Uncharted Waters

Your Student’s First Year of College

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One Thing We Are Sure Of: Students Change!

- Average: Two changes of major in the course of four years
- Students often have a very limited sense of career options
- Students often have an inaccurate sense of the nature of certain careers
- So…how do we help students focus?
Gateways and Pathways to Honors

- A full-year, two-semester course
- Led by a faculty advisor and a student mentor
- Bears academic credit
  - Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading for Gateways students
  - A-F grading for Pathways (Honors) students
- 1 credit hour per semester
- Required of all first-year students
The Goals of Gateways and Pathways:

To help each UT student:

– Transition from high school to college life
– Make smart decisions regarding their degree and career trajectories
– Perform better academically
– Become a full, participating member of the UT community
Gateways and Pathways Advisors…

- Meet regularly with students: one class hour per week, and a minimum of four times on a one-on-one basis in the first year

- Are ‘advisors’ more than ‘evaluators’
- Are not ‘counselors’, but…

- Are a critical resource for your student in addressing academic issues,

- And a help[ful] resource in addressing other issues
The Baccalaureate Experience

• A two-year liberal arts, or general education curriculum designed to help students explore the academic disciplines offered at U.T.

• Exploration helps students sample different disciplines and helps them select a major that suits their interests, goals, and personality (helps students focus!).

• With a two-year Baccalaureate Experience curriculum, and a two-year major, students should graduate in four years.
Baccalaureate Experience Coursework

- **Academic Skills**
  - FYW 101 and 102
  - MAT 155 or MAT 160
  - ITM 200

- **Natural Sciences**
  - Biology (one non-lab course)
  - Chemistry/Physics (one non-lab course)

- **Humanities/Fine Arts**
  - Three full courses
  - Two different disciplines

- **Social Sciences**
  - Three full courses
  - Two different disciplines

- **International/Global**
- **Non-Western**
- **Arts/Aesthetics**
- **Writing Intensive**
  - Three courses after completion of FYW 101/102

- **Requirements of Major**
- **Option of one or more Minors or a Second Major**
An Environment That is Conducive to Learning

• The University of Tampa has the “Spartan Code,” which is our code of civility.

• We take the Spartan Code very seriously; it applies not just to students, but to faculty, staff, and to all those who interact with our community—including YOU, our U.T. parents.

• Freshmen learn the Spartan Code during the Convocation ceremony each year, and pledge to uphold it.

• We ask that parents conduct also themselves according to the code, and reinforce it with students.
The Spartan Code

• As a member of the University of Tampa Spartan community, I agree and pledge that I will…
• Promote and practice academic honesty.
• Commit to actions that benefit the community, as well as engage in activities that better others.
• Discourage intolerance and acknowledge that diversity in our community shapes our learning and development.
• Conduct myself in a manner that makes me worthy of the trust of others.
• Recognize the ideas and contributions of all persons, allowing for an environment of sharing and learning.
• Accept full responsibility, and be held accountable for all of my decisions and actions.
Hard Truths for Students

Some students will reach the shore by boat, others will need a life raft.

• This isn’t high school!
  • A – F grade scale applied to A – B students
  • Grading based more on quality than quantity or effort
  • ‘Make up’ opportunities are limited at best
  • Students have much greater responsibility

• Academic success is essential
  • Academic dismissal can occur
  • Expulsion due to academic integrity can occur
  • Loss of scholarship aid due to low GPA can occur

• Some students will find they are taking required courses that are not what they think of when they consider their major
Hard Truths for Parents

Students are now captains of the ship, it’s your turn to enjoy the ride.

- Health issues often get worse.
  - Be proactive
  - Consider a local option
- Your student’s Gateways Advisor can’t tell you how your student is doing—please treat advisors with respect.
  - FERPA-Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act
  - Exception: if student signs a waiver of confidentiality
- Your student is going to grow up . . . one way or another
  - Your relationship will change…and you want it to
  - Support, advise, encourage, challenge
  - Don’t hover
Remember...
You are still the adult in the relationship!

– Ask good, open-ended questions
– Listen to their answers
– Don’t let your own emotions cloud their vision, or yours
The Formula for Success

CQ + PQ > IQ

Curiosity + Passion often trumps Intelligence

This formula requires:

• A committed student
• A dedicated, demanding teaching faculty
• A supportive campus community
• Encouraging parents
Parting Thought

The student who loves what he/she is studying is more likely to excel than the student who studies what others say he/she should study.

Thank you!
Dr. Catherine Chastain-Elliott