

Online Family Chat - Main Lobby

Wednesday, February 17, 2016

familychatadministrator(Arie_NewStudent&FamilyPrograms): Good Evening everyone and thank you for joining us for our chat tonight! My name is Arie Gee and I serve as the Assistant Director for Family Programs and Engagement in New Student and Family Programs. You are welcome to ask any questions you have here in the lobby. If you have questions specifically for Academic Advising, Gatorwell Health Promotion Services, or Sorority and Fraternity Affairs, you can join their chat rooms by clicking the "Add More Chatrooms" button on the top right hand side of your screen.

lyonsforlife: I am new to this ,so could someone please get started..Is there anfo you can offer at this time,please?

familychatadministrator(Arie_NewStudent&FamilyPrograms): Our campus partners are having some technical difficulties getting logged in, but we will have them introduce themselves as soon as they get logged in.

lucas: Will the campus be closed for Spring break?

familychatadministrator(Arie_NewStudent&FamilyPrograms): Campus will be open for the break! Offices and the Residence Halls will be open, but dining halls will have reduced hours.

Alicia_GatorWell: Good evening! My name is Alicia Baker and I'm the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Specialist for GatorWell Health Promotion Services on campus. Please feel free to ask any health-related questions or anything regarding our services during tonight's chat!

familychatmoderator(Lynn_Advisor): Hi all, I'm Lynn O'Sickey, an academic advisor in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Academic Advising Center. I am happy to answer any academic questions in the Advising Chat Room. If I can't answer them, I'll refer you to someone who can.

juanacubillas: Who should I talk to regarding living off campus?

familychatmoderator(SororityandFraternityAffairs): Hi Everyone. I am Reginald Lane, Program Coordinator from Sorority and Fraternity Affairs. Please free to ask any questions.

familychatadministrator(Arie_NewStudent&FamilyPrograms): I can help answer some of your questions. Nora and Off Campus Life aren't scheduled for tonight's chat.

juanacubillas: Is there a phone number I can call?

familychatadministrator(Arie_NewStudent&FamilyPrograms): They are open 8-5 and their phone number is 352-392-1207 352-392-1207352-392-1207352-392-1207352-392-1207352-392-1207

familychatmoderator(UF_NSFP Mickey): Hey all, my name is Mickey Howard and I am an associate director with new student and family programs in the dean of students office. Happy to be here.

juanacubillas: Thanks Arie

familychatadministrator(Arie_NewStudent&FamilyPrograms): Has anyone talked about Spring Break plans with their student?

htoms@hookerfurniture.com: Yes... it's not an issue this year (she's coming home this year),but I was interested in knowing the typical problems for students at a resort spring break... beyond the obvious that they shouldn't drink excessively or at all if under age.

Gator65: Wat is everyone's opinion to send a freshman to porturico for sb

Alicia_GatorWell: So at GatorWell, we cover different spring break issues depending on where they go. For resorts (I'm assuming a beach resort?) we definitely talk about alcohol. Aside from excessive drinking, we also talk about drinking in hot weather, as it leads to dehydration and increased risk of sunstroke

Alicia_GatorWell: Some other things to consider are sun and water safety (using sunscreen regularly, understanding beach warning flags), food safety (like proper cooking and cooling temperatures to avoid food poisoning), and general safety if they leave the resort (keeping a cell phone on, having emergency contacts and apps)
Sjrobinson69: Is anyone moderating the sorority chat room?
familychatadministrator(Arie_NewStudent&FamilyPrograms): Reggie will head in there to answer your question @Sjrobinson!
familychatmoderator(Sorority & Fraternity Affairs): Yes, we are monitoring the Sorority & Fraternity chat room.
htoms@hookerfurniture.com: Are there areas (countries, etc) that you would suggest students avoid. Do some resorts in neighboring countries have people that target teens and early 20's for such things as kidnapping or something worse than drinking or excessive sun... or are you listed concerns as bad as it normally gets.
htoms@hookerfurniture.com: When I refer to other areas... areas that you have had problems in the past
familychatadministrator(Arie_NewStudent&FamilyPrograms): I haven't heard consistently about any resorts. Reggie might have some insight on that since many of our Fraternities and Sororities travel to other places
familychatmoderator(Sorority & Fraternity Affairs): In our roles we have not heard of specific places to avoid. We recommend our students do their research into other countries and locations and use common sense when selecting a location.
Alicia_GatorWell: From GatorWell's perspective, I would recommend looking at CDC's Travel Health site for countries with health warnings (in a more extreme example: Zika virus), but then the state department also has travel advisory notices you can review as well!
Sjrobinson69: Arie. Still no response from sorority affairs in chat room Very disappointing.
familychatadministrator(Arie_NewStudent&FamilyPrograms): It wasn't showing in their window! I just asked again.
familychatmoderator(Sorority & Fraternity Affairs): Sorry! Yes, it was not showing in our window.
htoms@hookerfurniture.com: In my travels, I am aware of the state dept warning... but just wanted to make sure I wasn't missing something that was normally considered fairly obvious to UF. Thanks for the feedback.
Alicia_GatorWell: No problem! Most students that I know of tend to go in groups to Mexico, PR, and other Latin America areas. As long as they stay in more tourist-y cities, they don't report any problems :)
Alicia_GatorWell: I would also suggest if your child is going out of the country, SHCC has a Travel Clinic that will help students make sure they have the proper vaccines/medications for the country in which they're traveling
jeanmarkevich@gmail.com: I would like to view the chat
familychatadministrator(Arie_NewStudent&FamilyPrograms): Hi all, we have had some great questions tonight. I'm going to keep the chat open for about 5 more minutes and then close the chat for today. If you have any final questions for our professional staff, you're welcome to go ahead and ask them now!
bridget: what is the price for the spring family weekend and will there be sponsorships available
familychatmoderator(Arie_NewStudentFamilyPrograms): We are still setting the price for the weekend, but hope to have the price finalized by the end of February! It will be less than Fall Family Weekend and there will be a few Waivers available.
familychatmoderator(Arie_NewStudentFamilyPrograms): Thank you everyone for joining us tonight! If you have questions in the future, you're always welcome to email IHaveAGator@ufl.edu and we are happy to help!

Online Family Chat - Sorority & Fraternity Affairs

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Sjrobinson69: Unfortunately my daughter has tried unsuccessfully in fall and spring to join a sorority. I am trying to figure out the Greek system at UF. It seems so harsh. Can you tell me if there is anything that can be done to set a cut off for applicants. It seems there are hundreds of good people that are turned away because there is not enough space. Why would you guys allow several hundred apply (and pay application fee) if there are so few spots available. It has been a heartbreaking experience at UF as far as Rush is concerned.

familychatadministrator(Arie_NewStudent&FamilyPrograms): Hi Reggie, here is Sjrobinson's question again in case it isn't showing in your window! Unfortunately my daughter has tried unsuccessfully in fall and spring to join a sorority. I am trying to figure out the Greek system at UF. It seems so harsh. Can you tell me if there is anything that can be done to set a cut off for applicants. It seems there are hundreds of good people that are turned away because there is not enough space. Why would you guys allow several hundred apply (and pay application fee) if there are so few spots available. It has been a heartbreaking experience at UF as far as Rush is concerned.

familychatmoderator(Sorority & Fraternity Affairs): Sjrobinson, I'm sorry to hear that your daughter has had a negative experience with the sororities. If you are talking specifically about Panhellenic sorority recruitment, the number of women accepted into the sororities is based on the number of women that apply. Capping applications as a certain number would not have an impact on the number of women that are invited to join.

familychatmoderator(Sorority & Fraternity Affairs): We would happy to meet with your daughter to talk about her experience and talk with her about her options for this next year and even opportunities for other student involvement.

Sjrobinson69: I'm confused. I was under the impression that there are only a certain number of spots available for each sorority. There are caps- as my daughter was told. Literally thousands of Girls came Out for fall rush and there were not thousands of spaces. The accepted the application fee from all Of those girls know that only a small percentage would get in. Spring rush was even worse. Only about 40 openings and hundreds trying for those spots. The system seems flawed and unfair. She really wanted to be involved and be a part of the Greek community at UF. After this past experience in spring- I doubt she will be back. She did share her experiences in a survey that was sent to her.

familychatmoderator(Sorority & Fraternity Affairs): It is true that not all women are guaranteed an invitation to join a sorority through the recruitment process.The spring recruitment for Panhellenic sororities is different than the fall. In the spring there are a limited number ofwomen the chapters are able to invite per their own policies. Therewere about 200 women that registered for 90 spots. There was no registration fee in the spring.

familychatmoderator(Sorority & Fraternity Affairs): If your daughter changes her mind and would like to speak with us, please have her reach out to us at 352-392-1671.

Online Family Chat - Academic Advising

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mabear: hi! what is the deadline for submitting request to take summer classes at other Florida University (FIU) ?

familychatadministrator(Arie_NewStudent&FamilyPrograms): The process can take up to 2 weeks, so I recommend having your student talk with their advisor about it right after Spring Break before the pre-registration period starts

familychatadministrator(Arie_NewStudent&FamilyPrograms): FIU might also have a deadline for applying as a transient student, so check with them too!

mabear: Good point! and if an internship materializes, is there a penalty to cancel the class?

familychatadministrator(Arie_NewStudent&FamilyPrograms): Not through UF. FIU may have a penalty though.

familychatmoderator(Lynn_Advisor): Hi marbear, As long as your student drops the UF summer course before the end of drop/add there is usually no penalty. If the course is elsewhere, check their rules.

mabear: ok, thanks!

familychatmoderator(Lynn_Advisor): Hi folks, do you have further academic questions?

orangecityfl: My son had a hold on his account and was unable to register for spring classes until he met with an advisor. Does this happen every semester or just with first year students?

familychatmoderator(Lynn_Advisor): orangecityfl...

familychatmoderator(Lynn_Advisor): About a month before registration, students receive an email reminder to go to ISIS (soon to be one.uf.edu) and check their "Registration Prep" for the next semester. Part of that is checking their holds...

chumphries: My son was thinking about taking a class or two over the summer at the state college in our town. Will they count toward his credits/major/minor?

familychatmoderator(Lynn_Advisor): I don't know what kind of hold he had. If he is in a college with mandatory advisement, he will get one every term. But there are many other kinds of holds (e.g., financial, must complete alcohol/sexual harassment training, etc.) Most depend on the students individual situation.

orangecityfl: He is undecided engineering.

familychatmoderator(Lynn_Advisor): chumphries, your student should meet with his advisor to discuss this. In most cases, courses taken at a public state college in Fla will meet all requirements...

familychatmoderator(Lynn_Advisor): chumphries, however, he needs approval, and they may have rules if it is a major minor course....

familychatmoderator(Lynn_Advisor): chumphries, also, courses taken at a state college do not meet the State of Florida Summer Term enrollment requirement.

BocaUF: how many hours of class have to take for summer for UF undergrad student?

familychatmoderator(Lynn_Advisor): orangecityfl, Engineering has mandatory advising every term. He should be paying attention early to his registration prep. He can find college advising contact info at <http://www.ufadvising.ufl.edu/advisers.aspx>

orangecityfl: Okay, thank you.

familychatmoderator(Lynn_Advisor): BocaUF, the state requirement is that students complete 9 hours in the summer at one of the 11 State Universities. This can be spread out over several summers. It can also be UF credit that he takes online or UF credit he gets for internship at home or elsewhere or UF overseas study credit, etc.

Hello: How does a student change his major?

familychatmoderator(Lynn_Advisor): Hello, the student goes to the program offering the desired major to see whether he/she is eligible, if not, what needs to be done to be eligible. Second semester frosh are usually eligible.
Hello: Is their paperwork to complete?
chumphries: Thank you! I have another question, last fall when he was signing up for classes, he signed up for a history class that counted as both a humanities and a diversity. Now that class only appears as a humanities fulfillment. I would like to know if it is common to change a class designation mid-year. I would also like to find out how he can get the credit for the diversity.
familychatmoderator(Lynn_Advisor): Hello, that depends on the major. For most majors, there is no paperwork if you are changing in the first two years.
BocaUF: thanks, she can take online UF class when she at home town? what is credit internship at home? how can she find class in local college can be credit by UF, has she to meet adviser first?
familychatmoderator(Lynn_Advisor): chumphries, that is unusual, what is the class?
Hello: How does the student go about getting a new advisor if they are changing colleges?
chumphries: AMH2010 US Hist to 1877.
familychatmoderator(Lynn_Advisor): BocaUF, yes, your student can take a UF course via the web at home and get UF credit that applies to the summer requirement. If your student gets an internships and works with their department or the honors program to get credit (do not have to be in honors for that), then they could earn UF internship credit in the summer.
txsh05: My daughter has decided to change her major starting in the fall to engineering and music? Because of the load involved in both of these, she wants to take classes over the summer to "catch up". We are out of state, how do we find out if our local community college classes will transfer? we are aware that this will not fulfill the required summer she will have to do in Florida.
familychatmoderator(Lynn_Advisor): Hello, your student should go to that college advising office to ask about changing and they will tell him/her how advising is applied (e.g., assigned or first-come first-serve, or in CLAS, first-come, though you can request or make an appointment with your preferred advisor).
familychatmoderator(Lynn_Advisor): chumphries, AMH2010 has never had diversity credit assigned to it.
familychatmoderator(Lynn_Advisor): chumphries, AMH2020 does, IF taken this fall or if student brought in the credit this summer/fall.
juanacubillas: Who does the paper work for summer classes outside UF?
familychatmoderator(Lynn_Advisor): txsh05, first, your student should figure out which major is her primary major (you can't declare a double major/dual degree til you are on track for your primary major). Then go to the advising for both programs and ask what can/should be taken in Summer. Then find courses at local colleges and bring those course descriptions to the appropriate advisor (e.g., calc 1 to Engineering advisor for pre-approval).
familychatmoderator(Lynn_Advisor): juanacubillas, If it is at an in-state institution, the student submits via the Florida Shines website, but since the student's college advisor must approve, it's best to meet with the advisor in advance so it goes through smoothly.
familychatmoderator(Lynn_Advisor): juanacub...if it is an out-of-state institution, get approval from the advisor and check with the institution about their process to get registered.
familychatmoderator(Lynn_Advisor): chumphries, sorry, back to you, AMH2020 counts for Social and Behavioral Sciences and Diversity (not Humanities and Diversity), if taken Fall 2015 or LATER or credit brought in Summer B or Fall 2015.
familychatmoderator(Lynn_Advisor): txsh05, advising contacts can be found at: http://www.ufadvising.ufl.edu/advisers.aspx

txsh05: She did tell me she now has 2 advisors, one for each major, I assume they told her about choosing a primary. are classes from 2 year colleges usually ok, or should she focus on 4 year colleges? and are out of florida schools usually accepted? I just want to make sure she finds out before coming home for spring break what information she needs to be getting from the schools here. Is there anything in particular she should ask her advisors before she looks into the schools for summer.

familychatmoderator(Lynn_Advisor): txsh05, classes from 2 year colleges are OK_IF_ the major says it is.

familychatmoderator(Lynn_Advisor): txsh05, out-of-state institutions are usually accepted, the student may have to do a little more leg work to find equivalent courses. Florida has a common course numbering system that makes it easier.

txsh05: ok thanks. so she just gets the courses needed from her advisor and takes it to the local colleges, then takes the info from them and shows her advisor for approval??

familychatmoderator(Lynn_Advisor): txsh05, yes, that's basically what she will do, though the procedure at the other school, since it is out of state, might be different. They might require a letter from the advisor. But if she starts now she should have no problem getting it worked out.

txsh05: thanks...also, is it correct that engineering is a 5 year program? she is interested in civil eng. So that would mean should wouldn't graduate for 6 years since she didn't decide her first year?

familychatmoderator(Lynn_Advisor): txsh, Engineering is usually a 5 year program, but if she does summers early on, it may not take 6 years, it very much depends. Engineering and music double major don't overlap well and could take longer.

jceta: is FAFSA due on March 1st or 15th?

txsh05: I also have a FAFSA question, if we already submitted but need to make revisions, does that have the same deadline?

familychatmoderator(Lynn_Advisor): jceta and txsh, I am not a financial aid counselor, sorry. I can tell you that they recommend it be in by March 15.

familychatmoderator(Lynn_Advisor): jceta and txsh, here is the contact page for Financial Affairs.

<http://www.sfa.ufl.edu/contact-sfa/>

txsh05: thanks for all your help

jceta: thanks anyway

familychatmoderator(Lynn_Advisor): jceta, here's their page about FAFSA: <http://www.sfa.ufl.edu/news/its-time-to-apply-for-2016-17-financial-aid/>

jceta: thanks Lynn

familychatmoderator(Lynn_Advisor): :-)

familychatmoderator(Lynn_Advisor): Hi all, any other academic questions before they close the chat?

familychatmoderator(Lynn_Advisor): All, thanks for your questions and for helping your students. I hope they (and you) have a great break!

jceta: Have a wonderful spring break

familychatmoderator(Lynn_Advisor): jceta, will be working break, but at least it will be quiet. I usually get alot done :-)

Online Family Chat - GatorWell Health Promotions

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sbecker: What are the hours of the on-campus health center/health clinic
sbecker: Are the dorms open during the week of Spring Break
familychatadministrator(Arie_NewStudent&FamilyPrograms): The Student Health Care Center is open M-F 8a-5p, Sun 12-4p
familychatadministrator(Arie_NewStudent&FamilyPrograms): The residence halls stay open for Spring Break!
SandyB: My son has been sick quite frequently this past fall and now into
SandyB: My son has been sick very frequently last fall and now has the Flu. Is there any leniency in getting out of a housing contract if I know that where he is living is contributing to his frequent illnesses?
Hello: do you need an appointment to go to the clinic? My son called on Wednesday but could not get seen until Friday, by then the tamiflu was no help.
Alicia_GatorWell: @SandyB That would more than likely be a question to ask Housing (housing.ufl.edu). I will say that unfortunately in any group housing situation, viruses and illness does tend to spread.
SandyB: I realize that it's the environment but how much does a kid need to endure in that setting, I'd be willing to move him off campus.
SandyB: Hello, thanks he was able to get an appt. and did get the Tamiflu at the cusp of the 48 hours.
Alicia_GatorWell: @Hello: For SHCC (Infirmary), they typically take appointments as they get pretty busy. However, we do have what is called CareSpot around Gainesville that can also take emergency/drop ins
SandyB: That's good to know, is CareSpot on campus?
Alicia_GatorWell: CareSpot is ran through UF Health/Shands and has two nearby locations: one on Archer Road and one Downtown
SandyB: Ok, so if our health insurance is accepted at the Infirmary then do you think the same for CareSpot?
Alicia_GatorWell: I would recommend checking with either your insurance or CareSpot to double check, but I would assume that if your insurance would work for a major hospital, then it should work at CareSpot
Alicia_GatorWell: I will say thatGatorWell are separate from SHCC. While they handle medical issues, we do health education and preventative care for the students as a whole
SandyB: Ok, thank you so much
Alicia_GatorWell: @SandyB: I would definitely recommend that if the problem in the res hall is severe enough regarding your son's illness(es), talk to your Doctor about the severity and potentially have him write a letter explaining the health situation and having that on hand should you pursue getting a Housing contract release if you do talk to the Housing Office.
Alicia_GatorWell: past that, the ball would be in Housing's court
SandyB: ok alicia, I will look into that and see what happens
jeanmarkevich@gmail.com: I am just interested in suggestions for safe spring break
jeanmarkevich@gmail.com: I do not see any conversation yet
Alicia_GatorWell: Sure! Is your student traveling anywhere in particular?
jeanmarkevich@gmail.com: No. So far he has no plans-as far as I know :)
jeanmarkevich@gmail.com: I saw where there are some trips offered, volunteer etc. in spring break and I hope he may look into that next year

Alicia_GatorWell: Yeah, CLS (Center for Leadership and Service) offers Florida Alternative Breaks that are really fun! Our Rec Sports office also offers TRiP which is off-campus camping/hiking/canoeing adventures throughout the year as well

Alicia_GatorWell: what we usually suggest to students - regardless of destination - is to avoid drowsy driving, avoid or be mindful of alcohol consumption, and if they travel to plan ahead for any emergencies on the road (among other things)

Alicia_GatorWell: Within our office, we offer some individual services throughout the year. We have free Quit Tobacco coaching, Wellness Coaching for Time/Stress Management, and HIV testing