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?
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