



## **Insuring Your College Student**

If your child will be going to college soon, this information is for you. We understand firsthand how the process of preparing for college varies per family. While insurance may not be at the top of the college “to-do” list, there are some important topics to think about and prepare for in advance.

Courts have determined that a dependent child away at school is still legally a resident of their parent’s household, and some insurance companies do not require any additional insurance coverage. But each company is different, so it’s best to check with us to be sure your child has coverage in all scenarios.

On most homeowner’s policies, a student under the age of twenty-four is covered by his or her parent’s homeowner’s policy if he/she is enrolled full-time in school and was a resident of your household before moving out to attend school.

So, what coverages apply to your child while they are away at college? First and foremost, your child is protected by the Personal Liability section of your homeowner’s policy for bodily injury or property damage they cause. However, it’s important to note that intentional acts are not covered.

Your child will be facing new responsibilities and exposures, so this is a good time to consider purchasing an Umbrella policy if you do not currently have one in place. Umbrella policies provide an extra layer of liability protection for your family.

***A child is considered a “named insured” if he/she is 23 years old or younger and a relative (21 years old if in your care and not a relative); a full-time student as defined by their school (usually 12 hours); and a resident of your home before moving out.***

### **Taking a Car to College**



If your child is taking a car to college, it is important that you notify us where the car will be garaged (at school, at an apartment, or other location). If your child leaves his or her car at home, you might be eligible for a reduced rate if the student resides more than one hundred miles away from where the car is located.

Many college kids make a habit of swapping cars with a roommate or friend to run errands, hold a parking spot, or because it’s the last car in the driveway. If there is a chance your child could borrow someone else’s car, this could be a huge liability for you - especially if the vehicle is furnished and available for regular use. We highly recommend you add the extended non-owned coverage endorsement to your auto policy.

***Remember...  
Insurance follows  
the car and not the  
driver.***

To better understand the importance of this endorsement, consider this scenario:

**Your child borrows his roommate's car to run to the grocery store. He runs a stop sign and hits another car, causing serious injuries to the three passengers in the other car. They are all admitted to the hospital, and their medical bills cost more than the limits on the policy covering the roommate’s car.**

**In this situation, your child, as the driver, could be named in a lawsuit. If you have the extended non-owned coverage endorsement on your policy, you will be covered for separate/additional liability protection.**

## **Protecting Everything in the Dorm Room**



When it comes to protecting your child's personal property, coverage is available up to an amount equal to 10% of the personal property coverage limit on the parent's policy. Personal property includes items such as clothing, small furniture, appliances, and electronics. Of course, the policy deductible would apply in the event of a property loss, such as theft of personal property.

Insuring electronics (such as a laptop or tablet) may be one of the greatest concerns. Some insurance carriers allow these items to be listed separately on the homeowner's policy, so that a deductible would not apply to a loss. However, a small loss filed on a laptop could be viewed as unfavorable by insurance companies, resulting in an increase of premium when your policy renews, or could even result in coverage being discontinued when combined with other losses.

## **Living off Campus**



If your child is living in an apartment and the lease is in the parent's or parent/child's name, then 10% towards contents automatically extends from the homeowner's policy. If the lease is in the child's name only, then you need to consider renter's insurance.

Purchasing a separate renter's policy in your child's name is quite affordable and is usually less than \$200.00 for the year. Contents limits are available as low as \$6,000 and personal liability limits start at \$100,000. The premium will vary based on the limits and deductible chosen. Also, endorsements to the policy, such as replacement cost and all-risk coverage, are available.

Sometimes, we receive requests to add an apartment building owner to a renter's policy. This means the landlord is requiring the renter to carry insurance coverage (primarily liability coverage). In these instances, you can add the landlord to the policy as an Additional Interest. This allows the building owner/landlord to be listed on the policy declarations and to be notified if the renter's insurance cancels. The Additional Interest endorsement does not provide any coverage to the landlord.

## **Studying Abroad**



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/she has been studying abroad for more than 45-90 days (the exact number of days can vary per company.)

The same holds true if the student has vacated the apartment or dorm for any reason for more than 45-90 days (again depending on the company.) Please inform your insurance agent if your child plans to study abroad so we can be sure the coverage needed is in place.

## **Health Insurance for Your College Student**



Health insurance coverage can be complex. Problems can surface without warning, so it's a good idea to familiarize your child with his/her current coverage and emergency provisions of your policy.

Check to make sure you know the cutoff, whether your child is a full-time or part-time student, and if your plan has a network where your child is going to college. Mistakes in this area can be extremely costly and plans vary widely, so check with your health-plan administrator in advance to minimize surprises.

We do recommend you request an additional health insurance card for your child to keep in his/her wallet. Also, if you have a Health Savings Account, request an additional card from the bank so your child can pay for services with your pre-tax contributions.

***You may want to request an additional health insurance card for your child to have while at college.***

We also recommend increasing your existing life insurance to cover the total cost of your child's tuition, room and board, transportation, books, and supplies. Whether you have a college fund prepared for your child or are paying as they go, life insurance is a secure method to safeguard your child's education.

### **The Bottom Line**

We are here to help answer any of your questions or concerns. If your child is going to college, just call us at 864-288-9513 or [email](#) us. We'll recommend the best options and give you peace of mind (at least where the insurance is concerned).

We wish your child all the best as they begin a new adventure!

# COLLEGE CHECKLIST FOR THE TURNER AGENCY

Notify The Turner Agency that your child is going to college before the beginning of school.

## Auto Insurance

- ✓ Is your child taking a vehicle to school? Tell us where the car will be housed. If not, let us know if the school is more than one hundred miles away.
- ✓ Ask us about adding the extended non-owned endorsement to your auto policy if there is a chance he/she might drive someone else's car.

## Living off Campus

- ✓ The apartment complex will require renter's insurance. We can set up an affordable renter's policy and include the landlord as an additional interest. Most of the time, our carriers offer better coverage and rates than what the apartment offers.

## Studying abroad?

- ✓ Contact us.

## Questions regarding health insurance

- ✓ Contact us.

## Purchase life insurance for your child/children

- ✓ Contact us.