

Head of College Laurie Santos' Tips for Moving In

I offer you (and your parents) these tips in the spirit of trying to ease your anxieties about arriving at Yale. The main point, relative to suite-mates, advisors and counselors, is try to make contact before you arrive in August – email is fine. This will truly help things go more smoothly. The furnishings list is by no means comprehensive. It is more of an attempt to help you avoid the common pitfalls related to furnishings and the opening and closing of the College.

Suite-Mates

1. You have already received a list of your suite-mates and bedroom assignments for the coming year. If you haven't already done so, email your suite-mates. Give them your phone and additional contact info so that you can all communicate before arrival. Your Yale email addresses are a good way to communicate.
2. All freshman suites have two bedrooms and a good-size common room.
3. Be honest with each other about things like music preferences, study habits, sleep patterns and the like.
4. Remember that everyone will be stressed on arrival, but each of you will deal with your stress in unique ways. So, try to be flexible and patient with each other.
5. I encourage you to encourage your parents to let **you** work out important rooming decisions among yourselves. You are much more likely to be able to live compatibly if all of you handle the stuff that matters right from the beginning – including things on move-in day like whether to bunk or de-bunk beds; who sleeps in the top or bottom bunk; furnishings for the common room; and where to locate desks.

Furnishings

Note: The dimensions of each suite are slightly different given the old character of our buildings so we aren't able to provide you with more specifics such as number or size of windows or actual room measurements.

1. Each bedroom is furnished with 2 bunk-beds, 2 bureaus, 2 desks with chairs and moveable file draws. Space is generally tight in the bedrooms. Students often decide to move one or more desks into the common room. Sometimes people decide to de-bunk the beds, which definitely means that desks will need to go to the common room. You may want to consider under the bed plastic containers and/or narrow stackable containers for corners and closets. The beds have an adjustment that allow for lofting to a safe height. For safety reasons Yale restricts you from using additional material to loft the beds – no concrete blocks or even store bought lofts are allowed.
2. The common room is not furnished. Talk with your suite-mates and make a plan about who will bring what items. But, be sure to consult each other so that you don't end up with too much furniture! **It is inadvisable to 'share the cost' of furniture items since all items need to be removed at the end of the year and you may or may not end up living with the same suite-mates in sophomore year.**
3. The bedrooms all have standard issue Yale blue curtains. The common rooms generally do not have curtains. In these old Yale buildings, the windows are different from suite to suite, so you may want to wait until you get here to even worry about curtains in the common room.
4. Generally, a couple of chairs and possibly a small futon couch is all that will fit in the common room, especially if you are also making room for a stereo system or television as well as desks. Again, you might want to make a plan about who will bring TVs or stereos so that you don't end up with an embarrassment of riches.

5. As you plan on moving in it is important to know what happens when you move out. It might help you decide what not to bring. **Freshmen suites must be emptied of all personal furnishings at the end of the year. You will be allowed to store up to six medium size boxes in college storage – no furniture or loose items.**
6. Refrigerators can be rented through an agency on campus. You will probably get something in the mail about this or will be able to take care of it on freshman move-in day. **Refrigerators may not be stored in the College at the end of the year, so please take this into account if you are planning on bringing your own fridge.**
7. It's hard to give you advice about rugs. You each may want a small area rug to put on the floor by your bed. And, someone in your suite may want to bring a larger area rug for the common room (8'X10' works well). Rugs will be available on sale in various locations near campus if you want to wait until you get here.
8. You'll definitely want to bring extension cords and power strips. And, you'll also want a desk lamp and possibly a few standing lamps.
9. **Note: We are unable to let you in to your rooms prior to Friday, August 26th for any reason. We can't even store your luggage. This is a matter of safety and security. Please make your travel plans accordingly. If you will be arriving in New Haven early, be sure to make hotel or alternate arrangements for lodging. Those of you who are participating in one of the many pre-orientation or varsity athletic programs will be given special instructions about early check-in, Old Campus housing, and what to do with your belongings.**

Freshman Counselors

In our welcome letter we gave you the name of the Silliman senior who will be your Freshman Counselor. The counselors live in your entryway and are an invaluable source of information and advice as you settle in to your first year at Yale. Your Counselor should be contacting you sometime during the summer but I encourage you to send her or him an email just to introduce yourself. Email addresses are easy to figure out – it's generally first name. Last name @ yale.edu. For instance, mine is laurie.santos@yale.edu.

If you have questions or just want to drop me a note, I'd be happy to hear from you. Email is best.

Looking forward to meeting you in August,

Head of College Laurie Santos