

Online Family Chat - Main Lobby

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

familychatadministrator(Kayleigh_NewStudentFamilyProgr): >Welcome everyone! Thank you for joining us this afternoon! My name is Kayleigh Damphousse and I am an Assistant Director in New Student and Family Programs. I'm excited to chat with you all for the next couple of hours! We have some great campus partners on the chat today. If you have specific questions for Academic Advising, the Health Compliance Office, Housing and Residence Education, or the Student Health Care Center, please click the "Add More Chatrooms" tab on the top right-hand corner of your screen to join those specific chatrooms.

familychatmoderator(Lynn_advisor): Hi all, my name is Lynn O'Sickey and I am the Associate Director of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Academic Advising Center. I'm about to open the advising chat room and am happy to answer advising questions or to refer you to the right place if I can't answer the question.

familychatmoderator(Catherine_StudentHealthCareCtr): Hello! My name is Catherine Seemann, and I'm the communications coordinator for the Student Health Care Center (Infirmary). I look forward to assisting you today in the Student Health chatroom!

familychatmoderator(JenniferT_Housing): Hi All, my name is Jennifer Todden and I'm an Assistant Director in Housing/Residence Education. I look forward to helping with questions!

familychatadministrator(Rachel_NewStudentFamilyProgram): Hello Gator Families! My name is Rachel Griffin and I am the graduate assistant for Family Programs and Engagement in New Student and Family Programs. Looking forward to chatting with you all today and answering any questions you may have!

familychatmoderator(Vern_UFHousing): Good Afternoon! I'm Vern from UF Housing and I am happy to answer any questions I can.

familychatadministrator(Kayleigh_NewStudentFamilyProgr): Are there any experienced Gator Parents who have tips about the transition when your student comes back home for the holidays?

familychatmoderator(Vern_UFHousing): I created a chat room for any housing questions just click the tab at the top of this window ^^

G8rMom: Have fun and don't pick at the small things! Enjoy your babes and know that they no longer feel like babes!

familychatadministrator(Kayleigh_NewStudentFamilyProgr): That is great advice! Thanks G8rMom!!

KL327@hotmail.com: Hello, just wishing my daughter's professors who cancelled classes could of told her earlier. We purchased her flight home (\$1000) and it would cost a lot more to change the flight now. Would love to see her sooner but not changing the flight now. Would of been alright in the "olden days" when you could go and fly stand by but they do not allow that anymore. :(She is now telling us she could come home this Thursday instead of next Tuesday without any missed classes.

skokanj: Is there a policy for classes being cancelled? We also planned travel around class obligations, and would like to know if it's typical that classes are cancelled at "the last minute" for extending the holiday from a few days to a full week.

familychatadministrator(Kayleigh_NewStudentFamilyProgr): @KL327@hotmail.com: I'm so sorry for that inconvenience and lost time. Sometimes the syllabus let's the student know when classes will be canceled, but sometimes professors decide last minute to cancel their class. Usually students aren't *too* upset about that, but during holidays it can be a bit frustrating.

skokanj: I'm sure the students don't mind classes being cancelled, but if it's uneven, such as Monday's class cancelled but not Tuesday's class, then they have missed the opportunity to travel home earlier but are still missing classes.

familychatadministrator(Kayleigh_NewStudentFamilyProgr): @skokanj: There is not a policy for classes being canceled. It's typically on a professor to professor basis. It's best for students to communicate with their professors before hand if they need to leave town early.

Lsimon61: Would someone know if my son brings his car back after Thanksgiving can he get a parking pass? He hasn't had his car this semester.

MGUELLER01: How do we transition to having our student home after handling his own schedule for the last 4 months? We did communicate about being courteous to the rest of the family's schedule when he returned after the summer at UF. What suggestions do you all have regarding having the students back home?

familychatadministrator(Kayleigh_NewStudentFamilyProgr): @Mgueller01: That is a great question, and one that is not easily answered. From my own personal experience, the best advice is communicate openly with your student. Your student should know the expectations that you have as parents for him to participate in family outings, or activities. Also, reestablishing rules and guidelines for your household, while remembering that your student is an independent adult.

familychatadministrator(Rachel_NewStudentFamilyProgram): @Lsimon61: Great question! Your student can definitely bring his car to campus after Thanksgiving, he will just need to purchase a monthly parking decal through Parking and Transportation Services (<http://parking.ufl.edu/decals/students/>) so that he does not get any sort of ticket. The monthly pass is a good idea now because he most likely will only be on campus just through the beginning of December. These are \$35. If he decides to bring a car for the Spring semester, he can then purchase a semester decal for \$80.

familychatadministrator(Kayleigh_NewStudentFamilyProgr): Also, G8rmom advised: Have fun and don't pick at the small things! Enjoy your babes and know that they no longer feel like babes!

MGUELLER01: How do parents change up dialogue to establish parent to young adult conversations? When you are used to parenting them, it is hard to remember not to talk to them as you did in high school. How do you help conversations seem more that you're interested, and not being nosy or telling them what to do?

mihija: HI, first time.

familychatadministrator(Kayleigh_NewStudentFamilyProgr): MGUELLEr01: Thank you for your honest questions. Are there any experienced Gator Parents who have some advice?

Jags_Fan: Are there any decent shuttles that can take students from UF to Jax airport? We live out of state, but previously lived near Jax. My family is getting him to Jax airport for Thanksgiving, but would like a back up plan for the future.

familychatadministrator(Rachel_NewStudentFamilyProgram): @mihija - Welcome - happy to have you! Let us know if you have any questions!

mihija: Thank you.

karencepetelli: I have the same question as Jags-Fan - I have not found any good options to JAX or airports in Orlando or Tampa. MegaBus etc only have a few trips each day.

Jags_Fan: For talking to them... I always tell my son I am his friend, but his mom first. He and I joke around quite a bit too. Just be honest. Tell 'em how you know what it's like to have been their age.

Jags_Fan: Hmmm. We live in TN. His roommate is from here & my son rode with him this past week to drive up here since no class on Fri. However, his roommate is leaving after this semester. My sis is getting my son to take him to Jax airport next week, and my nephew is picking him up and bringing him back to UF. They live about 1.5 hrs from UF. I hate to put it all on them.

Jags_Fan: Flying out of Gainesville was a lot more money along with added stops. Flying out of Jax is non-stop and cheaper for us.

familychatadministrator(Kayleigh_NewStudentFamilyProgr): Hi Jags_Fan: It looks like there are some Greyhound buses that go from Gainesville to Jacksonville for a low cost. hound.com/bus-routes/destination/gainesville-fl/jacksonville-fl#fare-search

familychatadministrator(Kayleigh_NewStudentFamilyProgr): There is also a "UF Ride Board" facebook, where students pair up for rides.

Jags_Fan: Yeah, but what I saw took 6 hrs by bus with all the stops. That is kinda nuts. Then he'd have to find a way from bus station to airport.

BlairF: Our plan is to not over schedule family/holiday events, and allow rest, relaxation, food, and general "down time".

familychatadministrator(Kayleigh_NewStudentFamilyProgr): @BlairF: Thank you. Great practical advice

karencepetelli: I checked the Greyhound bus schedule - a trip from Gainesville to jax is 4.5 hours including a transfer..... for a 1.5 hour ride.

BlairF: Any other suggestions/recommendations?

BlairF: We may have to have wisdom teeth removed over Christmas.....

MyUFChat2016: My student has been talking to me less on the phone, am concerned about weather or not she will be talking to me normally again

lallybeach1: Jags Fan: I would find a way to Orlando instead. Many more students it seems are headed that way and there may be less stops on the way. Ok diff subject- somewhat irrelevant but I have noticed that off campus housing is filling up quickly. This is something I need to discuss with my daughter but she has told me several times that she does not know anyone well enough to sign a lease with. Any ideas on how to settle that in a short period of time together?

BlairF: @MyUFChat2016 - I try to simply send encouraging texts periodically - and try to get my student on the phone/facetime once a week. This seems to be going well. Short and sweet is working.

KL327@hotmail.com: Too bad UF doesn't have some sort of a shuttle kids could sign up for to go to and from Jax and Orlando airports at the end of breaks. It seems there are enough kids that could use it.

familychatadministrator(Rachel_NewStudentFamilyProgram): @lallybeach1 - oftentimes, off-campus housing facilities have roommate matching programs that can connect students with similar-type roommates! I would suggest asking about these offerings when your student is researching possible complexes to sign lease with. If she is currently on-campus, she can also try to connect with people in her residence hall since oftentimes there will be other students who want to live in a specific complex and are also looking for a roommate. Encourage her to be open to the idea of having a roommate she might know as well; they could become great friends!

lallybeach1: A cab from Gainesville to Jax is \$250

familychatadministrator(Kayleigh_NewStudentFamilyProgr): @lallybeach1: Your student can look into renting a car <http://parking.ufl.edu/transit-commuting/zipcar/> the fares are cheap, and students under the age of 25 are eligible to rent cars from Transportation and Parking Services.

familychatmoderator(OffCampusLife): @lallybeach, if your daughter would like to search the roommate board through our housing locator (<https://housing.offcampus.ufl.edu/>), it could be helpful for finding a roommate. Here is our website, as well: <http://www.offcampus.ufl.edu/>. We are more than happy to meet with you in-person or over the phone. We like to stress that there is more housing available off-campus than there are students to fill them. Take your time and if someone has a pressure sale tactic, please note that you will always be able to find housing in Gainesville. Is your student curr

familychatmoderator(OffCampusLife): ...is your student currently living off-campus?

lallybeach1: They are in the dorm And thank you such great info. Maybe we can go on the site together when she is home.

karencepetelli: I had thought the zip car was the answer for the airport - but currently the car must be returned to the place of rental. It is being tried in large cities to rent and return to different locations.

karencepetelli: Zipcar must be returned to the same location it is picked up from

optimistlady: My son is in his Freshman year and we were not able to attend the parent orientation meeting. Is there a special site to log into to keep informed as to schedules and grades? When will they be off for Thanksgiving? When do they receive their first semester grades?

KL327@hotmail.com: Thanks for looking into the zip car option.

alineom: My son played baseball in high school, and would love to room with someone off campus who is involved in intramural sports such as baseball and softball. Would you recommend the same roommate site as you gave lallybeach1, or are there other ways to find sports-minded roomies?

lallybeach1: Too bad he isn't a girl. Any girls out there?

BlairF: Are you guys talking about off site housing getting filled for this January - Spring 2017 or Fall 2017

familychatmoderator(OffCampusLife): @alineom, the roommate section on our housing locator is all inclusive, from undergrads to graduate students. Like Rachel said earlier, many complexes also have roommate matching based on interests. It will be of your interest to ask that question to the individual complexes that you are looking into.

lallybeach1: fall 2017. The most popular places are already full.

familychatmoderator(OffCampusLife): @blairf we are discussing roommate matching. Please note that there is more off-campus housing in Gainesville than students.

alineom: Unfortunately, he did try to 'match' at his complex, and it didn't work. That's why I'm wondering if there are other ways.

lallybeach1: Fall 2017. The most desirable places are already full.

BlairF: wow - ok thanks

familychatmoderator(OffCampusLife): @alineom, Please note our roommate finding service can be accessed by clicking "Roommates" at <https://housing.offcampus.ufl.edu/> and creating an account

familychatadministrator(Kayleigh_NewStudentFamilyProgr):

familychatadministrator(Rachel_NewStudentFamilyProgram): @optimistlady - Your student can keep track of their grades on E-Learning/Canvas, which they access with their GatorLink ID. There are no classes November 23 & 24 for the Thanksgiving holiday, so your student can travel home anytime around those days that works for them. Also, final grades will become available December 21.

BlairF: Is there a recommended Realtor or other professional service that can search the off campus options for you ? Sorry if this has been asked earlier.

familychatmoderator(OffCampusLife): @blairf we don not make recommendations for any complex over another, however we provide resources to guide your process and help you make the right choice for you. We are available for in-person meetings and phone calls as you come up with questions. Our housing locator is a good search option, and it can be found here:<https://housing.offcampus.ufl.edu/property/search>

optimistlady: Thank you, Rachel. Is there a special parent link that gives us weekly or monthly updates as to special events?

familychatadministrator(Rachel_NewStudentFamilyProgram): @optimistlady - Absolutely! You can sign up to be a member of the Gator Parent & Family Association for free at the following link: <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/nsfp/families-nsfp/gator-parent-family-association/membership>. We send a monthly newsletter with information about things happening on campus and also event updates, like Family Weekends, New Student Convocation, etc.

optimistlady: Thank you!

kmondo: Can you recommend a way to get the kids home and back for the holidays? Intra-Florida. I was looking at Red Coach the other day.

familychatadministrator(Rachel_NewStudentFamilyProgram): @optimistlady - You're very welcome!

BlairF: Thank you.

G8rMom: Is there an option to roommate match outside facebook? Our student does not wish to have a facebook account.

familychatadministrator(Kayleigh_NewStudentFamilyProgr): @kmondo: Good question! There are a couple of options to consider. Student can try to catch a ride with each other by using the Facebook "UF Ride Board!" They can also look into take a bus that will get them near to home, and also Parking and Transportation Services has Zipcars that students under the age of 25 can rent at a low rate. Link here: <http://parking.ufl.edu/transit-commuting/zipcar/>

familychatadministrator(Kayleigh_NewStudentFamilyProgr): @G8rMom: Off-campus life is a really good resource for that question. You can talk to a representative in the Off Campus Life chatroom

familychatadministrator(Rachel_NewStudentFamilyProgram): We have about 15 minutes left for today's chat - does anyone have any final questions about the holiday break transition?

familychatadministrator(Rachel_NewStudentFamilyProgram): We have about 15 minutes left on today's chat - does anyone have final questions about the holiday break transition?

KL327@hotmail.com: Is there a place to go to see what is or is not covered at student health? What gets charged to our own insurance vs. what is covered by student health.

KL327@hotmail.com: Being out of network is it better than to go to an urgent care facility than to student health?

familychatadministrator(Kayleigh_NewStudentFamilyProgr): @KL327@hotmail.com: that is a really good question for Catherine in the Student Health chat room

G8rMom: Suggestion: We all want the best for our students and family. With 3 other college grads, a helpful tip is this: If your student volunteers experiences, allow them the time to share completely before asking questions or making suggestions on how to do things "better". While there may be some things that mandate discussion, waiting for "the right time" is truly the best time for your student to share...forcing them to speak when they aren't ready reminds them that you are holding onto them tighter than they wish. Enjoy loving these baby Gators and watch in amazement as they grow and share!

JLitt9: Regarding 'home for the holidays autonomy' : I am sure that the UF staff will encourage the students to return to their prior low key ways during the holidays so parents can sleep well???

G8rMom: One last question...What is the FAFSA filing deadline? Thank you for this experience!

Floridagatorgal: My son was seen at the infirmary about a month ago & would like to set up his online portal access. How would he go about doing that since he seems to have misplaced his visit ID number from that day?

familychatadministrator(Rachel_NewStudentFamilyProgram): @G8rMom: great advice! Thank you for sharing!

familychatadministrator(Kayleigh_NewStudentFamilyProgr): @G8rMom: You can file a FAFSA as early as January 1 each year. UF's {On-Time} deadline to receive the results of your FAFSA from the federal processor is March 15. Apply well before March 15 to ensure that the federal processor has time to analyze and send the results of your FAFSA to our office.Jan 22, 2016

KL327@hotmail.com: Sorry I just saw there are other forums. I thought all moderators were in the "Lobby"

Floridagatorgal: Sorry, I need to move over to the Health care room...

familychatadministrator(Kayleigh_NewStudentFamilyProgr): @KL327: No problem! Happy to help always

familychatadministrator(Rachel_NewStudentFamilyProgram): @Floridagatorgal: No problem! Hope they can help!

familychatadministrator(Rachel_NewStudentFamilyProgram): Thank you for joining us for this afternoon's Home For the Holidays Family Chat. The transcripts will up on our website (dso.ufl.edu) by next week. Have a great rest of your Tuesday and Go Gators!

Online Family Chat - Academic Advising

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

familychatmoderator(Lynn_advisor): Hi all, my name is Lynn O'Sickey and I am the Associate Director of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Academic Advising Center. I'm happy to answer advising questions or to refer you to the right place if I can't answer the question.

familychatmoderator(Lynn_advisor): Questions?

Floridagatorgal: Hi Lynn. My son is a freshman and just registered for classes yesterday per his appointment time. I am really concerned about him struggling with General Chemistry 1 (CHM 2045) and also Trigonometry (MAC 1114). I believe his advisor suggested he take the chemistry class at another school which may make it a bit easier for him to get through. Can you please speak to this? Also, how can he find out who the teachers are for his classes when it just says "Staff"?

Floridagatorgal: He signed up to take Chemistry at UF even though the advisor recommended he take it elsewhere.

familychatmoderator(Lynn_advisor): Floridagg, what is your student's major?

familychatmoderator(Lynn_advisor): Floridagg, also what is your student's goal? That is, is he prehealth?

Floridagatorgal: As it stands now, Agriculture Operations Management. No, he is not pre-health.

familychatmoderator(Lynn_advisor): Floridagg, sorry, one more question, what math/chem is he taking right now?

Floridagatorgal: He is not in a math class at all right now, but is signed up for MAC 1114 in the Spring. I'd feel a lot better about it if he could have chosen who the teacher(s) would be.

familychatmoderator(Lynn_advisor): Here's the tracking requirements for AOM: He should have three of these courses completed by the end of spring. Complete 3 of 8 critical-tracking courses, excluding labs, with a minimum grade of C: ACG 2021, BSC 2010/2010L, CHM 2045/2045L, ENC 2210, MAC 1147 or MAC 2233, PHY 2004 or PHY 2020, PSY 2012, and SPC 2608 or AEC 3030C.2.0 GPA required for all critical-tracking coursework2.0 UF GPA required

familychatmoderator(Lynn_advisor): Floridagg, if he is not pre-health and his college approves, he can wait to take the Chemistry elsewhere. Does he have any college credit for math or Chem?

Floridagatorgal: Right now he has BOT2010C, AST2037, OCE1001 and PHI2010.

familychatmoderator(Lynn_advisor): Floridagg, you mean those are the courses he is registered for this fall?

Floridagatorgal: Yes, he's currently in those 4 classes this fall.

familychatmoderator(Lynn_advisor): Did he bring in college credits to UF, if so for what courses (if you know)?

familychatmoderator(Lynn_advisor): Floridagg, and what courses did his advisor recommend he take in Spring?

Floridagatorgal: Yes, 33 credits....24 Dual Enrollment and 9 AP.

Floridagatorgal: I'm looking them up on his transcript right now...

familychatmoderator(Lynn_advisor): :-)

Floridagatorgal: The AP's were BSC2005 & 2005L, ENC1101 & GEO2420

G8rMom: Very disappointed in the new lecturer for The Good Life requirement to listen to a bioethicist's recorded radio interview about "people with attention deficit don't actually have a demonstrable problem, they just have poor impulse control"...the guy then went on to suggest that society has a moral obligation to develop a means to test embryos for impulse control and cull out those embryos for a better society. Having a very bright student who went through a fairly recent and serious struggles to get to his happy place with ADD, it was a most upsetting experience for him and led to over an hour conversation about the foolishness of this required class. Vetting of subject matter, especially with this diagnosis which touches more than we like to admit, would be wise.

familychatmoderator(Lynn_advisor): Floridagg, are any of his DE credits ACG 2021, BSC 2010/2010L, CHM 2045/2045L, ENC 2210, MAC 1147 or MAC 2233, PHY 2004 or PHY 2020, PSY 2012, and SPC 2608 or AEC 3030C.?

Floridagatorgal: The Dual Enrollment's were taken in Georgia at Kennesaw State University and were Sociology, Public Speaking, Psychology, Comp 2, College Algebra, American Government, Economics, and Foundations for Healthy Living.

Floridagatorgal: I don't think the course numbering system carries over from Georgia to Florida...

familychatmoderator(Lynn_advisor): G8rMom, Instructors generally have a lot of flexibility over the material. I would assume this discussion was meant to generate discussion about the topic, not necessarily to validate that person's point of view. However, your student is very welcome to raise the concern with the instructor. If your student is not comfortable doing so, he/she can bring it up anonymously in the comment section of the online course rating system.

familychatmoderator(Lynn_advisor): Floridagg, Ok, so Public Speaking is likely equivalent to SPC2608, if precalculus based, then College Algebra is likely similar to MAC1140, so MAC1114 added to that meets the MAC1147 tracking requirement (the course can be taken as MAC1147 or MAC1140+MAC1114) and Psychology is likely to be equivalent to PSY2012. So he should be on track, can postpone Chem til summer and should follow the advice of his advisor regarding spring courses.

familychatmoderator(Lynn_advisor): Floridagg, your student's advisor needs to accept the out-of-state courses for the degree audit and may have done so in their meeting.

familychatmoderator(Lynn_advisor): Floridagg, Math often shifts seats and opens new sections to meet demand, so they don't always list instructors until they know what will actually be offered.

familychatmoderator(Lynn_advisor): All, other questions?

Floridagatorgal: Thank you for your help with this Lynn. This is a challenge to navigate through. I do not think he spoke to his advisor with regard to her accepting the out-of-state courses for the degree audit. Should he have brought that up with her, because I don't think he knew to do that.

familychatmoderator(Lynn_advisor): Floridagg, the advisor may simply have done it, without necessarily pointing it out to your student...but I'd recommend a followup when things are quiet (after Thanksgiving but before finals) to clarify.

Floridagatorgal: Ok, will do. He is kind of digging in his heels with regard to this Chemistry class, so if he continues with his plan to take CHM 2045 & 2045 L in the Spring rather than wait until the summer, the class is worth 3 credits and meets 4 times a week? And the lab is worth 1 credit and meets for 3 class periods per week?

familychatmoderator(Lynn_advisor): Floridagg, did he take the ALEKS placement exam?

familychatmoderator(Lynn_advisor): Floridagg, he must have a 75% on that exam to take CHM2045.

familychatmoderator(Lynn_advisor): Floridagg, yes, the lecture is worth 3 credits, the lab worth 1 credit. And you are correct in the number of meeting times.

Floridagatorgal: That is a good question. I think so, but am not positive. Can I check that on One UF?
familychatmoderator(Lynn_advisor): Floridagg, why don't you private message me with his info - go to my name on the left and right click and you'll see private message.
Floridagatorgal: Am I in the right spot to give you his info?
kpfkdf: Lynn, sent you a PM today on the families FB page
Floridagatorgal: I think I am, but just making sure...
familychatmoderator(Lynn_advisor): kpfkdf, I will likely be getting back to FB after this chat.
familychatmoderator(Lynn_advisor): Anyone else have academic questions?
Hyltonfam: Could you review what the Florida college summer requirement is? Also, if wanting to meet the requirement at St Pete College-the steps to take to be able to do so this summer?
familychatmoderator(Lynn_advisor): Hyltonfam, Students must take 9 credits in summer at one of the 11 State Universities in Florida. So St Pete College doesn't count - it's not a State University. The 9 credits may be taken at UF, online UF courses while somewhere else, via study abroad, UF internship credit while elsewhere or courses at another State U in Florida.
familychatmoderator(Lynn_advisor):
https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/graduation.aspx#summer
familychatmoderator(Lynn_advisor): Hyltonfam, your student may still choose to take courses at St Pete college if approved by his/her college, the credits will transfer, just won't apply to the Summer requirement.
AlliD: Lynn, is there an application to get an internship approved for credit? or is it only given to those positions already approved by UF and gotten through the university?
familychatmoderator(Lynn_advisor): AlliD, your student should talk to his/her major to find out if the internship meets the standards for credit in their major. Most majors offer an internship credit.
Hyltonfam: Thank you so much for your info. My daughter wants to take biology at st pete college this summer for the credit. Could you please review steps she needs to take to be sure it counts on her UF transcripts?
familychatmoderator(Lynn_advisor): Hyltonfam, she'll need to contact her major/college advisor to discuss it in advance and then get it approved via floridashines.org https://www.floridashines.org/succeed-in-college/take-a-course-at-another-school
familychatmoderator(Lynn_advisor): Other advising questions??
Hyltonfam: not advising question, but maybe you can direct - Do you know of a pre-med extracurricular group? My student is giving her "all" to classes & swimming, where there is a service requirement already. I think she would benefit with grouping with some pre-med students for tips on how to navigate the course load.
familychatmoderator(Lynn_advisor): Hyltonfam, sure, we have lots of great resources on our prehealth site for prehealth groups as well as for med-related service orgs. https://www.advising.ufl.edu/pre-health/apply/prepare/extracurricular-preparation/ and https://www.advising.ufl.edu/pre-health/pre-health-resources/
familychatmoderator(Lynn_advisor): Hyltonfam, the site also has academic preparation tips and your student can meet with a pre-health advisor. https://www.advising.ufl.edu/pre-health/apply/prepare/academic-preparation/ and https://www.advising.ufl.edu/pre-health/
Hyltonfam: As usual, this chat has been a great resource. Thank you so much for your time.
familychatmoderator(Lynn_advisor): Glad to help!
familychatmoderator(Lynn_advisor): More questions, folks?

G8rMom: Our student has many academic interests including the sciences and applied math. Is the intro to materials engineering clear on what to expect in that field?

familychatmoderator(Lynn_advisor): G8rMom, is that EMA3010?

G8rMom: I am uncertain...was told that it's Intro to Materials Engineering.

familychatmoderator(Lynn_advisor): G8rMom, so there's EMA1004, Materials Impact on Society, not required for Materials major and there's EMA3010, Materials, which is. EMA3010 requires completion of CHM2045. I'd have your student contact someone in the department.

<https://www.eng.ufl.edu/academics/schools-departments/mse/>

dandmpearce@yahoo.com: My freshman daughter is an English major. Upon registering for Spring term, she was not able to find any Upper Level English classes (recommended by her advisor). Should she expect this to be an ongoing difficulty or will she likely be able to get in to some of this classes Fall 2017?

G8rMom: Prior to planning the schedule for the spring, I asked, "what do materials engineers do?" to which he answered, "I don't know." He is completing Calc 2 and CHM 2045 this semester and has met with an engineering advisor. Just hopeful that there is good input as to what materials engineers do. Previously, biological engineering was his choice because he wasn't certain about what major to choose.

familychatmoderator(Lynn_advisor): dandmpearce, She should have a better chance in Fall 2017 because the seniors will be graduating and we don't reserve alot of upper level English classes for incoming frosh. Still, she should keep checking between now and January to see if anything opens up. She can also go visit with John Murchek in English and see if he has any suggestions.

familychatmoderator(Lynn_advisor): G8rMom, did the advisor recommend a Materials course for spring?

dandmpearce@yahoo.com: Thankyou:)

familychatmoderator(Lynn_advisor): :-)

G8rMom: She recommended the one for which he is enrolled. Also narrowed his "3 major" schedule down to one for the time being.

familychatmoderator(Lynn_advisor): G8rMom, then that should be the course that will help him understand the major.

JLitt9: Freshman daughter met with an academic advisor this morning. Very beneficial. She learned something that she was not aware regarding some courses she would have to take. She said it was a very productive meeting. She is headed in the right direction and doing well and enjoying UF.

familychatmoderator(Lynn_advisor): JLitt9, Yay! That is what we hope for.

JLitt9: Will Tuesday 11/22 classes be unexpectedly 'cancelled'?

JLitt9: Regarding plans to pick up students after their last class that is.

G8rMom: Thank you for this opportunity.

familychatmoderator(Lynn_advisor): JLitt9, Instructors would make that decision individually, your student can politely ask.

familychatmoderator(Lynn_advisor): G8rMom, Happy to help :-)

familychatmoderator(Lynn_advisor): ONE GENERAL COMMENT - be sure to mention to your student

familychatmoderator(Lynn_advisor): that November 21 is the deadline to drop a class. So if your student is waiting to talk to you over break about dropping a class, it will be too late. Have that conversation now. The best way to approach it is to simply ask, "Are you making at least a C in every class right now?"

familychatmoderator(Lynn_advisor): Thanks all, for supporting your students!!

sflamom: My son registered yesterday and got a great schedule. Seemed to be a very stress-free event for him. Thank you for doing such a great job!

familychatmoderator(Lynn_advisor): sflamom, yay!!

Floridagatorgal: Thank you for all your help!

familychatmoderator(Lynn_advisor): You are all very welcome!

sflamom: Have a great day! And enjoy the upcoming holidays! :)

familychatmoderator(Lynn_advisor): Yes, everyone have a great holiday!

Online Family Chat - Health Compliance

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

WPGator_mom: hello, my daughter is starting allergy shots and had her first one at her asthma MD's office; they said they have to send the serum back to "where it came from" and they then send it to the SHCC. Do you know how long that takes and is the student contacted by the SHCC?

familychatadministrator(Kayleigh_NewStudentFamilyProgr): Hi Catherine, are you able to answer this questions for WPGator_mom?

familychatmoderator(Catherine_StudentHealthCareCtr): @WPGator_mom: The first place for your student to start is our Allergy Clinic page: <http://shcc.ufl.edu/services/specialty-care/allergy-injection-therapy/> - you can download all the necessary forms from there, and call the clinic directly for more information.

familychatadministrator(Kayleigh_NewStudentFamilyProgr): Thanks!

WPGator_mom: thank-you.

familychatmoderator(Catherine_StudentHealthCareCtr): Happy to help!

Online Family Chat - Housing and Residence Education

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

WPGator_mom: what date does the residence halls re-open for the spring semester?
familychatmoderator(JenniferT_Housing): Hello housing families! Vern and I are both here ready to answer questions!
familychatmoderator(Vern_UFHousing): January 2 @ Noon
WPGator_mom: thanks!
familychatmoderator(Vern_UFHousing): Happy to help
G8rMom: When do the students register for 2017-18 housing?
parentb: What date does the residence halls close for the holidays?
familychatmoderator(Vern_UFHousing): Students will sign up for 2017-2018 starting after Thanksgiving Break
familychatmoderator(JenniferT_Housing): Saturday, Dec 17 at noon is when we close
familychatmoderator(Vern_UFHousing): An email about housing for next year will go out next week. Students will select their rooms for next year in February.
G8rMom: Many thanks.
skokanj: We're trying to navigate this for the first time and wondering if it's beneficial to stay on campus for next year vs. getting an apartment nearby. My son doesn't have a vehicle, so he would be biking and/or taking the bus either way. Can you give us some guidelines about what to consider when making this decision?
parentb: Are rooms being cleaned while Halls are closed or it is still up to the students?
familychatmoderator(JenniferT_Housing): Sure. Some of the reasons our students choose to live on campus the second year: location (as you mentioned -- not having to navigate the bus system daily or deal with parking), returning students get to choose their rooms before incoming students so more choice on particular room type, convenience of "all-in-one" billing (no separate bills for utilities, rent, etc)
familychatmoderator(JenniferT_Housing): There are other reasons, of course, but those are some of the big ones we tend to hear
familychatmoderator(JenniferT_Housing): We will do cleaning of common areas in the buildings (lobbies/lounges/hallways) but students are expected to clean up after themselves before going home for break in their living units. We will do a walkthrough after all residents leave to make sure there aren't any major issues
familychatmoderator(JenniferT_Housing): @skokanj another thing to consider might be cancellation policies - if your student might be studying abroad next spring, it is much easier to get out of housing contract for that reason than it is to get out of an apartment lease. Also, students can usually cancel their contract for any reason up until around the first part of May (not sure of the exact date yet) so might be worth recontracting even if your student is only "sort-of" sure they'd like to live on campus
skokanj: I would prefer my son stay on campus, but it seems like his group of buddies are split down the middle with half already having signed leases for off-campus housing. The other half have the dorm-plan on Florida Pre-Paid and are happy to stay on campus. If he DOES stay on campus, I know he would like to have a better experience than this year with the random-roommate-selection. How is roommate selection handled when students request housing for next year?

familychatmoderator(JenniferT_Housing): Your son would have the opportunity to pull in roommates (maybe one/more of his friends who already are planning to stay on campus)

familychatmoderator(JenniferT_Housing): Pulling in roommates happens during the room selection process, and as long as all the students have a housing contract it shouldn't be a problem

skokanj: OK, thanks! I looked at the website for housing for next year because my son mentioned "Keys" but I didn't see that dorm listed for next year, but I did see it for the Summer Session. Is it an option for next year? Are those rooms singles or doubles or ??

familychatmoderator(JenniferT_Housing): Keys is definitely an option for next academic year -- it does tend to be pretty popular with our returning students so will fill up. It is four-person apartments with each person having their own bedroom within the apartment.

familychatmoderator(JenniferT_Housing): Here's some more information on Keys Complex:

<http://www.housing.ufl.edu/blog/hall/keys/>

familychatmoderator(JenniferT_Housing): Lakeside Complex is another option that is similar to Keys (four person apartments where each person has their own bedroom).

skokanj: Is one more favorable than the other? I've never heard of Lakeside before and only know Keys because my son mentioned it as a possibility.

familychatmoderator(JenniferT_Housing): Lakeside is on the southwest corner of campus, so it's very near to SW Rec (gym) and the intramural fields. Keys Complex is right across from the baseball stadium, so is closer to the "heart" of campus. That being said, there are benefits to both -- Lakeside is quiet, has easy parking, and has a mix of residents of different ages. Keys is closer to main campus, parking tends to be more of a challenge, and has mostly upper-division students and athletes. The rooms have just been renovated in Keys whereas the ones in Lakeside have not had a complete renovation (but we have replaced the furniture and carpet, etc).

AlliD: My son is considering moving off campus for next year. How difficult is it to come back and get on campus housing for his senior year?

familychatmoderator(JenniferT_Housing): Not difficult as long as he applies for housing/completes the agreement according to the deadlines. We have some students every year who come back on after moving off

familychatmoderator(JenniferT_Housing): Off-campus students select their rooms behind all the returning students, but ahead of the incoming first-years

Hyltonfam: When should student apply for campus housing for next fall semester?

alineom: My son lives in Fletcher, a very old building. He has been complaining about bad 'smells' he believes is coming from the vent. While it may very well be his laundry he's smelling (!!), can you tell me whether housing checks/cleans the ventilation system for mold?

familychatmoderator(JenniferT_Housing): @Hyltonfam -- Recontracting for next year will begin after Thanksgiving

familychatmoderator(JenniferT_Housing): They will have until Jan 27 to complete a housing agreement

familychatmoderator(JenniferT_Housing): @alineom -- we do both reactive and preventative maintenance for all our building systems, including HVAC. If he's concerned about something, I would suggest he place an iService request to make sure someone comes to check it out

familychatmoderator(JenniferT_Housing): iService (our work order system) can be accessed at <https://iservicedesk.housing.ufl.edu>

Hyltonfam: How could a current freshman student tour Keys Complex or any other dorm with singles to see if they like it before applying?

familychatmoderator(JenniferT_Housing): @Hyltonfam -- They are welcome to go over to Keys and check out the commons area and the environment. However, we don't have any tour rooms or empty spaces that we can show them.

skokanj: This has been super helpful. Thank you!

Hyltonfam: Which are the dorms with single rooms & how is best way to request these when applying after break?

familychatmoderator(JenniferT_Housing): @Hyltonfam -- many of our buildings have at least some single rooms. Keys and Lakeside are apartment style with single bedrooms (in a four person apartment). The rest would be single rooms with a shared bath or bathroom down the hall

familychatmoderator(Vern_UFHousing): @Hyltonfam - there are single rooms in almost every area. Students will be able to login and select from all the available rooms. Students select based on class standing so seniors will go first.

familychatmoderator(JenniferT_Housing): Returning residents will get to choose their room type before incoming residents, that will happen in February

skokanj: Does Hume have single rooms?

familychatmoderator(Vern_UFHousing): @skokanj - yes, very few

skokanj: To whom would I address feedback on a housing issue we had this semester? I would like to provide some parent concerns regarding safety and wellbeing. My son's roommate situation has now been resolved, but only 2 days ago and he's struggled with it, effectively being unable to use his room consistently because of roommate issues. Is there an email address or street address? Thank you

familychatmoderator(JenniferT_Housing): @skokanj -- what hall? I'll give you the email/phone number of the professional staff who oversees it

skokanj: He's been working with the RA, but I would like the feedback to be provided to the head of housing. Safety cannot be compromised and although this issue is now resolved, my son was at risk a good part of this semester. The appropriate name with either an email address or street address would be appreciated. Thank you

familychatmoderator(Vern_UFHousing): @skokanj - you can find the appropriate contact information here:<http://www.housing.ufl.edu/about/staff/>

familychatmoderator(Vern_UFHousing): Just scroll down a little bit to the section with the heading "Meet The Staff"

skokanj: Perfect. Thank you. The RA and Area Coordinator have tried to be helpful, but did not move quickly enough in light of the safety concerns in this extreme situation. I know they felt they were doing everything they could, but when a student is at risk of abusive behavior from a roommate, it must be dealt with immediately and seriously. That was not done.

Online Family Chat - Off Campus Life

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

familychatadministrator(Rachel_NewStudentFamilyProgram): Hello Gator Families! My name is Rachel Griffin and I am the graduate assistant for Family Programs and Engagement in New Student and Family Programs. Looking forward to chatting with you all today. A representative from Off Campus Life will be joining us shortly and can help answer any questions you may have!

familychatadministrator(Rachel_NewStudentFamilyProgram): Does anyone have any questions to get us started?

AlliD: My son is considering moving off campus for next year. How hard is it to apply to come back to on campus housing if he should choose to do so in his senior year?

alineom: I have a son at UF and a son at Santa Fe. Are Santa Fe students welcome to join in on UF intramurals?

familychatadministrator(Rachel_NewStudentFamilyProgram): @AlliD - Great question! I would suggest that you pose that in the "Housing and Residence Education" chatroom (click on "add more chatrooms" in the top right corner of the screen). They might be able to better answer your question since it is from the on-campus housing perspective.

familychatadministrator(Rachel_NewStudentFamilyProgram): @alineom: I believe you have to be a UF fee-paying student with a Gator 1 (ID) card in order to participate in UF intramurals unfortunately.

familychatmoderator(OffCampusLife): Hi, all. I was answering off-campus life questions in the main "lobby," but if you have more specific questions, please direct them here.

familychatmoderator(OffCampusLife): @G8rMom: In response to your question about roommate finding, our Roommate Board is not linked to Facebook, and your student can make an account and search for roommates by clicking "roommates" at:

familychatmoderator(OffCampusLife): ...at <https://housing.offcampus.ufl.edu/>

familychatmoderator(OffCampusLife): <https://housing.offcampus.ufl.edu/> (the link)

G8rMom: Thank you.

familychatmoderator(OffCampusLife): No problem!

Online Family Chat - Student Health Care Center

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

familychatmoderator(Catherine_StudentHealthCareCtr): Good afternoon! My name is Catherine Seemann, and I'm the communications coordinator for the Student Health Care Center (Infirmary). I look forward to assisting you today! For more information after the chat, please visit the Parents & Family Members section of our website at <http://shcc.ufl.edu/parents-family-members/>.

G8rMom: Are flu vaccines free on campus?

familychatmoderator(Catherine_StudentHealthCareCtr): @G8rMom: Essentially, yes! While we bill the insurance for the cost of the shot, there is no out-of-pocket for the patient.

familychatmoderator(Catherine_StudentHealthCareCtr): @G8rMom: Flu shots are available on a walk-in basis from the Infirmary during regular business hours (M-F, 8am-5pm).

MGUELLER01: Catherine, how does a student become established in the Student Health Care system? My son was ill a couple of weeks ago, and he had registered online and called for an appointment. They said they would pass the information on to his health team, and they would call him back to schedule an appointment for him. They did not call him back. I know online it said 24-48 hours, but I had to send him to a clinic to get a note for a professor. He says he now has been assigned a health team, but will the call backs be a little quicker now that he is in the system? I found out in the last online chat that he can just walk into the student health center.

familychatmoderator(Catherine_StudentHealthCareCtr): @MGueller01: Students should call the main number first - 352-392-1161 - and follow the prompts to establish care. At this time students cannot register/request appointments online without calling first to establish care at our facility. While we accept walk-ins for urgent care and on Sundays, it is always better for students to call first to find out when appointments are available, or schedule online via MyUFHealth/MyChart for non-urgent concerns. Hope this helps!

alineom: I have to say I was a little disappointed in the student health center - my son was very ill and walked in, but was turned away and told to make an appt to be seen in 2 days. I thought it was also for urgent care.

familychatmoderator(Catherine_StudentHealthCareCtr): @MGueller01: Your student is also welcome to call their assigned team directly - this often gets them where they need to go faster.

familychatmoderator(Catherine_StudentHealthCareCtr): @alimeom: Our facility is more family practice than urgent care, though we do have a department devoted to things like falls, breaks, sprains, etc. We always allow students to request registered nurse advice same-day, however, so please let your student know if they feel their concern is urgent a nurse can call them back. We are seeing as many patients as we can as quickly as we can, but do not want to sacrifice quality care.

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G8rMom: What is the malady of the week? Our student described a 2nd bout of sniffles with G.I. symptoms that let to 24 hours in bed.

G8rMom: Are you seeing flu yet? Thankfully, our student is vaccinated.

familychatmoderator(Catherine_StudentHealthCareCtr): @G8rMom: Good question! No flu yet, but we expect to see it soon. We often see students experiencing general fatigue due to poor sleep and not-so-great eating habits around testing time. We encourage students to focus on quality sleep and good nutrition - cram sessions just don't work! GatorWell Health Promotion Services is a great campus resource with regard to sleep and time management skills:<http://gatorwell.ufsa.ufl.edu/>.

JLitt9: What is your outlook for flu season this late fall/winter?

familychatmoderator(Catherine_StudentHealthCareCtr): @JLitt9: By this time last year we had seen many positive cases, so it's definitely less severe for the time being. The CDC is still making predictions, and they are a great source of info in general: www.cdc.gov/flu.

KL327@hotmail.com: Is there a place to go to find out what is or is not covered at student health? What is charged to our insurance vs. what student health covers? Also wouldn't it be better to have them go to an urgent care which would be covered by insurance since we are out of network?

familychatmoderator(Catherine_StudentHealthCareCtr): @KL327@hotmail.com: Absolutely. For Charges, Billing & Payment FAQs, visit:<http://shcc.ufl.edu/fees-and-insurance/charges-billing-payment/frequently-asked-questions/>

Floridagatorgal: My son was seen at the infirmary about a month ago & would like to set up his online portal access. How would he go about doing that since he seems to have misplaced his visit ID number from that day?

familychatmoderator(Catherine_StudentHealthCareCtr): @KL327@hotmail.com: General office visit co-pays are covered by the University's tuition-included health fee for current students. We generally bill insurance for services done to the student, like stitches, and items provided, like medical equipment.

familychatmoderator(Catherine_StudentHealthCareCtr): @Floridagatorgal: After obtaining an access code from their medical team, students may register for MyUFHealth/MyChart to request future appointments online, communicate with their doctor, access test results, request prescription refills and more. If students need a new access code, please have them call their team to have the information printed for pickup or mailed to them.

Floridagatorgal: I don't think he knows what team he is on, but I will ask him.