

# Yale College

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### To Parents of Incoming Freshmen:

In August, your son will begin his studies at Yale. We look forward to welcoming him to campus, and I hope that I have an opportunity to greet you in person if you are able to accompany him. In the meantime, I write to give you some information about the kinds of advice and assistance that will be available to him while he is here.

Given the preparation, ability, and sense of purpose your son has already demonstrated, we are confident that he will thrive here, but we will also make every effort to provide him with support and guidance. The names and addresses of three of the people most directly responsible for providing advice to your son during freshman year—his resident freshman counselor, the master, and the dean of the college with which he is affiliated—are enclosed in this mailing. They can provide help concerning a wide range of matters and direct him to other resources available to him. If he runs into any kind of difficulty, I hope you will encourage him to seek their assistance. We will do our best to support him, but we depend on him to seek help if and when he should need it.

One of your son's most important decisions will concern the selection of courses for the freshman year. To assist him in this process, we have provided several publications for him to review over the summer. The *Freshman Handbook*, which was mailed to your son in May, explains Yale's academic requirements and discusses course selection in the freshman year. The *Calendar for the Opening Days of the College*, which will be mailed this month, lists the departmental placement tests and advising sessions that take place during Freshman Orientation. This year's course catalogue, the *Yale College Programs of Study*, will be mailed August 1. All of these publications are available online at the Web addresses below. After his arrival, he will be able to discuss his educational plans with his freshman counselor, his residential college dean, his freshman faculty adviser, and departmental representatives before classes begin on Wednesday, August 31. He will also have the opportunity to attend about a week and a half of classes before he makes his final course selections.

Although we consider parents to be important partners in the education of their children, federal law requires Yale to treat student grades as confidential between the student and the University. We expect students to keep their parents informed of their academic progress, and each year at registration time we give students the opportunity to authorize us to send copies of semester grade reports to their parents, but that is a matter for you to discuss with your son. If he does authorize us to send grade reports to you, we will mail them to you within six to eight weeks after the close of the term in the fall and in the spring.

I also want to emphasize that we expect our students to act as responsible members of a community dedicated to the advancement of learning, and we require them to affirm by their behavior a commitment to the standards of this community. The *Undergraduate Regulations*, which spells out clearly the rules and regulations that govern the conduct of students in Yale College, is available at the Web address below. If he has any questions about these regulations, I would encourage him to speak with his residential college dean.

Again, I look forward to welcoming your son to campus in August. If you are able to accompany him, please note the events in the *Calendar for the Opening Days of College* that we have designed especially for parents. I particularly encourage you to attend the panel discussion about undergraduate education and the residential colleges, followed by the Masters' Open Houses, on Friday afternoon, August 26, beginning at 2:30 p.m., as well as the Freshman Assembly and President's Reception on Saturday morning, August 27, beginning at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Please note that there are two assemblies; you should attend the assembly in which your son and the other members of his residential college are participating (see *Calendar for the Opening Days of College*). All freshmen are required to attend and be in their seats on the main floor of Woolsey by 8:45 a.m. for the 9 a.m. assembly and by 10:15 a.m. for the 10:30 a.m. assembly. Please note that Woolsey Hall is not air-conditioned. Additional seating and a simultaneous telecast will be available in air-conditioned Levinson Auditorium of the Law School. Finally, please note that Family Weekend will take place October 28-30. I hope that you will be able to join us.

With all good wishes from New Haven,

Sincerely yours,



Mary Miller  
Dean of Yale College  
Sterling Professor of History of Art

Publications available online:

*The Freshman Handbook*

<http://yalecollege.yale.edu/sites/default/files/FreshmanHandbookClass2015.pdf>

*The Calendar for the Opening Days of College*

<http://yalecollege.yale.edu/content/opening-days-college>

*The Yale College Programs of Study*

<http://yalecollege.yale.edu/content/yale-college-programs-study-o>

*The Undergraduate Regulations*

<http://yalecollege.yale.edu/content/undergraduate-regulations>

Family Weekend

<http://yalecollege.yale.edu/content/family-weekend>

Title IX

<http://yalecollege.yale.edu/content/sexual-harassment-assault-resources>