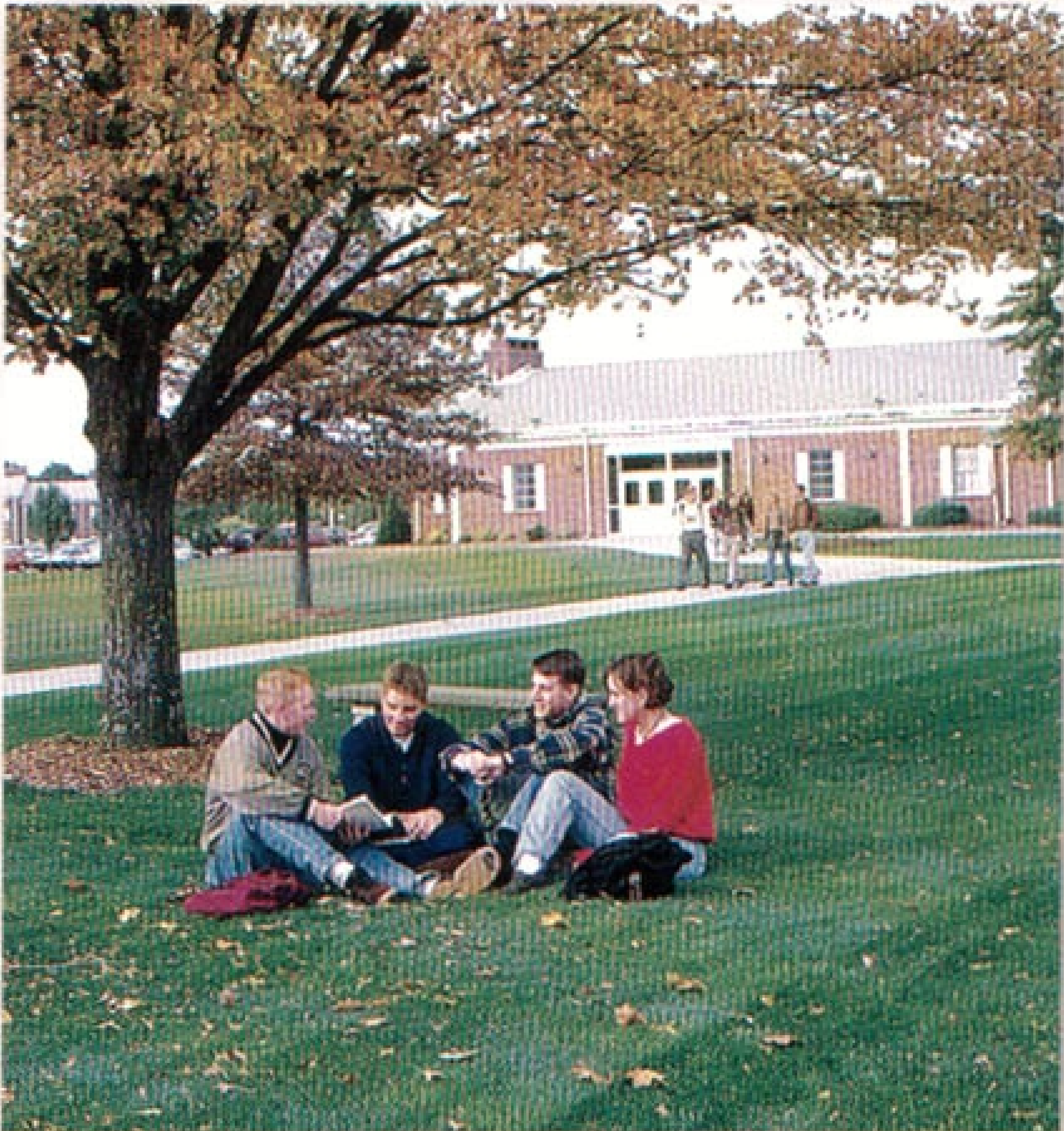


Quick Quiz

When preparing to send your child to college be sure to review:

1. Their college essay
2. Your bank account
3. The film “Animal House”
4. Their insurance coverage

If you selected insurance, you go to the head of the class. When your child moves from home to college there are a number of insurance questions to consider, especially if he or she is planning to live off-campus. Remember, not all insurance policies have the same terms and conditions. Consult your independent insurance agent to determine the limits and types of coverage that apply to your family’s lifestyle.



Home Sweet Dorm

Insurance companies consider college students to be residents of their parents home, temporarily residing elsewhere. They also consider your dorm-room contents to be personal property, located off premises.

Most homeowners/renters policies limit coverage up to 10 percent of personal property, off premises. If you have \$75,000 of personal property coverage at home, you generally will have \$7,500 for an off-premises dorm room. You will need to decide if that’s enough to repair or replace all electronics and other items likely to fill your dorm room in the fall. If it’s not, you might consider purchasing a separate renters policy or property policy for the dorm room.

Up And Away

Studying abroad can provide a host of insurance issues. For example, an insurance company can suspend theft insurance at a student’s domestic residence if he or she has been studying abroad for more than 45 days. Consult an independent insurance agent to make sure your child is covered in at least the following major areas:

- Theft of personal property
- Trip cancellation or interruption
- Emergency medical evacuation or repatriation coverage
- Health or hospitalization



Moving On Up

Nearly one-fifth of college students rent off-campus apartments. Most insurance companies consider these apartments to be a permanent residence. Therefore, the apartment will not be covered under the parents homeowners/renters policy for contents or liability.

Generally, the person who signs the lease is held liable (and may be sued) if someone is injured on their leased premises or by their property. A roommate or parent may also be sued, whether they've signed the lease or not, if the injured party thinks the roommate or parents might be responsible for the claim.

Regardless of who signed the lease, when your child is living off-campus they should obtain their own renters policy. Many insurance companies will not insure multiple names, or unrelated names, on a single policy. However, if you, as a parent signed the lease, you and the student should be named as insureds on the policy.

The annual premium for renters insurance is very reasonable, usually less than \$250 a year for about \$15,000 worth of contents.

Hot Wheels

Few colleges allow freshman living on campus to bring their cars. But 70 percent of the rest of the students have them. Things to consider if your child has a car:

1. Leave the car at home: You might be eligible for a reduced rate if the car is titled in the student's name, no one else will be driving it, and the student will reside more than 100 miles away from the car.

2. Take the car to college and:

- Notify your insurance company that the car will be garaged in another location. Premiums can be affected positively or adversely by a location change.
- State laws vary. For instance if your child goes from a "straight-liability" to a "no-fault" state, their liability coverage may not be adequate. Increasing or decreasing policy coverages will impact their premium accordingly.
- Consider letting your child assume the title to the car if they are 18 years or older. As the titleholder they must get their own auto policy. This will decrease your liability exposure.
- Discourage your child from allowing others to drive the car. Regardless of who may be using the car and for what purpose, your child is still responsible for the car and what is done with it.