FAQ for Parents

The following are questions from parents in relation to the Olin experience. In addition, many questions can be answered by reviewing the Student Affairs and Resources website, Student Handbook and other resources provided on the Parent website. http://www.olin.edu/alumni-families/parents/

Getting to Olin and its surroundings:

1. How do I locate Olin’s address for a map or GPS?
Directions to campus are on the Olin website at http://www.olin.edu/campus/directions/. If using a GPS or map, setting your destination as 1 or 1000 Olin Way will direct you to the main entrance to campus.

2. How do students get around or off campus?
Olin has a public bike share program, there is parking on campus (info here: https://www.olin.edu/offices-services/facilities/parking-transportation/). There is a Babson-Olin-Wellesley shuttle between the 3 campuses Mondays-Saturdays. Some students use ride share options like Uber and Lyft. A public transit bus from Babson and Wellesley campuses stop at businesses nearby & the Woodlands T train stop. Find public transit info here for the green line subway access: https://www.mbta.com/stops/subway#subway-tab or the closest commuter rail trains are the Needham line or Framingham/Worcester line: https://www.mbta.com/stops/commuter-rail#commuter-rail-tab

Safety, health and well-being of the student:

3. Whom do I contact in case of an emergency?
In case of an emergency, please contact the Babson College Police Department at 781.239.5555. They can best direct your call and/or contact the dean on call if it is outside of business hours. For general crisis announcements students, employees and parents should check one or more of three sources: [1] email, [2] the college website and/or [3] the emergency announcement number, 781.292.2699 which is also used for weather announcements.

4. What circumstances will the Office of student affairs and resources contact parents?
Olin’s parent notification policy and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) compliance measures are outlined in the Privacy Policy section of the Student Handbook.

5. What safety information should I know about for Olin?
The department of Public Safety provides law enforcement, security, and emergency services 24/7. In the event of an emergency, a meeting of the College Crisis Management Team is held to determine the most appropriate course of action. The Babson College Police Department for Babson and Olin Colleges can provide medical escort services, fire safety and detection, crime prevention, escorts and parking enforcement.

6. What is Olin’s policy on alcohol and other drugs?
As per the Student Handbook, no student under the legal drinking age is allowed to possess or consume alcoholic beverages in college residence halls or on college property. For students who are 21 years of age or older, possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages is limited to the student’s individual room or to authorized events in public areas. The on-campus possession, use, sale or distribution of illegal narcotics, stimulants, depressants, hallucinogens or marijuana or its derivatives is prohibited. Possession of drug paraphernalia is prohibited. Misuse of prescription drugs is also prohibited. Health Services in Hollister Hall has support and Olin’s medical amnesty details are also in the student handbook.

Residence halls:

7. Why do the residence halls open in the afternoon on a Tuesday for returning students?
Classes start Thursday, so returning students can return as early as Tuesday afternoon to move in. Our primary goal is to allow new students to fully engage in the Orientation program without distraction. An equally important goal is to give our facilities staff time to get the buildings ready. We ask returning students to show facilities staff members respect by staying off campus until their announced check in time. One suggested option is for a student to arrive by themselves using public transportation with one suitcase for the first few days of the semester; then the parents come during the next weekend with the remainder of the belongings. Also, students can ship nearly all of their belongings and find them in their rooms when they arrive.

8. Can guests stay in the residence halls?
Yes, guests can stay in the residence halls as long as they have permission of the roommate. Parents are considered guests.

9. When are the Olin residence halls closed to students?
Please refer to Olin’s Academic Calendar for residence hall schedules. The most current version is available at http://www.olin.edu/academic-calendars/. The residence halls are closed for winter break between semesters. During the summer, the residence halls are closed for two weeks following Commencement and for two weeks before the start of the new academic year.

10. Are there times that the residence halls will be open but the dining hall is closed? How can students obtain and prepare meals when the dining hall is closed?
The residence halls are open during Thanksgiving and Spring breaks but the Dining Hall is closed during these times. When the Dining Hall is closed, students may purchase food at a local grocery store and prepare meals using the kitchen area in the residence halls or the microwave in their room. Please check the Babson Dining Choices website.
11. Are there any end-of-semester tips that would help my student prepare for moving out?
The Office of Student Affairs and Resources sends the students a list of departure notes including information on keys, housekeeping and damage, information technology, summer storage, parking and more. All students must vacate the residence halls by 5:00 p.m. on the Monday following Commencement (see Academic Calendar). Students are not allowed to move out during Commencement as this distracts from the ceremony.

Finances:
12. How and when are students billed for college costs?
Fall 2019 bills were mailed to students’ permanent addresses in the beginning of July. Spring bills will be sent to the students’ local [Olin] mailbox in the beginning of November. If the student requested a separate billing address, the bill will be mailed there instead. Late payments are subject to a $150 late fee on all billed expenses for that semester. For more billing information, visit the Student Accounts page of the Student Affairs and Resources website (http://www.olin.edu/academiclife/student-affairs-and-resources/student-accounts) or, contact Student Accounts at StudentAccounts@olin.edu or by phone at 781.292.2423.

13. What are “Olin dollars”?
Olin Dollars is a feature of the Olin ID/OneCard that is separate from the student account. Students and their families can deposit funds into their Olin Dollars debit account and use those funds for laundry services, vending machines, mail services, Olin Gear and others. These Dollars may be purchased by credit card online at http://onecard.olin.edu or by check. See Student Account details for purchasing:
http://www.olin.edu/academiclife/student-affairs-and-resources/student-accounts/

14. How do guests meals work? Olin dollars? May the guest pay cash at the dining hall?
Olin Dollars may be used to purchase meals for guests at the Olin Dining Hall after students’ 10 allotted guest meals (part of their Olin Meal plan) have been used. Guests may also pay with cash at both the Olin Dining Hall and Babson’s dining facilities.

Academic questions:
15. Where can my student find academic policies like attendance, grades, cross-registration, leave of absence, or academic support services? Visit the Student Handbook:

16. What help will my student receive from his/her adviser?
From the Academic Support Services section of the student handbook “Every student at Olin has a faculty adviser who is available to answer questions and offer guidance about a student’s progress to graduation, major requirements, course options and other aspects of academic health at Olin...Olin has a network of faculty, staff, students and alumni who comprise a multi-faceted resource for guidance and support within and outside the classroom.” The advising system includes, but is not limited to, individual advising, advising families, the Sibbs program, career development and course planning. Please refer to the Academic Policies and Procedures > Academic Support Services section of the student handbook for more information about academic support and assistance at Olin.

17. Will I receive a copy of my student’s grades at the end of each semester?
No, students’ grades are not sent directly to their parents. Grades are accessible to students through an online system. No paper grade reports are issued. Olin encourages parents to discuss this topic with their student before they depart for Olin. Your student will be given access to the online system during Orientation.

Staying connected:
18. How will I hear from the college?
The office of advancement sends e-newsletters called Parent oLinks, the college Facebook page and Parent Facebook Groups can be helpful resources. Contact Family & Alumni Relations with questions or to get email announcements:
parentrelations@olin.edu Note that your student will receive grades, bills, and other info. Speak with your student before arriving to campus what your family expectation is updates, check-ins, and news sharing.

19. What is the best way to mail a package to my student at Olin? Is there campus mail during spring break?
Large shipments including UPS and FedEx go to Shipping/ Receiving via Mail Services (781.292.2230) and then the mailroom (781.292.2230 or mailservices@olin.edu). Students receive an email and a notice placed in their mailbox informing them that there is a package to be picked up. Mail Services is in operation Monday through Friday, including over the week of Spring Break.

20. How can I have a cake/flowers/balloons/celebration package delivered?
Deliveries arranged through external services which are perishable should be sent to the Mailroom of the Campus Center with the student’s name on it. The Mailroom will then contact the student to pick up his or her delivery. For further inquiries or arrangements you may contact the Mailroom (781.292.2230 or mailservices@olin.edu). Also, celebration services are offered through Olin Dining Services. Please visit:
http://rebeccascafe.com/olin/ to place an order or by calling 781.292.2360 or emailing dining.services@olin.edu. NOTE: the Mailroom is closed on Saturdays and Sundays and cakes are picked up during dining hall mealtimes.
Internship, research and job opportunities:

21. How should my student prepare for internships, research, jobs, etc?
Your student will begin working with Post-Graduate Planning during orientation! They hold resume workshops, office hours, send weekly e-newsletters to all students, host career fairs, do mock-interviewing, have one-on-one time for job searchers, grad school applicants, and more. Advise your student to connect with PGP for insight and suggestions they may not know about.

22. When should my student start looking for an internship, research opportunity or job?
Most internships are summer after year two and most are paid. Many have early deadlines with students applying and deciding on an internship in the fall for the following summer.

23. Does an internship need to be engineering-related?
It’s not as important for first-years as it is for students finishing sophomore year and up. Internships in the student’s field demonstrate to a future employer that they’re serious about their field and that the student has worked hard to acquire real world experience. However, building life experience is just as important, and that can be gained in many ways. Internships must be engineering-related for international students.