



5 Academic Questions for Parents of First Year College Students

Make sure you are asking your student these five questions and set a foundation for future academic success!

One challenge I see in my day-to-day experiences as an administrator at a four year college are the communication obstacles occurring after students move into a residence hall and parents depart. Ask the following five questions of your student during the early weeks of the fall semester to work towards success!

1. *DO* ask "Are you going to class?" Skipping class is the number one reason why students fail. No question!
2. *DO* ask "Are you studying at least 25 hours per week?" College is a full-time job. Students are in class, studying, and doing homework at least 25 hours per week. Don't forget golf practice and workouts!
3. *DO* ask "Are you reviewing the material in each class weekly?" Reviewing class material frequently makes exam preparation easier.
4. *DO* ask "When is the last day to withdraw from a course?" Check online with the Registrar's Office electronic calendar to determine when you can still accept a 'W' on your transcript. Knowing this will help prevent poor GPAs during the first year!
5. *DO* ask "Are you starting your assignments early?" Starting assignments plenty of time prior to the due date helps students produce better work, stress less over the immense amount of work at college, and prevent major issues when the UNEXPECTED happens!

Questions listed here are to help guide your support and care for your son or daughter as they meet the many new challenging environments they will experience as they move into the college setting. Many students experience anxiety and feel unsure about the choice they made to attend a particular college. Continue to encourage your student to think about campus employment, clubs and organizations, or intramural sports to meet others with similar interests. The goal with this list is to avoid the normal pitfalls of the college environment; hopefully, some of the tips and suggestions here will help you formulate a successful plan between you and your student!

Good luck!

Dr. Fleming

Dr. Bruce Fleming is the founder of Play Collegiate Golf, created to mentor young women and men interested in continuing their competitive golf careers at institutions that support their academic, athletic, and personal

College Survival Tip

Learn from your Peers - Your peers will be your teammates on the golf team. Older students will be able to answer questions on studying for the first Biology test, where the Career Center is on campus, and even who makes the best pizza in town. Take the time to talk with your teammates from the beginning; these students will be your support base during your four years at college and many will become lifelong friends.