

Tips for Parents:

How to transition from parent-led education to student-led education to foster self-advocacy opportunities for your student.

EDUCATION IS MORE THAN JUST TAKING CLASSES

Your student is now a young adult who is embarking on a new journey as a college student. Not only will your student gain a wealth of knowledge through a broad spectrum of courses, but an education in critical adult life skills as well. Self-advocacy is an important step for students to acquire as they navigate through college and life. Here are some tips that can help you be supportive in helping your student become a self-advocate.

UNDERSTAND FERPA

The Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA) applies to all college students regardless of age. Students are the sole owners of their academic records, and information can only be released to the student.

TRUST YOUR STUDENT

If your student is ready for college, they are ready to be in control of their education. You've taught them well. Trust them to make decisions and handle correspondence from instructors and staff.

ENCOURAGE GOOD HABITS

Simple things like meeting deadlines and arriving to class on time can teach skills that will serve the student for a lifetime. Support your student in establishing a good time management system and encourage them to utilize resources. Allow the student to take responsibility and accountability for their own education.

LET YOUR STUDENT WORK THROUGH COLLEGE PROCESSES

Encourage and allow your student to call and make their own appointments, register for their classes, set their own reminders, and take the initiative in communicating with college staff.

HELP YOUR STUDENT HANDLE DISAPPOINTMENT

Your student may experience a problem with a course, a conflict with an instructor, or earn a grade they aren't happy with. Encourage them to speak to the instructor, seek out resources, and develop strategies for better outcomes.

DON'T EXPECT PERFECTION

College is full of learning experiences. Making mistakes is a great way to learn. Allow your student to problem solve on their own and take responsibility for their choices. Don't expect your student to be exempt from consequences.