



A Parent's Guide For First Year Students

Helping Your Student Make the Transition from High School to College

Here is what you, as a parent can do:

- Encourage, but don't push too hard.
- Visit the campus with your student before they attend school, call ahead for a tour, familiarity will help extinguish fears. Call Admissions at 307-754-6101
- Help your student to get everything submitted for admission acceptance. These items may include transcripts, deposits for housing, health information, and test scores.
<http://www.nwc.edu/admissions/welcome/first.html>
- Your student should be able to access their student account as soon as they are accepted; they should receive a letter from admissions telling them how to set up their accounts. This account, also called the Student Portal or MyNWC, is your student's connection to the college. It is recommended that they set this up early so that they can receive messages from the college. Call Computer Services at 307-754-6080 if you experience troubles.
- Help your student get their application and scholarship applications in early. Meeting financial needs help students to succeed. They will need to have access to their student accounts in order to apply for scholarships. <http://www.nwc.edu/financialaid/incoming.html> The scholarship application usually opens in October.
- Parents should fill out the parent part of the FAFSA as this is the best way for your student to receive grants and scholarships.
- Remember that applying for college, applying for housing and applying for scholarships are not the same thing. Your student must do each of these separately.
- If you know your student is struggling either academically or emotionally, then let someone at the college know. We have support services that can help. The phone numbers are listed at the end of this document.
- Keep in mind that it is unlawful for college employees to visit with you about your student unless your student has signed the information release form. This law is called the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
- Support your student in attending workshops from study skills to time management and more!
- Encourage your student to join a club. Clubs increase involvement and making friends. Students who get involved and are active have better persistence rates.
<http://www.nwc.edu/life/clubs/>
- Encourage your student to ask questions. Many parents would like to ask the questions for their students, but let your student ask them.
- Help your student order or buy textbooks for each class. They may need to order these early to get used books. Renting and digital textbooks are sometimes an option also. The college

bookstore website will give the titles and ISBN for each required book. They also sell and rent books. <http://www.bkstr.com/northwestcollstore/home> Check out their price matching plan.

- Go over the *Student Handbook* with your student. This helps them know what is expected in academics and behavior. Know the rules: <http://www.nwc.edu/handbook/>
- Every degree-seeking student should have an academic advisor. Most advisors are assigned during the summer. Students can find out who their advisor is by going to the Student Portal as soon as classes start. If they don't have one by that time, they can request one by calling 307-754-6291 or by visiting the Academic and Career Advising Center in ORB 101.
- Support your student's goals. There are going to be times of frustration, uncertainty, and a desire to quit. Encourage your student to seek help from our support services (listed below) and help them remember the big picture; try to keep the end goal in mind.
- Stay in touch with your student. Let them know you care.
- Provide stability while they are gone. If possible, maintain their room and keep family traditions strong.
- This is a growing time for your student, let them grow. You cannot do it for them. Step back a little, be there to offer support, but empower them to make their own decisions.

Support Services:

- Admissions: 307-754-6101
- Student Success Office: 307-754-6135, Personal Counseling, Disabilities & Accommodations
- Tutoring Services: 307-754-6137
- Academic and Career Advising Center: 307-754-6291
- Student Health Services: 307-754-6442
- TRiO: 307-754-6224

Please call or email me if you have any questions or concerns.



First Year Experience Coordinator

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