

Resources for Parents

Helping your son or daughter navigate their way through the college process does not have to be difficult for you or for them. All parties just need to have realistic expectations, to set achievable goals and plan to work together to help the career planning process. If you ever have questions or want to find resources about career planning to help your son or daughter, please call 920) 686-6199 or email thavorsen@silver.sl.edu.

First Year

Once your son or daughter is settled at school and all of the logistical issues have been taken care of, it will be time to start focusing on goals. For many students, this will be their first experience with being away from home. This can be very stressful and cause the student to feel sad, disorientated or want to give up. In addition, your son or daughter will need to make new friends, learn to live with one or more roommates, and have a multitude of academic pressures. This first year and especially the first semester is always a challenge for students, even if they are adventurous and are somewhat enjoying themselves.

Each student will have an adjustment period and will have an individual learning curve concerning college and college life. Be as supportive as you can: provide them with a prepaid phone card so they can call home when they need help, send them care packages and uplifting messages via mail, email or voice mail, and if possible, come to visit them at least once during their first semester. Encourage your son or daughter to get involved in the organizations on campus to help them meet people and to get to know the campus/campus community better.

Hardly any traditional students have set career goals during their first year. This is normal and in general, it is good for students to be evaluating their choices and options. Encourage your son or daughter to contact the Career Services Office. We will be able to help them start of their career path. Please refer to the Four Year Plan for Students in the Career Resources section of this website for more information. It may answer many of your questions on what services are available to your son or daughter.

Second Year

Most students have settled into the college environment and are starting to think about career options. Most students declare a major in their second year, especially if they follow the Four Year Process.

Helping your son or daughter during this time comes in the way of support, positive communication and providing them with any networking contacts that you might have in their field(s) of interest. Your son or daughter will benefit from volunteer opportunities and work experiences. Encourage your son or daughter to start looking at internship possibilities for their third or fourth year. If your son or daughter is still having problems with being away from home, try to help them find activities outside of school to help them better assimilate to their environment.

Third Year

If your son or daughter has not declared a major by the third year, encourage them to contact the Career Resource Office so options can be examined to determine their best course of action. Promote internships to your son or daughter as a way of getting experience in their field of interest and to help them network. Continue to provide support and urge them to try and take on leadership roles whenever they can. This provides chances for them to experiment with leading others, planning and controlling projects and building their teamwork skills. If any problems or questions arise please call the Career Resources Office.

Fourth Year

Students in their senior year will be experiencing as many changes as the first year students. Most seniors regard the college campus as their second home. With graduation looming, seniors have many things to think about. Their emotions may be close to the surface - one minute they are so excited to be graduating and the next paralyzed with fear at having to leave their classes for the world of work.

This is the year that the Career Resources Office becomes the most important to the student. They can come to the Career Resources Office to find listings of the job/teacher fairs, look for jobs, get help with fine tuning their resume and cover letters, set up their credential file, perform mock interviews, get contact names from businesses and organizations they are interested in working for and get other needed resources.