Parents and Family Members: Partners in Student Success
How do I help my student navigate through the challenges he/she will face during his/her first year?
Recognize that preparation for the transition may be emotional/stressful for the student and for parents

- Affirm transitions with excitement of what lies ahead
- Prepare for emotional phone calls
- Decide on how often you will call and when those calls will take place (e.g., every Sunday night)
Communication

Please be sure to have a conversation with your student about how and when you will communicate (e-mail, cell phone, snail mail, etc).

Setting up expectations in the beginning will make for better communication throughout the school year.
Building a Support Network

- Friends and family from back home
- Roommate and other new friends on campus, both from home and from the U.S.
- Faculty members, academic advisors, university staff
Getting Involved

- Higher satisfaction with college experience
- Meet new people and connect with university staff
- Opportunities for leadership development
- Stronger connection to the university
- Nearly 1,000 clubs
- 40 international groups that offer social and cultural activities
Choosing/Changing a Major

- Exhibit patience, tolerance and support
- Encourage exploration of a variety of interests
- Encourage visits to the career center and academic advisor
- Communicate genuine understanding and support when final major is chosen
- 40% of students will change their major at least once in their academic career
Developing Habits for a Positive Learning Experience

- Encourage treating academics like a full-time job
- Remember attending class is crucial
- Encourage students to make connections with faculty and classmates
For every hour in class, my student should be studying a minimum of ____ hours out of class?

3 for American students, more if English isn’t the first language

This means a student with a full 12-credit class load should spend 36 hours every week minimum studying outside of class. You may find that this number is a lot higher than your student expects that it will be.
Places to Study

- 14 Libraries
- Most common for undergrads – HSSE and Hicks
- Lobby in dorms
Time Management

- Time management is important
- Allot time everyday to study
- Maintain regular schedule
- Write things down (Mortar Board)
Drugs and Alcohol

___% of Purdue University students have consumed alcohol in the past 30 days (according to a 2006 survey)?

71.9%

- Student responsibility and choice
- Dorms are drug and alcohol free
Accessing Campus Resources

- Academic Resources
- Career Services
- Counseling Center
- Faculty, Academic Advisors, University Staff
- Residence Hall Staff
- Student Health Services
- Student Success Guide
Access to Academic Records

- Under the terms of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), access rights to university educational records belong to the student.
- Purdue University is obligated to comply with this federal law.
- As a result, the University will not release educational record information, such as grade reports, transcripts, and academic standing, to parents or any other third party without the signed and dated written consent of the student.
Roommate problems

- Being open and accommodating
- Resident Assistants
Health Care

If my student was having a health related problem, I would…

Encourage him/her to see a doctor or counselor – at the Student Health Center.

Encourage student to go to ISS – Is possible to carry reduced course load for medical reasons

Encourage student to talk to professors – to make up work or reschedule exam

If necessary consider returning home a semester
Campus Safety

- Yellow Boxes
- City Police
- Safe Walk
Preparing for the First Visit Home

- Affirm changes in appearance
- Be ready for new ideas, values and opinions
- Student may prefer time with friends over time with family
- Negotiation of freedom
Tips to Helping Your Student Succeed

- Continue to be loving and supportive
- Listen, listen, listen
- Send care packages
- Follow the communication plan you set up
- Find a healthy level of involvement
Tips to Helping Your Student Succeed (Cont.)

- Let your student learn from their mistakes
- Accept choice of major; it rarely determines career (here in the U.S.)
- Help your student tackle challenges him/herself
- Encourage your student to seek out the help he needs here at Purdue
- TRUST YOUR STUDENT!
References

• Presentation created by SATS Office at Purdue
• Questions or comments, contact ISS at iss@purdue.edu.