

Parent & Family Guide to
Clarion University





Dear Parents and Family Members:

Greetings from Clarion University of Pennsylvania! You and your soon-to-be college student are about to embark on an incredible journey. Helping your loved one choose the right college is one of the many important steps as your student transitions from high school to a strong, independent, university-educated adult.

This is an exciting time, and I encourage you and your student to take full advantage of the myriad of opportunities available at Clarion. We are a smaller-sized college, but we are big on student success. There are so many ways to get involved here, and I personally ask that you encourage your student to seek out those clubs, organizations, faculty mentors, high-impact practices, work-study jobs, athletic matches, and so much more that fosters engagement in our campus community. We believe that student success is a mutual investment on the part of both your student and our faculty and staff. We will strive to meet them where they are in their education, but we also ask that they meet us halfway attending class and actively engaging in their own Clarion experience.

The intent of this brochure is to support you as you support your student. Specifically, we want to guide you through the next steps to enroll at Clarion and help your freshman succeed. This process can be confusing and, well, a bit overwhelming. Follow the checklist included here and never feel hesitant to reach out to our expert staff to ask, "What now? What's next?" You will find contact information and informative websites throughout this brochure.

And, I am always available at president@clarion.edu should you wish to share your student's journey, questions you have, or just connect with us here at Clarion. I equally encourage you to follow me on Instagram at [@cupresident](https://www.instagram.com/cupresident) or [@clarionu](https://www.instagram.com/clarionu) to chronicle the next four years of your student's collegiate life at Clarion.

We cannot wait to welcome our new convocation of Golden Eagles!

Wings Up,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. Dale".

Dr. Dale



Explore your student's future at **Clarion University**

Outstanding academic opportunities, rich history, vibrant campus life and community, and high-impact practices are in place to prepare your student for their career and/or graduate school.

Clarion is where quality meets affordability. You can be confident that you are sending your student to a university where they are not only receiving a top-rated education, but an education that won't break the bank.

RANKED BY
MONEY MAGAZINE AS
one of the
BEST
VALUES
FOR YOUR MONEY
2019



TOP 40
NORTHEAST
REGIONAL PUBLIC UNIVERSITY

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, 2019



140+
STUDENT
ORGANIZATIONS



84%
OF CLASSES

HAVE LESS THAN 40 STUDENTS



88%
OF GRADS
ARE EMPLOYED
WITHIN NINE MONTHS
OF GRADUATION



Your Checklist to Stay on Track

As you and your student journey through the college selection process, here are some of the major milestones to remember:



SCHEDULE A VISIT TO CAMPUS

Nothing beats walking around campus with our student tour guides. Whether your first, second or third visit, come and tour our beautiful campus, explore our academic programs and connect with our community. We offer a wide array of visit options to learn more about Clarion!

clarion.edu/VISITUS



SUBMIT ADMISSION DEPOSIT

Congratulations on your student's acceptance to Clarion University! The big question is, "What do we do now?" The next step is to submit a \$100 admission deposit to secure a spot at Clarion. The deposit will prompt placement exam, scheduling, orientation and housing information to come your way.

clarion.edu/NEXTSTEPS



FILE YOUR FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA)

Approximately 85% of our students finance their education with some form of financial aid. Financial assistance is available to students in the form of scholarships, grants, loans and student employment. All students should complete an annual FAFSA prior to the May 1 Pennsylvania deadline.

fafsa.gov



□ SELECT YOUR RESIDENCE HALL, ROOM AND ROOMMATE

Clarion offers a variety of housing opportunities for students. Our suite-style options provide spacious units with high-end amenities, ensuring that students are comfortable while getting a great education. Living Learning Communities (LLCs) provide an opportunity for students with common interests to live together, providing a platform for the development of lasting friendships.

Starting February 1, students can visit the housing site and pick their specific building, room and roommate preference (if desired). clarion.edu/FYHOUSING; clarion.edu/LLC

□ SCHEDULE AN ORIENTATION SESSION

Starting January 13, students can register for a June or July orientation session. Visit our website for information on dates and how to register.

clarion.edu/ORIENTATION

□ COMPLETE CU START & PLACEMENT EXAMS

Once a student has submitted their \$100 admission deposit, CU start is the next step in getting ready to attend Clarion University. This interactive, online program provides an overview of academic resources available at the university. Once CU start is completed, students receive information about taking placement exams which include mathematics, writing and the Freshman Inquiry Seminar course. Placement exam information is EMAILED to the student's personal email address as submitted on their Clarion application.

CUSTART.clarion.edu; clarion.edu/PLACEMENTS

□ CELEBRATE!

Watch for your CU Grad Pack with Clarion balloons! We will help you prepare for graduation pictures and parties!





85%

**OF OUR
STUDENTS**

RECEIVE

SOME FORM OF

*scholarship
or financial assistance*

Financial Aid

At Clarion, we coordinate financial aid and scholarship resources so that our students can obtain a degree and join our 58,000-strong alumni network!

FILE YOUR FAFSA

The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is the form your student submits (FAFSA.GOV) to be considered for financial aid, such as grants, loans and work study. Complete the FAFSA by May 1 using Clarion's school code: **003318** for financial aid consideration.

WHEN WILL I HEAR?

Clarion notifies accepted students of their early estimated financial aid offer starting in January. An email will be sent to the address that your student provided on their application. The offer includes information regarding grants (if eligible), scholarships, loan and work study information.

VERIFICATION

Both federal and state financial aid agencies verify a percentage of FAFSA applicants. If selected for verification, you will be asked to supply certain financial records, possibly including W2 forms, saving plans, Social Security, TANF benefits or tax-deferred pensions. Verification must be completed in order to receive federal and/or state aid. If your student is selected for federal verification, they should sign in to their MyClarion account and review their "To Do List" on the Student Center to see what items are required. All items can be submitted online. If you have questions, please contact the Student Financial Services Office at 814-393-2315.

FINANCIAL AID TV

View tutorials and learn more about the financial aid process. Topics include: What is financial aid? How can I pay for college? What is the difference between federal and state aid? clarion.edu/FINAID

Types of Financial Aid

GRANTS

Grants are awarded based on information from your FAFSA. Federal and state grants are funds that do not need to be repaid, and include PELL and PHEAA.

FEDERAL DIRECT LOANS

Low-interest loans for students, regardless of income or financial need, with a fixed interest rate. Incoming students must complete entrance counseling and a Master Promissory Note available at [HTTPS://STUDENTLOANS.GOV](https://studentloans.gov).

FEDERAL PARENT PLUS LOANS

Parents may borrow for their child's education through the Federal Direct PLUS loan for undergraduate students at [HTTPS://STUDENTLOANS.GOV](https://studentloans.gov). If a parent is denied a PLUS loan, a student may borrow additional unsubsidized Federal Direct Loan money as an independent student.

PRIVATE LOANS

In addition to federal loans, a number of banks offer private loans to students. A private loan comparison tool can be found at clarion.edu/PRIVATELOANS.

PAYMENT PLAN

An alternative to paying your bill in full is an interest-free monthly payment plan. Spread payments over the course of the semester with CUpay Payment Plan.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

Clarion offers campus jobs and work study positions. Information for students seeking employment is coordinated through our online platform, JobX. Students can access JobX by signing in to their MyClarion account and selecting "Student Employment."

2019-2020 Academic Year Costs

| Costs | PA Resident | Out of State Resident |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Tuition/Fees | \$11,149 | \$16,028 |
| Room | \$ 8,590 | \$ 8,590 |
| Meals | \$ 3,954 | \$ 3,954 |
| Total: | \$23,693 | \$28,572 |

Transfers scholarships are also available. clarion.edu/TRANSFER

For more detailed information regarding costs for Clarion University-Venango, online or part-time students, go to clarion.edu/TUITION.



TOP 20
most affordable
COLLEGES
IN PENNSYLVANIA

COLLEGEAFFORDABILITYGUIDE.COM
2017, 2018, 2019

Scholarships

Scholarships are merit-based awards that do not need to be repaid. Upon application to the university, Clarion will review student information for the Golden Eagle Scholars or the Founders Award based upon their GPA and standardized test score (i.e. SAT and/or ACT).

Additional scholarships are available through the Clarion University Foundation, Inc., starting in January. Students can access the scholarship database using the username and password provided on their acceptance letter. These scholarships encompass awards for specific majors, awards for student involvement, and other criteria. Explore scholarship opportunities for these endowed scholarships at clarion.edu/SCHOLARSHIPS. Encourage your student to talk to his/her school counselor regarding scholarships that are available from your community!



more than
\$5 MILLION
IN SCHOLARSHIPS
AWARDED LAST YEAR
clarion.edu/SCHOLARSHIPS

2019-2020 PA MERIT SCHOLARSHIP *matrix*

| | SAT/ACT | | |
|----------------|------------------|-------------------|----------|
| | 950/18 - 1199/24 | 1200/25 - 1399/30 | 1400/31+ |
| HS GPA 3.5+ | \$3,000 | \$4,000 | \$5,000 |
| 3.0 - 3.49 | \$2,500 | \$3,500 | \$4,500 |
| 2.75 - 2.99 | \$2,000 | \$3,000 | \$4,000 |

Transfer scholarships are also available.
clarion.edu/TRANSFER

2019-2020 NON-PA RESIDENT *matrix*

| | SAT/ACT | | |
|----------------|------------------|-------------------|----------|
| | 950/18 - 1199/24 | 1200/25 - 1399/30 | 1400/31+ |
| HS GPA 3.5+ | \$4,500 | \$5,500 | \$6,500 |
| 3.0 - 3.49 | \$4,000 | \$5,000 | \$6,000 |
| 2.75 - 2.99 | \$3,500 | \$4,500 | \$5,500 |

Transfer scholarships are also available.
clarion.edu/TRANSFER

Housing & Residence Life

Research shows the college residential experience significantly contributes to academic success, graduating on time and positive development of the whole student.

With access to a 24/7 community of support, convenience to all academic buildings, Tippin Gymnasium and Eagle Commons Dining Hall, as well as designated living areas that assist first-year students with their college transition, it's no wonder that students living in campus housing have a higher GPA and are more likely to graduate on time! Unique to Clarion University, students can select their campus housing and room for fall 2020 beginning February 1 at 9 a.m.

Living Learning Communities, for students with common interests, are also available at Clarion. Available LLCs include:

- Business/Information Sciences
- Discover U
- Education
- Gaming
- Health Sciences & Human Services
- Honors
- Judgment Free
- Live Active
- Quiet Living
- STEM

*** Please note: First-time-in-college students whose permanent address is farther than 30 miles from campus are required to live in university housing for their first four semesters of enrollment. Incoming freshman students are required to file a request for exemption form every academic year if they wish to be considered for exemption.*

clarion.edu/FYHOUSING

clarion.edu/LLC



**STUDENTS LIVING
ON CAMPUS HAVE**

HIGHER GPAs

and are more likely to

GRADUATE



Dining

We pride ourselves in offering unique, fresh, high-quality foods every day. A wide variety of options means that your student is never stuck eating the same thing over and over!

Meal plans provide flexibility for on- and off-campus students. Including:

EAGLE COMMONS DINING HALL

Your student will not go hungry! Our main dining center offers variety for every meal with its unique stations. It is centrally located on campus and offers all you can eat from comfort food, Italian options, deli sandwiches, our Mongolian grill, vegan options and amazing desserts!

GEMMELL FOOD COURT

Located in the heart of campus in Gemmell Student Center, the food court is a convenient place to relax, meet up with friends and grab a bite to eat. Choose from subs, salads, pizzas, calzones, mountain pies, specialty burgers, on-the-go items or hand-rolled sushi.

GEMMELL ROTUNDA

Students can stop at Gemmell Grinds and grab a pastry, coffee, smoothie or breakfast sandwich. If students are in the mood for tacos, burrito bowls or quesadillas, they can head over to Sono Latin Cuisine.

CARLSON CAFÉ

The perfect place to grab a pre-study group snack or caffeinated beverage. Located in Carlson Library, the Café offers a variety of snacks, beverages, on-the-go salads and wraps. Your student can also enjoy Sushi Do sushi boxes and Au Bon Pain soup for their lunchtime cravings.

CUPCAKES

CUPcakes Bakery is the perfect place for all things sweet. Daily homemade baked goods include muffins, cookies, donuts, cakes, pies and smoothies. Students can also order a cake for special occasions. Pre-packaged Meals to Go are also available for those super busy days.

STARBUCKS

With a menu including hot, cold, seasonal specialty drinks and traditional coffees, Starbucks has something for everyone. Their bakery is the perfect snack spot and is a great hangout location for your student to enjoy time with friends or to study.

clarion.edu/DINING





Supporting Students and Families!

The transition from high school to college is a huge step for both students and families. We have many resources for your student to become a proud Clarion Golden Eagle, not to mention ways for you to become an active member of the Clarion University family!

THE CENTER FOR FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE

Opportunities and experiences provided by the Center for First Year Experience helps provide your student with knowledge and skills needed to achieve academic, personal and professional awareness. Success coaches provide skill clinics on time management, note taking, preparing for finals, setting SMART (specific, measurable, action-oriented, realistic and time-bound) goals and more.

STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER

Student Success Center faculty and staff provide tutoring, as well as assistance getting you connected to the learning skills lab, Writing Center, Disability Support Services and Advising Services, to help meet all students' needs at Clarion University. Students can schedule a face-to-face meeting, phone call or virtual meeting with a student success consultant.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

The Center for Career and Professional Development informs and empowers students by providing opportunities to develop and grow in their career goals. With resources from their freshman through senior years, our students grow personally and professionally as they prepare for the world after graduation. With programming such as CUMentor, Handshake, career fairs, graduate school, resume writing and interviewing “auditions,” it’s no wonder that Clarion has an 88% job placement rate after graduation.

CAMPUS SAFETY

Ranked as one of the safest college campuses in Pennsylvania, you can rest assured that your student is coming to a secure and safe campus. Clarion Campus Police are fully accredited and provide security services 24/7. The university also provides an emergency text notification system. Students can register two cell phone numbers to our Eagle Alert system. The opt-in CU Alert service is completely voluntary and is only used to notify the university community of emergency situations.

HEALTH & WELLNESS (MENTAL, PHYSICAL AND HOLISTIC)

The Center for Wellness promotes students' holistic well-being and is home to the Health Center, Counseling Services and Student Recreation Center. For more information on services provided, hours of operations, or immunization forms needed for freshman year, please go to clarion.edu/HEALTHSERVICES.

PARENT & FAMILY SERVICES

By virtue of your student choosing Clarion, you automatically become a member of the Parent & Family Association. We encourage you to develop within the network and become active in supporting your student (and other students). Learn more about scholarships, tuition, financial aid, payment plans, Residence Life Services, parking and campus safety, important dates, deadlines and things to do!

"I asked my first-semester freshman daughter what I did for her to make her transition to college easier. She said, '*... you sent me boxes, bought me phone cards, answered all my phone calls, met up with me multiple times, always let me live my dreams and never told me I couldn't do something.*' I couldn't be prouder of her than I am right now!"

- Pam Coleman, parent of CU freshman



**TOP 3
SAFEST
COLLEGES
IN PENNSYLVANIA**



Important Dates

ADMITTED STUDENT DAYS

January 25, February 22, and March 21, 2020

ORIENTATION SESSION

After a student has been accepted to the university and paid their \$100 admission fee, they can schedule for a June or July orientation date at clarion.edu/ORIENTATION.

FAMILY WEEKEND

Join the Parent & Family Association for a family picnic at the first home football game. Look for registration information at orientation or go to clarion.edu/FAMILYDAY. Event will be at Memorial Stadium. Go Eagles!

AUTUMN LEAF FESTIVAL & HOMECOMING

September 26-October 4, 2020

Clarion's nine-day, internationally award-winning festival attracts over 500,000 people to the Clarion area. Events and entertainment include carnival rides and amusements, Autorama Cruise-In, Tournament of Leaves Parade, Antique Tractor Show, Cultural Nights, Farmer's & Crafter's Day and much more. Be sure to save the date for Saturday, October 3: This will be the Tournament of Leaves Parade and homecoming game!

"I try to support my Clarion student by encouraging her to utilize the resources available to her.

Have a question about an assignment? Visit your professor during office hours.

Not sure how a particular course fits in your major? Reach out to your advisor.

Having conflict with your roommate? Talk to your CA. I think my role as the parent of a college student is to support her as she develops her own problem-solving skills."

– Veronica Mortier
Parent of CU
sophomore



“My wife and I feel that our child’s education is one of the most important tools to help her become a successful citizen. Although the financial support we provide is important and allows her to focus on her studies at Clarion, we feel that the emotional support is even more important. We touch base with her on a daily basis, either by phone to hear about her day and her classroom activities, or through a simple text message such as *'I am so proud of you. I miss you. Love Dad,'* and we visit her once or twice a semester for special activities on campus or in the area. Another great way we show our support is by helping to make positive changes at Clarion through our involvement with the Parent and Family Association, and showing, by example, that we do care about her and her school.”

– Carl Crist
Parent of CU senior