Adjusting to Reality…

Now that your student has been an FGCU eagle for a few weeks, reality might start sinking in for them that college may not be what they thought it was. Maybe they aren’t exactly best friends with their roommates, haven’t met a potential romantic partner, they’re doing their own laundry, doing their homework, going to class and yes, classes are harder than they thought they would be! College life is clearly different than what they expected. Same goes for parents - you may have thought your student would have it easy and they’re struggling right now, or vice versa. Maybe they don’t call home a lot - or call too much - and you’re struggling with how to hold on, but still let them go. You hear about them making decisions you had no part of and you’re trying to figure out where you still fit in their new life.

Everyone needs to remember it’s a time of adjustment – keep breathing, keep the lines of communication open; let your students know you’re always going to be there for them and you want to know what’s going on, but there needs to be a balance. They need to share what's happening, but if they’re calling for every little thing, encourage them to call only once or twice a day so there’s more to tell in the long run. Ask open ended questions – how are classes going, what are you learning about, tell me about the people you're meeting, the events they have on campus. With your help and advice your student can make the adjustment to reality much smoother. First Year Advising has some more advice for you and your students so please enjoy!

Go Eagles!

Don’t forget to register for Eagle Family Weekend 2015!
November 6-8, 2015
First Year Advising Says...

First Year Advisors guide new students in their transition and navigation of the university experience. Our staff helps students clarify their interests, skills and values in the context of class selection, major choice, and curriculum planning. We empower students to make informed academic decisions; while helping them interpret policy and understand the university resources available to assist in their academic success.

If you have any serious concerns about your students, please contact First Year Advising who can put you in touch with the appropriate advisor. Please remember that your student must have a FERPA waiver on file for an advisor to be able to talk to you specifically about your student’s academic record.

EXPECTATIONS FOR ADVISORS, STUDENTS, AND FAMILIES

Advisor
- Explain university policies, regulations, programs, and procedures.
- Assist with course selection and creating an academic plan.
- Listen to concerns and refer to the appropriate support services if needed.
- Discuss academic performance and implications for desired degree program.
- Help students explore their interests, abilities, and goals as they relate to their major.

Student
- Know how to schedule an advising appointment, and schedule at least one each semester.
- Cancel appointments that they are unable to attend.
- Check holds on Gulfline and use the Hold Matrix to understand and resolve holds.
- Prepare a tentative schedule prior to their pre-registration appointment
- Go to their meeting prepared to make informed decisions:
  - Have a prepared list of questions or concerns before each meeting
  - Be familiar with the requirements of their major
  - Know the pre-requisites of courses they are interested in or required to take
- Follow through on referrals and share the outcomes with the advisor
- Keep the advisor informed about changes in their academic progress, course selection, and academic/career goals
- Inform an advisor or the Dean’s Office immediately whenever a serious problem (medical, financial, personal) disrupts your ability to attend classes or complete course work

Families
- Be available for support and encouragement.
- Keep in contact with your students.
- Offer advice when appropriate.
- Encourage your students to seek out an advisor if they have questions or concerns.
- Allow students to make mistakes in this safe environment.

The First Year Advising staff has the training, education, and passion for working with first year students. We are here for them every step of the way to support and empower them. We create a safe environment where they can learn how to take control of all matters that will guide their education.