relatives can address mail to you by: Your Name, Mailbox Number, Hamilton College, 198 College Hill Road, Clinton, NY 13323.

Q. Is there laundry service available for students?

A. No. One of the many learning experiences that will take place after you arrive is doing your own laundry! All residence halls come equipped with washers and dryers; Bristol Campus Center also has laundry facilities. You will be able to use your Hill Card to do your laundry (refer to page 14 for more information on The Hill Card).

Q. Can I have a refrigerator in my room?

A: You certainly can bring your own, as long as it is a half-sized refrigerator. It's always a good idea to check with your roommates so that you don't end up with more than one frig in your room.

Q. Will I be able to ship my stuff to the college this summer?

A: Sure. If you need to ship some of your belongings, please do so (via the college's main address, Your name and mailbox #, 198 College Hill Road, Clinton, NY 13323) during the summer. The mail center will hold your boxes until you claim them when you arrive on campus.

Q. What about insurance coverage for my belongings?

A. The College does not insure your personal belongings. You should arrange to have them insured before you come to school through your parents' homeowner's or renter's insurance.

Q. I really need to have a car on campus. Who can I talk to?

A. First-year students cannot bring cars to campus! There is limited parking available at Hamilton and overcrowding is a major issue on the Hill. Wait until your second year!



BUILDING COMMUNITY AT HAMILTON COLLEGE



The staff of the Residential Life Office strives to promote and maintain a residence hall community conducive to intellectual and personal growth, where students can sleep and study, and share ideas with peers whose culture, lifestyle, and opinions may be very different from their own. We celebrate the uniqueness and dignity inherent in each one of us, no matter our race, sex, religion, sexual orientation, class, ability, or age. We call for our students to stand up and speak out for social justice, empowerment, respect, and acceptance of all people. We promote an environment that is free from harassment, where differences are celebrated, and independent opinions are supported and respected. However, when these opinions threaten others, we will act swiftly to ensure the safety and well being of the community. The staff of the Residential Life Office includes the Director of Residential Life, the Office Assistant, student interns and three professional live-in Area Directors who are responsible for the overall supervision and development of residence hall facilities and programs. Resident Advisors, who are 60 upper-class students trained as counselors, limit-setters, program developers, and resource persons, live on each residence hall floor and provide valuable leadership within the residential community, as well as assist with community development and facility management.

*Office of Residential Life
Spring 2011*