

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) and Student Discussion Points

As family members, it is important to communicate our expectations of each other during this transitional time. Answering the questions on this list is just a start to this communication process.

1. Finances
 - Will student have a checking account? If so, where?
 - Who will be responsible for balancing the account?
 - In whose name will the account be?
 - Who puts money into the account?
 - Who provides spending money?
 - How much spending money does student need? How does student ask for more spending money?
 - Will student get a job on campus? Off campus?
 - Should student have a credit card? What will be the limits of its use?
2. Bills, Bills, Bills
 - Who pays for tuition? How?
 - Who pays for room and board? How?
 - Who pays for books and supplies?
 - Who pays the phone bill?
 - Should student have a meal plan/points? If so, which one/how many? Who does this?
3. There's no place like home . . .
 - How often will student go home on weekends?
 - How will student get there and back?
 - What rules are student expected to live by when he/she visits? (Curfew, communication about where student is going, housework duties, use of the car, etc.)
 - How much time do we expect to spend together when student is at home? (Parents/guardians, grandparents, siblings...)
 - Can student bring friends from UW-Superior home? Significant others? Where do these visitors sleep?
4. "Time to clean the room - my family's coming"
 - How often will family members come to campus?
 - Will this be an overnight visit?
 - Will they come for Winterfest? Other events?
 - How much notice will be given before a visit?
5. You've Got Mail! (E-mail and/or voice mail)
 - How often will we talk on the phone?
 - Who calls whom?
 - Should we do this at a set time?
 - Can we e-mail each other? How often?

- Do we send cards or letters? How often?
 - Should we use student cell number or campus phone?
 - What will student want to know about family events?
 - Do parents/guardians get to see grades? Know about class progress?
 - How do parents/guardians learn about dating relationships? Homesickness? Roommate issues?
 - What is shared about any disciplinary trouble?
 - How will we share our feelings?
6. Miscellaneous
- What kinds of things do we still need to purchase for college? Who is responsible for this?
 - How will student's last few days at home be spent? What are the expectations?
 - If we live in a blended family, what issues arise out of that? (Who pays for what? Where does student spend break periods? Who makes decisions?)
 - Will student have a car on campus? If so, who pays for gas, insurance, parking, repairs?
 - What insurance coverage does student have (health, personal property, car, etc.)? Does student need to be enrolled for at least 12 credits for coverage?
 - What will it be like when student come home for breaks and summer?
 - How will sibling relationships change? Or stay the same?
 - What about other social issues?
 - ...