



TABLE TOPICS WITH YOUR STUDENT

Your student is about to begin an exciting and fulfilling journey with new experiences, challenges and victories. We encourage families to sit down with one another to prepare for the adventure that lies ahead and discuss the following topics.

- Create a "stay-in-touch" plan that outlines how often you will communicate and in what way.
- Discuss expectations about what and how information will be shared concerning grades and course schedules. Determine if your student will designate you as a proxy in MySAIL.
- Discuss with your student their plan to pay for their college education and any related expenses. Determine if your student will authorize you or another family member as an authorized user in eBill.
- Connect with your student about their academic plans by asking how the courses they registered for fit into their degree plan.
- Ask your student how they plan to get connected in their first semester, and which extra-curricular activities they find interesting.
- Help your student understand the importance of priorities and creating a plan for balancing time between school, work, social and family obligations.
- Empower your student to focus on their overall well-being including creating a fitness plan, establishing healthy eating habits, making doctors' appointments and building a budget.
- Identify ways you can support your student in achieving their goals; we're all in this together!

Learn about financial aid, registration, housing and other important dates at oakland.edu/important-dates.

OU'S HONORS COLLEGE

Representing the top five percent of undergraduates nationally, OU's Honors College offers small class sizes, special research project funding, preferential registration for all courses and additional advising to ambitious, high achieving students in every major across the university.

Students with a 3.7 GPA or above and a 1100 or above SAT are automatically admitted to the Honors College, and simply need to make contact to discuss the support provided. Students with a GPA or a ACT score slightly below those results are also encouraged to apply. Visit oakland.edu/hc/students/join to learn more.



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DEAR PARENTS



Welcome to the Oakland University community! The First Year Advising Center staff understands how important you are to your son's or daughter's educational experience. We are excited to partner with you during their first year as we work together on a successful start to college.

We know that it is easier to support and encourage your student if you have a broad base of knowledge about Oakland University. *The Oakland Parent* will provide you with a comprehensive look at your student's first year by introducing you to OU's orientation program, first-year experience initiatives and first-year advising services.

Beginning at New Student Orientation and throughout the next year, your student will work closely with their assigned First Year Advising Center (FYAC) adviser to explore majors and careers, discuss campus involvement opportunities, and track their academic performance and progress. Their FYAC adviser will serve as a critical point of contact during this time of transition. We encourage you to help your student make the most of this important relationship.

We hope you'll explore our website, available at oakland.edu/fyac, to learn more about the First Year Advising Center and expectations we have of your student. Please do not hesitate to contact us at (248) 370-3227 or fyac@oakland.edu with any questions you may have.

We are pleased that your student chose Oakland University. Best wishes for a successful year!

Sara Webb

Sara Webb
 Director
 First Year Advising Center



OAKLAND PARENT RESOURCES

The First Year Advising Center will work with your student to make sure he or she has a smooth transition to Oakland University. But don't worry — we also know that it is important for you to stay in the loop, too. That's why we offer a variety of resources for parents to stay updated, including:

- The **Parent and Family Calendar** (oakland.edu/parent/calendar), which contains important dates and deadlines for your student.
- The **Golden Grizzly Guide** (oakland.edu/ggg), which provides useful information for parents as well as first-year students.
- The **First Year Advising Center website** (oakland.edu/fyac), which provides information on academic advising, major and career exploration, and first year opportunities.



ORIENTATION AND NEW STUDENT PROGRAMS

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

New Student Orientation is a student's formal introduction to university life. This free comprehensive program is purposefully designed to make your son's or daughter's transition to OU more comfortable and enjoyable. All new students are required to attend a two-part orientation.

PART ONE

Part One is held during the summer months from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Students are encouraged to select the earliest orientation date their schedule allows.

During Part One, your student will:

- Be introduced to their school/college
- Meet with their assigned FYAC academic adviser and register for classes
- Learn about university policies, resources and OU accounts
- Participate in a campus tour
- Meet other new students and have fun!

Please note: students are not eligible to register for classes until they attend Part One.

PART TWO

During Part Two, students will participate in events with faculty, staff and student leaders, including academic open houses, New Student Convocation and Involvement Fair. Part Two will be held on Tuesday, September 5, 2017.

PARENT ORIENTATION

Parent Orientation is a free program designed to provide you with information on university resources and support services so that you can help your student make a successful transition to university life.

THE PROGRAM

Parent Orientation is held on the same days as Part One of New Student Orientation; however, they are separate programs. While your student attends his or her orientation program, you will participate in parent-specific sessions which address your questions and concerns. The program covers the following topics:

- Transitioning from high school to college
- Academic programs, support services and advising
- Student Financial Services
- Residence hall and commuter services
- Campus involvement

GOLDEN GRIZZLY CELEBRATION

At the end of New Student Orientation, join your student at the Golden Grizzly Celebration. Enjoy a sweet treat and meet with representatives from campus offices and student organizations from 4 to 4:30 p.m.

Go Black! Go Gold! Go OU!



Visit oakland.edu/orientation to sign up for Part One of New Student Orientation and/or Parent Orientation.



"COM 1100 really helped me understand time management and making short and long term goals. It was a great class to help transition from high school to college."

FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE

ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES

COLLEGIATE COMMUNICATION (COM 1100)

Collegiate Communication (COM 1100) is a graded, one-credit course designed to help students have a successful start at OU. Research shows that students who enroll in COM 1100 during their first semester are more likely to be successful in their first year. Students will learn communications skills that will enhance academic, personal and social success in college.

COLLEGE SUCCESS SEMINAR

Encourage your student to attend the College Success Seminar, held on August 9, to learn how to smoothly transition from high school to college, develop time management techniques, explore majors and careers, and improve essential study skills — all before the start of the academic year.

For more details and to register, visit oakland.edu/fyacworkshops.

JUMP START FOR FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS

This free one day leadership event is designed to help first-year students get connected to campus activities, resources and services. Students will spend a fun-filled day with OU student leaders, faculty, staff and alumni to discover the many ways they can get involved on campus outside the classroom. The date and time for Jump Start is Saturday, September 9, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. For more information about how to register to attend, contact the Center for Student Activities at csa@oakland.edu or call (248) 370-2400.



UNIVERSITY HOUSING

Oakland University Housing creates a warm and supportive environment where academics and residential life work together to cultivate learning, personal well-being and social experiences that enhance student life on campus. Staff and programs create a balanced environment in which the learning process, interpersonal communication and the understanding of cultural and lifestyle differences are valued and encouraged.

University Housing provides holistic support to students throughout their entire stay on campus. Highly trained staff members, chosen for their demonstrated ability to work with students, live among the students and provide 24-hour a day emotional and social support, while also creating engaging and dynamic social opportunities. The Student Success Assistant and a staff of student academic peer mentors work in partnership with the FYAC and Tutoring Center to improve students' academic success and provide information on tutoring, supplemental instruction, study skills, and various academic programs and workshops. Technology assistance is also provided to all residential students.

Students who live on campus have the opportunity to join one of our living-learning communities, including:

- My First Year Experience (Undecided Students)
- Engineering
- Pre-Business
- Pre-Nursing

Learn more about how your student can become a part of our thriving community at oakland.edu/housing.

More information about these programs is available at oakland.edu/fyac.

FIRST-YEAR ADVISING

THE FIRST YEAR ADVISING CENTER IS HERE TO HELP YOUR STUDENT IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

ACADEMIC ADVISING

All incoming freshmen are assigned an academic adviser who helps them explore majors, connects them to campus opportunities and provides support in achieving academic goals. First-year students are required to meet with their assigned academic adviser three times a year and are encouraged to be prepared for the appointment by bringing ideas, concerns and questions. Their first appointment will be at New Student Orientation, and the remaining two appointments are during the academic year — one in the fall semester and one in the winter semester.

KEEPING YOUR STUDENT ON TRACK

The 28 campaign is designed to keep your student on track toward graduation. The events and resources offered as a part of this campaign will help your student to achieve sophomore status (28 credits) by the end of his or her first year.

Please encourage your student to participate in the 28 campaign by visiting oakland.edu/28.

MAJOR EXPLORATION/CAREER COUNSELING FOR UNDECIDED/RE-DECIDING STUDENTS

Whether your student is in their first year or beyond, the FYAC will help them identify major and career options. Selecting a major and/or career is no easy task. In fact, over one third of OU graduates changed their major at least once. Through appointments with their assigned adviser, students will explore their interests, personality, skills and values to help make a decision that is the right fit for them. While there is no specific time limit for selecting a major, your student will meet with his or her adviser regularly to invest the proper time and effort into making an appropriate selection.

Visit oakland.edu/fyac to see how we can help your student.

PAYMENT DUE DATE

Payment due date for the fall semester is August 15. The deadline to satisfy all enrollment and financial aid requirements and provide third party sponsor authorization or scholarship checks is at least 14 days before the payment due date.

Students with an account balance not paid in full by August 15 will be canceled from all courses and university housing (if applicable).

For more information, visit oakland.edu/financialservices.

WELCOME WEEK

Welcome Week celebrates the beginning of the fall semester at Oakland University, introducing new students to OU's diverse campus life through social activities, workshops, concerts and lectures. For more information, visit oakland.edu/csa. Welcome Week will be held September 5 – 10, 2017.

