September: Reading Module

New Student & Family Programs
Welcome to Reading Modules!

What will I find in these monthly modules?

Each month will contain a different “theme” specific to you and your student’s transition period to college.

Themes include

• Pertinent tips from Harlan Cohen’s *The Naked Roommate: For Parents Only*.
• Resources for you (and your students) to utilize at FSU or in the community.
• Information on a tenet of the Seminole Creed and/or Florida State Motto.
September Module Overview

This month’s theme will focus on communicating with your student.

- *The Naked Roommate: For Parents Only*
  - Tip #6 “Calling, Texting, and Chatting”, #7 “Facebook”
- Seminole Creed Tenet
  - Discovery
September’s Naked Roommate Tips

• Tip #6 Calling, Texting, and Chatting
  • Pages 76-90

• Tip #7 Facebook
  • Pages 91-108
Tip #6 Calling, Texting, and Chatting

• TIP: Limit initiating calls/texts to twice a week. If they want to talk more, they will.

• TIP: Know that sometimes they can’t talk. They may be studying, working, or caught up conversation with new friendships. Try not to assume that they are partying, sleeping, or ignoring you.

• TIP: How much is too much?
  • If you wake them up everyday
  • If you call their professor that they are home sick
  • If you call every night to ensure they are studying and not out late
  • If you call them the moment you need technical support
Keep in mind...

• Communication varies from student to student.
  • You may have already noticed they have a preference in communicating whether it be texting, calling, or using FaceTime/Skype.
  • Some may want to give you the play-by-play of their day or to quickly check-in throughout the week.

• Their schedule fluctuates throughout the year.
  • They may need to focus more on school during midterms, finals, or when a large assignment deadline is coming up.
    • This may also be stressful at times, they may call less or more depending on their needs.
  • An organization they are involved with may have a culminating event to prepare for.
Establish a Communication Plan

• Create a communication plan
  • How? Facetime, texting, calling, emailing, etc?
  • Who calls/texts first?
  • When will you talk? When is the best time? When are bad times to call?
  • How often will you talk?
  • What happens if you don’t hear back from them?
    • Establish a bare minimum so that you know that they are okay (and they know you are too!)
    • Establish a plan of action if you don’t hear back within a *reasonable* amount of time. (same for you, they can worry too!)

• Remember to be realistic!
Tip #7 Facebook

• TIP: Don’t be insulted if your student doesn’t want to be your Facebook friend.

• Know that if you are friends online it can be tricky
  • Don’t analyze their profile to get them in trouble or caught in a lie.
  • Don’t embarrass them, I know baby pictures are tempting!
  • Do use Facebook to keep up with the fun things they are doing.*

*Fun meaning friends, football games, clubs, etc. If you see them posting about illegal activity or partying, make sure they are aware of their online image. Their activity online could get them in trouble with the university or when they search for a job.*
Facebook Pages for you to “Like”

• Florida State University
• Athletics
• FSU Alert
• FSU News: FSU View & Florida Flambeau*
• Dean of Students Department
  • New Student and Family Programs
  • Family Connection
Seminole Creed Tenet: Discovery

“I will take time for adventure, discovery, fun, excitement and friendship.”

Your student may discover this month...

• There are so many things going on campus!
  • They might participate in new activities (gym, student organizations, etc.)
  • They might be overwhelmed with the possibilities. Nole Central is a great way to narrow things down.

• They may miss their high school friends, significant others, and family.

• They might be so busy doing fun things they forget to talk to you.

• Classes might be easier or harder than they thought.

• New relationships between friends, roommates, and professors.
Any Questions? Contact Us

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