



Talking with Your Students About Academics



- What are your student's educational and career goals?
- If your student wants an A in the course, how does your student approach that goal?
- Students may not know their future grades or occupation, but parents can help them work toward small achievements to start.
- Encourage your student to dream big and prepare small.

Where to Begin

1) Begin by asking your student about their achievements as classes begin:

- What do you want to achieve this semester?
- What led you to success in previous semesters?

2) Then, throughout the semester, remember to ask your student about their successes and challenges:

- Are you doing well on homework and exams?
- What classes are you finding to be challenging?
- Do you need any help meeting any of your goals?

3) Finally, remember to ask your student if they've considered meeting with other students in a study group or considered getting a tutor. If they don't have a study group, refer them to the Learning Center to inquire about tutoring programs. Supplemental Instruction (SI) may also be available for the course. Remember to ask them about the other students in the study group:

- How often does your group meet?
- What will the study group be working on this week?
- A lot of students use the Learning Center, have you tried getting a tutor there?



Remember!

ALWAYS
congratulate
your student for
their successes
and provide
constant
encouragement.

SO THEN WHAT'S YOUR ROLE?



A Parent/Guardian's Role

While you've learned more about the value and availability of academic resources at Ball State, it may still be a challenge to accurately explain the benefits of these programs. Keep at it! Because a parent/guardian's role in their son or daughter's education is as important as the roles of professors, academic advisors, and educational mentors, your student will need you to regularly help them work through their challenges. If you find that you need help communicating the benefits of these programs to your student, we'll be happy to help.



HOW CAN YOUR STUDENT BEST HELP THEMSELVES?

Talking with Instructors/Office Hours – All instructors at Ball State are required to have set office hours in which students can come in to discuss class material and ask questions. These office hours are typically listed on the syllabus for the course that is given to students at the beginning of the semester. It is HIGHLY recommended that students utilize these hours and communicate with their instructors when questions or concerns arise. The instructors are the ultimate experts for the class and should be the first contact when students start to struggle with a class. As parents, it may be useful to pose these questions: "Have you talked to your instructors?" "Have you gone in to see your instructor during his/her office hours?"

Form Study Groups – When students study together in groups, they often will learn material better. Students should be encouraged to talk with their peers in classes and to seek help from each other when needed. Many students living in Living Learning Communities on campus might have peers living in their hall and taking the same classes. Parents can encourage their students to reach out to others in their class or in their halls to connect with peers as well as possibly gain help with their classes.

Time Management – Often, college students claim they are the most time-stressed people in the world. Most of the time, they have more time on their hands than ever, but they lack the proper management of that time. Students can request a study skills tutor at the Learning Center to help with this problem. Visit our website for time management tips.

Healthy Lifestyle – Students need to feel good physically, emotionally, and mentally in order to perform their best in the classroom. Students should be reminded to get proper nutrition, exercise, and sleep to be the best they can be. Ball State offers service to aid this at the Health Center, Counseling Center, and the Recreation Center.



Visit the Learning Center!

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