How Is the Fall Semester Going for You and Your Student?

It’s been more than a month since your student began the fall 2014 semester. How is it going for you? How is it going for them?

We hope your student is successfully transitioning; they have a lot going on as they get settled into the first semester of the 2014-15 academic year. We have put together some important reminders in this newsletter. Remember that Support + Responsibility = Success! We are here to support you and your student. So please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, concerns or comments, or just need a listening ear.

Stay involved — friend us on Facebook and join the conversation by posting comments. You can get to the page from our website (parents.wayne.edu) or by clicking this link: www.facebook.com/WSUParentFamily.

Sincerely,

Linda Seatts,
Coordinator Parent and Family Programs
parents@wayne.edu
313-577-2923
(1-877) WSU-PARENT

Important Dates to Note

Is your student aware of what's coming up on the academic calendar?

Nov. 9: Last day to withdraw from class.
Nov. 26: No classes.
Nov. 27-29: University closed. Holiday break.
Registration for the winter 2015 semester begins Nov 3. The best way for your student to prepare for registration is to visit an academic advisor for help with their class schedule and graduation plan. Having a targeted plan for graduation can significantly reduce the cost of their degree. There are limits on the amount of financial aid a student can receive, and aid eligibility begins to drop off after the fourth year in school.

To avoid registration delays, students should review their account balance and aid status in Pipeline. If your student added a course or incurred other charges after receiving a financial aid refund, there may be a balance owed and a registration hold.

See the student account summary page in Pipeline for balance information.

Questions about aid? Call the Financial Aid Office at 313-577-2100.

S.M.A.R.T. Check

Stay smart. Finish what you start.

Did you know that your student's financial aid eligibility is affected every time they withdraw from a course? Did you also know that students who withdraw from all courses during a semester may be required to repay a portion of their aid back to the university?

Because of these and other key factors, any student who thinks they want to withdraw from a course is required to participate in the S.M.A.R.T. Check program. S.M.A.R.T. Check is a mandatory part of the withdrawal process to ensure that each student fully understands the academic and financial impact of withdrawing from class.

Find out more by visiting go.wayne.edu/smart.

Health and Wellness: Campus Health Clinic

Flu season is here! We’ve got some information that can help keep your student healthy this fall and winter.

College students have an increased risk of catching serious illnesses such as the flu. Close contact through dorms, classrooms, public transportation, parties and sports events make the flu particularly contagious on college campuses. Getting your flu shot is not only good health advice; it is also a requirement in the Wayne State University Housing agreement. The Student Health Service is located on the first floor of the Student Union and is open Monday through Friday. For more information, please visit the Student Health Services website at studenthealthservices.wayne.edu.
easy to spread. It’s not the common cold. Even healthy people get the flu and it can be very serious, resulting in hospitalization or even death.

Getting sick can cause students to miss class, social functions and even work. Simply put, students can’t afford to go unvaccinated this year.

The Campus Health Center is holding on-site flu vaccination opportunities in the clinic and at multiple outreach clinics across campus. We accept walk-ins at our clinic most Mondays. The calendar of available dates and locations can be found at http://health.wayne.edu/flu-shots.html. The calendar is updated constantly, so please check back to find a date convenient for your student.

Every student at Wayne State is eligible for a flu shot from the Campus Health Center with no out-of-pocket cost. Appointments can be made by calling 313-577-5041. For more information, visit health.wayne.edu/. Don’t delay — get vaccinated today!

As always, the Campus Health Center is the on-campus health and wellness resource for students. Our team of health care providers can assist your student with everything from acute illness care to routine health management. We handle a variety of services for enrolled students, including but not limited to: clearance exams, immunizations, illness care, physicals, women’s and men’s health, weight management and health education.

**Important Registration Reminder**

Remind your student that priority online registration for the winter 2015 semester begins Monday, Nov. 3. Because classes fill up quickly, students should meet with an advisor before Nov. 3 so they are ready as soon as priority registration opens.

**New Roommate? No Problem!**

*by Nicolas Board, WSU Student*

Conflict occurs in almost every aspect of our lives. Your student has more than likely already overcome disagreements between friends, siblings and other family members. However, now that they are out of the house and living on their own, they are going to face new challenges and conflicts.
Being a college student myself, a new situation I had to overcome was conflict with my roommate. Sure, when I had lived at home I shared space with my family and a room with my younger brother. The thought of having a roommate seemed like old news to me. Yet, it was far from old news. I found myself living with someone I had only known for about a year and a half, not my whole life! We were involved in a few organizations on campus together in the past. We got along well and didn’t think twice about living together when we both found ourselves looking for roommates. We thought we knew a lot about one another, but what we didn’t know has caused some conflict between us over the past year.

The first disagreement I remember having with my roommate was over the cleanliness of the bathroom. I am a slight clean freak (unless it involves putting laundry away) and my roommate had much different standards than I had on what clean meant. Then, a few weeks later, there was an argument about putting the dishes in the dishwasher, not just in the sink. And then, of course, a discussion about “folding the blanket on the futon when we’re done using it” happened. I was going crazy, I thought. I am sure I was doing things to make him go crazy too. I started talking to friends about my dilemma and they were facing the same issues and more with their roommates.

Cleanliness was not the only problem we were having with our roommates. None of us had ever set expectations with school/social life balances, work schedules and significant others. We also had never answered the always-awkward questions, “Are you my friend? Roommate? Both?” These issues all came back to communication breakdowns. We just did our own thing, irritating one another, pushing the other’s limit. We were pushing the limits so hard that we began to attack one another instead of coming down hard on the problems. We weren’t sharing our expectations — but when we did, I found out that I have the best friend and roommate I could have found in college.

Fortunately, the Office of Housing and Residential Life has some handy tools and tips for your student to overcome the challenges of living with a new person. They have a roommate agreement that covers a number of possible problems, which your student can get from their building’s front desk or by talking to their RA. The roommate agreement is a great way to break the ice and make a potentially awkward conversation easier. However, the roommate agreement should not be the end of the
conversation. Encourage your student to have a weekly sync-up meeting with their roommate to discuss things they have going on that week and calmly talk about potential issues. Also, if your student and their roommate have conflicting schedules, there is a great web app called GoodMate that can make life easier.

If a conflict does arise, encourage your student to take some time to cool down and then have a talk with their roommate. They should always recognize that there were probably good intentions and they should work to attack the problem together. If they are struggling to solve it and they live on campus, they can always have a talk with their RA.

Using these tips and tools should help your student overcome the conflicts they may face and make them one of the best roommates another student can have. Who knows — they might make a new friend along the way!

Brought to you by:

WSU Parent & Family Programs
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Dean of Students Office