

Hello!

I'm Jessica Howard, your first-year mentor. That means I'll be the one guiding you through orientation, class registration, and the first-year experience. You probably have a lot of questions (and some mixed feelings) about starting college, but rest assured you'll be in good company right from the start! We'll meet on move-in day to talk about college life and you'll get to bond with your mentor group during orientation games and activities. You'll also have a number of opportunities to mingle with other first-year students and explore campus before classes begin, so by the time we meet later in the semester, you'll be an old pro!

As for me, I'm a senior religious studies/political science major from Franklin, Tennessee. I just returned from an incredible semester abroad in Egypt, inspired by some great classes and academic advising at DePauw. I'm spending the summer working with a refugee relief organization in the Israel/Palestine region, but of course I'm looking forward to returning to Greencastle just in time to meet you! I especially want to show you some of my favorite spots on and around campus, like the circle maze behind the Peeler Art Center, the Blue Door Café, and the Rim Trail at the Nature Park. It won't be long, of course, until you have favorite study and hang-out spots of your own!

There are also endless ways to get involved and express yourself at DePauw – over the last three years, for example, I've been involved with The DePauw student newspaper, WGRE (the campus radio station), the Compton Center for Peace and Justice, the Hartman Center for Civic Education, and a number of volunteer organizations and faculty/student committees that have really allowed me to stay connected on campus and in the Greencastle community. You'll have a chance to sign up for service activities, campus media outlets, and club sports early in the fall, but, of course, school work comes first! You'll find the balance that works for you, and, as always, I'm here to help.

I hope you're getting excited about college, but don't forget to enjoy your summer! Spend time with friends and family – they'll be a great support system while you're off at school in the fall, so strengthen those relationships now! If you have ANY questions (about packing, classes, housing, long distance relationships, anything), please don't hesitate to e-mail me, Skype me, Instant Message me, or contact me through Facebook! There's no such thing as a "dumb question," and if I don't know the answer I'll find someone who does. Great things are in store for you at DePauw and I'm excited to watch them unfold!

See you in August!

Jessica Howard

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