

The Freshman Year Experience for Parents

Coastal Carolina University
New Student/Parent Orientation
Dr. Tom Woodle



Life is Changing for You

- ★ What you have worked so long for is now here and you may not be sure you really want it.....
- ★ Unsettled and awkward
- ★ Everything is changing
- ★ Loss of control



Many of us have
become accustomed to
being
“Helicopter Parents”

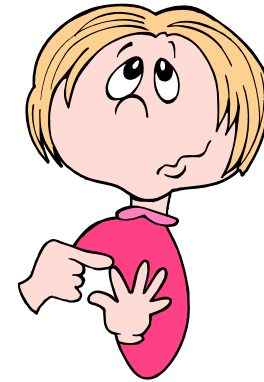


Past Sessions Have Identified Four Major Areas of Concern

1. **Academics**
2. **Financial Management**
3. **Social**
4. **Personal Health**



Academics



★ **Parents:** “How will they ever get up and get to class?”

★ **Students:** “How many classes can I miss?”

Let your student know that you have an expectation that **they** assume responsibility. This is their opportunity to take ownership!

Encourage them to utilize campus resources.
(University Academic Center, University 110,
Writing Center, tutoring, Math/Computer
Science/Foreign Language Labs)



Financial Management



- ★ **Parents:** “How much and when should I send extra money?”
- ★ **Student:** “When I run out, will you send more?”

Once again, expect financial responsibility to grow, but the learning curve may be slow. Be prepared and be flexible!



Social Concerns



- ★ **Parents:** “What kind of roommates and friends will he/she find?”
 - ★ **Students:** “Will I be able to make friends?”
- Our staff tries to make sure that all new students are involved in the campus and local community. Students usually function well in this area when on their own.

Personal Health



- ★ **Parents:** “What does the health plan provide?”
“Where is the nearest doctor, pharmacy?”
“What about the meal plan?”
- ★ **Students:** “What?” “Where is the gym?” “Can I have pizza delivered to my room?”

Campus Recreation

Student Health Services

Counseling Services

Conway Medical Center, pharmacies near campus.

The Mission of the Division of Student Affairs:

To provide programs and services to make Coastal Carolina University a “good, safe place to make mistakes and learn from them.”



Your Role is Changing

- ★ From “Child Manager” to “Young Adult Consultant”.
- ★ Consultants give their best input, then back away to allow the client to make the decision.
- ★ You can no longer have the child at home where you can protect, manage, lead, push and pull!



Remember...

**Your need *TO* help is
probably greater than
your child's need *FOR*
help!**



Your Student

**Will *Still* Need His/Her
Parents For:**

- 1. Advice**
- 2. Encouragement**
- 3. Accountability**
- 4. A Safe Place to Go for
Love and Comfort**



Important Information for Parents

★ www.coastal.edu/parents

- Frequently called phone numbers
- Parent's Calendar
- Information

*Parent's Email Address: parents@coastal.edu



Some Things to Keep in Mind.....

- ★ Career Services- **CareerQuest** Plan begins freshman year
- ★ Encourage your student to get a good, solid academic start....it is difficult to bring up a beginning, low GPA.
- ★ Keep in touch, but don't hover.
- ★ Allow them to feel the consequences of their mistakes and learn from them.
- ★ Understand that unconditional love does not mean unconditional approval!



Develop a “Healthy Involvement”

Parents can get involved by:

- **Supporting athletic events**
- **Keeping in touch without hovering**
- **Attending family events sponsored by CCU.**
- **Joining the Career Services Parent Network (providing internships and/or employment opportunities with your place of employment.**

www.coastal.edu/career



Every morning in Africa a lion awakes.
It knows that if it does not outrun the
slowest gazelle today, it will starve.

Every morning in Africa, a gazelle awakes.
It knows that if it does not outrun the
fastest lion today, it will die.

So, it doesn't matter if you are a lion or a
gazelle....

When the sun comes up, you'd better be
running.

-African Proverb

