Just because it’s summer doesn’t mean that your student shouldn’t continue to learn. Now is the perfect opportunity to teach them some life lessons that only a family member or friend can do best.

**In the Kitchen:** Hopefully by now your student knows the basics such as their own laundry, but now is a great time to teach them some great cooking tricks that they can use for the rest of their lives. Grab out that family recipe and teach them how to make grandma’s lasagna or mom’s famous chocolate chip cookies. Even though following a recipe may seem easy, often times it’s a lot more than just following the directions.

**On the Road:** There’s nothing worse than getting a flat tire and having no idea where to even start to get it fixed. Take the time to show your student some basics when it comes to their vehicle such as how to change a tire, check fluid levels, and check tire pressure. These things might really come in hand later down the road and are important things to know.

**Money Matters:** Managing money is a vital component for students to learn in their college years. You can help them along by showing them how to go about balancing a checkbook, and giving them some tips about using things like credit and debit cards. For many students, college is the first time they will have a credit card, so it is important to make sure they know how interest and late payments can affect them in the future.

As a parent of a college student, you are most likely encouraging your student to complete their degree within the typical 4-year window. This is definitely something that can be achieved with the proper preparation. Here are some things for students to consider to help them reach that goal:

**Research**
Encourage your students to take the time to get a good understanding of the requirements for their major and minor. Still undeclared? They can always start by figuring out when they want to take each of their general education courses to get those completed right away. They should gain a solid understanding of the course catalog, as well as their advising report in their Student Center so they know all of their academic expectations.

**Communicate**
A student’s advisor is one of the most important resources for them on campus. Check in with your student to see if they’ve been meeting with their advisor to discuss classes and plan ahead. Are they struggling to make a connection with their advisor or would like to work with a different professor? All they need to do is contact the advising office to make a switch.

**Plan**
Is your student considering taking summer classes or studying abroad? Are they definitely set on their major or are they still going back and forth on making a decision? These are all things to take into consideration when planning their academic course. All these things should be discussed with their advisor to help them to make a plan that will be the most beneficial to them.
Parent and Family Newsletter
Published by First Year Experience (FYE)
July 2015

Study Abroad Opportunities

Has your student considered taking some time to study abroad in college? While this may be a big step out of the comfort zone for both students and their parents, it is an opportunity of a lifetime that they should at least take some time to seriously consider.

Why Study Abroad?
Study abroad programs are a great way for students to get out of their comfort zones and expand their horizons. It helps to give them real life experience by getting immersed in another culture, and it encourages them to try new things. They will come back with a newfound confidence and an independence that even they may not have expected to find.

Can My Student Afford It?
The best way for a student to prepare for the costs of studying abroad is to start planning early. This opportunity is an investment that is certainly manageable with the proper planning. In almost all cases, a student’s financial aid will transfer to their study abroad program, and some students may even be eligible for additional funding. There are also grants and scholarships that are designed specifically for these students.

Encourage your student to make an appointment with the Study Away Office to learn more about what is available for them and to start making a plan. They won’t regret it! studyaway@uwsuper.edu

Where Can My Student Study Abroad?
In reality, basically anywhere they want! One of the most popular programs UW-Superior offers is the Wisconsin in Scotland program. The courses are taught by faculty from participating UW universities, and classes are only held Monday-Thursday to give plenty of opportunity for travel. However, there are many, many countries to choose from, and if there isn’t a program offered through UW-Superior that they are interested in, they can even participate in Study Abroad through other university programs.

Student Testimonial
“Honestly, studying abroad should be a requirement in order to graduate college! My life is forever changed in a positive way that is hard to perfectly articulate. The cultural awareness of oneself is immediately expanded and I feel students greatly benefit from it. Any student who goes through college without even evaluating an opportunity such as Wisconsin in Scotland is seriously missing out on once in a lifetime opportunities. I strongly recommend this experience to my peers who have yet to ponder the idea of studying overseas.”

-Michael Bodner (Wisconsin in Scotland, Spring 2011)

Connecting with FYE

Have you “liked” the UW-Superior Parent and Family and the First Year Experience Facebook pages yet? We would love your feedback on what to include in next month’s newsletter. Tell us what you want to read about by emailing Kristen at kjaspers@uwsuper.edu