

UL LAFAYETTE

PARENT & FAMILY NEWSLETTER



► TIMES OF CHANGE

College = Change. Whether your student lives at home or has moved into a residence hall, college is a big change for everyone who lives under the same roof. You are a family unit and when there's a big change to one member of the unit, it reverberates throughout the family.

It is important to recognize that change is not an event but a process. It evolves over time. In the beginning, a big change is exciting! It's all new, all fresh. Think of the last big change in your life: a new job, a new house, a new relationship, etc. You were excited to begin your new adventure! But a few days, or maybe even weeks later, there's a slump. You think, "What made me think this job would be so great?" or "This house is much more work than I thought."

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When it comes to your students, you may hear comments like, “I don't know if I like it here. I haven't made any new friends. Everybody's so different.” This can put you into a fullblown panic! You will want to grab your car keys, buy a plane ticket – whatever it takes to help your child. Chances are, however, that this is part of the change process and in a few hours or a day or two, your student will adjust and feel fine again. It is likely that your student is reaching out to you in the down times, not because they want you to “solve” it for them, but because they rely on you to be there for them.

So what can you do? Take a deep breath, listen carefully, and perhaps make a suggestion or two. Try to encourage them to meet new people with similar interests or be open to the change that is college.

► MONEY MATTERS

It's common for first-year students to experience difficulties balancing school, activities, and other responsibilities. School, of course, should always be the top priority, especially if your student is receiving financial aid, TOPS, or scholarships. There are a variety of factors that students should keep in mind about retaining their aid and scholarships.

FINANCIAL AID

To retain financial aid, students must meet the [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#) (SAP) standards. Failure to meet these standards may cause students to lose eligibility for all types of financial aid. At the end of each semester, your student will be evaluated according to the following SAP requirements:

- **MUST EARN A 2.0 SEMESTER AND CUMULATIVE GPA**
- **MUST COMPLETE 67% OF ATTEMPTED CREDIT HOURS**

For the most up-to-date information on SAP and Financial Aid requirements, visit the [Financial Aid Office's website](#) or contact the Financial Aid Office directly at finaid@louisiana.edu or 337-482-6506.

FALL 2021 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

(Subject to change)

September 6

Labor Day Holiday

October 7-8

Fall Holiday

October 18-29

Advising Session for Spring 2022

November 4

Last Day to Drop with a Grade of "W"

November 25-26

Thanksgiving Holiday

December 1-5

Dead Days

December 3

Last Day of Classes

December 6-10

Final Exams

December 10

Semester Ends

TOPS

To remain eligible for TOPS, students must:

- Have continuous full-time enrollment (12+ credit hour) each Fall and Spring semester.
- Pass/earn 24 hours each school year. The school year runs from August-July and includes Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters as well as intercessions. High school dual-enrollment and advanced placement credits are not applied to the 24 hours.
- Earn 2.0 cumulative GPA after Fall semester to receive TOPS in the Spring.
- Earn the required cumulative GPA for the award after Spring:

- *Opportunity Award: 2.3 first-year, 2.5 each year after*

- *Performance & Honors Awards: 3.0 cumulative GPA*

For the most up-to-date information about TOPS eligibility and requirements, [visit the LOSFA website.](#)

SCHOLARSHIPS

Different scholarships have different requirements, so it is important for students to be aware of the eligibility requirements for their particular scholarships. Questions about scholarships can be directed the [Scholarship Office](#) at scholars@louisiana.edu or 337-482- 6515.



Join us for Family Weekend events during Homecoming 2021!

louisiana.edu/familyweekend

► **CAMPUS SAFETY**

RAVE GUARDIAN APP

The Rave Guardian app is available to help keep your student safe on UL Lafayette's campus. Should your student ever feel unsafe, the app offers a Panic Button, which when pressed automatically connects that mobile device with University Police and provides them with their information and GPS location. It also allows students to anonymously text information to UL Lafayette campus police if they see something occurring on or near campus. Lastly, if students have to walk across campus late at night, the app works as a timer, alerting programmed contacts if the user does not make it to their destination. We ask you to encourage your student to download the Rave Guardian app. [Click here to read more about the Rave Guardian app.](#)

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

The University's [Emergency Notification System](#) (ENS) is designed to provide immediate alerts for emergencies and threats on campus. All students and employees must opt in to the Emergency Notification System to receive the messages.

The University has the ability to send text messages with its ENS to any and all of the following technologies:

- **CELLULAR TELEPHONE CALLS**
- **CAMPUS LANDLINES TELEPHONE CALLS**
- **UNIVERSITY SOCIAL MEDIA SITES**
- **TEXT MESSAGES**
- **UNIVERSITY WEBSITE**
- **UNIVERSITY HOTLINE**

To opt in to the Emergency Notification System, your student must register under the Campus Services tab and the Safety & Emergency Notification System section in [ULink](#). Students can register parents and/or guardians for the ENS as well.

CAMPUS MAP

Part of being safe is knowing your surroundings. [Please click here to view or print out the UL Lafayette campus map.](#)

► STUDENT SUCCESS

The [Academic Success Center](#) (ASC), located in Lee Hall, is the best resource for students looking for academic support services such as advising and information about changing majors. While your student's academic journey is their own, you can support them by knowing about the various support resources on our campus and encouraging your student to take advantage of them. If your student has a question and does not know where to find the answer, they can start with a counselor in the Academic Success Center. Appointments are not necessary to see an academic counselor. Virtual appointments are also available.



GRADE CHECKS

Your student may receive feedback during the semester on attendance and grades through the [Student Success Manager](#) (SSM) system. SSM is a web-based student performance monitoring system that provides automated student services and communication between faculty, students, and support staff. At UL Lafayette, the SSM system is used to notify students at key times throughout the semester if they are at-risk of failing a course. As identified by faculty and staff, automated email alerts are sent directly to academically at-risk students' University email with important resources for student success. Fall 2021 Alert Checks will take place **September 20-25** and **October 11-15**.

***Please note:** Not all faculty submit grade check alerts. Ultimately, it is the student's responsibility to stay informed of the grade they have in class. If your student ever has questions about their grades, they should contact their instructors directly.

CAMPUS RESOURCES

[Academic Success Center](#)

Lee Hall 115
337-482-6818
asc@louisiana.edu

[Student Health Services](#)

Saucier Wellness Center
O.K. Allen Hall
337-482-1293
shs@louisiana.edu

[Counseling & Testing Center](#)

Saucier Wellness Center
O.K. Allen Hall
337-482-6480
counseling@louisiana.edu

[The Writing Center](#)

H.L. Griffin Hall 107-108
337-482-5224
writingcenter@louisiana.edu

[Office of Disability Services \(ODS\)](#)

Agnes Edwards 126
337-482-5252
ods@louisiana.edu

[Dean of Students](#)

Student Union, 168
337-482-6276
deanofstudents@louisiana.edu

► ACADEMIC SUPPORT

FREE TUTORING

[The Learning Center](#) (TLC) offers free one-on-one tutoring, study group tutoring, supplemental instruction, computer lab assistance, and other services. TLC will be offering both in-person and virtual tutoring for Fall 2021. Tutoring is available for most 100 and 200-level math and science courses as well as for accounting, economics, engineering, French, psychology, Spanish, statistics, and more. [View The Learning Center's tutoring schedule](#). Students should schedule a tutoring appointment on Microsoft Teams or by calling 337-482-6583.

STUDY GROUPS	SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTION	INDIVIDUAL TUTORING
Study groups are sessions where students can ask questions, work out problems, and seek advice from tutors who previously passed the course.	Supplemental Instruction is a tutoring group led by students who have taken the classes needed to help with and excel in the topic area. SI leaders work with professors to develop materials and examples to enhance student understanding of the subject. SI leaders also share successful approaches to learning the materials and performing well on tests.	Individual Tutoring sessions are 30-60 minutes of one-on-one instruction in the subject requested. Students can schedule an appointment on Microsoft Teams or by calling 337-482-6583

THE MATH LAB

The [Math Department](#) provides a walk-in tutoring service staffed by mathematics graduate students called The Math Lab, which is located in Lee Hall, Room 110. The Math Lab is offering both in-person and virtual services for Fall 2021. All tutoring services are free to UL students. [Read more about the Math Lab](#).



THE WRITING CENTER

The Writing Center offers academic assistance, particularly for any writing assignments. The Writing Center is located in HL Griffin 107 and is operating both in-person and virtually for Fall 2021. Information about [accessing the Writing Center's services](#) is available online. [View The Writing Center FAQs.](#)

The Writing Center will assist students at any stage of the writing process, including:

- **HELPING STUDENTS ENHANCE THEIR WRITING SKILLS**
- **FOCUSING ON THE WRITING PROCESS AND THE VALUE OF CREATING MULTIPLE DRAFTS**
- **HELPING STUDENTS SEE STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES IN THEIR WRITING**
- **HELPING STUDENTS LEARN TO PROOFREAD THEIR WRITING**
- **EMPOWERING STUDENTS TO OWN THEIR WRITING**
- **NURTURING CREATIVE IDEAS IN STUDENTS**

► STUDENT TRIBULATIONS

Transition to college can be tough. Here are some typical issues students face:

"I thought I'd have free time, but I can't find time to do anything! I'm stressed by the amount of work".

Time management may be one of the biggest challenges that new students face. Encourage your student to use a planner and schedule their days including time for class, work, and study time.

"My classes don't seem all that hard... we never talk about the assigned readings."

Students often underestimate the difficulty of the college curriculum. Encourage your student to take notes in class, complete assigned readings prior to class, participate in study groups, and make academics their top priority. Often, professors expect students to absorb reading material outside of class.

"I don't understand what is going on in class, but I'm afraid to talk to my professor."

Students often feel intimidated by professors. Encourage them to ask questions in class or after class, to go to the professor's office hours, and to participate in study groups. Students can also receive tutoring assistance for free at [The Learning Center](#).

"I'm not getting along with my roommate. We just don't click. "

Adjusting to life with a roommate can be difficult, but can also be one of the most rewarding experiences your student can have. [Click here to read an article from Collegiate Parent](#) on what to do if your student experiences roommate difficulties.

► THE SEPTEMBER STUDENT

It is common for September to bring uncertainty for some students. They may be struggling to find their place on campus or are experiencing new challenges. At this point in the semester, students may also begin to encounter roommate issues.

Learning to support your new college student can be adjustment for you as well, so here are a few things that you can do to help your student during this time:

SCHOOL FIRST

Encourage your student to stay on top of their schoolwork and to get ahead. While September may not be as academically challenging as other months, many students will have their first tests or projects due soon.

SUPPORT

Be there for your student when they need to rant or vent. Remind them of the campus resources available for them. Rather than solving their problems for them, ask your student, "What are you going to do about that?" When navigating roommate disagreements, encourage your student to talk to their roommate one-on-one and remind them that their Resident Assistant is there to help mediate, if needed.

ENCOURAGE CAMPUS INVOLVMENT

Encourage your student to step outside of their comfort zone by attending events and joining organizations. One of the best parts of college is meeting new people. As an added benefit, research shows that students who get involved perform better academically. Encourage your student to check out ENGAGE (located on the "Campus Services" tab in ULink) for a full list of student organizations and events.

► PARENT-TO-PARENT ADVICE

Here's what former freshman parents and guardians have to say:

"Give your child a chance to figure it out on their own. Use the newsletter to ask the right questions at the right time and let them do it."

"Totally encourage your student to get involved on campus. UL Lafayette offers some really great opportunities."

"Trust the process. Sign up for the newsletter and read them. Keep communication open with your child. Don't be judgemental. Let them commit mistakes."

"Keep communication open and be ready to listen when they are happy and when they are sad. Celebrate their success! Help them see difficulties (working hard to obtain a C in a class, roommate drama, etc) as real life situations they may encounter one day in the working world"