

Family Chat

Thursday, September 4, 2014

christinemiller21@hotmail.com: On my son's Awards and Disbursements under the Predicted Parent Plus section this is a note that reads "This loan requires an additional application." I have already completed the Parent Plus loan. What else is needed?

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): Happy Thursday and welcome to the first Family Chat of the semester! For today's chat, we are talking about the first few weeks of your student's transition. Feel free to introduce yourselves and ask any questions you may have. On today's chat, we have myself, the Assistant Director for Family Programs and Engagement, Jackie Bonilla, the Assistant Director for First Year Experience, and Rachel Lowe, the Families Preview Coordinator for 2014!

stephaniesr@icloud.com: I was wondering if you'd communicate broadly about the transition of starting life on campus away from home, and how students experience the change.

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): Hi @christinemiller, if you email me your student's information (name and UFID), I will have Nolan Simmons contact you to discuss your scenario.

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): My email address is arieg@dso.ufl.edu

christinemiller21@hotmail.com: Thank you Arie. Christine Miller

oukay: My son is staying in East Hall. None of his friends are attending UF and so we hoped that having a roommate would at least provide him with someone to do stuff with initially. Well the roommate spends most of his time at his girlfriend's place. My son is not very outgoing and now I am concerned he will not get out and about much. He spends a lot of time on his computer gaming. Any suggestions?

icegalbone: We purchased the \$450.00 in flex bucks, if the student doesn't use all \$450, do they carry over to the next semester?

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Rachel): @stephaniesr@icloud.com From personal experience, the transition of starting life on campus can be challenging. In the first couple of weeks, many students are adjusting to college life and the opportunities that college brings! Some small examples would be that students are on their own for dinner or doing laundry for the first time. One of the best ways to help students overcome these challenges is by having an open communication with them. I really appreciated having my family check-in with me when I needed advice and help.

stephaniesr@icloud.com: What if they ask for advice, then refuse to follow it?

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): @icegalbone, any unused meals at the end of the semester will not roll forward into the following semester; however, the Flex Bucks portion of the Meal Plan will rollover from Fall semester until the end of the spring semester if the account is in good standing.

icegalbone: Thank you for the flex bucks answer. My son is going to club baseball today, is there a schedule for the games?

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Rachel): @stephaniesr@icloud.com Sometimes I would ask my parents what they thought would be the best route for me to follow and then I would end up deciding to follow my own path. At times, it would work in my benefit but when it didn't - it was definitely a learning experience. But I appreciated having to learn from personal experiences on my own and then telling my family how it turned out.

LAR18: I was wondering when can we expect information on Family Weekend, and how do freshman usually react to having their family back -- is it more of a chore for them, or, judging from your past experience with the family weekends, do they genuinely enjoy it?

UFNICO: how can we help a student overcome the peer pressure in regards to alcohol?

slcrist: Where do you see an itemized account with tuition etc... and how much bright futures is going to be applied?

cd.swim: Hi, my daughter is very active already but is having issues with meal plan purchase in relation to the requirement with her new sorority to drop meal plan and pay for sorority. She is dealing with it so far, but I want to be sure it gets handled in a timely fashion given the big financial impact. I am not sure how long to let her do the leg work on her own vs. calling and getting in the middle of it. She's having issue with doing all the legwork required with this issue, while keeping up with her class homework (she also had to play catch up on a class due to a drop/add issue so she's quite buried at the moment).

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): @icegalbone, here is the link to the club baseball website. It looks like they don't have their game schedule up quite yet, but they should have it up there once the games are set!
<http://recsports.ufl.edu/sport-clubs/sport-club-directory/baseball/>

danyle.anderson@gmail.com: Hi - I was wondering about the disbursement of financial aid. We registered for the disbursement to go directly to an account but have yet to see any disbursement. Should this have happened already?

slcrist: Also, if you are getting bright futures or other scholarship applied to your child's account, when is the deadline for the balance of tuition - is it Oct. 8th?

nickherve2: I had very good relation with my son when it comes to communicating ,however I feel now whenever I ask him about something regarding life on campus , classes or anything else he sounds annoyed. What do I do to restore that communication line?

tpward1500@gmail.com: What is best method to verify if a student's financial aid account has received a scholarship from an outside party? So far, the only info received is a non detailed email to the student saying funds have been received. We can't find an online area to see what funds have been received.

lauracarlson: Hi UFNICO. I am a fellow parent and my daughter experienced the same pressure over summer B semester. It wasn't until she joined Cru (a Christian group) that she finally felt like she was with like-minded students. She is really not a prude, but is there for education. Cru meets 2-3 times weekly, very casually (you can just show up when you want). They pray for about 15 mins. and then go do something fun like intense Frisbee or hiking. It's great!

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Rachel): @ufnico Something that really helped me overcome peer pressure was meeting other students who weren't partaking in alcohol. In the first couple of weeks I went to events where alcohol wasn't present and met a lot of friends there. That helped me overcome peer pressure because I was surrounded by people who weren't interested in alcohol. However, when I did go to activities where alcohol was present - I didn't

UFNICO: nickhelve2 , that happen to us too. He is getting better, I guess takes time...?

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): @LAR18 Family Weekend information will be going out within the next week! We are putting final touches on the schedule and registration system but you can expect everything to be ready by the end of next week. The student perception depends on the student, for sure. Some students absolutely LOVE having their families back in town and showing you all around campus and Gainesville. Some students would rather

Winni: My daughter is in Trusler Hall and has been very disappointed in the lack of opportunities to meet people. Her roommate has a boyfriend who lives off campus. She is very outgoing and socially confident but has been frustrated and lonely since arriving at UF. She made cookies to hand out at the Plaza last night in the hopes to make a friend or two. Any ideas? She did attend the swim club meeting.

rmhorne: My daughter is adjusting to the academics well, but is having a hard time meeting new people. She doesn't want to spend all her time with friends there from high school. When do the clubs really get active? And where can she find information about them?

LAR18: Thank you, Arie. I'll participate, and hope that she comes along, at least for some of the time. Sounds like fun to me.

UFNICO: Thank you NSFP_Rachel and laura... the problem is when they feel that they need to do it to be accepted. Does UF have talks about alcohol for the students?

cd.swim: Winni, my daughter is a swimmer and just went to the swim club session yesterday for first time. if you'll email me at cd.swim@verizon.net I will give you her info. She is in Beaty Towers East

oukay: @Winni - Maybe your daughter should get together with my son ;)

will8989: Hello, my daughter is having a tough time meeting and/or making new friends. Her roommate has friends from her high school which leaves her with no roomie to hang out with. This makes it hard to handle the transition. Are there any dorm events or activities coming up that would help students meet other students that haven't made friends

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Jackie): @cd.swim Often times the sorority's treasurer will communicate the steps that need to be taken in order to switch from the Gator Dining meal plan to the sorority meal plan. Due to the volume of women that join a sorority in the fall, the Gator Dining Office does have a process that helps the meal plan transfer. If you are concerned about the timing, perhaps have a discussion with your daughter to better understand

tpward1500@gmail.com: We are told that the Gator 1 Card, vending for the laundry in Beaty is not working. Students are required to go to the desk as shell out cash for a \$10 roll of quarters. Can someone please ask the IT group to get with Campus Services to get this resolved? Thanks

melrans@verizon.net: nickherve2, Ditto. I find it has been helpful to text or email just some funny story or link or article to mychild that I think he might be intersted in or find amusing instead of onlyaskingquestions. The conversations are brief but it kinds of keeps it from always being me asking a million questions and himfeeling interrogated. Then I'm able to ask a few questions also...

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Rachel): @slcrist your student's specific information can be found on their my.ufl.edu account. Once they get to their account, there's an option to view Charges Due and that's where you can view how much of Bright Futures was applied and the deadline for tuition balance.

UF Millie-Javier: Any idea of when the Gator card will be available for laundry? Will the students be informed when ready?

Darzigian: Will8989. My daughter is in the exact same situation. She likes her room mate but they don't hang out at all. She struggled initially making friends but is getting there. It just takes time!

slcrist: How do they find out who their academic advisor is? During preview, my daughter had an advisor who was helpful but he was a political science professor/person and she in health sciences so he wasn't sure what she needed to take or not take. She has AP credits and isn't sure what gets applied to general ed classes.

gvelazqu71: Hello, when my daughter received the Financial Package there was Bright futures scholarship and Federal Loans. She accepted both before the beginning of this term, but one week after starting we went back to the Financial Aid Status in ISIS and there was no Bright Futures. We called them and they indicated that they had already sent the money for my daughter to the University, but we have received no response back after several communications with both Financial Aid and Bursar. Any suggestion?

Winni: Oukay, I thought about that. She said the tour and preview days led her to believe there would be a ton of dorm activities to meet people she is living with. It hasn't happened yet or she isn't getting the information about it.

stephanies@icloud.com: For the parents whose kids are feeling lonely, I was heartened the other day when our student was invited to a randomly organized pick up soccer game. Some students like ours will not necessarily attend organized events

UF Millie-Javier: I accessed the site for engineering scholarships information but was referred to the Bursar office. We live outside of the US and will not be able to go to the office. Any suggestions?

will8989: @slcrist, I am glad to hear that, but my daughter has a hard time meeting people. Great student but very shy. She has not meet any friends yet

**familychatadministrator(NSFP_Rachel): In regards to the campus vending accounts (laundry) and Gator1 Cards I apologize for the inconvenience your students are facing. The best way to find out the status of when the problem will be resolved is by having your students contact the Gator1 office. Their website is as follows:
<http://www.bsd.ufl.edu/G1C/vending/products.asp>**

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): @nickherve2, sometimes a student response can depend on the questions asked. @melrans has a great method of sending funny videos! A lot of times, students need to feel that independence, and lots of questions about school and classes can feel like they are almost being interrogated. It can also depend on when you talk to them. Timing is important to when you talk to your student. Try having them call

**familychatadministrator(NSFP_Rachel): Your students can also report a problem at this website:
http://www.bsd.ufl.edu/G1C/vending/report_problem.asp or by calling 352-392-7304**

Winni: Another issue is that she ordered her Psych book through Amazon on the first day of class. It arrived on campus within 2 days according to tracking but it has yet to make it to her dorm for pick up. She is taking photos of pages of the book to study on her Iphone from classmates. Is this the norm?

slcrist: I thought the my.ufl.edu account can only be accessed by the student - as a parent who is funding the tuition, I am not able to have any access to what is due, what is being applied re. bright futures and scholarships. I have to get my child's access codes to do this and they strongly discouraged this during preview.

familychatmoderator(UFNSFP_Corry): Hello Family Chat forum. I am Corry Moore

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Jackie): @Oukay and @Winni While it can be a concern whether your student will be able to connect with others, the great news is that there are a variety of opportunities that will allow your students to meet others and build community at UF. These can include events at their residence hall, academics, and campus events. Each residence hall has Resident Assistants (RAs) who are there to create events so that students are able to meet other students. It may be helpful to encourage your student attend one of these events. Even through their own courses, students may be able to meet others with similar academic goals and interests whether it be through group projects, study groups, or simply sitting next to someone. Throughout the next weeks there will also be a series of activity fairs that are aimed

familychatmoderator(UFNSFP_Corry): gvelazqu71 did you or your daughter complete the FAFSA for the school year?

sm838stm: My son lives off campus and has to take the bus to get to campus. This can limit some of the activiies especially on weekends

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Rachel): @UFMillie-Javier: If your student is on-campus, I would recommend they visit the Bursar's office so that they can speak directly with a representative. If possible, you could call the Bursar's office to speak with a representative as well. Their phone number is 352-392-0181

aminpa: How do i find out if the money from scholarships is in the bank account? UF has already taken money for the tuition but I don't see that any left over has been deposited. When will it be deposited?

gvelazqu71: Yes, we did, we also completed for the year before as she started in Summer B. We filled the Provisory notes

sm838stm: There was no bus on Monday so I could tell he was down

UF Millie-Javier: Thanks for the info...another one: Is the engineering degree a 4 or 5 years program? Is the internship?

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Jackie): @slcrist Advisors are based on college. One of the best ways to find out who their advisor is, is to go through the college website. Since your daughter is in Health Sciences she is a part of the College of Human Health and Performances. Your daughter can visit the following website for more information: <http://bhs.php.ufl.edu/overview/sample/sample-child/>

UF Millie-Javier: ...internship included in the # of years of the program?

jopalenchar: My son would like to grow some tomatoes. How can he arrange for space in the student garden by the Bat Houses?

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): @Winni, your daughter can call over to mail services (Phone: 352-392-1134) and check on her book. This is an incredibly busy time for them with so many students ordering textbooks! If it is there, have her ask if she can come pick it up! There is an RTS bus that goes right by there. It is right across from Lakeside!

familychatmoderator(UFNSFP_Corry): slcrist your student can go to either Student Financial Affairs in S-107 Criser Hall or S-113 Criser Hall with a photo ID and fill out an Information Release; which allows you to phone inanddiscuss your student's account.

LBTradler: soo many issues... where to start. BUS route--- She can't figure out how to ride the bus...

rmhorne: If there is a medical emergency, where should the student go? Is there an on-campus urgent care?

LBTradler: She is having a problem getting involved.... hasn't met ANYONE... she is very lonely!!!

oukay: Student garden? Like community garden spaces?

Winni: My daughter is taking a 1 credit Vegetable Gardening class.

will8989: How can we (daughter included) can find out about any events that help students meet in her dorm building?

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Rachel): @UFMillie-Javier it really depends on the student, but for most students the engineering program takes about 5 years. As for specific requirements such as completing an internship, I would recommend that your student go to the Engineering Advising center to speak with an adviser. They would be the best resource for your student to talk with. They can even help your student map out their schedule for the upcoming semesters as well as talk with them about internship opportunities.

Winni: @LBTrader. I think there needs to be a Club for freshman who haven't been able to make friends yet.

will8989: @LBTradler my daughter is in the very same boat and has not meet anyone either!

jopalenchar: All I know is my son saw some gardening areas by the Bat Houses. Not sure what they're called. Is there a Community Garden office?

oukay: My son doesn't know anything about gardening, but I could talk him through it!

familychatmoderator(UFNSFP_Corry): gvelazqu71 please have your student review your financial aid file on ISIS to see if documents are missing.

LBTradler: can't find anyone willing to give her the time of day and listen to her. Has been pushed off ... and sent elsewhere..... not getting answers to her questions.

Darzigian: LBTRADLER...does your daughter have a smartphone? I know mine has used hers to track the bus.

will8989: @Winni that is exactly what I thought, it can't be hard. Each dorm building could sponsor this club to make it easier

msyen@live.com: @LBTradler....encourage your daughter to check some of the club informational events...my daughter is new to UF...freshman this year...and has met some people through checking out these events...my daughter was not one to go outside her interests in high school yet decided to take a chance and look into some clubs that were outside of what she is used to....it is working out so far!

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): @rmhorne: There is not an urgent care on campus, but Shands Hosipital emergency room is on campus. During the hours of 8-5, students can go to the Student Health Care Center. After hours, students can call (352) 392-1161 for phone consultation services before they go to the emergency room. The Student Health Care Center has a lot of GREAT information on their emergency section of their website: <http://shcc.ufl.edu/all-patients/emergencies/>

LBTradler: yes... but has no idea what bus to get on--- and where she might end up...

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Jackie): @sm838stm and @LBTradler Speaking from experience (I lived off campus as a first-year student) the Bus system here is fantastic, it simply just takes some mastering of the knowledge. I often found it helpful to look on the RTS website (<http://go-rts.com/schedule.php>) to look at the schedule ahead of time. There is also a smart phone app/website that allows you to track where the bus is in real time (<http://ufl.transloc.com/>). With a bit of planning, you can master the bus system and find a schedule that works best for you. The great thing is that there are often multiple buses that pass the same areas, so there are options.

Winni: She has had no dorm events yet. Because the room doors close automatically (probably fire deal) the halls and lounges are usually empty.

susanhewes: My daughter had to sign up for 2 online courses. Having technical difficulties with both. Dropped the chemistry after following up with 3 advisors (Honors, Wildlife, and Chem) who all basically said "good luck" and offered no solution where to get help. The online math class is "taught" by a TA who basically said "these are my office hours but the door is locked and I don't answer my phone". The problem with this class is also technical difficulties (not content)-as even those at the math lab had difficulties. Who can help with this? We are all frustrated with online classes that clearly are not being run well.

sm838stm: why is the service limited on weekends? Thats when the have spare time and want to do activiies

UF Millie-Javier: My son studied Summer B and his experience with the RTS was excellent. He used the phone application and even got to the airport when returning home...great!

msyen@live.com: @LBTradler...have your daughter download and use the app...my daughter did not bring her own transportation and has been using the bus system...always uses the app to locate where the bus is and when it will arrive at her stop

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Rachel): @jopalenchar & @oukay : There is a Student Agricultural Garden space located off of Museum Road that is sponsored by the Office of Sustainability. The website that has more information on how to utilize the garden space can be found at the following website: <http://sustainable.ufl.edu/faq-group/food/>

familychatmoderator(UFNSFP_Corry): It has been a please being on the chat with you all. Should you have any further questions regarding Financial Aid or Bursar, please feel free to email me, Corry Moore at corrym@dso.ufl.edu and I will gladly assist.

Pedalon: My college student must walk the area of the attempted sexual assault (subject remains at large), with only 15 minutes to get to the next class. Limited time makes it difficult to find another student going the same path. What does UF offer for safety?

UF Millie-Javier: Thanks Corry!

msyen@live.com: I do have a little gripe about signing up for courses....my daughter's first experience with registering was not very positive as she had to repeatedly (I mean every two minutes) refresh the course listing to look for an opening in the courses she needed....one course she registered for did not mention a prerequisite at all and she only found out about the prereq when she was in the first class....also, she managed to register for a hard to get Calculus class only to later learn that the specific section was for engineering students only - never stated then when she registered

oukay: I wonder if the RA's could even suggest - Everyone meet in the lounge at x o'clock to watch "Whatever the most interesting show is". I thought there would be people gathering there but apparently not so far

will8989: @Winni we noticed the same thing, the dorm rooms doors always closed creating a feeling of well, closed off almost prison like. It was never like that for me years ago, our doors were open most of the time allowing students to meet and chat. the hallway was a social scene but not at UF. She has noticed the same thing halls and lounge empty yet everyone else seems to paired off with friends, It is hard to walk around campus and everyone else with a friend or two.

kathyg2632: Our daughter received 3 small scholarships in addition to the top level of Bright Futures. When and how will those funds be dispersed? Will all of the \$ be applied the first year or will it be spread throughout splitting it up in order to spread out.?

will8989: @oukay, ditto. did I say ditto!!!

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): @Pedalon, UF has a lot of safety measures in place. Have your student download TapShield. It is a free app where your student can create a profile and easily contact UPD if they are feeling unsafe. It also has a feature where it will contact UPD if your headphones are suddenly removed from your phone. This acts just like any of the Blue Lights on campus and an officer will be on the scene within no time. <http://www.sg.ufl.edu/News/tabid/126/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/194/UF-Mobile-Safety-App-By-TapShield.aspx>

memartin: Can you tell me if there is a transportation option either to Orlando or Jacksonville airports for students around holiday breaks?

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Rachel): For students living in the residence halls and haven't had the chance to meet others on their floor, I recommend that your student go to see their Resident Assistant. The RA would be the best person who could help build a community among the residents and provide them with events. Sometimes the RA's might not be sure what events their residents would like the best so if your student came to their RA and asked for more social programs, the RA would definitely be able to supply those. Another way for students to make their residence halls feel more like a home would be to leave their doors open when their home so that their neighbors could stop by and chat. That's something that I did my first year and I was able to meet a lot of friends on the floor that way. Another suggestion would be for

gvelazqu71: WE have verified and this is the message in the Financial Aid File: "You have no missing documents or requirements on your file at this time." I am very concern that what is today in the 2014-2015 Financial Aid Awards and Disbursements is not the same that we received in the original offer.

LBTradler: @winni and will8989 -- our kids need to get together. mine is sooo lonely and then add in the not so friendly staff that she has encountered make her experience at her dream school not too much fun so far! At preview we were told about all these people that will help... all these opps to get involved... but... not happening... i am sitting here 3 hours away wanting her to be happy. she doesn't even have a friend to go to the game with. We are taking in one day at a time.

will8989: NSFP_Rachel your message stopped at "would be for..."

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Rachel): @msyen@live.com: a great recommendation for students who are having a difficult time registering for courses is to go visit an adviser and have a one-on-one meeting. I know during my first year I had a difficult time registering for classes on my own and meeting with my adviser was a great help. They sat with me and mapped out my upcoming semester and schedules.

sm838stm: At preview they made it sound like there were people ready to help at every step. I know there are lots of kids but wish it was more like they said

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Jackie): @susanhewes I'm sorry to hear that your student is having difficulties with this course. One recommendation I have is to contact the TA via email and ask for assistance that way. The other option is to visit the UF Teaching Center. the offer drop-in tutoring for different math courses offered on campus (http://www.teachingcenter.ufl.edu/tutoring_schedule.html). With regards to technical difficulties, one of the best

UF Millie-Javier: Will the summer storage option be available for summer 2015? Are parents receiving communication on this?

Azeotrope: LBTradler et al., my daughter is also lonely and not meeting people in the Dorm. We are having her check out involvement opportunities on the third floor of the Rietz. There is a organization fare coming in a couple of weeks.

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): @memartin: There are limited bus services to Jacksonville but Orlando has quite a few busses that go there on a regular basis. Try looking at Greyhound, RedCoach, and Megabus. None of these are endorsed by the University, but many students take them! Also, see if your student has any friends who live in the area. Students are usually willing to carpool if you want to throw in a little gas money! I've also found that flying out of Gainesville is wonderful! It is a little more expensive, but when you add up travel to another airport, sometimes it ends up being cheaper!

will8989: @LBTradler, i could have the typed exactly the same thing, so much excitement, then loneliness on campus.

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Rachel): Sorry everyone for my message cutting off. Another suggestion would be for your student to join their Area Government's Facebook page. Each residence hall area has a government comprised of residents who put on great social events and opportunities for the residents to meet each other. Your student also receives emails to their UF account about upcoming housing events as well.

oukay: What about sailing at the lake? Do the students just show up to take the required test of their skills, or do they need appointments?

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): gvelazqu71: If you don't mind, please email Corry about your financial aid status. He knows that area very well and I want to make sure you get an accurate answer! His email is corrym@dso.ufl.edu.

susanhewes: Although it is still very early-my daughter has also found the dorm setup not very conducive to socializing. On her wing there are 8 girls and 24 boys. The doors are always closed and the RAs do not seem to do much facilitating of events as other schools do. She is planning to attend the "out of gator" meeting next week and joining some clubs but think we both anticipated more going on in the dorm to facilitate getting to know people.

Azeotrope: Student Organization Fairs: Sept. 10 11:00AM-2PM JWRU North Lawn. Outdoor Activities Club looks good.

gvelazqu71: NSFP_Arie: I will contact Corry as you suggest. Thank you very much.

memartin: Thank you for the response regarding public bus services, it seems however the buses go to bus stations and not to airports, then its a hassle to get from bus station to airport. Most major universities have charter buses direct to an international airport for holiday breaks.Gainesville airport, although convenient only offers connecting flights on small airplanesand is more than 2 times the cost.

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): @UF Milie-Javier: Summer storage would be through Housing. They have not released any information about that yet, but as soon as they do, it will be in the Family Connection newsletter! There are multiple storage facilities in Gainesville as well that are in various locations and range in cost and amenities.

will8989: @Susanhewes there is a growing number of parents here with exactly the same problem. It would the RAs could knock on doors and get people out of the dorm rooms to the lounge to meet

Winni: I just talked to my daughter on the phone. She said there have been NO dorm events, no opportunity to meet her RA. People in the bathrooms are unhappy and unfriendly. She is shocked at the lack of opportunities to meet people. Her friends at other universities are telling her about all the socials, street parties, events for freshman. Yes, this was her dream school but not so much anymore.

LBTradler: these fairs---- there was one at mall of america's yesterday or day before--- only 3 hours... and same with this one.... 11-2--- my daughter has classes from 11-3 daily-- wed she has a 4pm class..... she can't go to these things as she is in class.

stephaniesr@icloud.com: Its funny how students can be isolated while surrounded by thousands of people with similar intelligence, age, and many from similar geographical area! There is a great article on usatoday.com about the difficulties of the first year of college written by a woman who just graduated from Penn State found on google search. It seems like the burden is on each student to take a risk and reach out to others, no one will do it for them.

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): @oukay: <http://www.recsports.ufl.edu/lake-wauburg/activities/sailing/> has a lot of information on getting the sail card! How To Get a Sail Card Take a Swim Check. You may take the test at Lake Wauburg, the Florida Pool or the Stephen C. O'Connell Center Pool. You must tell a lifeguard that you are there for a Swim Skills Check. Please download, print and fill out the Lake Wauburg Waiver and bring with you when taking the Swim Skills Check.The test consists of a 200 yard nonstop swim with no time limit followed by five minutes of treading water. Then, you must bring the signed waiver to Lak

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Jackie): sm838stm: The bus system schedule often follows the university schedule. When school is not in session (such as National Holidays) they are also not in session. On days where it is a University Holiday (such as homecoming) they offer a reduced schedule. On the weekends, due to there being less of a demand the buses don't run as frequently, but they still offer the same routes! I would recommend taking a look at the schedule and planning trips in advance. It can really help make the most of a weekend or Holiday (<http://go-rts.com/images/schedules/fall-spring/entire-schedule.pdf>). They have listed on there the days where there is no service and a reduced service.

anacrespo: My freshman child was out rushing till late I told her not 2 walk alone she still had not made friends so she call the number given at orientation for escort or pick up and always a busy signal never was able to make contact with anyone had to walk to her dorm alone I am fearful of safety saw lots of sex predator in the area of the university is this truly an available relatable service for student

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Rachel): For students who are feeling lonely and not connected to the campus, I definitely understand where they're coming from. When I first came to UF, I had a hard time getting involved on-campus and meeting new people. However, the best way that I got involved was by visiting the Involvement Team located on the 3rd floor of the Reitz Union. They were able to connect me with organizations that shared my same interests as well as events that were going on at campus. Another great suggestion that @azeotrope mentioned is the Student Organization Fair which is next Wednesday, Sept. 10 on the North Lawn

Spiskow: The university of Florida is full of opportunities to socialize. There are over 1000 clubs. There are weekend and nightly events in almost every area. There are dorm governments assigned to develop dorm socials. They are there. You have to seek them out. They may or may not come to you

stephaniesr@icloud.com: <http://college.usatoday.com/2012/09/04/what-i-wish-someone-had-told-me-about-freshman-year/>

gvlazqu71: Where can I find activities to do as parents when visiting the campus during a weekend? I like thinks like rafting, Kayaking, outdoor activities. Can we also take advantage of the Recreational Centers?

cecasado: This is a mom of a freshman boy. I have to say I so agree with some of the things I'm reading here. My son is at Rawlings Hall and hasn't met his RA yet. There has been some activities but very limited. I wish there was more being done by his dorm and his college. I understand that he needs to go out and seek out the socializing but it's all very intimidating for him right now with so much going on just trying to get the classes straight.

will8989: We know that these opportunities to meet will come to my daughter but is really trying, and I mean really trying but no one seems to respond back in friendship

Spliskow: Kanapahna has botanical gardens. Take a look at the Outpost in high springs. Kayaking on the river is

UF Millie-Javier: Need to leave now. The information provided had been very helpful.Keep up the good work and as parents, lets send blessings to our kids and hope for the best...:-)

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): @gvelazqu71: Visit Gainesville has some AWESOME resources for things to see and do in Gainesville. They even have a page dedicated to outdoor activities (because there are so many)! <http://www.visitgainesville.com/get-outdoors/>

will8989: My daughter has not meet her RA either, it is like they don't exist!!!! Isn't this part of their job.

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Rachel): @anacrespo, we have a great service here at UF called SNAP: it's the Student Nighttime and Auxiliary Patrol which is funded by Student Government. Their phone number is 352-392-SNAP and any student can utilize their services. They run from 6pm - 3am and can pickup/drop-off students at on-campus locations. They even have an app your student can download for free on the app store. They have a GPS tracker on the app so that your student can see them approaching and when they can pick them up

cecasado: I also want to say that I am so surprised that the BUS SYSTEM DOES NOT OPERATE AT ALL ON HOLIDAY'S!!!! My son works and has to take the bus to/from work and was really stuck on Labor Day when he realized the bus doesn't operate on Holidays AND there is very very limited bus service on Sunday's. My son doesn't have a car and really has to rely on the bus service. My bus service was presented to us as a very big plus for the campus but never did they mention that it doesn't run on holidays and little on Sunday's!

Spliskow: It is extremely important for your son/daughter to worry about academics before socializing. Once that is down then he can move onto the socializing

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Jackie): @cecasado and others concerned about events at UF: One of the best events to attend, that your student can attend alone or with friends is Gator Nights. Gator Nights is a series of Programming events occuring on Fridays that vary from movie screenings to midnight breakfast and many more. You can view their upcoming events at <https://www.union.ufl.edu/ProgramsArtsLeisure/GatorNights>

anacrespo: We decorated our daughters dorm real nice wanted to make it feel more like home than the cold dungeon feel the dorms have yesterday she was told she needed to remove some of the picture on the wall that were next to the bed because they were above the dorm door level and had to remove the small curtain we hung in the window she was told by

dnehlswasoff: My son said his gator 1 card didn't work for thelaundry, so he had to use his debit card.Are the gator 1 cards supposed to work?

Winni: My daughter wishes there was a club for lonely people who want to make new friends and have fun socially. Suggestions for her? I think socializing is just as important as the academics, if not more.

Spliskow: Yes they work please have him go to gator one in the front of bookstore to trouble shoot the problem

will8989: @ LBTradler/Winnie, if these few suggestions don't work maybe we should try. Don't know how to pull it off with making the kids feel awkward.

msyen@live.com: @dnehlswasoff.... my daughter and I learned that I had to fund a separate activity (?) account to pay for laundry costs

oukay: @Winni and @will8989 - ditto

sm838stm: My son also does not have a car and lives off campus. His first weekend he was almost stuck when he found out the bus stops at 5 on sunday. He uses the food hall for his meals. He tries to get his lunch and bring his dinner back to go but was told he could not do that

cecasado: I believe that the Gator 1 card will work for laundry but only if you loaded the "vending account" portion of the Gator 1 card. I believe it is a separate strip on the back of the card. We loaded \$100 on our son's Gator 1 card that can be used for vending machines and the laundry machines.

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Rachel): Each RA is required to have a mandatory opening floor meeting where residents meet each other and learn about the community standards. I would recommend seeing if your student has attended the meeting and met the RA yet. It is a part of the RA's responsibilities to provide students with a community.

Winni: Ookay, will8989, maybe we could exchange email address and communicate off of this chat. Mine is jmilford@fsu.edu.

sm838stm: We were told he could have 7 day access to meals

cecasado: TO: sm838stm, I hear you. I cannot be the limited bus service. My son lives on campus but works at Publix and now has had to take the taxie 4 times!

Winni: No meetings have happened in Trusler. Is there one RA per dorm?

dianeemurphy: Can you provide the correct syntax for the mailing address for Hume Hall?

Hlock: We're new to the whole football, tailgating thing. Can anyone just show up & park on the lawn? My student got her tickets in the lottery; how might we see a game with her (there's a separate student section I think?)

sm838stm: unlimited access I meant

msyen@live.com: We also thought there would be access for all meals using the meal plan but my daughter found out that the dining hall does not open for breakfast until 10:30 on the weekend. No good if you want to get breakfast and are an early riser.

LBTradler: maybe they could meet at gatornight---?????? my daughter went last week.... talked to a few people but didn't get "invited" into the groups..... she notes that many people have friends and showed up with friends....

linda.tradler@gmail.com

sm838stm: WHAT!!! 1030am!!!

memartin: My son has also described his dorn hall as "unsocial" this does not seem to be an issue for him since he is involved in many other circles, but my wife and I were both surprised by the closed door policy and the lack of organized dorm socialactivities. I can see how this would be a challenge for some kids that did not arrive with a robust social network in place.

cecasado: WHAT!! I was told that the cafeterias are open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week. What the heck! 10:30?

ouokay: I am interested. sauercoleman@gmail.com

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Rachel): @dianeemurphy: the mailing address for Hume Hall depends on the resident. Each resident has a mailing address that is specific to their room and information. This can be accessed by having your student visit their my.housing.ufl.edu account or by going to their mailbox and retrieving their mail card that has the address.

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Jackie): @cecasado and others with Gator 1 card concerns: In regards to the campus vending accounts (laundry) the best way to find out the status of when the problem will be resolved is by having your students contact the Gator1 office. Their website is as follows:

<http://www.bsd.ufl.edu/G1C/vending/products.asp>

will8989: @ Winnie/ LBTradler My daughter is in Jennings, my email is dave6@bellsouth.net

msyen@live.com: Yep. 10:30am. My daughter had to buy some instant oatmeal packets to eat for breakfast on the weekends.

rmhorne: My daughter is a vegetarian - and while there is some selection, it is very limited and doesn't vary much from day to day. Is one of the dining halls better for vegetarian selection?

Ej'smom2014: Hello everyone, I would like to know when did housing distributed the Welcome package care? My son told he does not receive anything yet. I am happy that he has no other complaints.

stephaniesr@icloud.com: There was a white card on the desk when you moved into hume with the mailing address

cecasado: What's a "Welcome package care"????

Azeotrope: rmhorne, my daughter says Jennings is one of the better dining halls.

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Rachel): @winni: yes each floor has their own Resident Assistant. If your resident hasn't had a meeting yet with their RA, I would recommend that your resident visit the area desk to speak with a supervisor, especially the Graduate Hall Director who supervises the RA.

<p>familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): @Hlock: unless an area is roped off, you can pretty much park anywhere there is space! I would absolutely recommend coming to a game if you can! If she can find a friend who also has student tickets but does not plan to go, she can buy a student ticket from a friend and upgrade it for you all. The other option is for you all to buy tickets (get an extra for her) and have her sell her student ticket.</p>
<p>msyen@live.com: Broward and Jennings use the same dining hall - it is the Broward dining hall. That is the one that does not open until 10:30am on the weekends.</p>
<p>Ej'smom2014: You send a card you chose either welcome gift the price was\$ 30:00. The first week is</p>
<p>anacrespo: Any reply for my question about dorm decoration having to be removed my child's RA told her fire hazard don't underpants</p>
<p>Winni: Thank you NSFP_Rachel. Does Trusler even have a common area? Didn't see one when she moved in.</p>
<p>cd.swim: @Ej'smom2014, my daughter was able to pick up the welcome pkg last week sometime. not sure where though.</p>
<p>Hlock: Okay, is Upgrade meaning outside the student area? Will she feel "left out" if sitting with parent in the regular area? Though it all looks fun!</p>
<p>sm838stm: we got the 7-day "unlimited" meal plan so our off-campus son can get food to go and get 3 meals on the weekends and holidays. I did not know the dining hall was closed until 10:30am on weekends.</p>
<p>familychatadministrator(NSFP_Jackie): For those with students living off campus, UF has an amazing resource aimed to provide additional support and guidance. They can provide you with further insight on alternative modes of transportation on holidays and weekends. (http://www.offcampus.ufl.edu/contact_us/)</p>
<p>cecasado: I like chatting through this system but will the moderators try to funnel our concerns to anyone or is this all a mute point? It is a bit ***** the eyes trying to keep up with the comments. Sounds like alot of the concerns are on housing, perhaps someone from housing should be reviewing these comments.</p>
<p>LBTradler: student vs regular ticket just has to do with price. you have to shore a gator 1 card to get the student price for a ticket for a game. she can turn in a student ticket and get a re issue ticket that is the regular gate admission fee. then -- she uses a student ticket-- and gator 1-- cheaper price... you have a ticket at reg. admission fee.</p>
<p>will8989: @winnie/LBTrader/oukay maybe a plan in the works?</p>
<p>familychatadministrator(NSFP_Rachel): For students who have a meal plan and are discouraged about the weekend starting times, I believe that they can request a comment card at the dining halls. On this comment card your students can voice their concerns about the dining halls opening later on weekends.</p>
<p>cecasado: I did not write ***** I wrote "It is a bit ***** the eyes..."</p>
<p>anacrespo: Still waiting for a reply to my question</p>
<p>familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): @anacrespo, I'm working on finding that information for you now.</p>
<p>anacrespo: great thank u!</p>
<p>familychatadministrator(NSFP_Rachel): @winni: No problem! Yes, Trusler has a commons area which is located in the Graham Commons since Trusler is a part of the Graham-Simpson-Trusler area. I hope this helps your student!</p>
<p>LBTradler: yes will8989 and winni--- I will talk to my student... email both of you....etc. they going to the game Saturday?</p>
<p>sm838stm: are there any carpooling or ridesharing web pages sponsored by UF for the students?</p>
<p>will8989: @LBTradler not sure but she intends to!</p>
<p>digiMom@36: Hello everyone! My question is about disbursements ..my daughter's bright futures was short funds..</p>

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): @anacrespo: The room decorating policy is in the Community Standards handbook. Students were given this link (<http://www.housing.ufl.edu/media/pages/CommunityStandards.pdf>) prior to moving in and their RA talked about it at the first floor meeting. The room decoration policy is on page 20 of the book (page 27 if you are looking at it on the PDF). If she has questions about why she had to remove something, she can talk with her RA one on one. She is welcome to email her RA to set up a time to meet!

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Rachel): @sm838stm: While there isn't an official UF sponsored carpooling site, many students utilize pages on Facebook, which are specific to carpooling/ridesharing, to see who might be able to give them rides. If your student feels comfortable using Facebook to find rides, it may be an option.

oukay: @LBTradler Sounds like a plan. Yes he should be at the game

digiMom@36: She said her roommate's bright futures was also short monies? Does any one know about why this would be?

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Jackie): @Ej'smom2014 and @cecasado: For more information on Welcome Packages, you can visit this link (<http://irha.housing.ufl.edu/resources/welcome-bags/>). If you contact Inter-residence Hall Association, they should be able to provide you with further details on the Welcome Packages.

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Rachel): It was great talking with all of you! I unfortunately have to leave, but I look forward to our next chat.

sm838stm: are those Welcome Packages only for dorm residents?

Winni: @LBTradler and Oukay. I think she plans to go with her high school friends but I know she is open to meeting new people. Let's email and maybe we can connect the three somehow.

digiMom@36: Btw, there is a great food option called the Oasis in the Graham building. They take flex bucks...

Winni: Thank you NSFP_Rachel.

Ej'smom2014: Thank you , I will look into it.

will8989: @Winni/LBTradler/oukay lets do email each other, again my is dave6@bellsouth.net

digiMom@36: The Oasis has a store, deli, burgers, chicken and more and it is open until 3AM!

Courtkase: When will the student loans post? Tuition is due tomorrow and I was told a few weeks ago by financial aid that they would be credited before Sept. 5th. I have emailed them and left messages but have not received an answer.

will8989: @LBTradler do we have your email?

Ej'smom2014: ThanksNSFP_rachel

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): @cecasado: I will happily pass along the concerns that have been addressed in the chat. My job, as the Assistant Director for Family Programs and Engagement, is to hear concerns and serve as an advocate to family members. If you have other concerns, feel free to email family@ufsa.ufl.edu. I will be reviewing the transcripts from this (and every) chat to make sure that I know the concerns that you all have so that I can appropriately address them.

oukay: Thank you NSFP Rachel

anacrespo: Thank you read it prior to move in and no such policy was mentioned ! Don't understand what kind of fire hazard could come from picture frames on the wall but no sense in debating this with RA for my personal satisfaction I will look into the legality of it on my own not the RA the curtain I could possibly understand if exiting the window I due my diligence and can assure u no such policy is in the pages you mentioned above

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Jackie): digiMom@36: Bright futures is disbursed based on credit hours and the type of bright futures your student receives. If you believe there is an error, one of the next steps would be to talk to a Financial Aid advisor. they should be able to provide you with specific information about your account. The financial aid advisor is pre-assigned to each student. Please refer to this website for further information (<http://www.sfa.ufl.edu/contact-sfa/>)

familychatmoderator(Lynn - advisor): Hello all, my name is Lynn and I am an academic advisor in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. I'm sorry to log on so late, but am happy to help with academic questions til 7:00 pm.
sm838stm: My son got the expected Bright Futures amount
LBTradler: will8989 I just send an email hope to the right people.. Linda.tradler@gmail.com
will8989: @Lynn how does my daughter find out who her advisor is?
jimPbg: Hi everyone
digiMom@36: NSFP_Jackie: thank you
UFNICO: LBTradler, my son uses his phone to go around with the bus, if you want I can give you his email address and they can meet in the cafeteria or some where and I am sure he will be happy to explain to her how to use it. If you want you can email me at nvan730@gmail.com.
familychatmoderator(Lynn - advisor): @will8989, your student can look at http://www.ufadvising.ufl.edu/advisers.aspx. Advising is done by college and sometimes also breaks down by major. The contact info for all colleges is on that web site.
will8989: @LBTradler thanks I will check it after this is over
stephaniesr@icloud.com: Hi Lynne, I was going to hire an hourly tutor for my son for Calc 1, but I noticed the teaching center online with specific hours for that class. If he were to go over there, would someone be sitting there ready to help him, or is there generally a line? The concern is about time
LAR18: thanks to the moderators and parents. One valuable thing I've learned from this is that all the little glitches and problems we've had making this big transition are not unique to us: it helps to know that others are experiencing some of the same issues (the laundry not taking the Gator1 card, for example), and that it sounds like the problems can and will be solved. Good luck to all you freshman parents -- I suspect most of us will be a lot cheerier for the next chat. Some things just take time.
LBTradler: my daughter is having trouble clicking with an advisor. went to J school... who sent her to acedemic advising... who sent her to math advising that wasn't even open.... is there someone she can go to to ask some general questions.....
jimPbg: Im cheery im just glad to be here
familychatadministrator(NSFP_Jackie): @ Courtkase: Sorry to hear about your student loan concerns. Please contact Corry Moore at corrym@dso.ufl.edu.
jimPbg: My daughter is a freshman and so far so good!!
Gator dad: I was just able to login to this chat, and I don't want to repeat a topic that may already been addressed.
LBTradler: go for it Gator Dad.. nice user name BTW!
Gator dad: My daughter and I are so confused about the financial aid accepting process and want to know where I can get clarification? Thank you.
Azeotrope: Lynn - advisor. I just wanted to express my extreme displeasure over the scheduling of calculus exams during my daughter's chemistry lab on Monday nights. At no point were we made aware of this during registration. The chemistry coordinator glibly replied she should change sections in Drop/Add, but there are no sections available. My daughter has to leave chemistry lab early to take calculus exams at 8:20 at night. UF should be ashamed of itself.
Courtcase: NSFP_Jackie- Thank you !
Gator dad: Thanks LBTradler.
familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): @jimPbg, we are happy you're here!
LBTradler: for a summery--- our kids are very lonely! we want to help them.... they don't know how to work the laundry in the dorms... they don't know how to use the bus.... and college food isn't very good....
familychatmoderator(Lynn - advisor): Wow, lots of academic questions :-) Stephanie, I would definitely encourage your student to start with the walk-in tutoring at the Teaching Centerhttp://www.teachingcenter.ufl.edu/walk_in.html . In addition, the Teaching Center offers weekly tutoring for 1-3 students by appointment http://www.teachingcenter.ufl.edu/appointments.html. It's great to start with
jimPbg: Thank you Jackie, I have no complaints or issues at all
jimPbg: My daughter seems to love it!
familychatmoderator(Lynn - advisor): LBTradler, what is your student's declared major or, if exploratory, which majors are of interest?

LBTradler: ditto on the calc exam stuff. 8-10 at night. What were you thinking. who is going to ride with my kid on her ride home to make sure it is a safe ride home! she is on a bike and SNAP doesn't do bikes!

cd.swim: @Lynn - my daughter had trouble confirming on taking a class for which she has AP credit (Calc 1 & 2). Her major (behavioral and Cognitive Neuroscience) requires both, and during preview she was advised to still sign up for Calc1 this semester. Then 1st week, she was told to drop it, that she definitely didn't need. She asked and went to different advising (the general one and then I think in the Psychology area) and was assured she should not be retaking it. She dropped it, and had to add another class at end of last week. Is there some way for her to get definitive information that the degree will accept the AP credits? She was not able to get anything in writing as far as I have been told and after all this fiasco, I would hate for her to down the road have to pick it up, or change maj

familychatmoderator(Lynn - advisor): Azeotrope, I understand that it can be very frustrating but the reality is that in order to schedule an exam for a class as large as Calc 1 the ONLY time there are enough large rooms available is in the evenings. And the only way to offer enough seats in our Chem lab(which of course is a dedicated facility) is to offer evening sections. So there is simply no way around this conflict. And yes, there were no extra seats in Chem lab this fall, though we thought there might be due to the change in Chem placement (but it turned out that we had many students simply adding Chem later, so it was harder to predict demand. I can tell you that each semester I have a few students stressing about this at the beginning of term who report that it turned out not to be a big problem. (BTW, the FL legislature delay

LBTradler: journalism--- she has been to journalism advising and between my daughter not ever having to ask for help and maybe not articulating the exact problem and a busy overworked advisor that didn't want to give my daughter the time of day and didn't really listen to her.... my daughter is discouraged.

icegalbone: My son loves the bus system, has used his Gator1 card in the laundry room and thinks the food is good. Having a ball. A lot of these issues have websites that can direct you.

Courtcase: We are planning to go to the family event on October 24-26. Is there a cost for a 10 year old?

will8989: anymore more suggestions for lonely students, she is very capable and friendly but alone

jopalenchar: Have there been any recent run-ins of UF students and real gators? We heard from our son that he came pretty close while running around the lake at night (!)

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): @LBTradler, SNAP starts running at 6:30 so your daughter is welcome to take SNAP to the exam and then home again!

will8989: What is the family event I must have missed something.

LBTradler: you are cute icegalbone.... LOL!!!

familychatmoderator(Lynn - advisor): LBTradler, I'd encourage her not to use her bike on the calc exam evenings and instead take SNAP. Also remember there will be nearly 2000 students getting out the exam at the same time, so there should be plenty of other students to travel with.

LBTradler: we are happy your kid is doing great! tell him to spread his happiness around campus!

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): @Courtcase, the cost for family weekend is the same for all guests above the age of 5 since they can participate in all of the activities that are planned for the weekend!

LBTradler: she has waited for snap for over 30 minutes... she won't risk being late.

Gator dad: What is the cost for the Family weekend Oct 24th?

icegalbone: He, too, has had some difficulty finding friends, he's just relentless. He tries to go to anything and everything. He works out at the gym everyday and has met kids there, try that. :)

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Jackie): @jopalenchar: Being a fellow runner myself, there is the slight possibility that an encounter with a Gator can occur at night, since there are some in the lake. To avoid it, your student can simply run the same route but utilize the sidewalk that is furthest away from the lake and closest to the bat house. However, these sightings are rare!

familychatmoderator(Lynn - advisor): cd.swim, There are two reasons she might get conflicting advice. The first is if she didn't have all her AP scores when she came to Preview. The second is if she is premed, sometimes students are recommended to repeat Calc to demonstrate their skill to med schools or because there are a few med schools that don't accept AP credit. The DEGREE will definitely accept her AP credits, the question is what is recommended depending on her goals. Feel free to have her email me at losickey@advising.ufl.edu if she wants to clarify things.

LBTradler: family weekend registration isn't live yet. it is October 24-26 a weekend full of activities for

digiMom@36: if you are going to family weekend book a hotel now

digiMom@36: my 2 favorite hotels are already booked

LBTradler: don't worry about the cost of attending...minimal---- worry about the cost of a hotel room in the area-- IF you can get one at this point! Happy Hunting!

digiMom@36: I found one

jopalenchar: thanks nsfp-Jackie - we will let him know - otherwise he may be taking SNAP home!!!

digiMom@36: but hurry the hotels are booking fast and rates are very high

LBTradler: where digiMom@36? \$\$\$ per night??

digiMom@36: I found one at Holiday Inn UF--it is not the best but it is close

Gator dad: Thanks for the heads up about the hotel.

cd.swim: @Lynn - tks and yes she is premed; which I do know played a part in the confusion. But we have checked and actual med school requirements for quite a few schools and seems there are not many that show that requirement. I will have her email you to clarify in more detail. Thanks again!

digiMom@36: rates are high but better than other places and includes breakfast and wifi :-)

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): Family Weekend: Family Weekend will be October 24-26, 2014. We are looking for registration to go live by the end of next week. We are still finalizing a few contracts and details so the cost has not been finalized at this point. It will be somewhere in the \$50-\$60 range for each participant over the age of 5 for the weekend. If you have activated your Gator Parent and Family Association membership, you will receive \$5 off your registration cost.

familychatmoderator(Lynn - advisor): LBTradler, if she went to Journalism during the first week of classes, they probably were overworked, and I can see if a student isn't really clear on what she needs they might not take the time to dig deeper if they had line of other students to assist. However, she certainly deserves help figuring out what she needs. She might try going back to the Journalism advising area- if it's quieter, she might have a better time. They just revamped their advising system and hired new advisors, so that may have been a factor too. She could ask for Meisha Wade, who has advised in other units on campus and is someone I know and trust. Alternatively, I am happy to meet with her as well, even though I'm not in JM - losickey@advising.ufl.edu

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Jackie): LBTradler: sorry your student has waited a long time for snap. When she places the call, she should give herself 15-30 minutes for wait and travel time. When she places teh call they will always inform her of how long the wait will take, so that should be able to provide her with a good gauge.

linaresgroup: My son is having a very difficult time getting connected and spending too much time alone in his room. He is friendly and fun once you get him started, but has a hard time reaching out. Please suggestions! I thought the dorm living would provide plenty of opportunities for engagement. Back in my days, we had something going on every week on my freshman year that truly helped this difficult transition.

digiMom@36: My daughter used SNAP and it was GREAT

digiMom@36: She downloaded the APP on her phone

Winni: Thank you all for your support as we navigate our way and quietly support our kids during this transition. Let's breathe, and let them find their way as painful as it may be for them and for us. After sitting here two hours, my hope is that the RAs will step it up and help dorms build community and help facilitate a feeling of inclusion and belonging. Knock on doors, check in, sit in the hall and chat. I have copied your ideas in an email for my daughter. Until nex time...

digiMom@36: How do you get the 5 off for parent weekend. I joined through an email
LBTradler: have a nice evening winni!
LBTradler: thx NSFP_Jackie. I will have her try again.
familychatmoderator(Lynn - advisor): cds swim - you are right - VERY few actually require Calc and also don't accept AP. She can also email our prehealth advisors prehealth@advising.ufl.edu. I hope she attending the prehealth kickoff they had tonight!
digiMom@36: YES sometimes I am worried my daughter is lonely too
Winni: @linaesgroup. Send me your email and I will add you to other parents who feel the same way. Maybe we can connect our kids someway somehow.
Winni: and you too, digimom@36.
will8989: @linarsgroup/Digimom@36 you are not alone here, 3 or four of us have voiced the exact concern. Some of us have shared emails and looks like we will try to get our kids together. If the others agree (Winnie, LBTradler, oukay) maybe we could include you
Winni: absolutely.
LBTradler: yes... linda.tradler@gmail.com
will8989: @winnie did you get my email dave6@bellsouth.net
jimPbg: But it is not summer camp, its COLLEGE
familychatmoderator(Lynn - advisor): all who are worried about their kids being lonely - it takes time to establish friendships. It sounds like most of your kids are doing the right thing - getting out there and meeting people is the way to start. If no one has mentioned this, I STRONGLY recommend encouraging your students to look for other students in their classes for study groups. A great way to meet people and also a very effective way to learn!
digiMom@36: Howabout a dining get together?
oukay: It has already helped me so much knowing that I am not alone in my concerns. I look forward to emailing with those who wish to join the group.
linaesgroup: Thanks, my email: linaesgroup@yahoo.com
namrata123: What is the deadline to pay the tuition fee.
digiMom@36: I think they eat alone a lot
familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): Thank you all so much for joining us today! We are going to wrap up in just a few minutes. Are there any final questions?
familychatmoderator(Lynn - advisor): digiMom, I believe it is tomorrow -Sept 5 - see ISIS main page, in the center for deadlines.
familychatmoderator(Lynn - advisor): www.isis.ufl.edu
jimPbg: Have a great night everyone keep smiling
Jpatskin: Greetings Gator Parents - I have started sending care packages- my daughter loves this!
digiMom@36: how do you get the discount for parent weekend
icegalbone: My son doesn't have air and is on the first floor, will it be safe in the cool nights to open the windows? Do most do that? Will he need heat? We got him a great a/c unit so it's cool now and I see a radiator, do they work?
will8989: Mine always eating alone, so sad it kills me
jimPbg: GO GATORS!!!!
cd.swim: I have a technical question, I think I know the answer but want to confirm. Dorm doesn't allow any wireless printing. Is this because of the concern of others printing to arbitrary printers that aren't theirs? Would have been helpful to have that tidbit of information provided if it's a normal rules across the campus.
jopalenchar: Great suggestion about the study groups; even for good students, it helps them learn better.
digiMom@36: will8989 dthmcc@comcast.net
digiMom@36: and others that is my email
oukay: sauercoleman@gmail.com
familychatadministrator(NSFP_Jackie): @namrata123: the fee deadline is September 5. Please visit the following link for more information on the important dates: http://www.fa.ufl.edu/bursar/critical-dates/
oukay: Thank you one and all

jopalenchar: Thank you all advisors and gator parents, best wishes to all!

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): @digiMom: You will check a box on the registration that will give you the discount for family weekend. We will then verify based off of your student's UFID number.

digiMom@36: great NSFP thanks

icegalbone: Thank you! Nice evening everyone!

digiMom@36: this was great--thanks

Jpatskin: Where do we register for parent weekend?

will8989: hope to speak with all the parents with lonely kids in the emails!

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): icegalbone: Have your student ask his front area desk about the radiators. They will let him know if they are supposed to be working. If they are supposed to work, but it is not, have him submit an iService request.

Azeotrope: Lynn - advisor: BS. I have a Ph.D. in chemical engineering and an M.S. in microbiology and I never had a cattle-call exam at 8:20 at night. This is simply a cost saving measure for the university at the expense of the students.

LBTradler: Go Gators! Helps to know that my kid isn't the only one eating alone and sitting alone in her room... she went to the game last weekend and sat alone in the rain! my heart breaks for her daily!!!! One day at a time!!! We are miss and love our kids and want them to succeed soooo badly!!!!

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Jackie): @Jpatskin: Registration for Family weekend will go live by the end of next week. Please visit the following website for more information: <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/nsfp/families-nsfp/family-weekend/fall-2013/>

will8989: mine sat in the rain at the game alone too!!!!

donnagail: Despite fire codes and theft prevention policies...I bought my son a rubber door stop. Now I wish I had bought on for every door on the floor!

familychatmoderator(Lynn - advisor): Azeotrope, well, I have given you my understanding of the situation.

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): cd.swim: I'm unsure of the exact reason for this, but I think you're on to something. Wireless printing also takes up quite a bit of space on the wireless network, slowing down speeds for everyone.

LBTradler: :-(

will8989: @cd.swim just set up the printer with a cable problem solved

cd.swim: ok tks! I appreciate this forum and willingness to assist.

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): Thank you to everyone who joined us for our chat tonight. If you have additional questions or concerns, please send them to family@ufsa.ufl.edu. There are multiple people, including myself who check the email daily. I hope that you all have a wonderful Thursday evening and Go Gators!