

Finding Balance

Thursday, September 17, 2014

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): Welcome to our second Family Chat of the semester! Today we will discuss how to help your student find balance. Finding the balance between academics, social activities, involvement activities, and personal time can be challenging to do, especially when students are already attempting a smooth transition to independence. We are here today to answer your questions and discuss strategies for helping your student be successful. I will let my colleagues introduce themselves as they log in!

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): My name is Arie Gee and I am the Assistant Director for Family Programs and Engagement in New Student and Family Programs.

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Corry): Goodmorning Families! My name is Corry Moore and I am the Program Assistant for New Student and Family Programs.

familychatadministrator(UF_NSFP Mickey): Good Morning All - My name is Mickey Howard and I am the Associate Director for New Student & Family Programs and excited to talk about balance! It's great to "see" everyone.

familychatmoderator(NSFP_Alex): Good morning! My name is Alex D'Haeseleer, and I am a student assistant for New Student & Family Programs.

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): Hello all, I'm Lynn O'Sickey, an advisor in the Liberal Arts and Sciences Academic Advising Center.

JThornton789!:: Hello, My student is having a great time at UF so far, however, she is in a 3 roommate room and one of the roommates has utilized a significant portion of what little space my child has and has altered some of the furniture that came with the room. The RA had said she would check back in on them to confirm that the furniture was put back to its original form and that the space was freed up for my daughter but the RA has never been seen since...this was on August 25.

familychatadministrator(UF_NSFP Mickey): While Arie finishes up the response for our last question what other questions do folks have?

rachel: Good morning !My name is Rachel. My daughter lives in campus now. They are 4 roommates in their dorm. They usually go to sleep at 2:00AM in the morning. I think it is too late. But I have no idea what can I do about it. I want some suggestion.

Karmapod: What online tutoring resources are available for a student who does not have a question during regular hours?

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): Hi JThornton789!!, I'm glad to hear your daughter has had a great experience so far! Has your daughter followed-up with the RA about the furniture? Move-in is a hectic time and it may have slipped through the RA's radar. If she reaches out to him or her, I'm sure he/she would be happy to come check the room!

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): Karmapod, how do you define regular hours? A lot of tutoring through the Teaching Center goes on in the evenings.

http://www.teachingcenter.ufl.edu/tutoring_schedule.html Is this in reference to a specific class?

familychatadministrator(UF_NSFP Mickey): @Rachel - figuring out a sleep pattern can take time. New found freedom and the excitement of the year can change sleep patterns. It is about finding what works for the student. Questions they can ask themselves: Is it affecting my grades? Is it affecting my personal attitude? Does it seem they are agitated? I also know that students take some naps during the day?

Karmapod: My daughter does not feel comfortable going out in the evenings presently. I am inquiring about hours in the evening.
JThornton789!!: Thank you Arie, Yes - my daughter has stopped by a couple of times but the RA is just never there. I think my daughter has given up and resigned herself to having less space. She has also tried the service request system - but has discovered that the site lists her request as 'completed' when it has not. Who should she call?
rmhorne: Hello, can you explain the role of the RA's? My daughter lives in Hume and hasn't see the RA since move-in day. And there haven't been any planned activities. Thanks!
musiclover: Good morning. Do you have any updates regarding the assaults on campus?
Winni: My daughter recently learned that she does not have an RA. Would that be true for Trusler?
LAR18: Is the university assessing and upgrading outdoor nighttime lighting on campus? Some of those buildings have dark blind spots after sundown.
mt8505@att.com: I am an alumnus from UF with two daughters who attend UF. There seems to be increasing "chatter" among UF undergraduate parents about the difficulty of UF's CALC and CHM freshman classes. My freshman is a pre-med major and is spending what I would consider an enormous amount of time and energy to conquer her CALC class - StudyEdge, Tutoring @ Broward Hall in addition to class. I would be interested in the data on the drop rate and average grade for these courses. Certainly UF has this information but it seems to be difficult to get.
Motherhen111: My daughter is having a hard time adjusting. She's suffering from the little fish in a HUGE ocean after being a big fish in a small pond syndrome. She goes from class to her dorm room to class. She lives in Jennings and they did have a meeting, but it seems no activities where they can meet others.
familychatadministrator(UF_NSFP Mickey): @KarmaPod - I understand about your daughter's concern about going out at night. The biggest thing that we are telling all students is that just like if you were in a major city you need to walk with others. Walking in groups can alleviate fears and also provide comfort. The benefit of being at a place like UF is that we have a few services in place for students that are outside of the norm such as a Free Shuttle Service = SNAP (352-392-SNAP) as well as walking escorts that can be called through SNAP as well.
mfkeys: My daughter also lives in Hume and the RA has been worthless. There have been no activities to introduce the kids and get them together. The place is like a prison, all the doors are always shut. This was not my daughters expectation of what dorm life would be like. She is sad she choose Hume.
familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): Karmapod, I am not aware that there is an online tutoring process at the moment. If your student does not want to go out in the evenings, then I would first refer her to the walk-in tutoring hours during the day. She may also make a standing tutoring appointment at a time convenient to her for the entire semester via http://www.teachingcenter.ufl.edu/appointments.html. The Teaching Center also has excellent video resources including video practice exams that students can take, score, them and then watch a video explaining each individual question so the student can get instruction on any questions he/she missed.
Winni: @mfkeys, I could have written your email about my daughter in Trusler. Exactly except she doesn't have an RA.
icegalbone: Good morning everyone. My son was just saying how much security is evident on campus. He said UF is really watching out for everyone. Made us feel good. Nice job UF!

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): @JThornton, I would recommend emailing the RA to set up a time to talk. RA's are students, and very involved students, at that. Likely, it is a situation where their schedules just haven't lined up quite yet. What was the nature of the iService request? Those requests are typically for fixing things, and they won't really touch anyone else's belongings. If she cannot get in touch with her RA, have her call her Graduate Hall Director.

rmhorne: @mt8505@att.com, my daughter is also struggling with CHM. She scored a 5 on the AP CHEM exam, but is working like crazy to try to stay up. Several kids in her class did drop the first week.

fkhc1148: Good morning, My daughter is a freshman and lives off campus. Her roommate has been great. She and my daughter graduated high school together so it works. I have no major complaints. I feel stupid to ask such an silly question but here goes. Being a college student is of course way different than a high school student. My daughter is having some difficulty "juggling" her school life with her home life. any ideas?

mfkeys: My daughter also a pre-med major and is having extreme difficulty with Calc. She has gone to every available for resource for help. This class seems unusually hard. Is it intended for the kids the class or to make it impossible to get a good grade in it?

familychatmoderator(NSFP_Alex): Hi rmhorne! Every RA is different, some can be very active with the floor, and other wait for students to come to them. They are required to do a certain number of programs with the floorduring thesemester, so eventually there will be an event. If your student has any questions for the RA, we always encourage they just knock, or communicate via email.

fkhc1148: Aslo what kind of chem and calc resources are available that she may not know about

mt8505@att.com: Motherhen111, Making UF "small" can definitely be a challenge especially if your child did not rush. My freshman has the same sentiments but is trying to find her way to make UF "small" by attending the rock climbing club, going to CRU worship in Thursdays and working out at Student Rec. Please encourage your daughter to keep putting herself out there. It's only been a month. Friendships take time.

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): @winni, All on-campus residents have an RA, but they may not be in the same pod, especially in Trusler. Can you email me your daughter's name and room number and I will reach out to the area coordinator to see who her RA is!

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): mt8505 and othersre: Calc and Chem, I'd have to do some research to get the drop rate and average grade in Calc and Chem, but I can say that when Math implemented a new placement exam two-three years ago, the drop rate declined and the average grade went up because it was making sure students had the correct background for the course. Chem implemented new placement this year andwe hope it will have the same effect. I find that many students initially struggle in those classes for a couple of reasons.First, they are used to taking a course over the whole academic year (even AP/IB/AICE, which are college level, are covered over a year rather than 15 weeks). more...

familychatadministrator(UF_NSFP Mickey): @musiclover - currently the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, UF PD, Gainesville PD, Alcahua County Sherriff, and more are still actively working the case. To @LAR18 they are evaluating the lights and in fact we have kept the stadium, rec sports, and other lights around campus on. There has been a concerted effort to reduce bushes and tall shrubs around campus. They have increased shuttles and walking escort programs as well. I hope that helps for both questions.

Motherhen111: My daughter too has issues with the same two classes. The Calc class in an auditorium setting seems almost a recipe for failure and then her Chem class is on-line!!

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): So students need to adapt to the pace and if they get even a bit behind while making that initial transition in the first few weeks, they will have a lot to do to catch up. BUT, I do see many students who do catch up just fine - the transition point is stressful, though. The second issue is that many students are used to memorizing more than synthesizing material and that can require different learning strategies. more...

LAR18: Good to hear, thank you uf_nsfp Mickey.

familychatadministrator(UF_NSFP Mickey): @Lar18 no problem, happy to help! If you need anything else feel free to give our office a call.

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Corry): Motherhen11_sorry to hear that your daughter is having trouble adjusting. Just know that we are here to offer her all of our resources on campus so that she can feel more settled. I would advise your daughter to check out Student Activities and Involvement for campus opportunities to get involved.

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Corry): Also, should she need to talk or connect on a more personal basis, we have U-Matter, We Care in the Dean of Students Office.

mt8505@att.com: rnhorne: That is EXACTLY what I am noticing! The kids who get into UF are brilliant kids, but their confidence is shattered with these "weed out" classes. This has been a real sore spot for me especially as an alumnus. My junior intended on majoring in Chemistry (her dad has a PhD in Chemistry from UF) and changed majors because of freshman chemistry. What a shame. Talking with parents from UCF/FSU, the classes at these universities don't seem to be as impossible as UF makes them.

aholian: Hello, my daughter is also a freshman, I was on the phone with her yesterday as she finished a test late night and was waiting for the SNAP bus to arrive. How many SNAP buses are there? I've been told it can be up to a 20 minute wait.

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): I will address individual questions after, but basic strategies for Calc and Chem are - 1) Take advantage of tutoring in the Teaching Center and in the Chem Learning Center. Calc has weekly reviews three different periods each week and the walk-in tutoring has a ton of time for Chem. http://www.teachingcenter.ufl.edu/tutoring_schedule.html and http://www.teachingcenter.ufl.edu/supplemental_instruction.html 2) Encourage your student to think about adding new study approaches to their study toolbox. There are great, relatively short videos on the Teaching Center website to help with this. <http://www.teachingcenter.ufl.edu>

Winni: My daughter has considered organizing her own meeting or gathering on her floor in the Lounge since she has only met two of her neighbors. Would this be okay for her to do?

familychatmoderator(NSFP_Alex): fkhc1148, one of the most important things I always say is to not overwhelm yourself. Staying organized is key, making sure you have a planner or using resources available on smartphones, and always communicate if there is a problem. Professors are pretty open as long as students are open with them.

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): re: Calc and Chem - I also strongly recommend forming study groups. This generation of students learns especially well in a collaborative setting.

rmhorne: mt8505@att.com My daughter actually decided to drop a different class - so she could focus on the Chem. Not getting the number of credits she probably needs, but hoping to keep her grades up!

familychatadministrator(UF_NSFP Mickey): @aholian - SNAP actually has rented 3 additional vans and now runs up to 6 vans a night. 20 minutes is the official average and we are happy to say that they have stayed consistent with the 20 minute average even with you can imagine increased demand. It is a personalized trip so things do take time. Your student can always request a walking escort as well as it is a lesser wait time.

louisanosell: Hello, my question is how do I delicately question my daughter's sorority about parents weekend. My daughter's sorority is seeming to want to hold her hostage that weekend due to initiation ceremonies etc. My husband and I have taken off work Friday, paid for 2 nights of overpriced hotel rooms, to be told that she can't see us until Sunday morning because she has to make herself available from Friday after class until Saturday night. We leave at noon on Sunday. I'm ready to call the President of her sorority to see if they have lost their minds...any recommendations from the panel????

mfkeys: My daughters says SNAP has been a little more effective in the last week but the first couple of weeks they never arrived and she ended up walking alone. Will SNAP keep the increased number of vans available from now on or is this only temporary. Also heard that the fraternity walking program is only planned thru September. What does UF plan to do to keep our kids safer ALL the time. Although they claim to offer all these safety services in reality they don't seem to work very well.

fkhc1148: Thanks Alex, sometimes that is easier said than done. She uses all of those but i guess that it will take time hopefully

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): @Winni, This is a great idea! She is welcome to invite her neighbors to hang out in the lounge. A lot of times, students will find a show that they all like and then they watch it all together in the lounge. Movie nights are also a big hit! Tell her to go for it!

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): Motherhen, Calc has a large lecture, but also has a once a week small group discussion. Please encourage your student to utilize that small group time to get questions answered.

musiclover: Thank you for the update, UF_NSFP Mickey

familychatadministrator(UF_NSFP Mickey): @Musiclover - you are welcome!

Winni: NSFP_Arie: Thanks. What is your email address?

louisanosell: Small study groups are an awesome way to learn and a nice way to make new friends.

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): Motherhen, online classes can actually be more effective sometimes. But like all of college, it is an adjustment from the high school setting. Please encourage your student to meet with the instructor if he/she needs assistance.

mt8505@att.com: CHM/CALC Parents: My freshman signed up for StudyEdge and shealso goes to the Math Lab at Broward Hall. I still argue that CHM/CALC at UF versus the other state universities is not on parity.

GATORMOM24: I was there last weekend for the football game and I have to applaud your efforts with the increased security measures - - Sheriff's were visible/out of the carat key locations (eg: SW Rec); the student escort service was impressive (walkie talkies, fluorescent vests) and additional stadium lights helped! I hope these are all being considered as a standard and not just for a few weeks to "scare" off the attacker.

familychatadministrator(UF_NSFP Mickey): @GatorMOM24 - These are being highly considered for long term uses.

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): @louisanosell, is this the Sorority Parents Weekend or the UF Family Weekend that you are talking about attending?

KimFL: What are the thoughts and the approximate expected level of participation of the UF Parent Weekend event? I'm not 100% sold on it. Thanks

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): mt8505, students perceive the classes as "weed out" classes, but they are not. They DO require an adjustment, for sure. I can't speak to how they are taught at other institutions. But if your student is having difficulty, PLEASE have him/her seek out the resources I mentioned, including the instructor and his/her advisors. We can help!

GATORMOM24: Dancin' Gators is also a great group of girls, if your daughter is interested in dance (all types, from tap to modern)! And another shout out to the male RAs in North Hall, they are doing a remarkable job with including my freshman son and organizing activities (from attending a volleyball game, to video/card games) on various nights/times to allow a variety to attend!

familychatmoderator(NSFP_Alex): fkhc1148 No problem! It definitely takes time to get used to, but as long as they are consistent, it becomes much easier.

familychatadministrator(UF_NSFP Mickey): @mfkeys - UF is looking at a variety of things to keep our students safe. The biggest thing that students can do to help is also be mindful of what they are doing. If your students are able to walk in groups or not be walking while looking at their cell phone and being aware of the surroundings. We will continue to keep students safe and that takes a community to do.

Motherhen111: I agree that study groups are a great idea but, when they don't know anyone, it's almost impossible to get one started...

GATORMOM24: Thanks @ UF_NSFP Mickey! Glad to hear the long-term safety is being reviewed too!

familychatadministrator(UF_NSFP Mickey): @GatorMom24 you are welcome

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): rmhorne, I am sad to hear that your student decided to drop a class, I hope she talked to her advisor first. It seems early to think that she could not do it.

mfkeys: Will SNAP keep the additional vans from this point forward to make the program actually work?

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): @KimFL, you are welcome to participate in any or all events during family weekend. The goal is for you to get to spend time with your student and we just provide a weekend full of fun activities to do together. There really is something for everyone of all ages to enjoy. If you want to be involved from 5pm Friday to 3pm Sunday, you can. You can also pick and choose the events you want to attend. We really encourage you to make it your own!

Motherhen111: It seems from this chat, that RAs are either doing a GREAT job or almost nothing at all. Is there any way to make it a little more uniform in all dorms -- where activities are actually planned and carried out so that freshmen can get out of their rooms and actually meet others?

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): Motherhen, it's not impossible to form a study group. In nearly every first year student's living situation there are other students taking calc and chem. Your student may need a bit of time to feel comfortable approaching people, but they are all going to be prepping for the first set of exams and they'll find each other.

cecasado: My son also has calculus and chemistry (the most basic), he too had very good high school grades and classes and is now struggling. The TA teaches calculus and my son cannot understand him. I think this is common for college. We gave him all the advice and are praying that he goes and gets help. From a straight A student to a 30% on his first calculus quiz. Did I mention it is pre-calculus?

familychatadministrator(UF_NSFP Mickey): @mfkeys - They are looking at a variety of solutions what we have been told is that there will continue to be an influx of Vans. UF is also extending additional bus services at night including the East/ West circulator decreasing wait times from 45 minutes to 12. (Rte 126).

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): Do encourage your student to just say hi to people in class to break the ice and then maybe talk about the material as they are leaving class, before they know it, they will be comfortable saying, do you want to study together?

familychatmoderator(Meredith - Academic Advisor): Motherhen and others re: student involvement, check out <https://www.studentinvolvement.ufl.edu/>, and click on Gator Connect, then organizations (which takes you to <https://ufl.collegiatelink.net/Organizations>) for involvement activities. This is a great way for students to get involved in places other than just their dorm areas, and with close to 1000 student groups, there's something for everyone!

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): Calc/Chem - The learning strategies link did not go through for those wanting to add to their study toolbox. <http://www.teachingcenter.ufl.edu/video.html> It can make a big difference.

anacrespo: My concern is about student safety on Campus specially now with all that is going on. My child has not been

mfkeys: How difficult is it to change roommates? What is the process to do this? My daughter went with a blind roommate and it hasn't worked out very well for her. She is not sure she can make it through a whole year with this girl? She is not sure what to do about it?

familychatadministrator(UF_NSFP Mickey): Route 126 map for those interested at the night routes: http://www.alligator.org/news/local/article_1939665e-3e29-11e4-bf22-4b4659d66c33.html?mode=image&photo=0

KimFL: I was pleasantly pleased with the ucare program and the quick response regarding an RA issue (lack of participation from the RA).

KimFL: How hard is it to schedule an appointment with an academic advisor? My daughter is hoping to do an accelerated program for pre-pharm, is it possible? Thanks

louisanosell: To form a study group she could ask her professor if she can hand out a flyer with her contact info to the class or if the professor would like to make an announcement on her behalf to see if anyone is interested in forming one

familychatmoderator(NSFP_Alex): Motherhen111, each RA is required to do a number of events or walkovers, which is where the students leave the floor and go somewhere as a group, but the times at which they are done are not regulated. These events and walkovers are completely optional, so it's both on the RA and the student to participate. I have lived on campus for the past 3 semesters, and my experience has been very different in each one. My RA now isn't as active, but the events he plans are prominently displayed on bulletin boards, and he is always willing to answer questions if I shoot him an email. If your student is looking to meet new people, I encourage them to explore tabling events and organization fairs along with what may be planned with the floor.

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): cecaso, it can be an adjustment to get used to accents, but students do it successfully. Encourage your student to sit up front and meet with the instructor in office hours (ask questions and get more comfortable with the instructor). College-level precalculus is harder than high school precalculus for some of the reasons I mentioned. Remember your students are in the stage where they are just recognizing the differences and only beginning to figure out how to adapt - that doesn't mean they won't adapt. It can take a little time.

mt8505@att.com: Lynn - Academic Advisor: If you can get drop rates and average grades for CHM/CALC, I would be very interested to see them. When we went to College of HHP presentation at Preview (great change to Preview, BTW! Love attending the college-specific presentation) she listed courses that were not freshmen-friendly due to withdraw rates, etc. so I know withdraw rates are tracked. I asked her about CHM 2045 and CALC but she didn't have that data but acknowledged the drop rates were high for them as well. It's bothersome to me that UF freshmen sometimes switch their academic paths because of this but their peers at other universities don't seem to have the same challenges.

mfkeys: Thanks NFSP Mickey, can you tell me if it will stay that way from now on or is this temporary?

familychatadministrator(UF_NSFP Mickey): @mfkeys - there is a process to swap rooms (<http://www.housing.ufl.edu/undergrad/resources/room-transfers/>) the website says that it is closed currently but you might be able to call housing to ask more questions about that process 352-392-2171.

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): KimFL, this is the perfect time to see an advisor - things are quiet now and won't pick up until mid-October as we gear up for Advance Reg for Spring. Here's the link to college advising across campus - have your student contact the Pharmacy folks and make an appt. <http://www.ufadvising.ufl.edu/advisers.aspx>

cecasado: Lynn~thanks much I did tell my son all this....mt8505@att.com ~ I totally agree. MY son is in HHP too.

Winni: My daughter was told that it is mandatory to take summer classes??

Motherhen111: I agree with mt8505@att.com, my daughter too has mentioned the possibility of switching her pre-med major because she feels overwhelmed with the Calc and Chem classes. This is coming from a student who graduated 9th in her class with a 5+ GPA, so she is not scared of studying or putting in the time/effort.

Linda68: Very Stressful start so far, my daughter was excited to get her dorm assignment, then about 2 weeks before her move in she received an email saying it was only temporary due to she was put in a room with an RA. Things are stressful enough without worrying where you will end up. I wished I had known this before because we would have gotten her off-campus housing. But now it seems impossible to get out of the contract. I think you have you have withdrawn or a medical emerg. She is very stressed over not knowing where or who she will end up with. Is there anything I can do?

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): mt8505, my email is losickey@advising.ufl.edu. Email me about drop rates and I will find them. Some students do change their path due to success in math/chem, but having worked with students for 20 years at UF, I think many students either realize that they actually don't like the material in those areas or that they had selected premed because they didn't know much about career options. I see LOTS of students AFTER their first term who struggled but just kept doing the same thing (often only more of it) instead of realizing they needed to try new approaches. When they do adapt, alot of them succeed - hence my advice above. Students do need to be proactive and adapt as quickly as possible.

familychatmoderator(Meredith - Academic Advisor): Winni, there is a 9 hour summer requirement, but these can be met in a few ways. Students can take live classes at UF, online classes from UF, live classes at another State University System school in Florida, or through Overseas Study opportunities. Also, all 9 hours do not have to be taken in the same semester - they can be split up between summers if the student prefers. Please have your student see an advisor about ways to meet that requirement

aholian: My daughter signed up for ISV program after the presentation. While this program seems very interesting, I was surprised that they are asking for an immediate monetary commitment once they are accepted. Is this a normal practice? I would think most freshmen students are not able to make a four week overseas commitment of both time and money without some parental involvement.

familychatadministrator(UF_NSFP Mickey): Mfkeys: the bus routes being increased is still being assessed about how long it will remain in affect. It will take at least one semester to assess ride numbers, use. So it will be in place for the foreseeable future.

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): cecaso, try to get your student in to see his advisor, sometimes we can get them to try things.

JThornton789!!: regarding the room switch procedure - my daughter put the request in weeks ago but with no response or acknowledgement....still open. We tried this avenue as well because the RA never returned to the room to follow up on what she requested be done. It is hard to not give up when there is no response to requests, RA visits and notices roommates have altered furniture and taken over others space and then we never see this person again - its as if they just don't care about what they themselves have committed to - and given false hope that something will be done - but never is. My daughter is stressed enough without this - still I've said that life plays things like this as a lesson.....

Jbrillpavlovic: My daughter wanted to use SNAP one night last week but was told by the driver that he didn't go to her dorm, Broward. She then spoke to a police officer standing nearby who intervened on her behalf and the driver then drove her to her dorm. The SNAP system needs to be in place for the benefit of ALL students. If the police officer hadn't been there or been so supportive, SNAP would have failed her. She is very frightened to even leave her dorm at this point.

mt8505@att.com: Motherhen111: Tell your daughter TO STICK WITH IT! My daughter failed her first CALC quiz with StudyEdge/Tutoring Lab and was HYSTERICAL afterwards. I told her to stay the course and she aced her second quiz. Part of it IS figuring it out and putting the time in.

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): Winni, all students are required by state law to take 9 hours in the summer at one of the 11 state universities. Your student can do this at UF, at one of the other State Universities in Florida, via web classes, internship or overseas study - lots of different ways to meet it even if you can't be in Gainesville.

anacrespo: Pls. address the Snap matter/concerns my daughter has also not been successful with SNAP Service?

mfkeys: I agree with Motherhen111 and cecasado...the degree of difficulty with the Calc and Chem classes has also forced my daughter to rethink her major...that is sad that these really bright kids are having this degree of difficulty...my daughter too was an outstanding student in high school... I don't understand why it is this way at UF?

familychatadministrator(UF_NSFP Mickey): @Jbrillpavlovic - If you experience any problem with SNAP or wish to report a complaint, please feel free to contact the UFPD SNAP Coordinator, Officer Wayne Clark. Officer Clark can be reached via e-mail at: wclark34@ufl.edu.

familychatadministrator(UF_NSFP Mickey): I would also recommend that the email come from your student.

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): @Linda68, I'm sorry to hear that your daughter has had a stressful start. Being with an RA has perks and challenges, one of those challenges being that she may be moved. If she is moved, they will give her advance warning. While it can be stressful not knowing, the best thing for her to do is live like she would if it were permanent. She can also talk with her roommate about the process (one of the perks of living with an RA... She doesn't have a hard time finding her!) which may put her a little more at ease.

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): mt8505 and Motherhen, I agree. I think they are all just in the shock phase of the transition. Please, please get them to their instructors, TAs and advisors so we can help them through it.

Motherhen111: I'm wondering if the difficulty being experienced with these classes in particular has something to do with their setup. I'm sorry to beat a dead horse, but I can't help but mention again the huge auditorium setting for a class such as calculus which one would think would ultimately be more successful in a smaller, more manageable setting.

<p>familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): mfkeys, I do remember similar experiences at my own undergrad institution (there, Economics was the big stress course). Please encourage your student to work on adapting or see the instructor or her advisor - we can help with the transition.</p>
<p>familychatmoderator(Meredith - Academic Advisor): Motherhen, having taken classes in this setting as an undergrad I understand your concern with a large set up, however the discussion groups that meet weekly are designed to help the student have that smaller group setting. Please encourage your student to utilize those discussion groups as well as the other resources that we have on campus, and as Lynn has said, advisers, instructors and TA's are of huge help!</p>
<p>lourdeswyatt3@msn.com: Does UF have a calculator use policy for specific classes? My child was surprised to arrive in Pre-Calc and be told that there would be no calculator use.</p>
<p>familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): Motherhen, Obviously I don't make those decisions. It is, of course, a resource issue - Calc enrollment has probably almost doubled in the last 10 years (as had Chem) and UF's getting less money from the state...However, the departments do really try to help students succeed. Students do need to be proactive and seek assistance, take advantage of discussion classes, etc. We're here to help them.</p>
<p>Motherhen111: I believe there is a bit of an issue understanding the TA :(</p>
<p>familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): lourdeswyatt - aha, you have hit on another big transition in math classes. In HS, students can use their calculators to do the work for them, in math at UF, they usually have to be able to work it out for themselves - showing they understand how it is done and why. That's a big transition for students.</p>
<p>Jbrillpavlovic: I'd like to be clear: at this time, what is the policy for changing roommates in the dorms?</p>
<p>jimPbg: Hi everyone Happy Hump day</p>
<p>familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): Motherhen, I'd have your student talk to the instructor.</p>
<p>familychatadministrator(UF_NSFP Mickey): @Jbrillpavlovic - It is very difficult at this point in the semester. I would talk with Housing directly about the process at this point 352-392-2171. Sorry we couldn't be more detailed.</p>
<p>aholian: Any response or can someone please tell me who I need to speak to regarding the ISV Volunteer program?</p>
<p>keefmick@aol.com: Where do freshmen students go to receive course selection assistance prior to Spring registration? Is it with an advisor in their intended college? And are appointments made online or at the college?</p>
<p>Jbrillpavlovic: Do you mean it's too late?</p>
<p>familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): Motherhen, I meant - about the TA. However, I do find that students adjust to accents, etc.</p>
<p>familychatadministrator(UF_NSFP Mickey): JBrillpavlovic - according to the website the process is closed. However, I would speak with housing directly to find out for sure. I am the type that likes to talk to the source.</p>
<p>Motherhen111: Thank you. I did suggest that, but I think she's a bit hesitant to do so.</p>
<p>familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): keefmick, Spring registration starts at the end of October. We encourage your student to see an advisor before that (preferably early October). That will help avoid waiting in line to see their advisor. And yes, advising is by college and how you make an appointment depends on the college. http://www.ufadvising.ufl.edu/advisers.aspx</p>
<p>keefmick@aol.com: Thank you, Lynn</p>

<p>familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): Motherhen, I understand, but the instructors are actually very nice and once she tries that I think she will feel pleasantly surprised and probably relieved that they WANT to help.</p>
<p>familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): keefmick, you're welcome :-)</p>
<p>familychatadministrator(NSFP_Corry): aholian_ISV would be through our International Center. I have provided the link that will take you directly to some information.</p>
<p>familychatadministrator(NSFP_Corry): http://www.abroad.ufic.ufl.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=programs.ViewProgram&Program_ID=11303</p>
<p>familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): Motherhen, you can always send her to her advisor - we'll tell her the same thing and that might persuade her.</p>
<p>mfkeys: The accents and the difficulty understanding these Calc teachers is not to be overlooked...I do not think the students get used to the accent...I think it makes an already tough situation that much worse. My daughter anticipated trouble as soon as she saw her schedule/professor...her concerns were valid...she has not adjusted to the accent.</p>
<p>Motherhen111: Is there a specific academic advisor assigned to each student?</p>
<p>familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): mfkeys, if your student is really having trouble, he/she can talk to an advisor in the Math department. http://www.math.ufl.edu/courses/undergraduate-advising/</p>
<p>aholian: thank you for the link</p>
<p>lourdeswyatt3@msn.com: Thank you Lynn, is there a specific list of classes that do not allow calculators or a policy? I am assuming UF is the only university that is applying this approach as we know other state university students who are using their calculators in the same class.</p>
<p>familychatmoderator(Meredith - Academic Advisor): motherhen, each college does things in a way that works best, but many times students can see any adviser in their college. Here is a link that will help determine where to go based on college http://www.ufadvising.ufl.edu/advisers.aspx</p>
<p>Motherhen111: Is there a specific academic advisor assigned to the student?</p>
<p>familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): Motherhen, to build on what Meredith says, they can also request the same advisor even if they are not assigned.</p>
<p>KimFL: I'm in agreement regarding the accent and the instructor. The kids should have unnecessary, additional difficulties... is there an alternate solution???</p>
<p>jimPbg: what is the accent ?</p>
<p>KimFL: *should NOT have unnecessary, additional difficulties.</p>
<p>Motherhen111: Thank you Meredith and Lynn.</p>
<p>familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): lourdeswyatt, I don't think there is a list, I think pretty much all math classes at UF expect the student to do the work. I doubt UF is the only university applying this approach. We were not allowed to use a calculator when I took Calc in college.</p>
<p>familychatadministrator(UF_NSFP Mickey): @KimFI - UF is proud to say that our professors come from all around the world to teach at the University. While sometimes student encounter new things that might seem difficult it is an opportunity for them to engage in new learning opportunities.</p>

familychatmoderator(Meredith - Academic Advisor): mfkeys and others re: accents/understanding teachers - UF is fortunate to have renowned instructors from all over the world, which is wonderful. With that, does come a variety of accents that students will experience. It can be challenging to take a course taught by someone with a heavy, unfamiliar accent, but I assure you that the students do adapt. I went through undergrad and grad school here and had several instructors of varying nationalities that had accents to which I had to adjust. As the term progresses, the students really do adapt.

KimFL: I'm in support of that, however, if the kids are there to learn a specific topic and are having difficulty in accomplishing their goals, should there not be an alternate solution?

Linda68: @NSFP_Arie I know she should but it is like thinking-as soon as I unpack all my stuff, I will have to leave-. (and its only a 72 hour notice to pack up and move, and with classes during the week and family not there to help move everything like at the first move in, it's overwhelming) And the RA is nice enough, but one of the perks of being an RA is having your own room, so she is kinda feeling that pressure also. I only wish UF would not offer or except housing contract if they are only going to put students in overflow and add more stress to the freshman year. Or at least get the parents/student an OUT of the housing contract. But as I read the contract again they can pretty much put you anywhere and have no choice. It is more strict than a traditional apartment lease.

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): KimFL, Also, some of the professors with accents have the highest student evaluations. Truly, I did an evaluation of a Calc instructor who has a thick accent and her student evaluations were some of the highest for ALL classes. But you are welcome to discuss your concerns with the Math department. <http://www.math.ufl.edu/courses/undergraduate-advising/>

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): Motherhen - you are welcome :-)

KimFL: Thank you, Lynn. This is the first time I've attended one of these chats. This is a lot of helpful information. Thank you.

familychatadministrator(UF_NSFP Mickey): What other questions do we have what it comes to finding a balance?

familychatmoderator(NSFP_Sara): @KimFL, there are multiple opportunities for students to receive extra assistance for their classes. As mentioned before, there is the free Broward Tutoring Services available on campus. Students also have the smaller discussion setting for that math course where they have an opportunity to talk personally with the TA or instructor. As a graduate student at the University of Florida, I have found that taking the initiative to understand and communicate has been well received with the instructors I have encountered.

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): KimFL, you're welcome :-)

Motherhen111: I'm sorry, but I must logout. Will the rest of the chat be available for review later?

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): @Motherhen111, Thank you for joining us today! The transcripts from this chat will be available on our website. www.dso.ufl.edu/nsfp.

Winni: Thank you!

Motherhen111: Great - thank you again for the chance to vent and the helpful suggestions made.

musiclover: Thank you!!

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): Motherhen (and all worried parents), things will improve, this is a big transition and students are often just coming to terms with it one month in.

Karmapod: My student is finding it difficult to get involved on campus with limited time due to classes and part time job. Any suggestions?

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): @Linda68, it is a challenging and not ideal situation for her to be in. I would encourage her to unpack enough to be comfortable. I'm sure her friends would be willing to help her move when the time comes. 72 hours doesn't sound like much time, but 3 days isn't an unrealistic amount of time to move. If she can't get it done in that time, have her talk to her Graduate Hall director. They are wonderful people and should be able to help!

GATORMOM24: is there a main contact person who oversees the "Club Sports" teams? or is it strictly student run?

familychatmoderator(Meredith - Academic Advisor): Karmapod - have your student check out Gator Connect through the Office of Student Activities and Involvement at <https://ufl.collegiatelink.net/Organizations>. There may be some groups of interest to him/her that can fit his/her schedule.

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): Karmapod, Also, I'd tell your student not to worry, there's seven more semesters to get involved. Get through the academic transition and then your student will probably find he/she has more time in future terms.

familychatmoderator(Meredith - Academic Advisor): There are several club teams available through Rec Sports. www.recsports.ufl.edu

Karmapod: Thanks Meredith and Lynn.

lourdeswyatt3@msn.com: Many, many years ago I did use a calculator in Calc at UF. Good to know what the expectations are now so we can better prepare for our future math class selections. Will be sharing this information with the many educators I work with that have students working on calculators from grade 6 on.

icegalbone: my son is doing rec sports and has met sooo many people. it is a place to enjoy and mingle. try it out

familychatmoderator(Meredith - Academic Advisor): karmapod - you're welcome!

familychatmoderator(Meredith - Academic Advisor): icegalbone - I'm glad he's found a way to meet people! I loved being part of the intramural sports as an undergrad, both as a participant and spectator. Rec Sports is a GREAT way to meet people!

familychatmoderator(NSFP_Alex): karmapod, I can definitely relate to that. Along with working at NSFP, I am a preview staffer, majoring in architecture, and in multiple organizations. ONE of the biggest pieces of advice it can give is to make decisions on what you want to do. It's very tempting to get involved with as many things as possible, but that can be overwhelming. Encourage them to explore but not commit, and try to get as much information as possible before joining anything.

Winni: how do you get involved with rec sports? Is it different than clubs?

icegalbone: his problem is all the alcohol. he says it's everywhere and is finding it hard to meet those that don't drink. I know it's college but my goodness. any suggestions?

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): @Gatormom24, there is a whole team of people from the Department of Recreational Sports that run the Club Sports program. Their Assistant Director for Competitive Sports is John Broska. He can be reached at JonB@recsports.ufl.edu (352) 273-2420

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): lourdeswyatt, you may want to talk to the Math department so you can convey to others why they don't have students use calculators. I have given you my understanding, but I am not a Math prof :-)

lourdeswyatt3@msn.com: Thank you Lynn. Go Gators!

Karmapod: Thanks Alex

Rick33: My daughter has not selected a major. How often should she be in communication with her advisor to help her in this decision, as well as for selecting appropriate classes?

familychatmoderator(NSFP_Alex): icegalbone, there are plenty of opportunities to get involved and have fun without alcohol. Gatornights are held every friday at the Reitz Union, and are completely sober and honestly a lot of fun, plus they are free for students. A lot of organizations do have students that drink, but almost always there are a portion of them who do not. I think that as long as he avoids those who do drink, he will automatically find those who don't.

jmiller: My daughter registered for SPN 1131 this summer with an Honors adviser's approval. When she went to the first day of class this semester she was told she would have to switch to SPN 2200 because of her placement score. (20 points higher than the cut off) By the way the Honor's adviser had that score when they registered in the summer. My daughter completed Spanish 1-4 in high school by the end of her junior year. Her Spanish 4 teacher was not very good so my daughter decided to not take AP Spanish in high school but wait and take it in college. She was instructed to meet with the head of the UF language department if she thought there was a mistake in her being moved to SPN 2200. I must say the department head was a disgrace to UF. He told my daughter she had to move to SPN 2200 or she sho

mfkeys: icegalbone my daughter does not drink either...she too says it is everywhere...she has just tried to enjoy herself regardless of where she is and when the drinking gets out of hand or people are too drunk she just leaves.

familychatmoderator(Meredith - Academic Advisor): rick33 - as often as is helpful to her, but I'd recommend she come in at least once per term to plan and look at options, though more visits are fine. Also, she'll need to declare in her third term.

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): Rick33, the CLAS AAC works with Exploratory students. We would recommend not only meeting with an advisor once a term, but taking advantage of the workshops and other resources on her own. Identifying careers and majors of interest requires time and effort on the student's part. Here's the link to our Exploratory web site: <https://www.advising.ufl.edu/exploratory/>

icegalbone: Thanks Alex, my words to him exactly. I told him about Friday Gatornights, I'll remind. Thank you.

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): Rick33, we just scheduled our fall workshops, so have your student look next week on the Exploratory site for those.

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): All, I have to sign off, have a great day!

icegalbone: hi mfkeys, I told my son, just go, I'm sure others won't be drinking or leave when it's necessary. he's been invited to parties but won't try.

familychatmoderator(Meredith - Academic Advisor): jmiller - I'm sorry your daughter has had a frustrating experience. The last part of your message cut off - what was the conversation with the department head and what kind of resolution are you looking for from it? I will try to help/guide you all.

icegalbone: My son is in a dorm w/o air. We bought a great unit, however, his RA has told him he must take the condensation line out of the window. What are others doing with a unit, you have to put the line out somewhere to drain some water.

mt8505@att.com: icegalbone: Like mfkeys, neither of my Gator gals drink either. My older daughter attended a party empty-handed as a freshman and kept saying, "No thanks!" which made her the biggest target! She called me from the bathroom SO distressed. To take the heat/attention off of them, I have advised them to carry a red solo cup with soda in it when they go to parties. It has worked!

icegalbone: excellent mt8505@att!!! I like that strategy. I'll tell him tonight to try that. I think he wants to avoid that bathroom ordeal. Nice tip, thanks.

familychatadministrator(UF_NSFP Mickey): Mt8505 & Icegalbone - alcohol free tailgates are hosted in front the Student Health Care Center every home football game as well.

familychatadministrator(UF_NSFP Mickey): What other questions are floating around out there

icegalbone: Mickey, I will tell my son that. He went to a pool party this past weekend to tailgate and said 'I think I'll hang with them again', meaning, must not have had alcohol or much anyway. I'll tell him about your tip, thank you.

Winni: Is there a difference between rec sports and clubs?

jmiller: He told her to move to SPN 2200 or she should learn another language. She was shocked, left and then went back and told him she had not had Spanish in a year & a half, her Spanish 4 teacher was not stellar, she guessed on many of the placement test questions and she wanted to minor in Spanish (she loves the language). He very loudly repeated his original 2 options. I must say as a parent I did not appreciate the intimidation that my daughter felt from the head of the language department. She then called the Honor's adviser and asked for their help and was told that they could not override the decision of a department head. So, it was the end of drop/add when this occurred, she dropped SPN 1131 and picked up 2 other classes (not many to choose from at that point). Not a great way to start o

familychatmoderator(Meredith - Academic Advisor): Winni - Rec Sports does have some club sports as well as many other options for students (workout space, intramural sports, fitness classes, lake wauberg, etc), but in addition there are other clubs that are student-run.

jmiller: Not a great way to start off the fall of your freshman year when you are so eager to learn. Any advise on how she could pursue her passion for Spanish?

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): @Winni, Rec Sports is the larger umbrella that organizes recreation on campus. They are in charge of the Rec Centers, intramurals, Lake Wauburg, Group Fitness Classes, and Club Sports.

familychatmoderator(Meredith - Academic Advisor): jmiller - The Spanish department is now using WebCape, which I'm sure is what your daughter took for her placement score. It is an incredibly accurate placement test, and the department is very strict on placing students appropriately according to the placement test. The honors advisor is right, the decision is up to the department. I see both sides of the coin on this one, but I understand why the department is strict on their policy. If she wants to minor in Spanish, she will need to take the course into which she placed, as the language sequence is a requirement of the minor...more...

GATORMOM24: Thank you @ NSFP_Arie! I will try to encourage son to talk to him. Thanks again!

jimPbg: I would like to see future dorm rooms include a bathroom and sink. They house some of our brightest students, and are very expensive. Our inmates get more modern housing.

mariasanteiro: Hello, my daughter's main concern is the decreased number of buses that run after 6PM during the week. (Yes, she has the bus app already). She gets out of chem around 6PM and there are fewer buses running. But Kudos to UF for leaving the sports fields with lights on until 3AM for added safety.

familychatmoderator(Meredith - Academic Advisor): I would suggest that she come see a member of our advising team (she's welcome to come see me if she'd like), to discuss options either for a minor or ways to pursue the study of the culture. We are in the Academic Advising Center in Fariior Hall and the Spanish minor falls under our college.

icegalbone: My son is having a problem finding his advisor, he's in engineering, where can I tell him to go?Thanks. (also, any help on the a/c unit ? earlier?)

sjnesbit@gmail.com: My daughter is a freshman in the Music School. She is in Vocal Performance. She is, also, on a Pre-med track. We didn't have any idea how rigorous the Music Classes were going to be. She has never taken Music classes, in the past, or piano lessons. She has only had voice lessons. It seems that she is expected to have all of this previous experience for these classes. She is supposed to learn 8 difficult songs over the course of the semester and it is difficult to teach yourself a song if you can't play the piano. She has spoken to her Instructors and they have been very nice, but I feel that she is in over her head. I am at a loss and am just wondering what I can do or say to make her feel better.

familychatadministrator(UF_NSFP Mickey): mariasanterio - we actually talked about the fact that we are adding one of the longest bus routes to our night time schedule. Rte 126 will be adding two additional busses at night

familychatmoderator(Meredith - Academic Advisor): icegalbone - <http://www.ufadvising.ufl.edu/advisers.aspx>, if you click on the link for Engineering, it should give you the contact info.

icegalbone: thanks Meredith

jmiller: Ok- I'll send her your way-

jmiller: Thanks Meredith

familychatmoderator(Meredith - Academic Advisor): sjnesbit - our Fine Arts majors are quite rigorous, which is also what makes them great! That can pose a challenge for pre-health students, though. I would have her talk to the Music advisor as well as an advisor in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (we have the pre-health advisors but all first year students see any advisor for pre-health). We can try to help her find a balance, and the Music department will do the same. They are amazing over there!

familychatmoderator(Meredith - Academic Advisor): icegalbone and jmiller - happy to help!

Profajohnson: Good day, my son Diori has been placed in Temp. Housing. His current housing arrangement is not conducive to future success. What can be done immediately to remedy his situation? He regularly phones to inform me of how overcrowded his dormitory is...PLEASE HELP !!!!!

icegalbone: anyone know how to solve this problem, I haven't rec an answer yet: My son is in a dorm w/o air. We bought a/c unit, his RA has told him he must take the condensation line out of the window. What are others doing, you have to put the line out somewhere to drain some water

familychatadministrator(UF_NSFP Mickey): icegalbone - has he talked to anyone else in housing like a Hall Director?

familychatadministrator(UF_NSFP Mickey): They would probably be best to help with other solutions.

icegalbone: No. he bought a 5 gal bucket and is dumping it in his sink in the dorm but it can't be the way. there has to be something better than this.

icegalbone: I will tell him to contact the Hall Director? Is that a person looking over Thomas Hall?

Profajohnson: Good day, my son Diori Johnson has been placed in Temp. Housing (Beaty Tower). His current housing arrangement is not conducive to future success. What can be done immediately to remedy his situation? He regularly phones long distance to inform me of how overcrowded his dormitory is...PLEASE HELP !!!!!

familychatadministrator(UF_NSFP Mickey): There is a Hall Director for every hall on campus. The information will be available at the area desk.

icegalbone: Thank you Mickey. Thank you all, parents and especially moderators. I appreciate it!!! Have a good day everyone. Go Gators!!!!

familychatadministrator(UF_NSFP Mickey): Profajohnson - he can talk with his RA to request the move, or also feel free to talk to the Hall/ Building Director.

familychatmoderator(NSFP_Alex): I have to leave, thank you all for coming! Have a great day!

mt8505@att.com: Thanks for the chat opportunity! Go Gators!

jmilford: Thank you. Have you considered having these chats for students?

familychatmoderator(Meredith - Academic Advisor): Have a great day, and Go Gators!

Kmalligere: Regarding the recent attacks on girls, was that culprit caught or still on the run?

familychatadministrator(UF_NSFP Mickey): jmilford - we have... but we also are available every day from 8am - 5pm in 202 Peabody Hall for them to come and chat.

familychatadministrator(UF_NSFP Mickey): Thank you for joining us for our Family Chat today. Please feel free to join us for our next family chat in 2 weeks. Also, registration for Family Weekend (October 24 & 26, 2014) is now open! Visit our website: <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/nsfp/families-nsfp/family-weekend/fall-2014/> for more information. If you need anything else please feel free to email newstudentinfo@dso.ufl.edu or call our office 352-392-8396.

familychatadministrator(UF_NSFP Mickey): Thanks for stopping by.