Parent Orientation:
Using a Focus on Developmental Advising as the Foundation

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It was great to meet you at orientation

SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY
Developmental academic advising "is concerned not only with a specific personal or vocational decision but also with facilitating the student's rational processes, environmental and interpersonal interactions, behavioral awareness, and problem-solving, decision-making, and evaluation skills. Not only are these advising functions but . . . they are essentially teaching functions as well (p. 5)."
Their First Assignment
Get to know somebody new at orientation and start making Connections!
What we discuss with parents

Challenges for new students
Challenges for parents
FERPA
Degree requirements
Available help
Challenges For New Students

High School vs. College

High School

Pace

College

About 40 weeks

15 weeks
## Change in Responsibility: Weekly Commitment to School

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High School</th>
<th>College/University</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>In Class</strong></td>
<td><strong>In Class</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-35</td>
<td>15 Hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Homework</strong></td>
<td><strong>Homework</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-10 hours</td>
<td>30 + Hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Challenges For New Students

High School vs. College

Homework & Studying

High School

College

1:2 Ratio
Challenges For New Students

Structure and Support!

Saying Goodbye Means:
- Moving Forward
- Gaining Independence
- Making New Friends
- Pursuing Life Goals
Challenges For New Students

Adjustment!

• Social Adjustment
  – Meet new people with different ethnic, cultural, and social backgrounds as well as value systems

• Emotional Adjustment
  – Doubt, loneliness, highs and lows

• Personal Adjustment / Standard of Living

• New responsibilities
Challenges For Parents

“This person you brought with you who was clinging to you two hours ago, won’t even know who you are three hours from now.”

- from Letting Go: A Parent’s Guide To Today’s College Experience
Challenges For Parents

Letting go...

• Last minute “helping” may not help.
  – Use judgment when critiquing your student (“Why did you bring that bedspread?”).
  – Be positive. Be careful of complaining about things ( “Your dorm room is so small” “Books are too expensive”)

• You may set a tone that the student will adopt as they start school.
Challenges For Parents

“A child who knows his problems are the concern of others, concerns himself with none of his problems.”

--- anonymous
Challenges For Parents

Letting go...

There is a delicate balance between being supportive and being a crutch. Overcoming adversity is a skill your child needs to learn to succeed on their own.
General Education Requirements

• Empowers students to function as able contributors to society
• Basic skills in critical and analytical thinking, written and oral communication, conceptualizing abstracts, and creative problem solving
• Awareness of environment, culture, heritage, values and dynamics of civilization
• Enables higher intellectual and ethical growth
Getting the Whole Pie

- P.E. courses/outdoor recreation/intramural sports
- Build skills like computers, languages, public speaking
- Advance interests and hobbies (e.g. horseback riding, poetry...)
- University Studies courses (personal development /decision making, alcohol/drug & other behavior, career decisions)
- Undergraduate Research
- Radio/TV/Newspaper production
- Fine Arts (attendance and participation)
- Student Involvement/Activities/Clubs (attendance and participation)
- Honors Program
- Study Abroad
- Service Learning
- Convocations!! (UNIV 2010)
Things you should know

To get ready they need to...

- Learn to cook
- Learn to do laundry
- Learn to wake up
- Learn to manage a checkbook
- Understand the concept of “Debt”
- Learn to read a credit card report
- Read, Read, Read … and Read some more
Additionally...

We also cover...
• Degree requirements
• How to use the catalog
• Add / Drop policies
• Student services
• Welcome week
Evaluation and assessment
Questions based on learning outcomes and rated on a 1-5 point Likert scale

• Did the Parent Orientation program provide more information about services available for your student at SUU?
  – 4.5
• Did the University Orientation Program provide you with opportunities to become more familiar with campus?
  – 4.3
• Did the University Orientation Program provide information about academic policies, procedures, and general requirements?
  – 4.6
• Was the panel discussion a good way to get questions answered?
  – 4.4
• As a result of University Orientation I better understand what my student will experience at SUU.
  – 4.8
• As a result of Orientation I feel as though I can direct my student as to where he or she can find out answers to questions.
  – 4.4
• The staff was friendly. Willing to help and helped me feel valued at SUU.
  – 4.8
• As a result of Orientation I feel more comfortable about sending my student to SUU.
  – 4.75
Parent Comments

• “Not sure what to add, This was wonderful time very well spent, Had another parent orientation at another college that was no where near as informative as this. Thanks for spending so much time and effort in the students.”

• Super experience, nothing more needed

• Sold me on the SUU experience
It's QUESTION TIME!!