

PARENTS & FAMILIES

Frequently Asked Questions

Practical guidance for supporting your War Hawk through college life.

Campus Security

24-hour assistance: 325-793-4666

Student Affairs

Family emergencies and student support: 325-793-4680

ACADEMICS & STUDENT SUCCESS

How many credit hours should my student take?

A full-time undergraduate course load is generally at least 12 credit hours. Many students take 12-16 hours, but the right schedule depends on academic preparation, work commitments, health, and other responsibilities. Encourage your student to review the plan with an academic advisor before changing courses.

What should my student do if a class becomes difficult?

The best first step is to contact the instructor early and attend office hours. Students should also use tutoring, academic coaching, accessibility services, and other resources available through the War Hawk Success Center. Asking for help before a problem grows usually leads to better options.

What if my student needs to miss class?

Your student should contact each instructor as soon as possible and follow the attendance policy in the course syllabus. For an illness or emergency that may cause several days of absence, Student Affairs can help communicate with faculty. Students remain responsible for arranging missed work directly with instructors.

What if my student is unsure about a major or career?

It is common for students to explore or change majors. Encourage your student to speak with an academic advisor, faculty members, and career services. Interest assessments, informational interviews, internships, and introductory courses can help students make an informed decision without rushing.

MONEY, WORK & TECHNOLOGY

Should my student work while enrolled?

Part-time work can help students gain experience and manage expenses, but academics should remain the priority. Students should consider the total time required for classes, studying, campus involvement, rest, and transportation before accepting a job. Campus employment may provide a schedule that works well with classes.

How much spending money will my student need?

Needs vary, so begin with a simple monthly budget covering meals outside the dining plan, transportation, personal items, course supplies, and entertainment. Agree on how regular expenses and emergencies will be handled, then revisit the budget after the first month.

Does my student need a local bank account?

A local account is usually optional because debit cards, mobile banking, and electronic deposits are widely available. Before opening a new account, compare ATM access, fees, minimum balances, and fraud protection. Students should keep emergency access to funds and monitor accounts regularly.

Does my student need a computer?

Students should have reliable access to a computer and the software required for their courses. Technology needs can vary by major, so students should review current University guidance and ask their department before purchasing specialized equipment. IT Support can assist with accounts, connectivity, and common technical issues.

CAMPUS LIFE & WELL-BEING

What if my student has a roommate conflict?

Roommate disagreements are common and are often resolved through direct, respectful communication. Students should begin with their roommate agreement and speak with their Resident Assistant. Residence Life staff can help with mediation and next steps when a conflict continues or involves safety concerns.

What if my student does not have a car?

Many day-to-day needs are available on campus. Students can also plan rides with friends, use local transportation or rideshare services, and coordinate trips for groceries or appointments. Encourage your student to learn transportation options before an urgent need arises.

How can I support my student without taking over?

Ask open-ended questions, listen before offering solutions, and encourage your student to contact the appropriate campus office directly. College is a time to build independence. Families are most helpful when they provide perspective, reinforce healthy decision-making, and stay connected without managing every detail.

Who should I contact during an emergency?

For an immediate threat or urgent safety issue, call 911 and Campus Security at 325-793-4666. For a family emergency that may affect a student, contact Student Affairs at 325-793-4680. Staff can help route information while respecting student privacy and applicable laws.

KEEP THESE RESOURCES HANDY

Start with the McMurry Parents & Families webpage for current contacts, campus services, housing, billing, financial aid, and emergency information.

[Visit \[mcm.edu/parents-and-families/\]\(https://mcm.edu/parents-and-families/\)](https://mcm.edu/parents-and-families/)