

PARENT QUESTIONS from Orientation

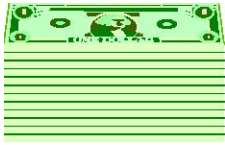


What we have been asked before!! Please see that we tried to categorize these for easier reference.

How can we help as parents? First of all, if you were in attendance at

Orientation that was one huge step in sending the positive message that you are still very interested in what happens to them. TRUST ME....they will need this more than they realize but you need to realize they are in a huge transition. Even if you have had other children to leave home for whatever reason, this is the first time for this student and you to deal with this for them. TIPS to help make this as successful as possible are provided here.

- Get a copy of their schedule....call their room sometimes to be sure they are out of BED especially if you know you have one of those hard to awake students. They get WORSE here, not better
- The first couple of weeks, send them something in the mail at least once!! That has some really interesting effects on them.
- Call or email them just to talk about what's happening at home. But be careful here...if they are homesick this could really open a flood gate. BUT THAT IS GOOD!! If you detect something really serious, let us know.
- Don't even ask them how they are doing academically the first 2-3 weeks or longer in some cases. They won't have any grades PLUS they are expecting that question. Don't expect them to suddenly know a lot more about their major, their future career, what college is all about....any of those big issues for a while. As a matter of fact, some good advice is to back off of that line of conversation for this first semester at least. They have a lot more on their mind to deal with.
- **PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE....**please talk with your student about joining a fraternity or sorority the first semester. Over and over again students tell us how much they wish they had waited at least until the second semester. We are **not** opposed to all such organizations at all. We know they are better to get their academics under control the first semester. They will be just as wanted and welcomed into these organizations any semester they choose to join AND they will not miss anything by waiting. Another major consideration for waiting is to see how their finances work. Social organizations are expensive to join.
- Just talk to them and be prepared for them to be up and down about school, to not be really happy with their roommate(even if it is their life long friend), to not really want to talk sometimes. Try not to take that too personally and just say something supportive anyway. Be prepared for them to be unsure about their abilities in classes....and this list has no end as you know. Always feel free to contact us if you detect something serious.



Scholarships, Financial Aid, Tuition Costs, Eli Whitney Scholars, Work Study Programs

a. What are the tuition and general costs?

You can access that information here. <http://www.fis.ncsu.edu/cashier/tuition/>

An interesting calculation is to consider what a typical college course costs. Many college courses are three credit courses. When all expenses for attending college are included such as eating out, travel, etc, a conservative estimate is that one college credit costs about \$500 for in state NC residents. (This is about \$900 for an out of state student.) Thus a three credit course would cost about \$1500 for NC residents. Students need to consider this when they take courses that do not count in a degree or need to repeat a course because they were not successful. In the second case, they obviously pay for the course twice.

They are always “shocked” at how many times they eat out at least the first semester. Then there is the “miscellaneous” category that depends entirely on the student but at least \$500-1000 in many cases per semester.

b. What scholarships may be available? Qualifications needed? After 1st year?

Students in the College of Textiles are encouraged to apply for a scholarship at any time IF they are not already on a scholarship with the College. Ideally a student not already on a scholarship would submit an application to the Student Services Office (Kent Hester) and then update it each semester as they become more involved. If a student is already on scholarship with us, sometimes they will receive an increase depending on their records and availability of funds. **Scholarships from other sources do not affect a student’s eligibility for Textile scholarships.** Students need at least a 2.8 to be serious contenders for a scholarship and of course, higher is better. In addition, students need to be involved in the College of Textiles organizations and activities on main campus **to the degree that they can handle this.** We are also very interested in students being involved in community service activities either here or at home. Students will be told that allocation of scholarship money starts at the Senior level and goes down so they should not expect to receive a scholarship the first semester they apply in most cases.

c. Is scholarship money from Textile Foundation applied to first semester or split between semesters?

It is split between semesters. If any money is left after paying tuition, etc, the student goes to the Cashier’s office and picks up a check for the difference after classes start.

d. What is the minimum credit to keep scholarship?

We expect all students to complete 30 credits during the calendar year which includes summer school if needed. We ask that they attempt 15 per semester. The GPA required depends on the scholarship they have received.

e. How to get in-state tuition?

This requires that a student live off campus for at least a year, pay taxes if applicable in NC, have a NC drivers license, and have car insurance in NC among other things. There is legal aid free for students at NC State that can help with this.

f. Student Work Programs?

We are particularly interested in working with our students who receive “Work Study” as part of their financial aid package. PLEASE, if this is the case with your student tell them to see us as soon as they know about this. We will put them to work in the College of Textiles if at all possible. Then we do have a number of jobs we hire students to do that are not connected to financial aid. Most of these jobs are offered to upper class students because the professors know them from the previous year, but some first semester students will be able to find work in the College of Textiles. If not in the College itself, perhaps they can find a job on Centennial Campus with some of the other agencies.

g. Credit card/cash

If you are not aware of this, your student will have credit card offers at almost a rate of 1 per day, especially at the first of the semester. **BY ALL MEANS**, have a clearly defined position of this. Our recommendation – unless they have used their own credit card responsibly before college- don't do it!!!

Scheduling and Curriculum Questions

a. Math Placement? English placement? Placement in general?

Questions about placement were thoroughly covered at the Early Registration site located here.

http://www.tx.ncsu.edu/academic/early_registration/

b. How difficult is it to change your major if this one is not for you?

This depends largely on what major a student would chose. In many cases on campus, to transfer to another college requires at least a 2.7 overall GPA and in some cases certain courses must have been completed. Students are required to visit the college in which the major they are considering is located to ask such questions. Sometimes credits are lost in the transfer process. Again this depends on the new major they choose.

c. Will my student be able to handle the work load?

And what a question this is!!! All of you know the answer to this lies in their self control and time management for the most part. We will do all we can to show them how to manage college as effectively as possible, but it is still up to them. They will hear early on from us that time management is totally crucial for them to learn. They will also hear that time management is **SELF MANAGEMENT!!** This first semester they will actually be more likely to succeed with heavier credit loads than in the spring. Students begin to

d. How large are the classes in Textiles?

Most of the classes are between 25 and 45 but a few are larger depending on the degree. The nice thing is that everyone knows each other.

e. When does the curriculum get textile specific?

Students will have at least one course the first semester that is specifically about textiles.

f. How many credit hours must be completed per semester?

In order to be full time which is important for most family health coverage, a student must be enrolled in 12 credits minimum. For scholarship students, 15 credits are needed. However, a student can go part time (less than 12 credits) if they need to because of situations that make it necessary. If this happens, they should tell you and check on their insurance coverage. .

g. Requirements for the different programs in COT? Students will learn about this. If you have access to the internet, please check here at <http://www.ncsu.edu/registrar/curricula/textiles/>.

h. Can students take 2 years of foreign language at a technical college and transfer it in to meet COT foreign language requirement?

First of all, the College of Textiles DOES NOT require any foreign language in any degree. The University requires that the Foreign Language Proficiency be met either from high school or later. (Again, see the “red” information book.)

A student can take courses at any community college, other 4 year institution, in or out of state as long as they are enrolled in a degree at NC State and transfer the credits back. **WARNING!!** The student must be certain the course will count in their degree before doing this. They can ask their advisor or follow the curriculum guide carefully. When in doubt, they should ask and get prior permission.



i. Are courses interchangeable in the different textile majors?

Many of them are. This again depends on which degree is involved.

Location of Classes and Transportation between campuses

a. Will most first-year classes be held on Main Campus or Centennial Campus?

Main campus.

b. How to get around campus? Bus schedules?

Walking is probably the best way. Most students have plenty of time with the 15 minutes to make it anywhere they need to go on Main Campus. **Students must allow 45 minutes between classes on Main and Centennial Campuses.** If a student has any question about times, they should ask their RA in their dorm or just get on a bus and ask the driver.

Parent Concerns about student’s progress and attendance

a. Can we get in touch with any of your staff questions about our concerns?

We welcome your questions. Email is the fastest since we are in class and with students a lot. However, feel free to call but please be patient. You can always call our main office – 919-515-6622.

b. How can we be of informed of progress and attendance?

You and your student can discuss this and information is available at http://www.ncsu.edu/for_parents/foryou/access.php.

c. Under what circumstances will you contact us?

This is a great question. We always encourage the student to talk to their parents about any issues we think they should. We definitely contact you if we think there is a serious problem that needs your immediate attention and we are legally allowed to do this by your student.

Tutoring and Staff Support

a. What do we do if our student has a problem in an academic course?

We always discuss strategies for dealing with this including the following: ask student about their attendance, ask if they have talked to the teacher and insist they do if at all possible, stress getting tutoring, and ask about other issues that are affecting their academics. We have 8 weeks to drop a course if needed and always we can allow later drops if the circumstances justify this, BUT we must have been aware of the problem before the 8 weeks deadline.

b. How much tutoring will be offered?

More than they will ever use all over campus and here in the College of Textiles. If they want help and do something about it other than think about it, the help is available. Also, they have the right to ask their teacher for help. The College of Textiles offers between 30 to 40 contact hours of tutoring each week but this includes 2 or 3 tutors working at the same time of course. Tutoring at the College of Textiles is **FREE** and no appointment needed.

c. Is tutoring required?

No.

d. Is it up to the student to know how many activities to get involved with?

For the most part, yes. We do discuss this in T 101.



e. Is there a fee for tutoring?

Not for any of the services provided by campus services including the College of Textiles. Some students do hire private tutors which of course do cost.

f. Sources of tutorial help, aids, computers?

Most tutoring is with a person however there are lots of such help on line as well as in print.

Job Opportunities after graduation and “hands-on” experience

How much “hands on” experience do students get?

Jobs available?

Summer Job Opportunities?

Job market other than apparel—are you opening up to the upholstery market?

Potential for jobs, travel and study abroad?

We are alive and well with regard to all these questions. Specific questions about such should be directed to the Student Services Office at 919-515-3780 or you may email : Kent.Hester@ncsu.edu,

