

Care Packages from Home

Getting actual mail is always fun and a box from home is a great surprise. Want to send your son or daughter a care package, but you're not sure what to send? Use this list to help you get some ideas you may not have thought of before. And make sure you add a personal note – your child probably misses you more than you think, and even a short letter or a few lines scribbled on a piece of paper is a nice touch.

- Some favorite snacks, particularly those that can be hard to find where your son or daughter is going to school (trail mix is a good choice – it's healthy and stays fresh for a long time)
- A book to read for fun
- A magazine
- A fun DVD. You can also use a website like Amazon.com to order and send a DVD right to your child's mailbox, and you can even add your own personal message right along with your order.
- Pens or pencils
- Stamps and envelopes
- A photo and funny note from the family pet
- Seasonal items, like an Easter egg dyeing kit or Halloween decorations
- A note from a sibling, or a drawing from a young cousin or friend that your student can proudly display on her wall
- Something to help decorate the room – like a poster or cool desk decor
- A mug with the college logo on it and a box of teabags or instant coffee
- An article or newspaper clipping you think they might like, especially if it's from a local paper
- A family photo and/or a picture frame
- A notebook with a funky design
- Something to share with others in the hall or on campus, like brownies or a box of chocolates
- Gum or mints or Twizzlers
- Nice soap or lotion
- Fun thumbtacks for their bulletin board
- New dry erase markers for their memo board
- Fun toys from childhood, like Jacks, tops and



Chinese jump ropes, as a reminder to take time to play!

- An old T-shirt from their high school days sewed up and stuffed to make a pillow
- A book of crosswords, riddles, Soduko, etc. – just something they can do when they want to take a break from schoolwork
- An extra blanket or flannel sheets
- A gift card for the nearest movie theater or a restaurant you know your child likes
- New flip flops for the shower
- Homemade cookies—always a favorite!

You can make it even more personal if you decorate the outside of the box. Or, if you'd rather not do that, you can wrap everything in colorful tissue paper. Regardless of how it looks, any gift is a nice gift, especially when it comes from home!

A Tip

Don't pack scented soap and brownies in the same box. If you do, those brownies are going to wind up tasting like Irish Spring by the time they arrive on your student's doorstep!

Special Occasion Packages

Not sure what to get your student for a special occasion, like a birthday or holiday? Here is a list compiled by several college undergraduates:

- Tool set
- Binder filled with all of his/her favorite recipes
- Cool room décor
- Travel mug
- Galoshes
- Flash drive
- Grocery/Target gift cards
- Gas gift cards
- Books to read (gasp!) for fun
- iPod/mp3 player speakers
- The promise of a home-cooked meal
- Board games such as Apples to Apples, Scattagories, or Boggle