

# Parent or Family Member of a Commuter? **We Can Help!**

Tips to Help Your Commuter Student  
Adjust to Life At Stetson University

A large, faint watermark of the Stetson University seal is visible in the background. The seal features a central figure holding a book, surrounded by the text 'STETSON UNIVERSITY' and '1883'.

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## Where Does My Student Park?

Commuter



- Must park in designated “Red” lots
- Parking in Faculty/Staff spot allowed between 4:30 pm-7:30 am weekdays; anytime on weekends
- Resident parking spaces enforced 24 hrs, 7 days a week

## Public Safety and Your Student

- Parking Rules and Regulations
- Staying Safe on Campus

Stetson Public Safety

Phone: 386.822.7300

Email: [publicsafety@stetson.edu](mailto:publicsafety@stetson.edu)

Website: [stetson.edu/public-safety](http://stetson.edu/public-safety)



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Stetson Public Safety provides each incoming student with Parking Rules and Regulations and Staying Safe on Campus booklets to answer any questions regarding parking, emergency phone locations, safety on campus and how the campus alerts students, faculty and staff when severe weather is imminent. Additional information can be found on their website and students (and parents) are encouraged to email or call with additional questions or concerns.

## General Tips for Commuters

Students  
should plan  
out days!

Commuter Student Problem #9

First class: 8 AM  
Second class: 6 PM

## After Hours Study Areas

- 24-hour commuter study lounge (*CUB 205*)
- Commons Green Room (*across from Coffee Shop, open 24 hours*)
- 24-hour computer lab
- duPont-Ball Library (*open until 1:00 a.m., Sunday through Thursday*)
- Cross Cultural Center
- Stetson Coffee Shop (*open until 2:00 a.m., Sunday through Thursday*)
- Hollis Center lounge & recreation facilities

Stetson has multiple locations where commuter students can find a quiet place to study or just relax between classes.

## Important Resources

### On Campus

- Commuter Lockers
- Academic Success
- Commuter Orientation
- Dining Meal Plans
- Campus events
- SGA Commuter Rep
- Stetson Social Media

### Off Campus

- Housing
- Community Involvement
- University Classified
- VOTRAN Bus (Volusia County Public Transit System)

- These are just a few resources for commuters.
- See all at [stetson.edu/vibrancy/transition-programs/commuter-student-services](http://stetson.edu/vibrancy/transition-programs/commuter-student-services)

## Build Relationships – Not Just Mileage!



- Play Sports
- Join a club – we have over 100!
- Participate in community projects (CCE)
- Workout in the Hollis Center
- Get a work study position
- Attend athletic events and cultural credit events

## Between Two Worlds

### Home Life

- Home Rules
- Perceived Lack of Autonomy
- Familial Expectations
- Additional Responsibilities



### Campus Life

- Academic Responsibilities
- Social Responsibilities
- Peers with perceived complete autonomy



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- Commuter students may feel conflicted about ownership of two different environments.
- It is all too easy for a commuter student to compare own circumstances to residential students.

## The Disconnect Part I: The Perception

- I'm a Stetson University student but I go home every night.
- What am I missing?
- The "stories".
- I feel different:
  - Fitting in
  - Campus Activities



- Potential perception of not being a substantial part of the university community.
- This may negatively impact commuter student's desire to connect with on-campus resources and organizations; or, participate in social activities.

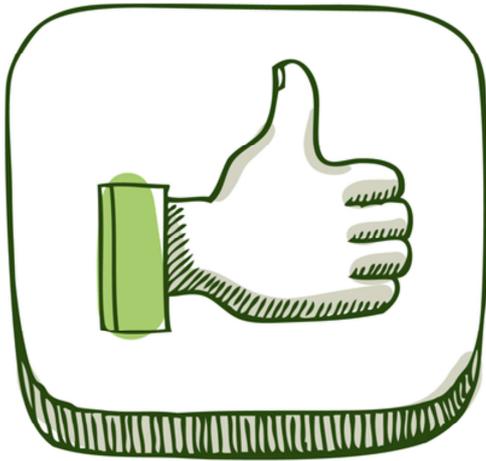
## The Disconnect Part II: The Reality

- Yes, it is different... But, does different have to mean “bad” or “less than”?
- You mean as much to Stetson University as residential students do.
- YOUR STUDENT IS A PART OF STETSON UNIVERSITY!!!



- No denying that commuting is different than living on campus.
- *Difference* does not have to equal *bad* or *less than*.
- Demystify disconnected perception with reinforcement of SU’s resources available to ALL students.

## Home Life Pros



- Detachment from the scene.
- Potential for an increased sense of self due to only being exposed to peer influence in “doses”.

- Commuter students may be quite surprised to learn that many residential students wish they could return to an off-campus residence each evening.
- Peer influence is going to be significantly greater in residential life. This can impede development of *True Self*.

Questions?



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