The Pre-College Conversation
A Homework Assignment for Parents and Families

As you prepare for your son’s or daughter’s college transition, you may wish to discuss these issues as a family:

**ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS**
Your son/daughter probably has a very clear understanding of your current expectations regarding academics. Are these expectations likely to change? What does your son or daughter expect of him or herself? How different are your expectations? How will each of you react if his or her initial grades are lower than anticipated?

**DEMONSTRATIONS OF SUPPORT**
Your participation in events such as Parent Orientation and Family Weekend are ways to demonstrate your support of your son/daughter. How will you continue to show this support? How would he or she choose to be supported? Care packages, letters, and cards are tangible ways to show support and keep in contact.

**PREPARATIONS FOR A LIVING ENVIRONMENT**
Your son or daughter may have to share a room for the first time. How will you assist him or her in the adjustment to having a roommate whose needs and expectations may be very different from his or her own? What are the issues that should be clarified in advance? How will he or she assert his or her own needs, while responding to those of the roommate?

**PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY**
Membership in a college community involves more freedom, more choices, and less structure than many students are accustomed to having. What responsibilities does your son/daughter have to him or herself (behaviorally, academically, and socially)? What are the responsibilities that exist for all members of a community?

**RE-NEGOTIATING FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS**
Returning home for a visit can be a challenging experience for a student as well as for parents. How will you prepare for the re-entry of your son or daughter into family life? How can you adapt to the changes in one another? What roles and expectations will you renegotiate before visits?

**CO-CURRICULAR INVOLVEMENT**
Do you have expectations about how your son or daughter will choose to be involved in the campus community and in co-curricular activities? Does he or she? How do these expectations differ? How can he or she make choices to create a balanced life on campus?

**SOCIAL CHOICES**
What role will alcohol/drugs play in your son or daughter’s life? What consequences may result from his or her social choices? (See the enclosed newsletter from MyStudentBody.com Alcohol for more information.)

**ABOUT THE MOMENT OF DEPARTURE**
Whether you will be traveling to campus with your student or taking them to the airport, train or bus station, the actual moment of parting may be difficult. Plan to take your cue from your son or daughter. He or she may seem anxious or eager for you to leave, or may develop last minute jitters as the time draws near. Whatever the case may be, remember that you have had 18 years to convey everything that you would like to say at this moment. Trust the job that you have done; trust your student.

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**Additional Resources**


