

First Year ~ Family Talking Points

Here are some topics you may want to discuss with your student before they begin school to reduce misunderstandings or conflict.

Money Matters: 

- ⇒ Will your student have a checking account set up? If so, who will be responsible for balancing the account?
- ⇒ Whose name will the account be in?
- ⇒ What will happen to any refund money that the student/family may receive?
- ⇒ Who will supply spending money?
- ⇒ How much spending money is needed?
- ⇒ Will your student be getting a job at school?
- ⇒ Will your student have a credit card? If so, who will be responsible and what are the limitations?

Bills, Bills, Bills: 

- ⇒ Who pays for tuition? How?
- ⇒ Who pays for room and board? How?
- ⇒ Who pays for school supplies? How?
- ⇒ Who pays other bills (phone, car, etc.)? How?
- ⇒ Can your student charge expenses to their student account?

No Place Like Home—Commuter Style: 


- ⇒ What rules are they expected to live by when they are home (curfew, housework, use of car, etc.)?
- ⇒ Who pays for car maintenance or repair?
- ⇒ Will your student share their class schedule so you know when they will be coming and going?
- ⇒ Are friends allowed to come home?
- ⇒ What additional chores will your student have while living at home? Laundry? Housework?

No Place Like Home—Residence Hall Style: 

- ⇒ How often will you plan to visit?
- ⇒ How often will your student come home?
- ⇒ Are friends allowed to come home?
- ⇒ Will you come for Family Weekend or other special events?
- ⇒ How much notice will be given before a visit?
- ⇒ What kind of rules will there be while home on a holiday break?

Let's Talk: 

- ⇒ Who calls whom?
- ⇒ Should we email/text each other?
- ⇒ Should we send letters or cards?
- ⇒ How often will we talk on the phone? Should we set a time?

There's something I've got to tell you: 

- ⇒ What do you want to know about their life?
- ⇒ What do you feel comfortable sharing?
- ⇒ What will they want to know about family events?
- ⇒ Do parents get to know about grades? Progress in classes? Dating relationships? Roommate issues? Homesickness?
- ⇒ What is shared about disciplinary troubles?

Don't Overlook: 

- ⇒ Will your student add your phone number/email address to the campus emergency alert system?
- ⇒ Will you be added as an additional user to view bills?
- ⇒ What kinds of things does your student still need to purchase for school? Who is responsible for this?
- ⇒ If you live in a blended family, what issues arise out of that? (Who pays for what? Where are breaks spent? Who makes decisions?)
- ⇒ What insurance coverage does your student have for medical, personal, renters, car, etc.?



Parent and Family Relations

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As a family, fill in the table below as you discuss situations which may arise with your new student. Understanding both student and parent expectations is helpful to avoid misunderstandings or conflict.

TOPIC	STUDENT EXPECTATION	PARENT EXPECTATION
Student decides to drop a class.	Tell my parent beforehand so it doesn't disrupt any scholarship, loan or insurance coverage.	Be understanding, expects student to receive academic advising, and check with financial aid office before making a decision.
A bill is due at the beginning of the month.		
Student gets a job.		
Student receives final grades for the semester.		
Student decides they want to switch roommates, or move out of Residential Hall.		
Student has a roommate conflict.		
Student plans to take a road trip.		
Parent wants to visit student for the weekend.		
Student charges additional expenses to student account		
Parent can't reach student at specified time.		
Student has a medical emergency.		
Student has a psychological emergency.		