

Supporting Your Student

Starting College off Right

Family members are an important support to their college students. Part of the student's college experience is expanding their circle of support beyond the immediate family. Your student is gaining the ability to turn to others in their life for support and encouragement—a life skill.

Pikes Peak recognizes the college transition process, and the changes that happen throughout your student's college years, are an adjustment for family members as well for students. The parental and family role shifts from being primarily a caretaker to that of a coach.

Questions that can initiate thoughtful conversations about college:

- » What are your expectations of your student while he or she is in college?
- » What are your expectations of Pikes Peak?
- » What are your expectations about what a college certificate or degree will provide your student, in terms of opportunity, salary, jobs, lifestyle?
- » What is your awareness about why your student wants to attend college?
- » How is your family impacted while your student is in college? How does this impact your student?
- » What is your understanding of your student's short-term and long-term goals?
- » Have you had conversations about your expectations with your student?
- » Has your student shared their expectations with you?

HIGH SCHOOL AND PARENTS

- 📖 Students can count on parents and teachers to remind them of responsibilities and to help set priorities.
- 📖 Parents have access to school records, student progress, and other information.
- 📖 Parents may hear “play-by-play” updates from student throughout the day; families often in constant communication with student.
- 📖 Parents often take more responsibility for knowing what is required for student to graduate.
- 📖 Most of a student's classes are arranged for them by guidance.

COLLEGE STUDENTS AND PARENTS

- 📖 Students must balance their responsibilities and set priorities. Students face moral and ethical decisions they may have never faced before.
- 📖 Students are protected under FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act). College staff may not share information without the student's consent.
- 📖 Students have more autonomy as they become more independent. Students learn adult responsibilities through making adult decisions.
- 📖 Students arrange their own schedules in consultation with faculty and academic advisors.

Asking the Right Questions

Whether your student was an outstanding scholar in high school or struggled throughout their academic career, college provides the opportunity for a new academic start. College might provide a new perspective or newfound passion for learning. How can families lay the groundwork for the student?

Questions to ask your student before the semester starts...

- » What are your goals?
- » Why do you want to go to college?
- » What are your career aspirations?
- » How is college the right choice for you right now?
- » Are you doing this major because you feel pressured to do so, or do you have a real interest in that field?

Questions to ask during their first semester...

- » Have you been to tutoring? Have you joined or formed study groups?
- » Are you communicating with your instructors?
- » Have you met with your academic advisor?
- » How do you feel about your time management skills?
- » How are you feeling about your study skills?
- » What is something you are enjoying?
- » What is a challenge you are experiencing?