

# Family Chat

December 11, 2014

**familychatmoderator(NSFP\_Corry):** Hello and Welcome to our Family Chat today titled: "Checking in Before Heading Home." My name is Corry Moore, and I am the Program Assistant for New Student & Family Programs. I look forward to us having a great conversation.

**familychatadministrator(DSO- JackieB):** Hello Everyone! Thank you for joining us in our Family Chat. My name is Jackie Bonilla and I am the Assistant Director for Transition Programs within the Dean of Students Office- New Student and Family Programs. The topic of our chat is: Checking in Before Heading Home. So to

**icegalbone:** hello Corry and Jackie. I hear the dorms are closed, do you have those dates? Thank you.

**familychatmoderator(NSFP\_Sara):** Good Morning! My name is Sara Empson and I am a Graduate Assistant for Transition Programs within the Dean of Students Office with New Student and Family Programs. We're happy to help with any questions you all may have.

**icegalbone:** Also, is there any suggestions you have regarding anything the students should be doing over the

**familychatadministrator(DSO- JackieB):** @icegalbone: Housing closes at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 20 and opens back up January 4, 2015!

**anacrespo:** Good morning to all: I have two questions both are about finance my daughter is considering moving off campus in the Fall. She has the Florida Prepaid for tuition but not for the dorm so her bright future goes towards the cost of the dorm. if she moves off campus what would happen with the money from bright futures? The other question that I have is regarding a class that she had to drop and now it was billed. If this

**familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor):** Good morning all, my name is Lynn O'Sickey and I am an Academic Advisor in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Academic Advising Center.

**familychatmoderator(NSFP\_Sara):** In regards to the class preparation, I would encourage your student to look at the syllabi for the spring semester. They are often posted online before the class starts. This way your student can gain a general idea of what the class and semester will look like.

**icegalbone:** Excellent, thanks Sara. I'll tell my son.

**familychatmoderator(NSFP\_Corry):** **anacrespo:** Great questions, the University Bursar would be able to assist you with your concerns. There phone number is: 352-392-0181 and ask to speak with Mily Raskin.

**familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor):** **icegalbone,** relaxing and catching up with friends and family first. Then maybe taking a bit of time to reflect on the semester. Is there anything I should do differently next term? Am I happy with my major classes? Does it feel like my major is a good fit? And Sara's comment

**icegalbone:** Sounds great Lynn. Thank you.

**Winni:** Do you think the bikes will be relatively safe over the break?

**anacrespo:** Thank you Corry! wishing all a very happy Holiday and a wonderful New Year! Many thanks for these CHATS they are wonderful!

**familychatmoderator(NSFP\_Corry):** You are welcome and same to you and your family!

**Tinawina8:** My daughter, Christina is a freshman at UF. She has made the adjustments that I think she needs to quite quickly. My only concern is that she is somewhat shy, and that may somewhat prevent her from moving ahead with confidence in her courses. This week she had a presentation in one of her classes where all the students had to work on individual projects and display it. She was a bit nervous, fearing that if she is asked questions about her work, she would not feel that she is capable of answering the questions appropriately and professionally. I encouraged her to take a course in voice and diction and also a course in speech. Do you have

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| <p><b>familychatadministrator(DSO- JackieB): @Winni: That is a great question. Bicycles are very common on this campus and at times can be targeted. UFPD has a great resource on bike safety tips that may be helpful in making your decision: <a href="http://www.police.ufl.edu/community-services/bicycle-security-information/">http://www.police.ufl.edu/community-services/bicycle-security-information/</a></b></p>   |
| <p>Yourell8228: I have a question concerning scooters. My daughter will be storing her scooter over winter break because we were told that during breaks that is when they are usually targeted. We bought our daughter a new scooter and it has been vandalized twice by her dorm in scooter parking. Why do they not have cameras in</p>  |
| <p><b>familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): Tinawina8, UF offers a public speaking class - SPC2608. The Center that offers the class also has a public speaking lab to assist folks with presentations just like the one your daughter did. <a href="http://cwoc.ufl.edu/programs/public-speaking-lab/about-the-public-speaking-lab/">http://cwoc.ufl.edu/programs/public-speaking-lab/about-the-public-speaking-lab/</a> And if she has serious anxiety about public speaking, they offer a one-credit adjunct course to the public speaking class that addresses anxiety (Speech in Public Anxiety Lab) <a href="http://cwoc.ufl.edu/programs/speech-in-anxiety-">http://cwoc.ufl.edu/programs/speech-in-anxiety-</a></b></p> |
| <p>Linda_Gator: Good Morning everyone! My son is freshman, he wants to do Psychology major, but going to Premed, he is not very good at Math. He was told that he needs to take Calculus in order to prepare for PreMed. Is the Calculus a required class for Pre-Med student, or for Psychology student? Is the Calculus in the</p>  |
| <p>Salimbene1940: I have visited my daughter on campus three times and have chatted with her friends. The feedback I am getting is that the food, quality and variety, has fallen off since our first introduction to the</p>   |
| <p><b>familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): Linda_Gator, Calc is recommended for pre-med students. There are still medical schools that require it (about 15, some of which our students regularly apply to) and many school including FL schools strongly recommend it. Calc is NOT required for a Psychology major and is</b></p>   |
| <p><b>familychatadministrator(DSO- JackieB): Yourell8228: UFPD would be able to provide you with a complete answer for you question. <a href="http://www.police.ufl.edu">http://www.police.ufl.edu</a></b></p>  |
| <p>icegalbone: If my son would like to be in a specific dorm next year with a specific roommate, what should he</p>   |
| <p>MMeadows: How are the common areas handled in the dorms? Are they cleaned by the students or staff? When students leave trash, dirty dishes, or other items is there a policy in place to allow staff to remove the</p>  |
| <p>justanothermom: Good Morning, my son a freshman in the exploring science and engineering. Can he change his classes on his own (add/drop) over the holidays for the spring semester? As final grades start finalizing, he is seeing a great shift in the direction in a new major. Also in his philosophy class is it possible to pass the class and not the WR requirement for Gen Ed? Why can't students just focus on their Gen Ed requirements first? He was told by his Advisor that he is behind already, but he told his advisor that this is what was laid out for him during the summer. Included a ten thousand word total WR requirement for fall semester. He was told to see</p>  |
| <p>Linda_Gator: Thank you Lynn - Academic Advisor for the answer.</p>   |
| <p>Linda_Gator: Lynn - Academic Advisor, since Calculus is not a required class for premed student, and it will not be in the MCat, but it is recommend class. He will be very struggling taking Calculus, if he wants to take this course, should he take it in his Junior year or Senior year? Thanks!</p>  |
| <p><b>familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): justanothermom, I'll have to take this in parts... :-) Yes, your son can change his Spring schedule over the break. The ISIS registration system will be open most of the time. It will shut down when we process Fall grades for a couple of days (probably 12/22-25).</b></p>   |
| <p><b>familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): justanothermom, what major(s) is he considering now? Engineering has pretty rigid schedules which may be why he was encourage to take so much writing in one term. Is he likely to change out of Engineering or just majors within Engineering?</b></p>   |
| <p><b>familychatmoderator(NSFP_Corry): MMeadows: Great questions on common area cleanliness. For a specific set of Residence Hall guidelines, I would advise you to contact your student's hall directly. Please advise me on the hall, and I can provide the contact information.</b></p>  |

Tinawina8: Lynn, thank you so much. We will certainly take advantage of your suggestions. This will definitely help her to move ahead with much confidence. May God bless you and your staff for help our young people to be the best they can be. We wish you and yours a very healthy and happy Holiday!

**familychatmoderator(NSFP\_Sara): @icegalbone If your son is living on campus now, he can renew his housing contract currently. Re-contracting opened for Fall 2015-Spring 2016 on December 1 and is available until January 26. When students re-contract they have options to select their room and roommates. All current campus residents receive an email with instructions on how to complete the re-contracting process. If your student is not currently living on campus, but would like to next year, he can complete an application**

MMeadows: Thank you, Tolbert Hall

**familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): justanothermom, you can pass the class and not pass the Writing requirement - you must have a C in the classes AND a satisfactory writing performance to get the Writing credit, but for Gen Ed credit a C alone is sufficient.**

Winni: My daughter is not sure if she is returning to UF next year. However, if she does, she and her roommate would like to apply for housing for a better dorm than they had this year. Would we be bound by the contract

**familychatadministrator(DSO- JackieB): Salimbene1940: Gator dining has a variety of nutritional and great food options students can take advantage of. Sometimes students may not get too excited over the food, especially if they frequent that location a lot. However, the Gator Dining website has great resources that help students find different dining location as well as local and sustainable food. options. There's even the opportunity to get involved with the local/sustainable movement as a student!**

**familychatmoderator(NSFP\_Corry): MMeadows: Tolbert Area phone number is: 352-392-6031.**

**familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): Linda-Gator, yes, he could wait to take Calculus, but other science classes will be getting quite intense (Organic chem, etc.) so I would strongly encourage him to talk to a pre-health advisor about his options. Here's their walk-in times... <http://www.advising.ufl.edu/prehealth/>**

**familychatmoderator(NSFP\_Sara): Winni:**

Linda\_Gator: wonderful. Thanks Lynn - Academic Advisor! I will tell my son to talk to pre-health advisor. .

**familychatmoderator(NSFP\_Sara): Your daughter will be able to cancel her contract is she is not attending the university. She must submit a cancellation request online through myhousing. More information about canceling housing contracts can be found on the Housing & Residence Education website.**

Winni: Thank you, Sara.

Winni: are there dorms specifically for sophomores?

Linda\_Gator: Lynn - Academic Advisor, if the student register as a full time student in UF and register 12 credits classes in a semester, but if he is not doing well in one of the classes, and has to drop at the end of the semester to avoid a bad grade, is he still count as full time student? If his GPA still 3.0+, will dropping a class

**familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): Linda\_Gator, Yes, since the student was registered as a full-time student, he/she is considered full-time for the term. How the student is looked at for Bright Futures is a question for the Financial Aid office. Sorry, but not my area of expertise. <http://www.sfa.ufl.edu/contact->**

Linda\_Gator: Thank you Lynn - Academic Advisor!

**familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): :-)**

**familychatmoderator(NSFP\_Sara): Winni: While there is not a specific hall that is solely dedicated to sophomores, there is a Living Learning Community within Murphee Hall. This is called the Murpree Returning Gators Program. More information about this learning community can be found here <http://www.housing.ufl.edu/area/murpree/> This program is designed to address the specific needs and**

Winni: Thanks, I will pass this along.

Linda\_Gator: Lynn - Academic Advisor, when student needs help in some of the courses, does university providers tutoring server to the student who needs the help in that class that they are taking. For example,like hard course, Calculus or Organic Chemistry? Or students have to seek their own private tutors?

GATORMOM24: Is any factor included for grading, due todifferent level of TAs for the "Good Life" course?

**UF has standard weekly walkin tutoring offered through the Teaching Center.**  
[http://www.teachingcenter.ufl.edu/walk\\_in.html](http://www.teachingcenter.ufl.edu/walk_in.html) They also offer individual or small group tutoring weekly for students who know they will need that support - they can sign up early in the term. They can often find a tutor for a class not on the walkin tutoring list. <http://www.teachingcenter.ufl.edu/appointments.html> Finally, they offer supplemental instruction (peer-led study groups in which the leader frequently works with the instructor) to do weekly reviews in some of the more challenging courses. <a href="ht

familychatadministrator(NSFP\_Arie): Hi all, my name is Arie Gee and I am the Assistant Director for Family Programs and Engagement. Thank you all for joining us!

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): **GATORMOM24, generally all sections of a class that have the same primary instructor will have the same grading scale. If there is a concern about the TA, students**

Linda\_Gator: This is very good resource, I will pass it along. Thanks again Lynn!

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): Linda\_Gator, forgot the link for supplemental instruction: [http://www.teachingcenter.ufl.edu/supplemental\\_instruction.html](http://www.teachingcenter.ufl.edu/supplemental_instruction.html)

Linda\_Gator: Thanks Lynn! :-)

blaserfamily: Can anyone provide contact information/directions regarding minimum semester GPA's in order to enroll in spring '15 classes and maintain active status in a fraternity?

Linda\_Gator: Is 3credits for the course of "Good Life"? My son told me it is a required course in UF, is it true?

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): **blaserfamily, Students may continue at UF as long as they have not accrued 15 deficit points (basically a calculation of how far from the C average, 2.0, a student is. <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx#averaging> Even if a student has a 2.0 UF GPA or higher, your student could be off-track if he/she was unsuccessful in a major course. Your student will likely receive an email from his/her college if off-track or on probation (under a 2.0 UF GPA).**

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): Linda\_Gator, yes **What is the Good Life? is a required course for all students at UF and it is 3 credits. It fulfills 3 credits of the Gen Ed Humanities requirement.**

blaserfamily: thank you Lynn

Linda\_Gator: thank you Lynn.

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): **blaserfamily, I don't know anything about the requirements to maintain active status in a fraternity, sorry.**

barbara: My daughter recently applied for UF Honors and jus found out she wasn't accepted. Is there a counselor you could recommend her to see. She is really having a hard time now and needs someone she could

blaserfamily: that's ok, i will keep digging. we are out of state, so its a bit more difficult to get information

GATORMOM24: @Lynn - Thank you! I have suggested this approach, we will see if he acts on it! :) He is frustrated hearing others have hardly any work and As. All for his own good, in my opinion! :)

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): **GATORMOM24, I agree with you and truly I don't believe others have hardly any work. I can vary since there are so many instructors and TAs, but probably not that much. His friends may not be giving him an accurate picture of their sections.**

familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor): **\*It can vary\***

**familychatadministrator(NSFP\_Arie):** @barbara, your daughter is welcome to speak with one of our Care Team members in U Matter. To reach them, she can email [UMatter@ufl.edu](mailto:UMatter@ufl.edu). You are also welcome to reach out to her. Another option is for her to talk with someone else on campus that she trusts, whether that be an RA, a professor, or any other staff member. Sometimes, it is helpful just to have someone listen!

**familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor):** barbara, what major is your student in? There are so many good opportunities to work with professors, do research, advanced work, even honors in the major.

barbara: I am in touch with her but I feel she would benefit from talking with someone she could sit with. This is her first year at UF, so I don't think she has developed a trusting relationship yet. She is in Public Relations.

**familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor):** They have some very good advisors in College of Journalism and Communications. I know Meisha Wade (some of the others are new, so I don't know them as well), your daughter could go and see her. I think she'll find there are plenty of other great options outside of Honors. <http://www.jou.ufl.edu/academics/bachelors/resources-for-undergraduate-students/office-for->

**familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor):** blaserfamily, here's the link for Fraternity and Sorority Affairs in Student Involvement. They may be able to help.

Ej'smom2014: hello everyone, so chilly today.my will be coming home. he is excited. he expressed to me that he wants to apply for honor program. he still saying premed. can you tell me about the chance of him being

blaserfamily: thanks again Lynn, this is a great help!

lucked in to one of the TA's that actually grades the material and attendance/participation. While some of his friends get 100's for showing up, he has been to every class, participated and gets a 60/100 for participation. Same for some essays's, his TA acts like it's an English Comp class, while others grade easy just for turning something in. Is this a common complaint, or is anyone looking into more consistency when TA's are grading. Mandatory class, doesn't help his degree program, but will affect his GPA. He'll likely end up with a B+ or A-.

**familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor):** Ej'smom2014 - The lateral admissions deadline for the Honors program has passed. However, he can still earn honors in his major, he may want to talk to his major

tm0304: BTW - don't mean to be negative, he actually loves UF and his other classes.

blaserfamily: we have to log out for another meeting, thanks again for all the help. hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas & Go Gators!

**familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor):** tm0304, this is something your student should talk to the instructor or the course coordinator about. <http://undergrad.aa.ufl.edu/contact-info.aspx> It's probably impossible to make the grading in 50+ sections by a range of TAs and profs to be entirely consistent, but obviously, we want it to be as consistent as possible. A B+ or A-is still an excellent grade, so he should not be too worried about that! A lot of students are uncomfortable talking about grading, but if the instructor or course coordinator doesn't get any feedback, then they won't know there is an issue. Your student can wait

Ej'smom2014: thank you. i will remind him. have a happy holiday everyone!

tm0304: Ok, thanks, I'll let him know.

icegalbone: I am signing off, thank you all so very much. I enjoy these chats. Happy Holidays to all of you. xoxo

**familychatmoderator(Lynn - Academic Advisor):** Happy Holidays to all. Thank you for supporting your