October 2019 Newsletter | Parents & Family

10/31/2019

It's already October and your student is hopefully getting settled into their academic career at USU. Now is the time to start thinking about financial aid for the 2020-2021 year. The latest FAFSA application just came out October 1 and is ready to complete online at fafsa.gov or through the FAFSA mobile app. Filing the 2020-21 FAFSA now gives you and your student plenty of time to work with the Financial Aid Office before tuition is due next August.

FAFSA Application Tips

- FAFSA will request your family demographic information for 2020-2021, but will request you upload your income from 2018. Since most families have filed 2018 taxes already, this allows you to use the IRS data retrieval tool and eliminates the need to estimate your income.
- Don’t rush the application process. Take the time to read each question carefully, as it can prevent delays later on.
- USU will start downloading 2020-21 FAFSA results in November. Have your student check their status regularly on MyUSU using the Banner/Financial Aid links.
- The USU Registrar’s Office will start emailing eligible students their financial aid offers in early spring 2020.
- Make sure your student is checking their email often as they will receive messages anytime the Financial Aid Office needs more information.
- We recommend submitting the FAFSA before July 2020 to prepare for mid-August tuition deadlines.
- Did you know you and your student can still apply for the 2019-20 FAFSA for the current school year and USU is still accepting those applications? There are fall and spring semester deadlines for the 2019-20 application at the end of each semester.
- Don’t forget, FAFSA is free to fill out and submit. Don’t pay anyone to help you fill it out. Call the USU Financial Aid Office instead if you need help their number is 435-797-0173.

Academic Resources

For many students at USU, the first weeks of the semester prove to be challenging as they adjust to learning at the college level. If your student would like to discover ways to meet their academic goals and manage their course loads, there are a variety of academic resources available to help your student succeed. This is the perfect time for your student to utilize resources to improve their study skills for their midterms. Your student may also benefit from meeting with their instructor during office hours and reviewing course material to help them study and prepare for their exams.

Academic Success Center: The ASC offers developed programs and services to support your student in exploring their intellectual potential and achieving academic success.

Reference Librarians: These librarians can assist your student in the development of a research strategies for their term papers and course assignments.

Meet with a Librarian: There's a librarian for every major and program at USU, available to help your student with research topics, find and evaluate information, cite sources, and much more.

Academic Advising: Your student is assigned an advisor to help them reach their educational goals. Your student can meet with their advisor once a semester to assist them on their path at USU.

Tutoring: Tutoring services can help your student develop competence in their academic courses for the semester.

Career Services: The team at Career Services can support your student in their career exploration and employment success. Career Services also has a Parent Section on their website.

Computer Labs: These are available throughout campus and are a helpful resource for students in their pursuit of their academic goals by providing state-of-the-art computer services and software. They can also answer software, general, or university questions for your student.

Disability Resource Center: The DRC works with individuals, faculty, and staff to ensure students with disabilities can fully participate in university programs, services, and activities. The center helps students with disabilities overcome barriers that could otherwise limit their academic, professional, and personal potential.
Writing Center: The Writing Center offers supplemental tutoring and guidance for the improvement of English and writing skills, helping students become independent writers for life.

Student Involvement: There are 200 student-run clubs and organizations for your student to choose from.

Advising

Throughout the month of October, students should schedule an appointment with their academic advisor to discuss their program, major, and Degree Works plan for spring 2020 registration that start in mid-November.

Your student can browse available majors and find their advisor at advising.usu.edu. On the USU Academic Advising website your student can do the following:

- Find My Advisor
- Find A Major
- Learn Degree Works
- Apply to Graduate

Enrollment Verification

Student tip:
For insurance purposes, your student may want to look up and verify their enrollment information. The Enrollment Verification document confirms your student’s attendance, awards, degrees, current and past enrollment, anticipated graduation date, available test scores, and cumulative GPA. The Standard Enrollment Verification status may be obtained by your student through their USU Banner account or by visiting usu.edu/registrar/records/control/.

Student Health Services

USU’s Student Health and Wellness Center (SHWC) provides primary care, urgent care, and psychiatric/mental health services that are all covered by your student health fees. Most of their other services (procedures, labs, and imaging, etc.) are offered at low or no-cost. No health insurance is required to use the SHWC. In addition to health services, they also provide several programs that cover decision-making, conflict resolution, coping techniques, relationship and people skills, and nutrition. For more information, please visit health.usu.edu.

To improve safety at USU, we launched a mobile safety app this fall. The Utah State Safe app offers your student quick access to important campus support resources as well as several features that directly connect students with USU Public Safety. Learn more at dps.usu.edu/safeapp.

- **Friend Walk:** Your student can send their real-time location to a friend to watch them walk to destinations to and from campus. If there is a concern, that friend can trigger an emergency call to Public Safety.
- **Chat with Public Safety:** Your student can text anonymously and discreetly with a dispatcher in the campus Public Safety office. This can be used to send a crime tip anonymously or reach out in an emergency where a person doesn’t want to draw attention to themselves by placing a phone call.
- **Virtual Walkhome:** Like “Friend Walk,” this feature allows your student to ask a dispatcher in Public Safety to keep an eye on them while they travel on campus. They can also trigger an emergency call.
- **Campus Alerts:** The Code Blue alert system sends push notifications through the Utah State Safe app. Push notifications work on WIFI or cellular service so the app is a good back-up to ensure your student always gets USU’s alerts.

Parents can sign up to receive campus alerts by opting a cell phone into the Code Blue system at alert.usu.edu.

USU Releases Campus Annual Crime Statistics

Every fall, USU releases its Annual Security and Fire Safety Report, which provides information about reporting crimes to police, reporting misconduct to the university, and seeking supportive services. The report also includes statistics about crimes reported on Utah State campuses across the state.

**Sexual Misconduct Survey Shows Increased Awareness and Understanding**

USU also just released the results from its second Sexual Misconduct Survey. This survey gauges students’ experiences with sexual misconduct – sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, gender-based discrimination, and sexual harassment – both on and off campus. Survey responses showed many more students understood their options for reporting and resources than did participants in the spring 2017 survey, and a significantly larger number of students thought their peers...
would step in and confront harmful behavior when they witness it.