

Family Strategies for Supporting Student Success

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FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL



FIRST DAY OF COLLEGE



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Everything Is New

Balancing:

- Classes
- Living arrangements
- Friends and social environment
- Finding way around
- Being solo
- Making decisions



Poll 1

Your student's biggest challenge as a new college student will be:

- Academics
- Health and wellness
- Time management
- Transition to college

Starting Strong

Encourage your student to:

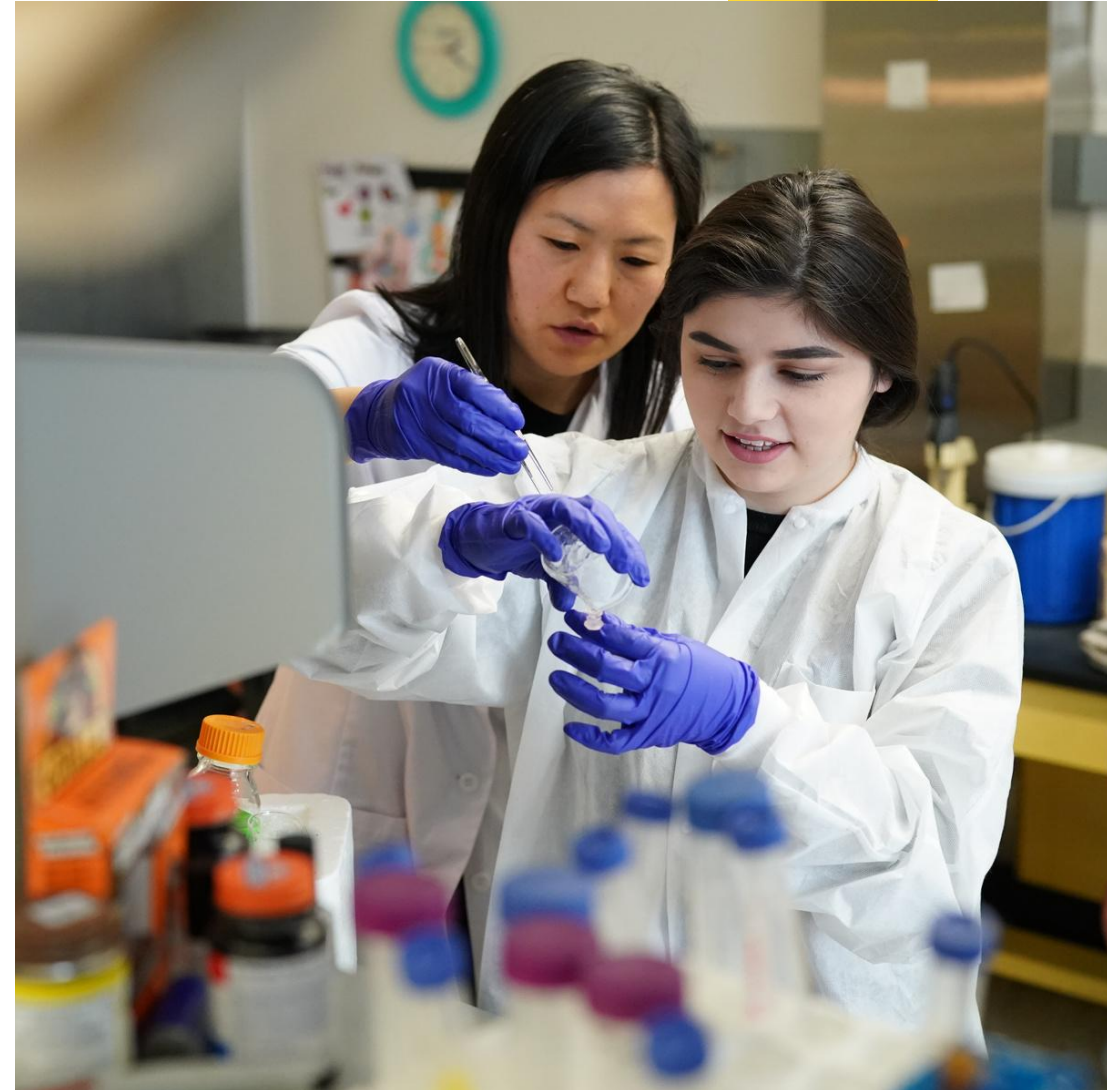
- Start with tutoring
Merze Tate College – Academic
Support Services and Programs
- Find their workspace



Building a Success Team

Team members:

- Academic advisors
- Faculty
- Peer mentors
- Career mentors
- Most importantly, YOU!



Vital Habits for Success: Health & Well-being

- Utilize provided resources
Counseling Services, Navigator Network and more!
- Check out opportunities:
 - Student Recreation Center
 - Fitness classes
 - Club sports
 - Intramurals



Vital Habits for Success: Time Management

- Check and respond to email daily
- Use Outlook calendar and planners
- Use, evaluate, and adapt



Transitioning to Campus

- Attend Bronco Bash
- Explore interests – attend RSO info meetings
- Practice leadership
- Join several RSOs and then trim down



Poll 2

Your student calls you with their first problem. Is it...

- I'm having a hard time in class.
- I'm having trouble with my roommate or living arrangement.
- I don't fit in here.
- I need money!

Getting Gritty

- What is grit?

“Both the perseverance and the passion for especially challenging long-term goals.”

- Angela Duckworth, Ph.D.
- Success vs. salvage



Managing Relationships

- Setting expectations
- Open communication
- Grace



Fitting In

- Consider interests, passions, and goals
- Academic, extracurricular, and living space connections
- Recognizing differences



Student Employment Resources

- Career and Student Employment Services
- Handshake
- Financial Literacy Resources via WMU Financial Aid



Poll 3

Can your student handle essential life skills? (laundry, money management, cooking, etc.)

- Absolutely, yes.
- No, we need to work on this.
- Not without my help.
- You mean we need to think about this now?

Summer To-Do List

- Practice life skills
- Check pre-college resources
- Job shadow
- Go fail



Fall To-Do List

Week 0: Dorm doors OPEN - Have fun, settle in and make friends

Week 1: Build your schedule in Outlook; get organized

Week 2: Engage with tutoring

Week 3: Visit professors' office hours

Week 4: Explore Kalamazoo by serving the community

Week 5: Join at least 3 RSOs

Week 6: Meet with primary advisor for spring classes

Week 7: Come home for fall break – you may have been missed!



Welcome to the WMU Community!

