

# Online Family Chat - Main Lobby

Thursday, October 29, 2015

familychatadministrator(Arie\_NewStudentFamilyPrograms): Good Afternoon families! Welcome to our family chat! My name is Arie Gee and I serve as the Assistant Director for Family Programs and Engagement in the Dean of Students Office. Joining me today are representatives from the Academic Advising Center, Housing and Residence Education, and Off Campus Life.

familychatmoderator(NSFP Corry): Good afternoon! My name is Corry Moore, and I serve as the Program Assistant with New Student and Family Programs in the Dean of Students Office. I am looking forward to a great chat today.

familychatmoderator(Nora\_OffCampusLife): Hello I'm Nora Kilroy from Off Campus Life and I would be happy to help with any off-campus or apartment search questions.

familychatmoderator(Calvin Mosley): Hello, my name is Calvin Mosley and I am the Associate Director for Residence Life with the Housing Department

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Advisor): Hi families, my name is Lynn O'Sickey and I'm the Associate Director of the Liberal Arts and Sciences Academic Advising Center.

familychatadministrator(Arie\_NewStudentFamilyPrograms): Calvin, Nora, and Lynn will be in their respective chat rooms that can be found by clicking the "Add More Chatrooms" button at the top right of your screen. Feel free to ask general questions here, but if you have office-specific questions, the experts will be there to answer.

Belicchid: My daughter is a freshman. When should she meet with her advisor for spring class registration.

tonilynn13: Hi everyone!

familychatadministrator(Arie\_NewStudentFamilyPrograms): Welcome everyone! The Lobby is a great space to ask general questions that you may have.

patricia3201: If a Hold is placed on a students record, what is the turn around time to get the Hold released once the student has provided the required information?

patricia3201: Hello everyone!

familychatadministrator(Arie\_NewStudentFamilyPrograms): @patricia, it will depend on the hold. Most of them are automatically lifted once the information is provided.

patricia3201: Thanks,

tonilynn13: Can I please get the dates again that our kids will be able to sign up for on campus housing, next year. There was something in November but I can't remember what it was.

mrsoreo00: tonilynn13: Add the chat room "Housing and Residence Education". They are discussing in there.

tonilynn13: Thank you!

patricia3201: When will Spring housing waitlist clear?

familychatadministrator(Arie\_NewStudentFamilyPrograms): @patricia, Calvin in the Housing chatroom will be the best one to answer your question.

happytobeaUFparent: This may be off topic, where do I sign up for text security campus alerts?

happytobeaUFparent: This may be off topic, where do I sign up for text security campus alerts?

familychatadministrator(Arie\_NewStudentFamilyPrograms): @happytobeaUFparent (Great Screen name!) Even without a Twitter account anyone can receive UF Alert tweets as an SMS/text message to your cellular phone by texting ¿Follow UFAlert¿ to short text code 40404. Please note this is a service of Twitter and not the UF Alert text messaging service for students, faculty and staff. Additional details are available at Twitter regarding their fast follow service.

musiclover: Lynn: I am happy to report that thanks to your help during the last chat, my daughter's transcript was updated with the grade from the class she took during summer at FAU. I am very grateful of your assistance in solving this matter that was pending for months. Thank you again.
happytobeafparent: So I need to have twitter app on, on my phone? Or do I text 40404? I'm not very cell phone literate.
<b>familychatadministrator(Arie_NewStudentFamilyPrograms): You send a text message to the number (40404) and the text message should read: Follow UFAAlert (Spacing and capitalization does matter). You will get a text message back that tells you that you are following them.</b>
happytobeafparent: Eureka! I'm in. Thank you.
happytobeafparent: Eureka! I'm in. Thank you.
<b>familychatadministrator(Arie_NewStudentFamilyPrograms): Great! I'm glad it worked for you!</b>
<b>familychatadministrator(Arie_NewStudentFamilyPrograms): Thank you all for participating in today's chat! I hope you found it helpful. If you have any questions between now and our next chat on November 10, 2015, you are more than welcome to email <a href="mailto:ihaveagator@ufl.edu">ihaveagator@ufl.edu</a>.</b>
<b>familychatadministrator(Arie_NewStudentFamilyPrograms): Thank you all for participating in today's chat! I hope you found it helpful. If you have any questions between now and our next chat on November 10, 2015, you are more than welcome to email <a href="mailto:ihaveagator@ufl.edu">ihaveagator@ufl.edu</a>.</b>
dptak1: Thanks Arie!
happytobeafparent: Thank you.

## Online Family Chat - Academic Advising

Thursday, October 29, 2015

<p><b>familychatmoderator(Lynn - Advisor):</b> Hi all, I'm Lynn and I'm happy to answer academic advising questions and/or refer you and your student to the right place.</p>
<p>mpugliese: When should the students reach out to their advisors? When is registration for Spring?</p>
<p>pmcojm: When should a student consider retaking a course? If a student gets a C in something like chemistry and hopes to go to grad school one day, should he consider retaking it?</p>
<p><b>familychatmoderator(Lynn - Advisor):</b> mpugliese, registration officially begins next week. Students are assigned appointments based on the number of credit hours earned (so seniors register before juniors who register before sophomores, etc...</p>
<p><b>familychatmoderator(Lynn - Advisor):</b> mpugliese, students should see their advisor ASAP. Since students are registering beginning next week, we are already experiencing pretty heavy traffic since Seniors are prepping to register soon. What major/college is your student in?</p>
<p><b>familychatmoderator(Lynn - Advisor):</b> pmcojm, Generally if a student earns a C or better most grad or professional schools would rather see the student go on to higher level course and do well rather than repeat. Repeating a C does not add credit to your record (you can only get credit once for a course).</p>
<p><b>familychatmoderator(Lynn - Advisor):</b> sorry for the font changes, something wacky with the system the last few times...so it keeps changing on me, please bear with me :-)</p>
<p>Bob and Allison Decker: Our son met with his advisor and there are required classes that are offered online only.. why is this? they seem like classes that would be better delivered in person. thank you</p>
<p>orangecityfl: My son is currently listed as an Engineering major undecided - when will he be required to pick an actual Engineering major?</p>
<p>pmcojm: One of the classes that is only offered online (Man's Food) shows that it has two sections, although the professor is the same for both sections. Why are there two sections?</p>
<p><b>familychatmoderator(Lynn - Advisor):</b> Bob and Allison, well that depends in part on the major. A lot of courses have gone to an online or hybrid (part online, part in class) format in order to accommodate more students (there is some economy of scale with online classes, although students still need feedback on their work so there are limits to that. Some classes actually work better online - they can do more individual or small group/interactive activities than in a large lecture of a couple hundred students.</p>
<p><b>familychatmoderator(Lynn - Advisor):</b> orangecityfl, that's actually something your son would need to check with his Engineering advisor about. Since they have mandatory advising, your son should be seeing his advisor soon. Here's their contact info. <a href="https://www.eng.ufl.edu/students/advising/">https://www.eng.ufl.edu/students/advising/</a></p>
<p>mpugliese: He's in engineering but looking to change to CALS.</p>
<p><b>familychatmoderator(Lynn - Advisor):</b> pmcojm, there is a limit to the number of students you can give feedback to even in an online format. So they are probably offering two sections to accommodate as many students as possible. Based on the way the sections are listed in the Schedule of Courses, I don't think there is a difference in the sections.</p>
<p>orangecityfl: OK, thank you.</p>
<p>pmcojm: It's the same professor for each section. How many students can sign up for an online course?</p>

<p><b>familychatmoderator(Lynn - Advisor):</b> mpugliese, the advising contacts for all colleges can be found at <a href="http://www.ufadvising.ufl.edu/advisers.aspx">http://www.ufadvising.ufl.edu/advisers.aspx</a>. Your student should find the contact info for CALS and get in touch with them ASAP.</p>
<p>mpugliese: thanks!</p>
<p>mrsoreo00: Thank you for that link. I was just talking to my daughter about getting an appointment.</p>
<p><b>familychatmoderator(Lynn - Advisor):</b> pmcojm, that completely depends on the class and amount of student feedback. So a class with writing assignments will usually have a very low cap since reading and giving feedback on papers is very time-consuming compared to grading exams.</p>
<p><b>familychatmoderator(Lynn - Advisor):</b> Bob and Allison, what major is your student in?</p>
<p>dmpc1996: My son is struggling a bit this term. Never had a problem before (high school), but we were warned this happens quite a bit. He has had tests that he studied for, did homework, goes to all the classes and yet was not taught certain things on this test. Is this normal?</p>
<p>pmcojm: dmpc1996, join the club!</p>
<p><b>familychatmoderator(Lynn - Advisor):</b> dmpc1996, it is not at all unusual to struggle in first term. One of the things we find is that students are not used to fully conceptualizing and mastering the material - that is, the student knows how to use a concept in the examples in the homework, on the quiz, etc., but when faced with an entirely new situation students aren't sure how to do that. However, that is an important part of learning - not just 'recognizing' something you've seen before but being able to apply info to a new situation...</p>
<p><b>familychatmoderator(Lynn - Advisor):</b> dmpc1996, I'm going to paste in the tips I share with my students in the same boat. A lot of it has to do with developing new study strategies that focus on mastery...</p>
<p><b>familychatmoderator(Lynn - Advisor):</b> Start by talking to your instructor/TA. How do they recommend you study for assignments and tests? The better you know your instructor, the better you'll understand what's expected. Go over previous tests to understand where you are going wrong.</p>
<p><b>familychatmoderator(Lynn - Advisor):</b> Study groups or study buddies are tremendously helpful! Students who talk through material really learn to clarify their understanding and organize/conceptualize the material...</p>
<p>Bob and Allison Decker: He is a Finance major, one of the noted courses we thought was strange to be offered only online was Principals of Management..thank you</p>
<p><b>familychatmoderator(Lynn - Advisor):</b> Review your notes the same day. Leverage what we know about memory when you review your notes the same day, you move material from short-term to long term memory, you identify areas that were unclear and can ask peers/TAs/profs for clarification...</p>
<p><b>familychatmoderator(Lynn - Advisor):</b> UF's Teaching Center offers free:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) drop-in tutoring for students for math, science, business courses, usually for multiple hours every day.</li> <li>2) regular weekly individual or small group tutoring (max 3 students) by appointment</li> <li>3) study groups run by peers who work with the instructor of the course</li> <li>4) test reviews for math courses</li> <li>5) video practice exams for chem, math, and physics, student takes practice exam; for the questions student got wrong can watch a video demonstrating/explaining the correct answer</li> <li>6) learning strategies/study skills videos, workshops and individual appointments. Sometimes students need new strategies for mastering material, not just specific content help.</li> </ol>
<p>dmpc1996: Yes, but if one is not taught, professors job, one can not learn. He speaks to the TA frequently to figure out the problem.</p>

<b>familychatmoderator(Lynn - Advisor):</b> <a href="http://www.teachingcenter.ufl.edu">www.teachingcenter.ufl.edu</a> - also helpful are: <a href="http://The Writing Studio - writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/">The Writing Studio - writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/</a> <a href="http://Office of Academic Support tutoring">Office of Academic Support tutoring</a>
dmmpc1996: Thank You Lynn. Will forward to my son.
<b>familychatmoderator(Lynn - Advisor):</b> dmmpc1996, Yikes, paste is completely failing me. Sorry...will finish the other resources in a moment. back to your comment - "Yes, but if one is not taught, professors job, one can not learn." I do know what you are getting at, but at the same time you and your son should realize that where in HS teachers had 5 days a week an hour a day for 30+ weeks of the year. At college it's 3 hours a week for 15 weeks. So students ARE expected to learn a lot more independently.
<b>familychatmoderator(Lynn - Advisor):</b> dmmpc1996, it's great that your son is utilizing the TA, because that is an excellent way to get clarification and fully conceptualize material. I would be happy to email you the flyer with the tips I just posted since they posted so poorly. Just request a private chat and you can give me your email.
mrsoreo00: Thank you for the good information, Lynn.
dmmpc1996: Does Bright Futures use the Fall Term only or does it use Fall and Spring Term for GPA? We're a bit concerned so far.
<b>familychatmoderator(Lynn - Advisor):</b> Other helpful resources are <a href="http://The Writing Studio - writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/">The Writing Studio - writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/</a> , the <a href="http://Office of Academic Support tutoring - oas.aa.ufl.edu/programs/tutoring">Office of Academic Support tutoring - oas.aa.ufl.edu/programs/tutoring</a> , the <a href="http://Math Department www.math.ufl.edu/courses/">Math Department www.math.ufl.edu/courses/</a> and the <a href="http://General Chemistry Learning Center and Tutoring www.chem.ufl.edu/generalchemsitry/genchem.shtml">General Chemistry Learning Center and Tutoring www.chem.ufl.edu/generalchemsitry/genchem.shtml</a>
Jan2015: What happens if a student drops a course now and ends up taking less than 12 credit hours?
<b>familychatmoderator(Lynn - Advisor):</b> dmmpc1996, Bright Futures will look at students' records after Spring term, so there's the chance to bounce back if first term is rough.
mrsoreo00: How do I request a private chat as I'd like to get those tips e-mailed as well. Thank you.
dmmpc1996: Yes, I was going to ask the same question about a private chat.
<b>familychatmoderator(Lynn - Advisor):</b> Jan2015, the student is still considered to have been registered full-time so it shouldn't affect housing or car insurance. If your student receives financial aid or scholarships like Bright Futures they need to talk to the Fin Aid office to understand what might be impacted. BF is pretty nice in that they don't penalize the student as far as getting the scholarship in future BUT they do require the student to repay whatever BF paid for the course.
<b>familychatmoderator(Lynn - Advisor):</b> To private chat, mouse over my name in the right-hand Users column, right click and then click on "Private message"
mrsoreo00: For some reason, I do not get the option to "Private message"
dmmpc1996: I don't either.
<b>familychatmoderator(Lynn - Advisor):</b> Ok, if you want me to send you that, I'll request a private message with you. I'm assuming you don't want to share your email with everyone. :-)
Jan2015: Can you PM me as well? Thanks!
LaurieR: Hi! Question...students that were not given the mandatory Florida course (I forget the name of the class)...will they automatically get it in the spring?
Jan2015: "What Is the Good Life"?
LaurieR: Yes!
<b>familychatmoderator(Lynn - Advisor):</b> Laurie, there should be a seat in What is the GoodLife for every student who was unable to take the course in Summer B or Fall.
LaurieR: Thank you!

LaurieR: Do the students get notified that it's time to register? Does everyone do it at once? Does it go by alphabet? By year?
Istrick4858: Lynn could you PM me, too? I would like a copy of the flyer you mentioned. Thank you.
Jan2015: Is there a significant difference between regular and honors courses, i.e., Calculus 3 and Calc. 3 Honors?
<b>familychatmoderator(Lynn - Advisor): Laurie, your student should have gotten an email to his/her @ufl.edu email address the second week in October. It instructs your student to go to ISIS and review the "Registration Prep". Reg Prep shows your student his/her degree audit, their registration start-time (when they can start registering) and also whether he/she has any holds that will prevent registration.</b>
<b>familychatmoderator(Lynn - Advisor): Jan2015, the overall content will be the same. Honors courses are usually a bit more challenging, but at the same time more hands on (generally smaller class sizes). Students do tend to live up to expectations so in general honors students do as well or better in honors courses as in regular classes.</b>
LaurieR: Ok, he probably knows that then...thanks.
Jan2015: Thank you
<b>familychatmoderator(Lynn - Advisor): Laurie, speaking as a mom of a college freshman myself as well as an advisor, it never hurts to just ask...do you know when your registration start-time is? :-)</b>
<b>familychatmoderator(Lynn - Advisor): Folks, my apologies, I have to sign off in a minute - running a training session and this was literally the only time it could be done. If you have a burning question, please feel free to email me at losickey@advising.ufl.edu</b>
Jan2015: How can you find out how many "words" a course can fulfill?
Jan2015: ok, thanks
LaurieR: LOL, you know I will ask that...! He seems to forget that communication comes to his school email account and he actually has to 'read' it to know what to do....LOL.
<b>familychatmoderator(Lynn - Advisor): Jan2015, in the Schedule of Courses, class listings, there is a WM (Writing) column and the number of words is listed in there: 6=6000, 4=4000 etc. <a href="http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/soc/">http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/soc/</a></b>
Jan2015: thank you!
mrsoreo00: Thank you, Lynn. This chat has been very helpful!
<b>familychatmoderator(Lynn - Advisor): Laurie - yep...at least mine finally learned how to read his university email on his phone.</b>
<b>familychatmoderator(Lynn - Advisor): again, very sorry to cut things off - best wishes to you all and all your students!</b>
happytobeUFparent: This may be off topic, where do I sign up for text security campus alerts?
Jan2015: I think she left. You can ask Arie in the other chat.
LaurieR: yes, that took my son a while to figure out! Thanks!
happytobeUFparent: ok, thanks.
<b>familychatadministrator(Arie_NewStudentFamilyPrograms): Hi all, I am happy to answer some questions here as well, now that Lynne had to run to a meeting. I'm not an advising expert, but I can assist in finding questions.</b>
zowea: I get UF alerts via twitter
dmpe1996: I want to thank all of you for these chats. I find them somewhat comforting. My son wonders why I do it, he seems to know all of this info, but it just makes me more knowable about the workings of UF. College is so different now than when I went!
<b>familychatadministrator(Arie_NewStudentFamilyPrograms): We are so happy to have these chats. I'm happy they are helpful for you all!</b>

**familychatadministrator(Arie\_NewStudentFamilyPrograms): Thank you all for participating in today's chat! I hope you found it helpful. If you have any questions between now and our next chat on November 10, 2015, you are more than welcome to email [ihaveagator@ufl.edu](mailto:ihaveagator@ufl.edu).**

## Online Family Chat - Housing and Residence Education

Thursday, October 29, 2015

orangecityfl: When are we required to sign a housing contract for next year (2016-17)?
dianeH: How can our child request a single room dorm for herself?
<b>familychatmoderator(Calvin Mosley): Orangecityfl....has your student already applied to the university?</b>
<b>familychatmoderator(Calvin Mosley): dianeH....is your student a current resident with us?</b>
orangecityfl: Yes, he is currently living in Cypress.
happytobeafparent: When is the window to opt out of the meal plan? How many days to opt out?
dianeH: Yes she is a freshman currently
<b>familychatmoderator(Calvin Mosley): The sign up process for student already living with us will begin in the spring semester. During that time (late February) they will be able to re-contract with us. They will receive an email with all the dates in it.</b>
dianeH: Oh ok.. Vern posted sign up was 11/30...or something close to that date... But my daughter would like a single room. How does she go about making that a likely possibility?
<b>familychatmoderator(Calvin Mosley): DianeH....same as my answer to orangecityfl...the recontracting process will start in the spring semester and at that time they will be able to sign up for next year. They can also request single rooms at that time.</b>
dianeH: ok thanks Calvin
<b>familychatmoderator(Calvin Mosley): DianeH....let me check on that. I thought that was for new students. I will check with him and find out.</b>
dianeH: He actually posted that on the UF parents 2019 page
Bob and Allison Decker: Can you give an update on the status of Keys Community building rebuild? especially laundry services?
<b>familychatmoderator(Calvin Mosley): Bob and Allison Decker... we are hopeful to have work completed on the keys community building sometime in the spring semester. Currently residents of Keys should continue to use the laundry services (which they have been given access to) in the springs complex and Tolbert area.</b>
<b>familychatmoderator(Calvin Mosley): DianeH... Nov. 30th - Jan. 29 current residents and off campus residents can complete housing contracts for next year. This includes signing up for their same room, a different room or even a private room.</b>
happytobeafparent: If my question about the meal plan is the wrong category do I need to start another chat room? First time user.
pmcojm: For priority of room selection, does it matter when you complete a housing contract?
dmcp1996: Will it be difficult to switch from a double room to a single room for next term? Fall 2016. My son and his roommate are NOT getting along at all. STILL!
<b>familychatmoderator(Calvin Mosley): happytobeafparent....I am actually awaiting an answer from someone in dining services. Even though this is the housing section...I am still happy to find out the answer to your questions.</b>
<b>familychatmoderator(Calvin Mosley): pmcojm....it does matter when you complete a housing contract. The earlier the better.</b>
happytobeafparent: Okay, thanks. I'll wait to hear from you about that.

<b>familychatmoderator(Calvin Mosley):</b> happytobeaUFparent...just talked to someone in dining services and they said that there is no window to opt out of the meal plan. They only allow you to cancel if the student is withdrawing or no longer attending the university.
happytobeaUFparent: okay, thank you.
<b>familychatmoderator(Calvin Mosley):</b> dmPC1996...that difficulty depends on how many spaces are available in the spring term. Contact our housing assignments closer to the end of the fall term and they should be able to let you know the likelihood of that happening.
dmPC1996: When are the housing contracts going to start? Who gets first "dibs"?
LHaydu: My son who will be a sophomore is planning to live off campus next year, but I'm not sure his roommate plans are going to work out. Does the university have or recipe
mrsoreo00: At the beginning of the semester, I put \$200 in a vending account mainly for laundry. It doesn't work in the Murphree laundry area. Do you know if I can switch that money into the declining balance account?
<b>familychatmoderator(Calvin Mosley):</b> dmPC1996....not sure I understand your question. Are you asking how will they assign them once the recontracting process starts?
LHaydu: My son who will be a sophomore is planning to live off campus next year, but I'm not sure his roommate plans will work out. Does the university have or recommend any roommate matching sites or pages for off campus?
dmPC1996: Yes, Calvin. Sorry.
<b>familychatmoderator(Calvin Mosley):</b> lhaydu: you can contact off campus housing and they can definitely help you out with that. They are a great resource.
<b>familychatmoderator(Calvin Mosley):</b> mrsoreo00... I believe you can switch that to the declining balance account.
mrsoreo00: That'd be great. Thank you!
<b>familychatmoderator(Calvin Mosley):</b> dmPC1996...ok. just wanted to make sure. Once the re-contracting process starts they will assign them on a first come first serve basis. Re-contracting runs from Nov. 30th -Jan. 29th. It's a delicate dance our assignment staff have to do with recontracting current students and holding enough spaces open for incoming freshmen. So the earlier your student signs up, the better.
dmPC1996: That's what I thought. Thanks Calvin.
<b>familychatmoderator(Calvin Mosley):</b> lhaydu...the contact information for off campus life is...352-392-1207 and their website address is <a href="http://www.offcampus.ufl.edu">http://www.offcampus.ufl.edu</a>
<b>familychatmoderator(Calvin Mosley):</b> dmPC1996...you are most welcome.
orangecityfl: If my son wants to stay in the same dorm and similar room (double), we need to re-contract sooner rather than later? If we delay, he can actually lose his chance to get a similar room? Just trying to clarify, so I can pass this info on to him.
<b>familychatmoderator(Calvin Mosley):</b> orangecityfl...that is correct. Please re-contract sooner rather than later. Not a guarantee that he will lose it if he re-contracts later but I like to tell parents the sooner the better with re-contracting just to be on the safe side.
orangecityfl: thank you!
<b>familychatmoderator(Calvin Mosley):</b> No problem.
happytobeaUFparent: What all or residences have rooms for single occupant? How much more would the rate be? Give an example if you can.
<b>familychatadministrator(Arie_NewStudentFamilyPrograms):</b> Thank you all for participating in today's chat! I hope you found it helpful. If you have any questions between now and our next chat on November 10, 2015, you are more than welcome to email <a href="mailto:ihaveagator@ufl.edu">ihaveagator@ufl.edu</a> .

familychatmoderator(Calvin Mosley): happytobeauparent: all our residence halls have some single rooms except Murphree hall and Trusler Hall. Room rental rates can be found at <http://www.housing.ufl.edu/undergrad/payments/rates/>

## Online Family Chat - Off Campus Life

Thursday, October 29, 2015

<b>familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): Hello Zowea!</b>
<b>familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): Did you have any specific questions?</b>
zowea: I was just wondering if you think it is a good choice after the freshmen year to move the student off campus?
<b>familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): It is up to the student</b>
<b>familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): Some students stay on-campus for a couple of years and other students move off after their first year.</b>
zowea: I think my daughter feels like she has a great feel for the campus and would like to life off campus. Do you work with any of the off campus housing?
<b>familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): Hello mpugliese and drcheatwood!</b>
<b>familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): My name is Nora Kilroy and I am the Director of Off Campus Life here at UF.</b>
<b>familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): OCL provides resources and services for students living off-campus or thinking about moving off-campus.</b>
drcheatwood: Hello! Can you give your opinions on specific off campus housing?
<b>familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): I cannot recommend any one apartment over another, but OCL does have three great resources to help you and your student with their off-campus housing search. The Housing Locator <a href="https://housing.offcampus.ufl.edu/">https://housing.offcampus.ufl.edu/</a> allows them to search online for an apartment, the Gator Guide to Off Campus Life <a href="http://www.offcampus.ufl.edu/gator_guide/">http://www.offcampus.ufl.edu/gator_guide/</a> that has everything they need to know about living off campus, and individual appointments with OCL staff about the housing search process to set up an appointment simply click here <a href="http://www.offcampus.ufl.edu/appointments/">http://www.offcampus.ufl.edu/appointments/</a> and complete the online form.</b>
<b>familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): Welcome happytobeaUFparent and dianeH</b>
<b>familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): I'm Nora with Off Campus Life at UF.</b>
drcheatwood: My daughter is a freshman. We looked at Cottage Grove for next year which looks great. I was wondering if you have heard or had any experience with them.
drcheatwood: I can check those resources that you just provided. Thank you.
<b>familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): I have had a very good experience working with the management at Cottage Grove!</b>
drcheatwood: Good to hear!
<b>familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): drcheatwood - your student is welcome to come in and meet with me and we can give them some additional tips</b>
<b>familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): I do recommend touring at least 5-6 properties before signing a lease.</b>
<b>familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): It is also a good idea to tour properties in person and at night to check for lighting, noise and safety features.</b>
drcheatwood: That sounds like a plan. We actually did give a deposit, but I am reluctant to sign a lease this far in advanced.

familychatadministrator(Arie\_NewStudentFamilyPrograms): @drcheatwood, I lived at Cottage Grove last year and the places are very nice. The management was always friendly to me. The community was quiet, but the pool was very active. They have a lot of social events for residents to meet one another. If your student doesn't have a car, there is only 1 bus route that goes to campus, so that is something to look into.

familychatmoderator(Nora\_OffCampusLife): I also recommend checking the crime statistics before signing a lease anywhere. Here's a great resource the Crime Reports website <https://www.crimereports.com/> simply enter the address and all the crime statistics for the last three week will come up on the searchable map.

drcheatwood: Great! She does have a car, but the convenience of the bus is great!

familychatmoderator(Nora\_OffCampusLife): drcheatwood - only sign a lease when your student is ready.

familychatmoderator(Nora\_OffCampusLife): Welcome pmcojm!

familychatmoderator(Nora\_OffCampusLife): My name is Nora and I'm the Director of Off Campus Life.

familychatmoderator(Nora\_OffCampusLife): OCL provides resources and services for students living, or thinking about living, off-campus.

familychatmoderator(Nora\_OffCampusLife): Welcome Dday25BB

familychatmoderator(Nora\_OffCampusLife): OCL has three great resources to help you and your student with their off-campus housing search. The Housing Locator <https://housing.offcampus.ufl.edu/> allows them to search online for an apartment, the Gator Guide to Off Campus Life [http://www.offcampus.ufl.edu/gator\\_guide/](http://www.offcampus.ufl.edu/gator_guide/) that has everything they need to know about living off campus, and individual appointments with OCL staff about the housing search process to set up an appointment simply click here <http://www.offcampus.ufl.edu/appointments/> and complete the online form.

familychatmoderator(Nora\_OffCampusLife): Welcome Istrick4858!

familychatmoderator(Nora\_OffCampusLife): My name is Nora and I am the Director of Off Campus Life at UF. OCL provides resource and services for students living off-campus or students thinking about moving off-campus.

drcheatwood: The crimereports is a good resource. Thank you Nora! I appreciate your time and info!

familychatmoderator(Nora\_OffCampusLife): welcome camérons123 and mrsoreo00

familychatmoderator(Nora\_OffCampusLife): Happy to help drcheatwood!

familychatmoderator(Nora\_OffCampusLife): OCL has three great resources to help you and your student with their off-campus housing search. The Housing Locator <https://housing.offcampus.ufl.edu/> allows them to search online for an apartment, the Gator Guide to Off Campus Life [http://www.offcampus.ufl.edu/gator\\_guide/](http://www.offcampus.ufl.edu/gator_guide/) that has everything they need to know about living off campus, and individual appointments with OCL staff about the housing search process to set up an appointment simply click here <http://www.offcampus.ufl.edu/appointments/> and complete the online form.

happytobeaUFparent: I like your suggestions Nora. When should we start looking at off site rentals for Fall of 2016?

familychatmoderator(Nora\_OffCampusLife): Welcome DGrilli!

familychatmoderator(Nora\_OffCampusLife): happytobeaUFparent - it is a good idea to begin anytime. We see some students now and other students begin their search in early spring semester.

familychatmoderator(Nora\_OffCampusLife): I often get asked when should students sign a lease for next year.

familychatmoderator(Nora\_OffCampusLife): I recommend around spring break or March 2016.

familychatmoderator(Nora\_OffCampusLife): By that time of year students will know their plans for the following year and who they want for roommates.

familychatmoderator(Nora\_OffCampusLife): Welcome orangecityfl!

familychatmoderator(Nora\_OffCampusLife): For those of you that just logged on...I'm Nora with Off Campus Life. OCL has three great resources to help you and your student with their off-campus housing search. The Housing Locator <https://housing.offcampus.ufl.edu/> allows them to search online for an apartment, the Gator Guide to Off Campus Life [http://www.offcampus.ufl.edu/gator\\_guide/](http://www.offcampus.ufl.edu/gator_guide/) that has everything they need to know about living off campus, and individual appointments with OCL staff about the housing search process to set up an appointment simply click here <http://www.offcampus.ufl.edu/appointments/> and complete the online

familychatmoderator(Nora\_OffCampusLife): I'm happy to answer your questions!

familychatmoderator(Nora\_OffCampusLife): One suggestion for off-campus housing take your time!

familychatmoderator(Nora\_OffCampusLife): We have plenty of off-campus housing!

happytobeUFparent: Can you name a couple of sites that we might look into within walking distance to the University?

familychatmoderator(Nora\_OffCampusLife): I do suggest students also check the bus route before signing a lease...to make sure they routes will work for their class schedule and classroom locations

familychatmoderator(Nora\_OffCampusLife): Here's a link to the local city bus website [www.go-rts.com](http://www.go-rts.com)

familychatmoderator(Nora\_OffCampusLife): OCL also recommends if your student is going to have roommates to sign an individual lease. This means if their roommate does not pay their rent, your student won't be responsible for the rent.

familychatmoderator(Nora\_OffCampusLife): Any questions? I would love to help!

familychatmoderator(Nora\_OffCampusLife): Another good thing to know, most of the apartment complexes that provide individual leases will also be all inclusive...that means the cost will include rent, utilities (electric&water) cable, internet, and they will come furnished.

familychatmoderator(Nora\_OffCampusLife): Which is great for students because they will pay one monthly bill and that will cover everything!

familychatmoderator(Nora\_OffCampusLife): Also, a majority of the properties also provide roommate matching. This means they will match your student with roommates.

familychatmoderator(Nora\_OffCampusLife): OCL also provides on our Housing Locator <https://housing.offcampus.ufl.edu/> a roommate feature that allows students to search for roommates.

familychatmoderator(Nora\_OffCampusLife): Another feature on the Housing Locator <https://housing.offcampus.ufl.edu/> is the opportunity to post your own sublease or look for subleases.

familychatmoderator(Nora\_OffCampusLife): To post a sublease <https://housing.offcampus.ufl.edu/> click on sign up and to find a sublease click on Housing and under listing type click on sublet.

<b>familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife):</b> In OCL's individual meetings we talk with students about the housing market, average costs, lease types, questions to ask, safety tips, transportation, roommates, and we also answer any questions.
<b>familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife):</b> Welcome klorentzen23!
klorentzen23: Thank you!
<b>familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife):</b> In addition to helping students find off-campus housing OCL also provides monthly events for students living off-campus.
<b>familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife):</b> OCL's biggest event series is Discover Gainesville - every month we take students to a fun activity in the city. To find out more visit the OCL event page on our website <a href="http://www.offcampus.ufl.edu/events">http://www.offcampus.ufl.edu/events</a> .
<b>familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife):</b> Our next Discover Gainesville event is on November 10th and we will be painting pottery at Corks and Colors...and OCL will pay for the pottery!
<b>familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife):</b> You can also find OCL on Facebook, Twitter, Youtube, Pinterest, and Instagram at UF Off Campus Life - so please follow and like us!
<b>familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife):</b> Welcome 618Snickers!
klorentzen23: Do you know when we need to sign a lease by for next year and do most apartment rentals require a 12 month lease?
<b>familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife):</b> klorentzen23 - OCL typically recommends signing a lease around spring break, in March, but you really can sign one whenever your student is ready.
<b>familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife):</b> Yes, leases are typically for 12 months
<b>familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife):</b> but some properties will provide 9/10 month or academic year leases, but they will usually charge an additional \$50 monthly fee for a short term lease.
<b>familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife):</b> OCL recommends that students take their time and not rush into signing a lease, we do have plenty of off-campus housing! I promise!
klorentzen23: Just wanted to clarify...I have a son who wants me to sign soon and I'd rather not, besides I would like to see the apartment that he could possibly be renting.
<b>familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife):</b> Then don't, come to Gainesville and see it in person first!
<b>familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife):</b> Also, OCL recommends touring 5-6 places before signing a lease!
klorentzen23: That's what I will be doing. I just didn't want to be rushed...and you know teenagers...they know EVERYTHING!!
klorentzen23: THANK YOU!
<b>familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife):</b> :)
<b>familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife):</b> I'm happy to help!
<b>familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife):</b> Also, we provide one on one meetings and would be happy to meet with you both if you have any questions.
klorentzen23: Okay...I will keep that in mind.
happytobeUFparent: Good questions, klorentzen23, especially when you have to pay the bills.
klorentzen23: Lol..exactly!
<b>familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife):</b> All of the properties in Gainesville are open on Saturday and even some on Sunday...so you can make a weekend trip.
<b>familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife):</b> Some family members will come and meet with me on Frid
<b>familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife):</b> Friday and then look at apartments Friday and Saturday!

happytobeaUFparent: Can you just walk in or do you need to make appointments to view the rentals?
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): You can just walk in - no appointment needed.
happytobeaUFparent: So I can come and visit with OCL first before I venture into looking at rentals?
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): Most properties have office hours 10-6, but it varies a little from property to property.
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): Yes, that is what some families do. It is a good idea to reach out to me and we can set up an appointment and then you can go and tour the properties.
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): OCL hours are Monday through Friday from 8am-5pm and we can make special appointment times outside those hours.
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): The OCL office is located in 311 Peabody Hall.
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): Here's a link to our Contact page <a href="http://www.offcampus.ufl.edu/contact_us/">http://www.offcampus.ufl.edu/contact_us/</a> for map and my contact information.
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): Welcome Bprado93!
happytobeaUFparent: Do you have a phone #?
klorentzen23: Do most apartments come furnished? The less I have to travel with the better.
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): Sure do it is 352-392-1207 and I am at the first extension.
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): Yes, the majority of the properties do come furnished and for the majority the cost of furniture is included in the cost of rent.
Bprado93: Hi everyone, my daughter currently lives off campus and I wanted to see what the chat was about! Thank you for setting this up it'sAWESOME!!!
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): Bprado93 - I am happy to participate!
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): Does anyone have any questions?
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): OCL recommends you not rush to sign a lease, we do have plenty of off-campus housing.
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): OCL recommends you tour 5-6 properties before signing a lease.
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): Tour properties in person and go back at night and check for lighting features, safety, noise.
zowea: Do students that live off campus have a specific place to park?
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): Most students take the bus on a daily basis.
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): But, students can purchase a parking decal to park on campus.
klorentzen23: When you say park on campus..do you mean the commuter lot/parking garage?
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): For the majority of students the parking is near the SW recreation center, the lot is called park and ride. They will park in this lot and take the bus to class.
zowea: yes
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): I suggest the students take the bus during the day.
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): At night, for most lots, parking decals are not required. That means students can park in most lots after 5pm without a decal.
klorentzen23: That's what I would like my son to do but he's very interested in a scooter..needless to say, I am not!

familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): The bus is great and all students have to do is show their ID and they can take it anywhere on or off campus. The bus is called RTS and here is a link to their website <a href="http://www.go-rts.com">www.go-rts.com</a>
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): If he gets a scooter I recommend a good helmet and lock and that he uses both...always!
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): Also, scooter and motorcycle parking is located throughout campus, not just in the park and ride lot that I mentioned earlier. The decal cost for cars, scooters, motorcycles is the same.
klorentzen23: I'm going to try and convince him that he doesn't need a scooter for one. As for the helmet, I'm sure he's going to tell me he's wearing it and he won't. The worst law ever here in Florida!!
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): I understand.
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): I had a student a couple of years ago that ride a bike and he refused to wear his helmet, but what can you do.
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): Welcome LHaydu!
klorentzen23: How far in advance do you recommend making an appointment with OCL?
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): klorentzen23 - you can make an appointment anytime, but at least calling a couple of days ahead is a good idea. We are a small office and I sometimes book up quickly.
klorentzen23: K..good to know.
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): klorentzen23 - just call me (352-392-1207)when you are ready to meet and we will figure out a good day and time.
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): Welcome dptak1!
klorentzen23: I appreciate that..Thanks!
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): klorentzen23 - happy to help!
dptak1: Thanks Nora. Are there many 1 bedroom studio apartments off campus?
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): Welcome gator mom 2!
gator mom 2: Thank you, Nora!
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): A little advice from OCL - take your time and don't rush we have plenty of off-campus apartments!
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): OCL recommends you tour 5-6 apartments before signing a lease.
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): Also, go back at night and check for lighting, safety features and the noise level.
gator mom 2: Great tips!
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): I also recommend checking the crime statistics by going to the Crime Reports website <a href="https://www.crimereports.com/">https://www.crimereports.com/</a> .
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): Simply enter the address and all the crime that has happened in the area for the last three weeks will pop up on the map.
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): This is a great way to compare locations or be aware before signing a lease.
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): OCL also recommends signing an individual lease...which means if your students roommate doesn't pay their rent your student won't be held responsible. An individual lease is the best way to protect your student financially.
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): Welcome musiclover and dptak1!
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): Other advice take your time and don't rush!

familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): Also, check the bus route before signing the lease and make sure it works for your student and their class schedule <a href="http://www.go-rts.com">www.go-rts.com</a> .
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): Welcome gailersh!
happytobeaUFparent: Thanks Nora. A wealth of information. Very helpful.
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): happytobeaUFparent - I am happy to help!
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): Any questions?
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): A question OCL gets a lot...when should I sign a lease. OCL recommends signing a lease around spring break, March, usually by then students will know their plans and future roommate choice for the following year.
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): But, you really can sign a lease anytime...some students sign lease in December and others wait till the day before classes begin in fall...although I don't recommend that. That just gives me grey hair. :)
klorentzen23: Are most of these apartment complexes strictly College students or does it vary?
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): Also, UF has a great resource at UF called Student Legal Services. This office provides free legal service to full-time UF students. They can meet with your student and review their lease for FREE before they sign it. To set up an appointment visit SLS's website <a href="https://www.studentlegalservices.ufl.edu/">https://www.studentlegalservices.ufl.edu/</a> and click on the apply for services link.
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): Very few properties are strictly college students only. But, the properties that do roommate matching try to put UF and Santa Fe Collegestudents together.
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): Welcome Jan2015!
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): klorentzen23 - this is great question to ask on the tour...and see what their policies are if roommates are not getting along...what will they do to help.
klorentzen23: Got it!
zowea: Does Gainesville have a noise ordinance that the apartments have to follow?
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): zowea - Gainesville has a noise ordinance that everyone must follow - apartments included.
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): If someone is in violation of the noise ordination their is a warning the first time and then a citation and fine after that. Gainesville takes the noise ordinance very seriously.
zowea: Thank-you
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): Here's a link <a href="https://www.municode.com/library/fl/gainesville/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICOOR_CH15NOto">https://www.municode.com/library/fl/gainesville/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICOOR_CH15NOto</a> the noise ordinance.
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): These are great questions!
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): Welcome IWannaLearn!
Jan2015: I'm not very familiar with the area. Are there any apt complexes within walking or biking distance?
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): Jan2015 - yes there are about 50 properties within walking and biking distance to campus. The above housing locator will allow you to search for apartments based on location and other search criteria.
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): But, something to keep in mind....the closer to campus the more expensive the rent. You are paying for proximity.
familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): Average rental cost per person in a four bedroom and four bathroom apartment is \$490 per person, but costs within walking distance can be about \$100 more per month for the same type of apartment.

Jan2015: that doesn't include utilities, correct?
zowea: Do you work with off-campus condos and townhouses too?
<b>familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): In an all-inclusive apartment the \$490 cost will include rent, utilities, cable, internet and furniture...typically.</b>
<b>familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): zowea - what do you mean...can you elaborate?</b>
<b>familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): welcome jeanmarkevich!</b>
jeanmarkevich@gmail.com: Thanks
jeanmarkevich@gmail.com: Just trying to get some info re: office campus housing
zowea: housing that is owned by an individual but are for rent
<b>familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): zowea - we do have condo's and houses listed on the housing locator.</b>
IWannaLearn: If 3 kids want to rent an apartment together, how can you be sure the apt. complex will actually put them in the SAME apt.? I heard they sometimes split them up to fill empty bedrooms in other apts.
jeanmarkevich@gmail.com: My son seems to be in a dire rush to sign a contract. I keep telling him that it is not necessary until the Spring. Isn't that so?
<b>familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): zowea - something to keep in mind condo's and houses are typically joint, not individual leases.</b>
<b>familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): This means all the students will be on one lease and if someone doesn't pay the rent the rest of the roommates are held responsible...OCL does not recommend this type of housing for students.</b>
<b>familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): IWannaLearn - the best way to avoid this issue is the students going together to sign the lease.</b>
zowea: great information to know!
<b>familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): jeanmarkevich - there is not a rush...we have more apartments for rent off-campus than studentns.</b>
<b>familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): students.</b>
<b>familychatadministrator(Arie_NewStudentFamilyPrograms): Thank you all for participating in today's chat! I hope you found it helpful. If you have any questions between now and our next chat on November 10, 2015, you are more than welcome to email <a href="mailto:ihaveagator@ufl.edu">ihaveagator@ufl.edu</a>.</b>
jeanmarkevich@gmail.com: Is that so even at some of the nearby complexes, I think he is looking at Courtyard
<b>familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): jeanmarkevich - they should go slowly and not rush - we recommend touring 5-6 properties before signing a lease.</b>
klorentzen23: Thank you Nora for ALL your help!
<b>familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): Also, OCL provides one on one meetings for students and family members...you can set up an appointment with us before you even look at the first apartment or even after you've already started.</b>
<b>familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): In meetings we discuss the rental market, average costs, leases, transportation, safety and we answer questions.</b>
<b>familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): klorentzen23 - happy to help!! Please let me know if you have any other questions - here's my contact information <a href="http://www.offcampus.ufl.edu/contact_us/">http://www.offcampus.ufl.edu/contact_us/</a>.</b>
<b>familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): It was great talking with y'all today. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you or your student has any questions. OCL is always happy to help! Here's a link to the OCL contact page <a href="http://www.offcampus.ufl.edu/contact_us/">http://www.offcampus.ufl.edu/contact_us/</a> you will find my email and phone number.</b>

<b>familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): Remember take your time and don't rush!!!!</b>
<b>familychatmoderator(Nora_OffCampusLife): Go gators!</b>