University of Minnesota Parent Program

Desired Outcomes

The University Parent Program works with offices and departments throughout campus to assist parents in understanding the student experience, supporting student learning, and empowering students to take personal responsibility for their social and academic choices.

Families contribute to student success by:

Understanding the student experience and knowing about resources available at the University of Minnesota.
- Be aware of the unique challenges and opportunities facing contemporary students, including the academic and non-academic expectations for students at the college level
- Learn about student support services and understand how their student can access services; encourage student to seek support and assistance independently (link to Web site, not yet posted)
- Learn about normal student development during the college years (link to Web site, not yet posted)

Supporting the University’s goals for student learning outcomes
- Empower student to set and achieve personal goals related to academics, career planning, social interactions, and community engagement
- Understand and support the University’s commitment to academic excellence and integrity, ethical behavior, and civility
- Empower student to examine personal values and experience difference; encourage student to learn about and respect the values and beliefs of others
- Challenge student to seek new experiences for personal and professional growth
- Support student as he/she faces conditions of uncertainty and learns to perform in complicated environments and challenging situations
- Allow student to examine disappointments and unexpected experiences in order to assess what caused them, what can be done to repair them, and how to avoid them in the future

Knowing when to step in to help their student and when to empower their student to take responsibility
- Understand the role parents play as mentors to their student
- Know and understand limitations to access student records, as delineated by federal requirements outlined in FERPA (http://www.parent.umn.edu/ferpa.html) and HIPAA (http://www.ahc.umn.edu/privacy/hipaa/home.html)
- Encourage student to make responsible decisions regarding behavior, allowing student to accept consequences of his/her actions; meet agreed-upon expectations and commitments; take responsibility for his/her own learning
- Promote self-advocacy by encouraging student to identify problems and work toward solutions independently
- Be alert to signs that student is under significant stress, is taking unhealthy risks, or is ill; discuss concerns openly with student and assist student in developing a plan to address the problem
- If student’s physical or mental health is endangered, contact appropriate campus or community authorities (http://www.osa.umn.edu/resources/stress.html)

Developing an affinity for the University of Minnesota
- Understand that parents are part of the University community as prime supporters of their students
- Participate in campus events
- Assist other parents in understanding the student experience
- Promote goodwill on behalf of higher education at the state and federal level