



UL Lafayette Parents & Family

ADVISING FOR SUMMER & FALL 2020

It's already time for your student to start preparing for their **sophomore year** of college! Advising for Summer and Fall 2020 takes place **March 16-27**. During this time, your student is required to meet with their academic advisor who will help them plan for the upcoming semester and lift their advising hold. Your student can find their advisor's contact information on the "Academics" tab in [ULink](#).

As your student [prepares for advising](#), remind them do the following:

- Schedule an appointment with your advisor.
- Check your registration appointment time.
- Use the [Schedule of Classes](#) and [Academic Catalog](#) to plan your schedule.
- Check for [holds](#) and have them cleared from your account.

Should my student take summer classes? - There are several reasons why students might consider taking summer classes:

- Completing a pre-requisite for a course they plan to take in the Fall

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- Retaking a course that they received a poor grade in or withdrew from
- Getting ahead with their degree plan requirements

There are, of course, financial and housing considerations to keep in mind as your student weighs the pros and cons of summer classes. If your student is considering enrolling in summer classes, they should talk to their academic advisor about their options. After their advising session, be sure to discuss the decision as a family as well.

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SPRING CAMPUS VISIT

While there is no official “Family Weekend” for the Spring semester, we highly encourage all parents and family members to visit their student on campus in the Spring. As the weather starts to warm up, UL Lafayette blooms with beauty and lots to do! Below are our suggestions for fun activities on and around campus in the Spring.

- See the on-campus swamp from a new perspective on the recently-opened [Cypress Lake Pier](#).
- Enjoy student performances put on by the College of the Arts:
 - [Musical performances](#)
 - [Theatre and dance productions](#)
- Cheer on the Ragin’ Cajuns at an athletic event:
 - [Ragin’ Cajuns Baseball Schedule](#)
 - [Ragin’ Cajuns Softball Schedule](#)
 - [Ragin’ Cajuns Men’s Tennis Schedule](#)
 - [Ragin’ Cajuns Women’s Tennis Schedule](#)
- Explore new exhibits at the [Hilliard Art Museum](#).
- Check out the [University Events Calendar](#) for other options.



The city of Lafayette is the proud home of [Festival International de Louisiane](#) (April 22-26, 2020), the largest international music and arts festival in the United States. This FREE, five-day music festival takes place in Downtown Lafayette, just blocks from campus, and offers activities and events for the whole family! Lafayette truly comes to life during Festival, making it a great time to visit your student.

STUDY ABROAD

AN EXPERIENCE LIKE NO OTHER-

Having the opportunity to study abroad is a transformative

experience! As our world becomes more globally connected, students with international experience and global competence stand out to potential employers. Most students wait until later in their academic career to study abroad, but it’s never too early to discuss the locations, costs, and options with your first-year student.

The UL Lafayette [Study Abroad Program](#) facilitates a variety of these unique experiences. Typically, students enroll in 3-9 credit hours while they live and study abroad during the summer. UL Lafayette hosts summer programs in [Costa Rica](#), [France](#), [England](#), and [Italy](#). [Semester or year abroad](#) programs are also available through our partner institutions around the world.

Did you know that [scholarships and financial aid](#) packages may be available to offset costs? If your student is interested, have them fill out the [“I’m Interested”](#) form online or email studyabroad@louisiana.edu.

SPRING 2020 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

March 16-27
Advising Session for Summer/Fall

April 8
Last Day to Drop with a “W”

April 10-19
Spring Break

April 29-May 3
Dead Days

May 1
Last Day of Classes

May 4-8
Final Exams

May 8
Semester Ends

SPRING BREAK

TAKING ON SPRING BREAK - As winter fades away and temperatures start to rise, college students typically have one thing on the brain: spring break. If your freshman is taking a trip with friends this spring, you may or may not feel completely comfortable with it. Exploring the world is an important part of life in college, so what can you do as parents to help your student prepare for spring break?

The key to taking on spring break, like most things, is **communication**. You will want to set your expectations well in advance. As your student prepares for their vacation be sure to discuss budgeting, location, and safe accommodations. You'll want to know who your student is traveling with and how you can get in touch with them if you are unable to contact your child.

Safety is likely your top concern; address these concerns with your student. Even if they roll their eyes and say they'll be fine, it is important to have a serious discussion about alcohol, drugs, sex, consent, and safety as a whole. Remain calm but explain the reality of potential dangers and repercussions—both legal and personal. Remind your student to be aware of their surroundings, always stay with a trustworthy friend, lookout for their friends' safety as well as their own, and to ask for help if they need it.

Finally, keep in mind that most students are generally responsible. Despite how we may sometimes feel, we must remember that they are now adults. Deep inside, they know right from wrong because they were taught these principles by you (their parents) and us (their teachers). We hope your students have a safe, fun, and rejuvenating spring break!

Spring Break Articles

- [Spring Break Planning and Safety](#)
- [Spring Break Safety Tip Sheet](#)
- [Another Letting Go Experience](#)

Alternative Spring Break Options

- Attend [Ragin' Cajuns sporting events](#)
- Take a [swamp tour](#) or go [paddling](#)
- Explore a [Louisiana State Park](#)
- Visit the Audubon [Zoo](#), [Aquarium](#), or [Insectarium](#) in New Orleans
- Tour the [Louisiana State Capitol](#) in Baton Rouge

Campus Resources

Academic Success Center

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

Student Health Services
O.K. Allen Hall
337-482-1328
shs@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

Counseling & Testing Center

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

The Writing Center
H.L. Griffin Hall, 107
337-482-5224
ulwritingcenter@louisiana.edu

THE MARCH STUDENT

YOUR STUDENT IN MARCH - During the month of March, students begin preparing for the upcoming Fall semester by scheduling classes and meeting with their advisor. Many

students begin to feel the pressure and stress of mid-term exams during this time as well. Additionally, if your student is dissatisfied with their major choice, they may consider changing it. Students may also feel stressed about the summer as finding summer jobs or internships can often be difficult. Here are some tips:



COMMUNICATE - As always, be open to communication. If your student expresses their stress or worries to you, give advice and support. Remind them of the various student support services available to them on campus.



BE OPEN TO CHANGE - Remember that change is a good thing! If your student is considering a major change, encourage them to explore their interests and to visit [Career Services](#). Share this "[Major and Career Exploration](#)" video with your student!



LEE HALL - If they ask for guidance, especially in academic-related areas, refer them to academic counselors. Lee Hall offers counseling to students who are unsure about their major, want to see if they're on track to graduate, or any other academic advice with no appointment necessary!



VISIT CAMPUS - There's so much to do on campus in the Spring, so make plans to visit your student! Be sure to coordinate your visit with your student though so they can prepare to make time for family around their study schedule.

Parent Advice

Here's what last year's freshmen parents have to say:

"Encourage your student to be proactive when it comes to scheduling. Press the student to confidently reach out to their advisor."

"Tell your student to take advantage of all of the resources UL offers. The staff is always willing to help."

"Push your student to try new things and join organizations so they can better understand their strengths and interests."

"Have your student write down a plan that details their educational goals, the steps to achieve them, and a weekly schedule to allocate time for out-of-class work which includes reviewing past tests and notes related to them."