Carlitos: Last semester my daughter took an online calculus quiz through web assign and got a zero due to a server side glitch in the system. As soon as the quiz started, the stop watch indicating the minutes she has left immediately showed -- and did not update as it normally does. While i imagine UF wifi is not guaranteed and is in actuality sporadic at times, the issue in this case was not due to total loss of wifi since she verified she could still open yahoo and refresh to new content. I suspect the issue is with web assign not properly reestablishing the connection. She continued to take the quiz and before the time was up by her watch, submitted it but the site did not accept it. She continued to resubmit until the site came back with time is up. She waited for the result and got a zero. 5 mi

| familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): Good Evening Gators! Welcome to our first family chat of the semester! My name is Arie Gee and I serve as the Assistant Director for Family Programs and Engagement in the Dean of Students Office. Thank you for joining us! |
| familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): Hello all, my name is Lynn O'Sickey and I am an academic advisor in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Academic Advising Center. |
| familychatmoderator(Daniel Moore- Academic Advisor): Good evening, I am Daniel Moore, an Academic Advisor in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. |

Carlitos: 5 minutes after having taken the quiz she took pictures of her work on paper with answers and emailed the instructor explaining the situation. However this was not accepted and the grade was final. Needless to say she would have gotten a perfect score on the quiz had the system not failed. My concern going forward is there needs to be a mechanism by which UF can work with web assign to confirm their glitch and allow a retake or an alternate solution so a student's grade is an accurate measure of competency. Thanks

| familychatmoderator(NSFP_Corry): Hello Gators! My name is Corry Moore and I am the Program Assistant for New Student and Family Programs in the Dean of Students Office. Looking forward to tonight's chat. |
| familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): Carlitos, I am afraid I don't know anything about the e-learning system or web assign. I would suggest contacting the Math department because they may be able to push for a mechanism to confirm glitches like that. It may not be possible, but they can try. Here's the Math department contact information. http://www.math.ufl.edu/people/administration/ |

Carlitos: Thanks Lynn. I'll follow up. Though I believe this may be a broader issue and beyond the math department if web assign is used in other departments.

| familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): Carlitos, I have not heard of this problem before and my spouse is a Physics professor, so I would think I would have heard of it. However, there are different systems and different parts of each system, so who knows? That's why I'd suggest contacting Math. |

CRUANYAS: Hello, I don't have any questions as of yet, i am just testing to be sure that I have connected correctly for next time when i do have a question. It is my sons 3rd semester (summ,fall were the first). my only concern is my son choice of career. he went from engineering to finance¿. i don't think he knows what he is getting into or has a clue what he wants to do. it is hard to decide what you want to do for the rest of your life when you are 18.

| familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): CRUANYAS, I agree totally. What your student CAN be doing now is some career exploration and self-evaluation. Our Career Resource Center has great workshops and individual career counseling for students. www.crc.ufl.edu |

CRUANYAS: thank you. i will look into this website, but more important ask my son to check it out as well.

Nsp12345: Hello UofF Chat! Go Gators! Thank for this service! I think it is helpful. One question I might have missed earlier. When do grades start showing up and are the on Isis or what site? Thank you for all you do!

| familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): @Nsp, are you asking about grades from last semester? |
familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): CRUANYAS, yes, please pass it on to him :-) He can use the student link to see all their services. First year is a great time to start exploring.

Laddy7: My son is in his sophomore year and presently is a Finance major. What are some suggestions on what he might do to get an internship for the summer?

Nsp12345: No spring 2015, sorry trying to be proactive so my Gator will have the best experience. thnx

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): @Nsp, that is great. It will depend on the course and the professor for grades. Some professors will post them as soon as they are graded on their E-Learning or Canvas site. However, not all professors will put grades online, but students are welcome to ask about their grades during office hours.

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): Laddy7, have your student look at the College of Business page on internships: http://warrington.ufl.edu/undergraduate/myheavener/internships/

Nsp12345: Thnk u! Go Gators! I know 2015 will be a great year for all at U of F!

Laddy7: Thank you. I will have to ask my son if he is aware of this website. I hope he is but I will let him know.

CRUANYAS: My son changed to finance as well (for now) so I will give him the link to search for internships as well. I am glad to see that many have the same questions and concerns.

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): Laddy7, since all Business majors are required to complete an internship (or an overseas study program), their advising center is very proactive in helping students with internship searches. Your student can meet with his/her advisor/career coach after drop/add, when things have quieted down a bit :-)

Carlitos: Lynn, I fear this is more common then you are aware of. My daughter told me of a similar scenario of a chemistry student getting a zero as well from losing internet during an online quiz. I don't know if it used web assign. Keep in mind a student could even switch to wifi from a hotspot for more reliability, but even then if the system has a glitch server side, a reconnect may not work still. During a time when finals were near, the last thing my daughter wanted to do was to follow up as it would take time and energy given the instructor and web assign would not collaborate further. What I hope for students' sake is for UF to explore with web assign what issues they have. Thanks

Laddy7: Again thank you! I know he does not need to do an internship yet but he seems interested in doing so as he does not want to study abroad. I hope he will avail himself of the resources available.

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): Carlitos, I understand your concern. But I don't know if Chem and Math are using the same programs (UF is running two different e-learning programs right now), so it is best to address the specific example your student had. The Math department is likely to have the best chance of trying to resolve the issue, so please do contact them.

Carlitos: Will do thanks again. Signing off.

tamika23: Hi I’m the parent of a political science major, in her second year. She has been on campus for first two years but says she wants an apt next year. Any tips or advise, I don’t know the area at all.

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): @tamika23, living on campus is a great experience, but a lot of our students do live in apartment complexes in the surrounding community.

simplertime: Hello, I have a general question about our daughter, currently a freshman nursing major. She plans on changing her major, should she do that now or wait until later in semester?

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): My advice is to have your daughter talk with someone in Off Campus Life before she makes a decision on where to live. They have great relationships with apartment complexes and can help her find one that fits what she is looking for.

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): simplertime, it would probably be best for her to meet with an advisor in her new intended major before the end of drop/add to ensure she is taking the courses she needs to get on track for the new major. http://www.ufadvising.ufl.edu/advisers.aspx
tamika23: Thank you, will do! She also plans to attend summer school this summer for the first time, does she have to move out of her resident complex and into another?

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): simplertime, all advising offices are very busy during drop/add, so usually it is a good idea to go early in the day (8-10 am) for the shortest wait.

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): @tamika23, She will likely have to move out of her residence hall for the summer, depending on where she lives. Many of our residence halls are used for camps or conferences during the summer. Students who are attending summer school are eligible to stay on campus but they will have to sign a contract for the summer. Summer might also be a great time to test-drive what it is like living off campus. Many students sublease during the summer, which would allow her to get a taste of life off campus before the Fall semester.

tamika23: Oh, OK 😊

simplertime: Ok, thank you very much Lynn, I will let her know!

Nsp12345: Q. How about IA students do they regroup in dorm as well? Thnx

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): @Nsp12345, Innovation Academy students will remain in Beaty for the summer! They will be able to stay in their current rooms.

Cuibee: Tamika, As the parent of a student who has lived both on campus and off campus, I can make the following comments. Your daughter can't wait to long to find a place off campus as the best places go quickly. First she needs to decide if she wants to live within walking distance of campus or not. The tradeoff is that close to campus is either more expensive or ratty. Nice complexes that are more reasonable in price usually require the student to ride the bus. Bus service is good, but sometimes buses on the more popular routes get filled up, so she should check that. We found the University Club on SW 23rd Ave. to provide a good balance between location, price, and quiet living. It's within bicycle distance, but probably not within walking distance -- located south of Archer Road. Lower floor

Nsp12345: Thank you, good to know! We are very pleased with everything so far. All staff have been wonderful!

msyen@live.com: My daughter struggled with passing Chem I last semester (even though she had been a strong student in science throughout high school). It really kicked her *****. From all that I have heard (from her and from other parents on these chats) a high number of students have the same experience. She is taking Chem I again this semester. Do you have any stats as to the percentage of students that pass Chem I the second go round and why is that class so unbelievably difficult for so many students?

tamika23: Thank you Cuibee!

Cuibee: Lower floor units are better insulated for a lower utility bill. The main problem with apartment leases is that they usually end the last day of July and move-ins aren't allowed until after the summer semester ends later in August. This causes a problem for late summer students who need to move at the end of the lease. Also, remember that per month charges for apartment leases may be less than the dorms, but because you are paying for a full year the overall cost may be more.

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): @Nsp, I'm glad you have enjoyed the experience!

RobinS: msyen@live.com - I would recommend your daughter sign up for study edge and go to the test reviews. It was very helpful for my daughter when she took Chem 1.

msyen@live.com: She was using study edge the entire semester.

RobinS: Has she tried studying with a classmate?

msyen@live.com: She has tried it all. Most of her classmates struggled too. She is hopeful that she has a stronger grasp on it this time but she (and her roommate) were so despondent

jenlatina: I want to ask Cuibee regarding University Club are the apts nice? safe? I may be looking for a place for my son, who currently lives near campus but the rent is high.
Cuibee: msey -- I have a friend whose son graduated from UF as a Chemical Engineering major but who just loves pure chemistry and wants to teach it. He works for a company that provides a tutoring service and he gets his schedule filled up very quickly with kids who need help in Chemistry. I'm not sure of the name of the company, but apparently it is very popular. Unfortunately, I don't know the name of the company but I bet your daughter can find out.

RobinS: It's a tough course. Tell her not to give up.

tamika23: Wow...didn't think of that. So glad I joined the chat tonight

familychatmoderator (Lynn - Academic Advisor): msey, I don't have any data, but while we do have a lot of students who struggle with this course in the first term. That said, the average grade is usually around a B-. so there are also plenty of students who do very well. I would suggest several things. 1) set up a weekly tutoring session with our Teaching Center (this is free and most students don't avail themselves of it)

https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/tutoring/appointments/

msey@live.com: Cuibee - thank you for the tip - any info you can give me about this tutor would be helpful so that I can pass it along to my daughter and get her in tough with his service

familychatmoderator (Lynn - Academic Advisor): msey, 2) talk to the instructor and TA about exactly what the struggle was - is it, trouble keeping up? Doing fine on quizzes but not on exams? Weak math skills? A lot of times reviewing the old tests with the instructor, TA or a tutor can help a student pinpoint some strategies for improvement.

familychatmoderator (Lynn - Academic Advisor): I would also have her consider whether she has developed any sort of test anxiety related to it. If you freeze even for a short time during a test, it can really affect your grade. The CWC works with students on test anxiety. It's a learned behavior, so it can be unlearned.

msey@live.com: Thanks for all the great tips...I will be sure to pass them along to her

familychatmoderator (Lynn - Academic Advisor): CWC = Counseling and Wellness

http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx

Cuibee: The apartments were nice when my son lived there and he had no problems safety-wise. The management was very reasonable at move-out. He also had a good experience at Campus Lodge on Williston Road. That is a bigger complex with many more amenities and has a security gate. However, he recommends University Club first. It's closer to campus and not so large. Both places were reasonable on rent and move-out. Both places rent by the bedroom, not the unit, so renters are not responsible for damage someone else does in their own bedroom. Each bedroom has its own bathroom.

jenlatina: Thanks Cuibee so much this is helpful.

familychatmoderator (Lynn - Academic Advisor): Gatorwell also a great wellness coaching program in which students can work on stress management or time management if they feel they could improve in those areas.

http://gatorwell.ufl.edu/Wellness-Coaching.aspx

familychatmoderator (Lynn - Academic Advisor): msey, BTW, starting the weekly tutoring immediately means she would develop a better level of mastery from the beginning. Lots of students like Study Edge, but I have heard it is test prep focused as opposed to focusing on mastering the material, which the Teaching Center tends to focus more on.

tamika23: Thanks Lynn, my daughter may need that too, she's taking more hours than usual this semester.

Cuibee: msey -- I just checked, my friend's son works at Study Edge.

Laddy7: My son will be taking Managerial accounting again this summer-is it best to take at UF or does it matter if it is at another Florida University? What is the best way to determine?

familychatmoderator (Lynn - Academic Advisor): I talked to quite a few students who struggled with a course in their first term and when we talked about it, I found they were simply trying to study more and more rather than figure out ways to study more strategically. By studying more and more, they were losing sleep, not exercising, etc. all of which contributes to weaker brain function. I'm happy to say that I spoke with several of them at the end of the term and those who followed through with sleep, exercise, etc. typically improved their grades a lot. Sooo, please encourage your students to maintain their balance.
Nsp12345: Is Gatorwell a fitness organization as well? Than you.

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): Gatorwell is our Health Promotion specialists on campus! They do a lot with health and wellness education on campus

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): http://gatorwell.ufsa.ufl.edu/Default.aspx- they are awesome!

Nsp12345: Nice, Thnx! I saw a big fitness building near Health Center, can students use this? I know my son wants to work out. Is there a gym in the dorm?

GatorDad55: How are the Family Weekends Funded?

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): @GatorDad55, Family Weekends are funded strictly by the registration fees associated with the event. We don't receive any outside funds for the program.

Cuibee: Laddy7, don’t take anything at another university without explicit approval in writing from UF. My son got some bad information from UF advisors on doing that and it affected his situation at UF badly. I have another son at FSU and he took a summer course at home through BCC but had to fill out a form and get dean at FSU approval to do that. The FSU approval was for a specific course only. I don't know what the UF policy is, just that my son was not advised correctly so beware.

Nsp12345: I may have to work( I am on call) do I have to pay for Family Fun Weekend when I register or can I pay at check in? Thank you.

lunaceci@embarqmail.com: Helo everyone this is my daughters second year at UF and she loves it! I loved the family chats last year too. I learned alot

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): Nsp12345, There's a fitness center in the Center of campus and one on the southwest section of campus. http://www.recsports.ufl.edu/facilities

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): @Nsp12345, we ask that you submit payment for the weekend at least a week ahead of time, but it sounds like you have a special circumstance so I will be happy to work with you to work something out. Please email me at arieg@dso.ufl.edu!

Nsp12345: Thank you Luna! New parent and I love this too! Feel connected!

GatorDad55: Are Student's notified if they make the semester Dean’s List?

familychatmoderator(Daniel Moore- Academic Advisor): Laddy7, I would have your son speak with a Business Advisor for the program requiring the course, http://warrington.ufl.edu/undergraduate/myheavener/advising.asp

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): Laddyyy, students must get approval from their college to take courses at another institution. He should definitely meet with his business advisor to discuss that.

Nsp12345: Thank you Arie, very gracious! I will no more next week.

GatorDad55: Also, if a student is 18, are parents allowed to see semester grades?

jenlatina: I am glad that I joined in on chat.. This is very helpful whether your child is a freshmen or Senior. Thanks to all.

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): Cubiee, of course I don't know the specifics of your son’s situation, but students must always get approval from their college to take courses elsewhere. There is an online system for that if your student is taking the course at a public institution in Florida, but the student gets email confirmation.

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): GatorDad55, Dean's List is handled by each college. Liberal Arts and Sciences emails students' official UF email address to let them know so they can pick up their certificates.

Laddy7: Thank you. What is the advantage of taking a course at another institution?

familychatmoderator(Daniel Moore- Academic Advisor): GatorDad55: Due to FERPA laws, you may only see what your student allows. Speaking to your child about this is often the best route.
familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): GatorDad55, once students are enrolled in a college or university, they are responsible for their own grades (even under 18). BUT if your student is a dependent, you can get access to information by request. The best thing is what Daniel suggests, have your child pull up his/her grades and discuss them with you.

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): @Laddy7, sometimes students want to go home for the summer and taking a course at a different university will allow them to live at home during the summer.


GatorDad55: Hahaha, yep, thanks Daniel:) Yes, Thank You Lynn. Its not a problem, yet they do love to tell you its their business:)

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): GatorDad55, I have a 16 and 18 year old. So I know what you mean. :-) if you are paying another of the bills, you can assert that it is your business too :-)

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): *any of the bills, not *another of the bills

Nsp12345: Arie, love the Family Weekend Invite! Trying to also do budget. Could you tell me if the cost is $35 for parent and student or both. Trying to find it on e-mail. Thnx for all your Help :)

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): Laddy7, also, sometimes they want to spread out their load. However, I would caution against having your student assume he/she should take classes in summer. Lots of our students are ahead, not behind, and they have never worked a regular job. Work experience can be super-beneficial as far as resume-building, understanding what you want out of your work life, so you can begin to figure out what you want to with your life.

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): *to do with your life. (typing is not going well tonight)

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): @Nsp12345, Family Weekend is $35 per person, but Gator Parent and Family Association Members receive their student's registration for only $20.

PMcMaster: Sorry joined late, do sophomores who move off campus get back on track study/grade wise after awhile? I've seen some "sophomore slump" with more social activity and being a bit further away from the campus. Thanks.

Nsp12345: Thnx Lynn, I like your sense of humor. I've had a 15 hr day so my fingers are typing funny too! Thnk you for all the info. I'm learning a lot!

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): One needs a sense of humor parenting high schoolers and college students!

Cuibee: Lynn, thanks. Although my son got bad info from an advisor, the Dean of Student's office was wonderful in helping him with issues that resulted. It's now past history and all is well, but regular advisors in my son's college gave him so much bad information that I actually contacted my state House representative to ask that the legislature put some kind of penalty on university advisors who mislead students. Interestingly, the legislator's aide told me her son had similar problems at FAMU so she understood my concern completely. I have the highest respect for the Dean of Student's Office for what this office did to help my son, but I constantly have to tell others to be careful and to check with the Dean of Students office if they have questions, especially because I often hear parents tal

Nsp12345: Great Arie, That's great! When I register is there a place for that?

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): @PMcMaster, with any transition (to college, moving off campus, etc.) there will be an adjustment period. It will vary for each student, but in general, our students who move off campus will remain successful here, especially when they stay involved with other campus activities!

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): Cuibee, well I'm an advisor, so I am distressed that you had this problem. We always try to be 100% accurate.

GatorDad55: Ah, the Fall Family Weekend was a blast, I hope the Spring one is just as Good.

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): @Nsp12345, there is a box that you can click on the registration to say that you are a member. This will automatically give you the $15 discount on your registration!

Nsp12345: All I can say is Go Gators!
familychatmoderator(Daniel Moore- Academic Advisor): PMCMaster, Arie is absolutely right. But if you are concerned with your students study skills, the Teaching Center has some resources that may be helpful. Encourage them to check out this link, https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/study-skills/, and possibly stop by the Teaching Center.

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): @GatorDad55, Spring Family Weekend is going to be a blast! We have some really awesome things planned this year! Our newest addition to the schedule is breakfast at Training Table which is where our student-athletes eat breakfast and dinner most days.

PMcMaster: Thanks I think it is more about making new friends and recreational sports clubs and parties, and then running too short on time to study.

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): @PMcMaster, GatorWell can help your student work on some time management skills and setting priorities.

fitzwater: Isn't it mandatory that student's take nine credit hours of summer classes?

myrnajune@yahoo.com: Hi, I am planning to send a care package to my daughter in Beatty Towers, how will she know when it gets there?

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): PMcMaster, even sophomores who live on campus can experience a slump. Getting back to the university, knowing people and feeling more socially confident can create issues with prioritization. Most students self-correct :-)

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): Fitzwater, yes students must take 9 credits in the summer at a State University System school. That's a state regulation.

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): @Myrnajune, the desk assistant will send her an email when the package arrives!

myrnajune@yahoo.com: OK thank you.

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): Fortunately, students can meet this in a number of ways - taking courses in residence at UF, taking UF courses via web, doing internships and getting UF credit, doing a UF or SUS overseas studies program, etc.

PMcMaster: Thanks I believe she will self correct, and it seems the more I press or make suggestions the less I hear from her. So will see. Who you hang with really makes a difference and when you make new friends (which is great) outside of your major, you are adding another chunk of time to manage.

simplertime: Can I ask one more question: when I go back later to view the chat session transcripts I missed, not all of the question/answer is there when it's a long quest or answer. Is there a way to correct that?

dianeemurphy: @PMcMaster, Give GatorWell a try

GatorDad55: At the Fall Family Weekend, I learned Tom Petty was a Gator grounds keeper, does he ever visit the school, or is invited to give a talk, lecture, music chat?

familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): @simplertime, I will do my best to catch all of those instances before I upload them this time! Sometimes excel cuts them off when I export as a PDF. If you are reading through a transcript and find one of these instances, please let me know. I'll be happy to send you the information and correct it on our website.

simplertime: Thank you very much Arie, you are wonderful. Go Gators!

Cuibee: Lynn, thanks for what you do. I'm sure most advisors are great, but there are a few bad apples. I wouldn't believe it except I verified some of it myself by talking with a specific bad-apple advisor who really shouldn't have spoken with me due to privacy rules; what this advisor did to my son and actually admitted to me was pretty bad. But, as I said, it's all in the past now and all is good now -- thank goodness because I bleed orange and blue and didn't want to have to start disliking UF.

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): Cuibee, well I'm glad it was an isolated incident!

familychatmoderator(NSFP_Corry): GatorDad55, Way to go on your Tom Petty history. I know that Mr. Petty was a musical legend during his time in Gainesville. I attended the same high school as him many decades after. The music repair shop that he worked for during his time in Gainesville just closed its doors for the final time.
| familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): Thanks to all you families for supporting your students! |
| lunaceci@embarqmail.com: Thank you! GO GATORS!!! |
| Cuibee: Gainesville High == I'm a GHS graduate too! |
| familychatadministrator(NSFP_Arie): Thank you for joining us tonight! If you have any questions between now and the next chat, please don't hesitate to call New Student and Family Programs at (352) 392-8396! Have a great weekend and Go Gators! |