

What to Pack – Advice from a current UVM student

Dear Prospective Student,

Last year when I was heading off to college I compiled a list (taken from many different websites and college friends), of things I would need for the upcoming college year. Now at the end of my first year, I have gone over my list and edited what I used and didn't use. A few things to remember as you go through this list is that Vermont is very windy! Thus, rain or snow blows around a lot. Also remember that the clothes you wore in high school won't work in college! Most of the year, you'll be bundling up to go outside, and the clothes that you wore from class to class indoors are not very comfortable wearing from class to class outdoors. I ended up sending a lot of my old high school clothes back. Also, you do not need as many t-shirts as you think. So here's the list.

Good Luck!

Katie (Class of 2012)

Ace Bandage: Just in case

Address book

Adhesive Mounting Hooks: These are lifesaver! One of the best things I brought! To put up the holiday lights or to hang things on. In my room I used these to hang towels as well. (Note: I had a lot of trouble with the lick-and-stick ones. Just go for the plain adhesive hooks)

Alarm clock: If you have a phone alarm that works well, there's sometimes not a reason to have a second alarm in the room. However the clock function of the alarm is awesome!

All-purpose cleaner – You can buy cheap (and green!) cleaner at any big box store to clean all surfaces and glass.

Antibacterial ointment: For cuts or other injuries

Any hair products: If you want to bring a hair dryer/straightener or whatnot

Area rug: The floors can get cold in the winter so an area rug is great!

Aroma Plug/incense: Some students suggest this in case you get the "smelly foot" smell in your room...

Backpack and/or bookbag

Band-aids: I brought a bunch of different sizes

Bathrobe

Bike and helmet: In the nicer weather, a bike can mean an extra 10 minutes of sleep!

Binders and folders

Birthday cards

Blank CD's – I never really used these, but I know people who did back up documents on disks.

Blankets

Bleach

Bowls/plates/cups/silverwear: I brought two of each utensil and that worked well

Bug spray and sunscreen: For the fall/Summer. I didn't use it much but you can never be too safe!

Calculator: If needed

Calendar: I bought a weekly white-board calendar, which is great for putting up weekly assignments. It's also good to have a monthly calendar. They give out a lot of free ones here as well, but I liked to have a blank one that didn't have activities already written in.

Chaptstick: It's great to get chaptstick with some SPF in it too

Cellphone

Closet Organizer: Basically shelves you can put in your closet. For someone with a lot of clothes, this thing saved me!

Clothes Hangers: These are not provided so make sure to bring your own!

Coffee Maker: I started drinking a lot of tea in the morning when I came to college, but if you're a coffee person, it's nice to be able to have something when you wake up in the morning

Comfortable walking shoes: Make sure they're shoes that can face the elements. Most people suggest a nice pair of birkenstocks

Comforter

Computer

Computer Paper

Copy of personal health insurance number: You need this for some activities (ex. Outing Club Hikes)

Cough drops/Throat lozenges

Cough Medicine: Just in case

Daily Planner: One is provided for all first years, but if you prefer to buy one, go for it!

Desk light (no halogen)

Dental floss

Deoderant/body spray: Please bring

Digital Camera: Too put up all those great pictures!

Dish Soap

Duct tape: Notice it's on here twice...

Ear plugs: I read to bring these somewhere, but I really had no problem with noise. However, if you're a light sleeper, as long as you bring a thick pillow you'll be fine.

Envelopes/stamps

Erasers

Extra batteries

Extra Computer Ink: You'll go through ink very fast, bring extra

Eye drops

Fan: For any bad smells or if your room gets too stuffy

Flashlight

Flip Flops: If you do not have a suite bathroom, these are essential. No one wants foot fungus their first week of school.

Floor Lamp: For reading at night and improves a lot of the "hospital-esque" lighting in some of the halls.

Fouton: If you have/want to make the room for it

Full Length Mirror: Be careful, some rooms have these and others don't!

Fuzzy Blanket/Throw: For lounging or as an extra blanket on the bed if you get cold.

Games: Apples to Apples and Uno are great games for any age

Gloves

Hair brush

Hair clips/ties/bobbies

Hand soap: You'll need a lot of this, it goes through faster than you think.

Hand towels (2): Especially for people in suites.

Hats: Essential!

Headphones: I brought two pairs, one for the gym and one for music in the library

Highlighters: You've never realized how easily highlighters run out until you get to college. Buy a bunch.

Hole Puncher: Very essential

Holiday Lights: Great to brighten up your room.

Ibuprofen/Tylenol: Always a must

Instant tide stick: For any quick stains

Laundry detergent: For the sake of everyone else, please do your laundry

Lined paper

Lotion: You'll need this. It gets very dry in the winter

Markers: Bring some colored markers, nice paper (I brought stickers...), to write birthday cards or fun letters home

Microwave (700 watts or less): Not necessary as they usually have microwaves in the lounge, but very nice to have

Mounting tape/adhesive: Great to mount pictures, calendars, notes, and the works. Be careful about mounting with duct tape because pieces of your wall may come off...

MP3/Ipod/Music: It's handy when you're studying somewhere noisy

Mugs: Make sure to bring at least one! I brought two and I will never regret it.

Nail clippers: Another essential item!

Nightstand: Something to put next to your bed to keep your night things on

Notebooks

Note cards

Over the door pocket shoe organizer: Great to hang over your door and is not just for shoes. I kept all sorts of odds and ends in this thing.

Paperclips

Paper Towels: You'll need a bunch of these because the Res Halls do not provide them. Stock up while you can!

Passport: If you ever want to visit Canada (I think you can also bring your birth certificate if you do not have a passport)

Pencil case

Pencil sharpener: Unless you have mechanical pencils

Pens and Pencils

Photo albums: At least have a few pictures around to show people.

Pillows

Plastic Tupperware

Pop-up laundry hamper or Laundry Bags (2): Always nice to have two

Posters/Room Decorations

Printer: You can always share this with your roommate

Rain boots- If you thought they looked tacky before, think again. You will use these a lot!

Rain jacket: Make sure it really is water proof! I had some issues with rain jackets that didn't actually work... Also make sure it has a visor because the wind can easily blow rain into your face.

Razors and shaving cream

Robe

Sewing kit: I never used this, but you never know!

Shampoo and conditioner

Sharpies

Sheets (ex-long 36" by 80"): I brought two but ended up only using one pair of sheets. This works if you just wash your sheets during the day and put them back on again at night.

Shelving: Build your own or any other storage stuff you might need

Shower caddy

Skype/iChat: Make sure to get one of these on your computer! This way you can stay connected with your family and friends.

Sleeping Bag: In case you ever have anyone visit or you go to visit anyone

Slippers: Very important for walking around the hall in!

Small attachable reading light: Something that can clamp onto your bedposts. I ended up using my camping head lamp which was amazing and portable!

Small refrigerator (4ft app 34")

Snacks: Another essential! If it's just for cereal in the morning or a few small snacks for the afternoon, it's nice to have something in your room. Some examples: Cereal or Instant Oatmeal, Granola Bars, Microwavable soup, Easy Mac and Cheese, Fruit or Apples, Hot chocolate

Snow Boots: Make sure to waterproof them as well

Soap Holder: Great to keep your soap in inside the shower or if you're going down to the bathroom

Sponge/rag: You will need something to do your dishes with

Stapler

Sticky notes: I cannot explain the amazingness of sticky notes!

Surge protector: You can buy a squid (surge protector with like 8 cords coming off). These are legal in the halls. I bought two.

Swimsuit and goggles: I only used these once or twice, but can be good to have in the fall and summer!

Tape: Bring scotch AND duct tape

Tea: Not only is this great if you get sick, but it's a much better alternative than coffee. So don't get addicted to coffee like so many college students. Green Tea is a great choice, it has a little caffeine in it but not as much as coffee.

Tissues: If you're like me, you'll need a lot of these too. It's nice to have a box of lotion tissues too for when you get sick.

Tools (screwdriver, pliers, knife): Essential! I've used my tools numerous times

Toothbrush and toothpaste: Bring an extra toothbrush and an extra thing of toothpaste for good measure

Towels (2): You really don't need more than two.

Trash Cans: Super good to have!

Umbrella

Under bed storage: My best suggestion is to bring the plastic drawer bins (they sell them at any big box store)

Vacuum: Great to have! This way you don't have to borrow it from the Res Hall Desk

Vitamins: It helps a lot to keep you from getting sick, trust me.

Wastebasket: I brought 2. Make sure to buy the right size of wastebasket bags.

Watch/Stopwatch: It's handy to have something with a timer on it

Waterbottle: Be environmentally friendly and bring your own reusable bottle!

Webcam: If you don't have a built-in webcam, you can buy them pretty cheap at really any store.

White board: These are essential! Have at least one for your door. I had another in my room that was a weekly calendar.

Whiteout

Winter coat: The best coats I saw were the long down coats that go to your knee. They keep you and your knees nice and toasty on the colder days

Winter Skis/Snowboard: If that's what you do 😊

Zip drive: Great for transferring files

Ziplock bags: You never know when you'll need one