

CHECK-LIST FOR PARENTS OF FIRST –YEAR STUDENTS

This is an exciting time for your new college student, but it can also be a challenging time, not only for you but also for your son or daughter. Here's a checklist of things to do and discuss this summer before your student takes off for UNF.

Before Orientation:

- After your student has received a confirmation for an Orientation date, you should download a registration form posted on the Parents tab on the Orientation website. Complete the form and mail it with your payment to reserve the same date as your student.*
- Make a hotel reservation if you will be traveling to attend Orientation. A list of nearby hotels is posted on the University website
- Follow up with your student to be sure the Students Check List is completed.
- Visit www.dineoncampus.com/unf and click on Meal Plans for discount deadlines.

***Note: Parents and guardians are strongly encouraged to attend Orientation with their son or daughter. The more you learn about the resources available at UNF, the more you can help us help your student.**

What you can do at Parent Orientation:

- Attend both days of Orientation and become familiar with the UNF Campus
- Learn about the resources and services available for your student
- Meet UNF professional staff to get important questions answered
- Get answers to questions you have right now!
- Give your student some space to meet people and to ask his or her own questions to help set a positive tone for the rest of the college experience
- Compare notes with other parents/guardians who are going through the same thing you are: sending your child to college

Note: You don't pay for parking during Orientation, but you will need to pay for your lunch on day two. You may pay by cash, credit or debit card. The cost for a meal at the cafeteria is \$7. You may also choose to eat at Outtakes, Sbarro, Starbucks, or The Boathouse.

You do not need to pay tuition on your Orientation date. The deadline to pay tuition for Summer B students is June 30th and the deadline for paying fall tuition is August 28th. Parking permits are purchased online. There is no deadline to purchase meal plans. Meal plans can be purchased online or at Chartwell's Business Office.

You will meet your student at the UNF Bookstore at the end of the second day of Orientation where you can purchase UNF clothing and books, but you may also shop online.

After Orientation (while your student is still living at home):

- Now is the time to begin discussing behavioral issues related to alcohol, academic expectations, class attendance and campus resources. Open and honest conversations will better equip your student to meet challenges and come to you when they are having problems.
- There is not a curfew at college and this gives your student a chance to practice being responsible and knowing when to come home. This is a good time to talk about freedom, responsibility and respect.
- Talk about finances with your student. Make sure your student understands his or her checking account and credit cards.
- Begin discussing what to do when your student gets sick. Student Health Services is available for all students, but talk about when to contact a doctor, how to use insurance, and taking medications.
- Teach your student basic car maintenance. It is important for anyone who drives a car to know some basics such as when to change the oil, how to change a tire, and how to check fluid levels. This can be very valuable information if your student ever has car problems at college.
- Encourage your student to contact his or her roommate when assignments are posted on the housing website so they can discuss their room (refrigerators, study habits, stereo systems, televisions, etc).
- Research shows that students who get involved in at least one student organization during the first six weeks of class do better academically than students who do not get involved. Discuss which activities may interest your student (find a complete list in the Student/Parent Handbook).
- Students with cars must abide by UNF's parking regulations – tickets can add up quickly! Having a car carries certain responsibilities.
- Talk to your student about safety on campus and within the city of Jacksonville. Be sure he or she knows the importance of locking cars and rooms, walking with friends, using the Blue emergency lights, calling police for an escort and staying aware of campus alerts.
- Your student will experience many good times, but he or she also may make bad decisions and feel lonely or confused. Your student needs your support through highs and lows.

SAVE THE DATE

Week of Welcome – Parent & Student Activities – August 21-22, 2009

Friday, August 21st – Special Kick-Off Event

Saturday, August 22nd – University Showcase

Family Weekend – October 23-25, 2009

Make your reservations to return to UNF to enjoy a weekend of fun-filled activities with your student. Just for parents – Read “A Whole New Mind” along with your student and participate in a panel discussion and make your son or daughters favorite recipe as an entrée in the Bake-Off competition.

**Additional information will be available on the website in August,
www.unf.edu/student-affairs/parents-association**