

# INSTITUTE INSIDER

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*A Newsletter for Pratt Families*

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## MOVING BACK HOME



As the school year comes to a close, many of you are preparing for your student to move back home. While students' moving back is a common phenomenon, it takes a variety of forms and happens under diverse circumstances. Some students are only returning for the summer, while others will be home indefinitely as they try to find jobs and establish stability for themselves. Some students are moving back home because it is the most convenient option, and some are moving back because it's the most economically feasible option. Some students may even be moving back home to provide support to their families.

Along with the many reasons for moving back home, there are many attitudes that both parents and students have toward the process. Students who are graduating may not have planned to move back home, and they may have a difficult time transitioning. They might view moving back home as a step back in their lives at a time when they should be moving forward and becoming more independent. As parents, you will have to come to terms with how you feel as well. Maybe you're excited about the prospect of having your son or daughter back home; maybe you're apprehensive about how your home life will change. Here are some guidelines for you to consider as you navigate this transition with your student.

- 1 Understand the pros and cons of the situation. While it can be exciting to see and interact with your student at home, you need to consider the way that having your student at home will affect your finances and the way your home life is structured, especially if your student has not lived at home for a while.
- 2 Communicate your expectations. You and your student may have very different ideas about what it means for him or her to move back home. Make sure you're on the same page and that both of you have set compatible guidelines and clear expectations.
- 3 Be invested in teaching your student life skills. Whether your student is graduating or has a few more years of college to go, it's important to encourage the development of habits that will enable him or her to be independent and self-sufficient. It's never too late to teach time and money management skills.

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- 4 Recognize that your student is an adult. Being at college has probably initiated personal development in your student. Accepting that your student has matured is an important part of becoming reacquainted with him or her (if necessary) and transforming the nature of your relationship with him or her. It also helps maintain a standard of accountability.
- 5 Be supportive. No matter your student's reason for moving back home, your support will be greatly appreciated and will benefit your student.

This article is based on a workshop, titled "Empty Nest No More: Working with Families on the Moving-Back Transition," presented by Dr. Marjorie Savage and Anne Ziemniak at the 2011 NASPA Annual Conference.

*Image Location: affordablehousinginstitute.org*

# IN THE KNOW

## PARENT MODULE

To give you access to your student's tuition and academic information, Pratt has set up a Parent Module. For information on how your student can give you permission to access this information and on how to set up an account, please visit this website:

[www.pratt.edu/student\\_life/student\\_services/registrar/registrar\\_guidelines/parent\\_module/](http://www.pratt.edu/student_life/student_services/registrar/registrar_guidelines/parent_module/)

## PARENTAL ADVISORY

To give you an opportunity to share career advice with Pratt students, we will be launching a new initiative called "Parental Advisory" next school year. "Parental Advisor" will be housed on the Peer-to-Peer blog, a site full of career advice and information that is produced by and for Pratt students. For more information, check out the Pratt's Parent website.

# RESIDENCE HALL CHECKOUT 101

*Contribution by Chris Kasik, Director of Housing and Residential Life*

The end of the academic year is an emotional time: celebrating a milestone, stressing out over final projects, looking forward (or not) to months “back home.” Similar to checking into the residence halls in August, checking out of the residence halls in May can be a harrowing experience. Students arrive on campus in August with many possessions; they leave in May with those things plus all they have accumulated over the nine-month academic year. Below is some useful information and helpful hints to make the check-out experience as easy as possible.



- 1 Pratt is “open for business” year-round and our residence halls house students 12 months per year. Unfortunately, that full schedule requires quick turnaround periods at both the end of the spring semester and at the beginning of the fall semester. All students not taking summer courses or graduating must check out of their residence hall no later than 2 PM on Tuesday, May 10, 2011.
- 2 Some students have few, if any, classes or finals between May 3 and May 9. Subsequently, these students can leave well before the final May 10 check out date. Check with your student to verify what he or she has to do during “finals week.” He or she might be able to leave for the summer that weekend, May 7–8.
- 3 Students remaining on campus for the summer need not check out of their spring rooms until their summer rooms are ready. Most students will be notified of their summer rooms’ readiness by email between May 11–20. They then will have two days to make the move. As such, it is ill-advised for students to leave campus for more than a day or two during this time period.
- 4 Students not staying on campus for the summer must schedule a check-out appointment with their RAs. This process takes little time and involves staff inspecting the room to ensure it was returned to its check-in condition less any normal “wear and tear.” This is also the time students surrender their room keys and laundry cards. Ensuring your student makes and keeps his or her check-out appointment is the single most effective way to avoid any unnecessary damage billing.
- 5 Students returning to the residence halls in August but not staying on campus for the summer will have access to their mailboxes. If the student is leaving New York, the mailroom will forward mail; just give them a forwarding address. Those not returning to campus living in August and not living on campus for the summer must return their mailbox key to the mailroom. The mailroom will forward mail for these students for five weeks provided they are given a forwarding address.
- 6 At the time of their check-out appointment, students must have returned their room to its original check-in condition. This includes returning walls to the original color, repairing any nail holes, reassembling any disassembled furniture, and cleaning the space (and kitchens and bathrooms where applicable) by removing all trash and sweeping where needed.
- 7 Students who don’t make an appointment or who don’t keep their appointment are subject to a \$100 improper check-out fee. If a student does not want a final inspection of his or her room or is unable to make an appointment, the student can arrange in advance of the final check-out date with his or her RA to do an express check-out. Though there is a nominal fee (\$25) for this, the student has

the freedom to leave at any time prior to the May 10 deadline. This can be arranged with the student's RA.

- 8 Just as it is at check-in, the weather can be unpredictable. Some check-out days have been hot, others cold, some sunny, others rainy. Planning for any contingency will make any kind of day go smoothly.
- 9 Preparation on the part of your student can alleviate any difficulty the day may present. This includes packing: Packing small amounts during breaks in final project preparation can make a big job seem more manageable. The same is true in terms of returning the room to its original condition: Waiting to pack and paint your room on the evening of May 9 with a check-out appointment at 11 AM on May 10 is a nearly impossible task.
- 10 Pratt does not have summer storage for students. There are, however, a number of storage facilities in the area with reasonable fees. Students will be given this information in their check-out brochure. The brochure will be posted on our website, [www.pratt.edu](http://www.pratt.edu) for your convenience.
- 11 Carts are available to help with moving out; however, bringing your own hand truck or other equipment ensures that you won't have to wait for a cart to be available.
- 12 Students should attend their floors' check-out meeting to prepare for moving day. These meetings will be held throughout the week of April 28.
- 13 If your student is graduating or participating in Commencement on Monday, May 16, 2011, checkout is by noon, Tuesday, May 17, 2011. Also, if you are interested in staying on campus for Commencement weekend, space is available in our residence halls. For information, see [http://www.pratt.edu/uploads/2011\\_Graduation\\_Housing.pdf](http://www.pratt.edu/uploads/2011_Graduation_Housing.pdf)

**Have a wonderful, safe summer!**

*Image Location: <http://minimalstudent.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/moving-out.jpg>*