

Parent Newsletter

November 2016

Office of
First-Year
Experience

THEY'RE ABOUT TO BE BACK

The end of the Fall 2016 semester is upon us and your First-Time Freshman is probably exhausted at the end of their first semester in college. It is a big adjustment from high school, as well as a lifestyle change. They have endured a long 14 weeks of lectures, quizzes, assignments, presentations, and group projects, and they still have finals. When they return home, they might be quite a different person than who they were just 4 months ago in August. Expect an exhausted student when they arrive home for their extended stay during the winter break. They will need and appreciate sleep, and want to be allowed to just relax for a couple of days. Be sure to inform them of any family plans in advance so that no surprises interrupt their time to unwind. Listen and communicate. One of their critical needs at this point is care and comfort that can only be offered by family. They might be reserved with telling you their stories and their experiences, but it is your responsibility to ask them to share. Be supportive and assuring. As you know, after finals course grades will be submitted. While some students may be ecstatic to receive their grades, others may not be. It is important that you are assuring, not reprimanding, at this time. Sometimes changing their major may be necessary if the student is unhappy with where they are. Finding their interests is part of the process that each college student goes through, and choosing a major that they are passionate about is one of the keys to future success.

FOCUSING ON FINANCIAL AID

[Satisfactory Academic Progress](#) (SAP) is the term used to denote a student's successful completion of coursework toward a degree. Students who fail to achieve minimum standards for Grade Point Average (GPA) and completion of classes could lose their eligibility for all types of federal and state aid (includes grants, work-study, Direct, PLUS and Perkins loans). For more further information please visit the [Office of Financial Aid](#) website. To see how the SAP evaluation affects your student [click here](#).

TOPS: To maintain TOPS eligibility, a student must earn a cumulative Fall GPA of a 2.0 and be registered as a full-time student by the 15th class day of the Spring semester.

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Fall 2016 Calendar

Nov 24-25	Thanksgiving Break
Dec 2	Last Day of Classes
Dec 5-6	Final Exams
Dec 7	Mid Exam Study day
Dec 8-9	Final Exams



UNIVERSITY of
LOUISIANA
L A F A Y E T T E

SPRING 2016 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Jan 2: Deadline to pay tuition

Jan 11: Classes Begin

Jan 16: Martin Luther King Day

Jan 18: Last Day to Add or Drop a Class

Feb 27—Mar 1: Mardi Gras Break

Mar 2: Last Day to Drop with a “W”

Mar 13-24: Academic Advising Period

Apr 14—23: Spring Break/
Easter Break

Apr 24: Class Resumes

Apr 26—30: Dead Days

Apr 28: Last Day of Classes

May 1—5: Final Exams

May 12: Spring Commencement

May 12: Semester Officially Ends

GRADES MATTER. GRADES FIRST

Your student, if at risk, has already received their second [Grade Check](#) of the semester. The next Grade they receive will be the final grade that will count towards their [GPA](#). With just a few weeks left of the semester it is still important for your student to be diligent in their studies.

Final projects will be due— many of which might make up a large portion of the grade for that class. [Final Exams](#) are fast approaching.

After Thanksgiving break your student has only a week of classes left before Final Exams. Encourage your student in these last few weeks to plan their time well and seek out assistance from both a tutor and their professors. It is important for your student to spend their time studying.

In planning for Final Exams it is important for your student to remember to eat healthy, exercise, and get sleep. Planning their time will enable your student to achieve a level of healthy stability during a stressful time. [Here](#) are twelve tips to help your student get a handle on Final Exams.

Also keep in mind that the Academic Success Center offers [individual tutoring](#), [study groups](#), [supplemental instruction](#), and [online tutoring](#) to all students, and that the best time to make use of their help is before students realize they need the help. If you have noticed your student is struggling in some area, please encourage him/her to contact the Academic Success Center by phone at 337-482-6818 or by email at asc@louisiana.edu.

ACADEMIC PROBATION: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Academic Probation occurs when a student’s cumulative grade point average is 10 or more quality points below a 2.0 average. A student may attend the University while on academic probation, but with the following stipulation: **they must earn a 2.0 semester or better GPA**. This means that a student who is placed on probation at the end of the Fall 2016 semester must earn a 2.0 GPA for the Spring 2017 semester.

If on academic probation, your student will remain on probation until a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or better is achieved. When your student has earned a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or better, he/she will be placed in academic good standing. If your freshman student is on Academic Probation after this Fall semester they are ***required*** to participate in a special workshop before the end of the first week of classes in the Spring Semester.

If your student is put on academic probation, they will be contacted by the University through their [University email](#). For more information contact the [Academic Success Center](#), or email asc@louisiana.edu.

FERPA: FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS & PRIVACY ACT

The [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act](#) of 1974 (sometimes referred to as the Buckley Amendment) was designed to protect the privacy of educational records and to establish the rights of students to inspect and review their educational records. It also provided control over the release of educational record information. The original intent of this legislation was to keep elementary and high school records private and to give parents access to their student's school records.

Once a student turns eighteen, or attends school beyond secondary school, the rights of access to the student's records transfer to the student. This means that all academic information regarding your college student goes directly to the student unless the student has given specific, written permission to release that information to someone else. The exception to this law occurs if parents document in writing that the student is still claimed as a dependent for income tax purposes. The college may require you to submit your most recent tax forms in order to support this claim.

What does FERPA mean for you as a college parent? Generally FERPA rules mean that student academic information such as grades or academic standing (GPA, academic transcript, academic warning, academic probation, or discipline records) will be given to the student and not to the parents. College students are considered responsible adults who may determine who will receive information about them. College representatives are prohibited from discussing information about the student's academic record with parents. For more information please [see here](#).

REPEAT RULE

Students who do not pass a required course may [repeat](#) the course. Once a course has been repeated and a higher grade earned, students may request the removal of the previous attempt from the GPA hours, hours earned, and quality points from the calculation of the adjusted grade point average. Only some colleges use the adjusted grade point average for graduation and entrance into the Upper Division (for more information please have the student see an advisor). Repeats are not automatically figured into the adjusted grade point average. The student is responsible for reporting a repeated course to the Registrar's Office. Students should complete a [Request for Application of Repeat Rule form](#) and return it to the [Registrar's Office](#), Martin Hall, Room 171.

The Repeat Rule can only be applied for coursework taken through UL Lafayette. Courses completed through another university or college cannot be used as part of the Repeat Rule. Please note that prior course attempts are not removed from your students academic record, only from the adjusted grade point average.

RESOURCES ON CAMPUS

[Academic Success Center](#)

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

[Writing Center](#)

H.L. Griffin Hall,
Rm. 107-108
(337) 482-6447

[Counseling & Testing Center](#)

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

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

Conference Center,
Rm. 126
(337) 482-5252
ods@louisiana.edu

[Student Support Services](#)

DeClouet Hall
Rm. 106
(337) 482-6828
specialservices@louisiana.edu

[STEP Computer Labs on Campus](#)

[Student Affairs Division](#)

Martin Hall
Rm. 211
(337) 482-6266
studentaffairs@louisiana.edu

MAJORS OFFERED AT UL LAFAYETTE

- [Alphabetically](#)
- [By College](#)
- [By Interest](#)

With over 74 undergraduate majors, UL Lafayette provides as much educational diversity as possible in order to not only provide our students with the skills they need to enter the work force but the chance to follow their passions wherever they lead.

WHAT CAN STUDENTS DO WITH A PARTICULAR MAJOR?

Whether your student is exploring multiple majors or searching for information about their chosen field, this site will help them connect majors to careers. Learn about the typical career areas and the types of employers that hire people with each major, as well as strategies to help make students more marketable. Encourage your student to research majors and careers through the hyperlink provided above.

QUICK TIPS FOR PARENTS OF UNDECIDED STUDENTS

The career development process can be brand new to most UL Lafayette students when they arrive on campus and the options and pressure can be overwhelming. As your student begins to explore and establish their major goals and career interests, here are a few ways you can help and support your student:

1. Encourage them to visit the Major and Career Exploration Center in Career Services. We provide:
 - [Career Assessments](#)
 - [Major and Career Counseling](#)
 - [Career Planning Direction](#)
 - [Majors Fair](#)
 - [Career Fairs](#)
 - [Workshops and Seminars](#)
2. Be there:
 - Talk to them about their interests, skills, and values.
 - Listen to what your student might be considering and try to be receptive to hearing what makes their considerations compelling.
 - Help them recognize their strengths and career possibilities without letting your personal biases carry much weight.
3. Foster Connections:
 - If you know someone in a field related to their interests, mutually facilitate an informational interview or “shadow day.”
 - Inspire them to investigate majors and careers based on their strengths.

[Career Services](#)

[Major & Career Exploration Center](#)

337-482-1444

explore@louisiana.edu



UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE
OFFICE OF CAREER SERVICES
Student Affairs Division

DOUBLE MAJOR OR ADD A MINOR?

One reason your student may decide to double major is because they are having difficulty deciding on a single major in which they are interested. Or there may be difficulty in narrowing their choices down to one major. Whether double majoring is a good choice or not depends on the student and their reasoning for double majoring.

Your student will want to be sure to gather all of their information before making a decision to double major. Double majoring will require a lot of work, coordination and time management. Keep in mind that it is possible that completing two majors may add extra time to your student's college career. It will probably also involve summer classes or winter intercession classes. Your student will need to consider whether that extra time is worth it and whether it is financially feasible. Because of the extra work involved in a double major, and the potential sacrifices involved, one should be completely committed to the decision.

Your student should speak with their academic advisor about all of the requirements involved in double majoring. They should also discuss whether or not the same thing can be achieved with one major and one minor. Your student also might talk to several professors in the chosen fields of study. This will help the student to understand what the professionals in the field will be looking for in a college graduate, or what graduate schools will want to see on a transcript. Participating in some informational interviews with people working in their chosen field might also help your student in making the decision.

Weighing the advantages and disadvantages, your student should consider their reasons carefully and honestly. An informed decision requires knowing the reasons, the pros and cons, the implications and sacrifices, and the potential benefits.

Adapted from www.collegeparents.org.

DOUBLE TROUBLE. DOUBLE MAJOR.

To [Double Major](#) means your student will complete two majors in one baccalaureate program. This means that when your student graduates they will have one bachelor degree, but comprised of two fields of study. To earn a degree as a [Double Major](#), the student is required to complete all requirements of their primary degree program. In the secondary degree program the student is required to complete all major courses (including all pre-and-co-requisites and other designated courses). More information can be found in the [UL Lafayette Online Catalog](#), or via a representative in the [Academic Success Center](#). You may also see the [student resources page](#) for academic strategies and topics.

A MINOR

The University offers students a wide variety of minors that enrich their course of study while at the University. Minors may expand a student's knowledge and skills in an area that increases preparation for a particular career. Other students may choose to enroll in a minor simply to learn more about an area of personal interest. One of the most popular minors offered by the university is a Leadership Studies minor. The *Leadership Studies* minor became available in Spring 2014, and is available to students of any major. The minor was [student-developed](#) with the goal of creating well rounded students who can communicate effectively. To learn about the requirements for the Leadership minor [click here](#).

ACADEMIC COLLEGES AT UL LAFAYETTE

[College of the Arts](#)

(22 Majors)

[College of Business
Administration](#)

(8 Majors)

[College of Education](#)

(20 Majors)

[College of Engineering](#)

(7 Majors)

[College of General Studies](#)

(4 Majors)

[College of Liberal Arts](#)

(27 Majors)

[College of Nursing &
Allied Health](#)

(6 Majors)

[College of Sciences](#)

(21 Majors)

EXAMPLES OF MINORS OFFERED AT UL LAFAYETTE

[Accounting](#)

[Biology](#)

[Computer Science](#)

[Economics](#)

[Human Resources](#)

[Linguistics](#)

[Music](#)

[Political Science](#)

[Public Relations](#)

[Sociology](#)

[Click here](#) to see the full list of minors offered.

EXAMPLES OF UNIV 100 COURSE THEMES

Mastering the First Year

Black Girls Rock!

Experiencing College for Adult Learners

So you want to be a leader?

Black Male Leadership

Stalking Beauty

Classical Music of the World Wars

World Culture through Clothing

Food, Identity, and American Culture

Vampires, Ghosts, and Monsters

Reasoning and Decision-Making

Women in Medieval France: Fact and Fiction

Presidential Elections and Political Parties

Making Music into History

The Real Hunger Games: Food in America

Baseball

Southpark and American Life

A Cultural History of Dinosaurs

Mainstream Science

Coastal South Louisiana Environmental Issues

SHOWCASING THE RAGIN' CAJUNS CLASS OF 2020

All incoming freshman are required to take a UNIV 100 course. Topics range from science to politics to special interests and more. As that course has already come to a close, OFYE would like to invite you to join us in seeing what the Class of 2020 created, through imagination, ingenuity, and resourcefulness, as part of their term projects. These projects will be displayed on the first floor of Dupré Library, so drop by at your leisure and prepare to be impressed!

UNIV 100 SHOWCASE

Student Projects from the First-Year Seminar

The **Office of First-Year Experience** is pleased to showcase the best of our student projects from our Fall 2016 UNIV 100 courses! The showcase will run from **Nov. 18 to Dec. 6, 2016** on the first floor of the Edith Garland Dupré Library.

Awards will be presented in each of the following categories as well as Best in Show: Creative/Arts, Humanities or Social Science, Leadership/Student Development, Science or Technical, and Service.

Showcase awards and the presentation of the Peer Mentor of the Year award will begin at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 29, outside of Jazzman's

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE
OFFICE OF FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE



SPRING 2017 FYIs PARKING PERMITS:

If your student parks on campus via a parking permit, whether residential or commuter, access to purchasing all parking permits for the Spring 2017 semester will be made available through [Ulink](#). Students will purchase permits identical as those they purchased at the beginning of the Fall 2016 semester. Should you have any questions regarding on-campus or commuter parking, please contact the [Office of Transportation Services](#) directly by phone at 337-482-6858 or by email at parking@louisiana.edu. Here are the residential Permit Zone Maps.



HOUSING:

Students wishing to remain on campus for the Spring 2017 semester only need to pay their housing bill or sign up for a payment plan by January 2nd. All other renewal procedures are auto-defaulted to keep the process as simple as possible for both the student and you, their parents. Any students wishing to break their housing contract and move off campus must discuss that process directly with the [Office of University Housing](#) on the second floor of Buchanan Hall. For any questions or concerns please contact the Housing Department directly by phone at 337-482-6471 or by email at oncampusliving@louisiana.edu.

DINING:

Meal plans for students who live on campus will auto-default onto their fee bill for the Spring 2017 semester. Any commuter students who wish to purchase a meal plan, is more than welcome to do so at any time during the semester by visiting Sodexo's [Dining Plan](#) webpage. Should you have any questions or concerns please contact Dining Services directly at 337-482-1087 or by email at elizabeth.brooks@sodexo.com.

HELPFUL QUICK LINKS:

[Spring 2017 Academic Calendar](#)

[2016-2017 Academic Catalog](#) (course offerings and course descriptions)

[Office of Student Involvement](#) (info about clubs and organizations on campus)

[Student Services](#)

[The Ragin' Cajuns Store](#)



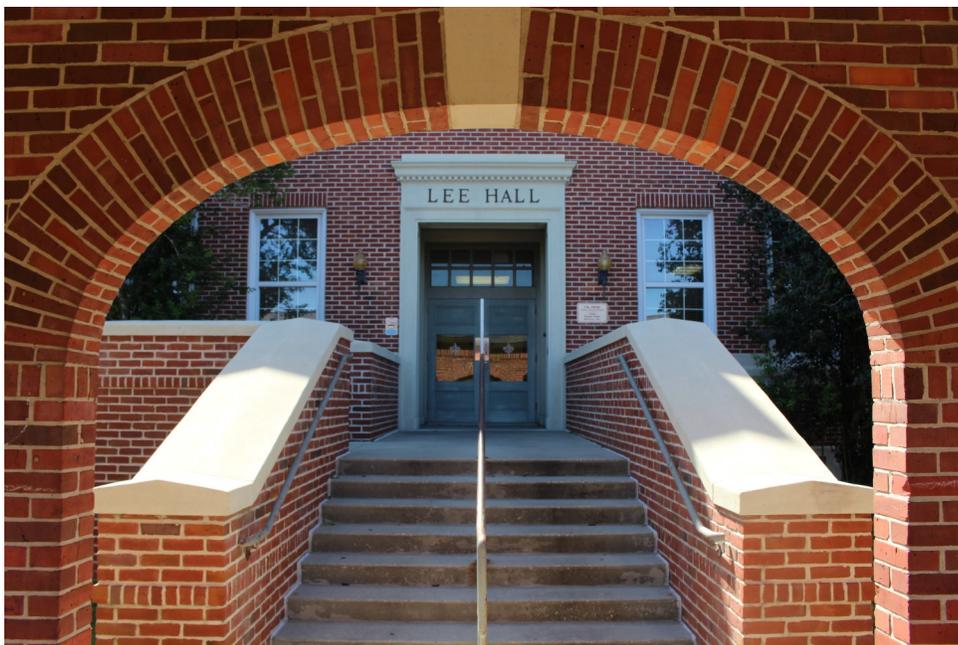
You can support your son or daughter and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette by wearing red each Friday! Encourage your son or daughter to wear red on Fridays as well. It shows support for our university.

Still need that Ragin' Cajun gear? Check out the wide array of apparel available at the [University Bookstore](#). Bookstore locations include the Student Union, the Tent on St. Mary Blvd, and the Red Zone on Johnston Street.

THE BIG EVENT



Over 2000 UL Lafayette students, faculty, and staff members came together to help the Lafayette community. Participants met on campus at Martin Hall around 7:30am for opening ceremony and to receive their volunteer locations; shortly after, they were off to clean up the community. The Big Event 2016, held October 22nd, was the most successful yet. Thank you to all who participated, we hope to see you again next year!



Contact Information

Visit us at our office:
230 Hebrard Blvd.
Lee Hall, Room 106
Monday-Thursday
7:30am-5:00pm
Friday
7:30am-12:30pm

firstyear.louisiana.edu
(337) 482-6599
ofye@louisiana.edu

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