Help Your Student Win Big at the University of Tampa: Parenting a UT Student

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Our jobs are similar

- Supporting the educational mission
- Enable student learning
- Allowing students to think critically
Let your children go…
They will survive and so will you!!

- Build partnerships with UT
- Gaining information from UT
- Gaining information from your student
- “Our job as parents is to work ourselves out of a job!”
iConnected Parent
Parent Errors Highlights

• Calling too much
• Accepting one side of the story – passion calls
• Assuming your student’s role – vent
• Collaborating and “cheating” – goal is a great student
• Robbing students of the ability to make decisions – think on their own
Top 9 Game Strategies for Parenting a UT Student
#1 - DO NOT ask if they are homesick

- But be sure to stay in touch
- Usual cure is passing of time and diving into college life
- 120 clubs and organizations with more on the horizon
- LOTS TO DO!!!
#2 - Write, even though they will never write back

- Send letters, news clippings, cards.
- Mail from all members of the family – even paw prints from your family pet!
- Email is good but it does not clear out the cobwebs in their UT mailboxes.
- Resist calling all the time – they will contact you.
#3 - Ask questions

…but not too many

#4 - Expect change

…it may be a little or a lot
Biggest problem for new students

FREEDOM

A college freshman
- essentially a high school senior without parents around.”

- Helen Johnson
Second problem is TIME MANAGEMENT

Encourage them not to waste too much – even if it seems that “everyone” else is!
#5 - Don’t worry (too much) about those late night phone calls or emails

- Students may unload – then you inherit the worry.
- Explore alternatives with them
- Avoid the trap of doing it for them

Did I mention that parenting can be a thankless job?!?
Resolving Problems

• Encourage your students to go to the appropriate University staff prior to getting involved.

• Get involved as a last resort - remember this is part of the learning experience!

• Be sure to get both sides of the story
#6 - Visit - but not too often

- “Surprise visits” are usually not appreciated. You may be more surprised than they are!
- Parents Weekend – October 1st and 2nd.
- Remember, clean is a relative term!
#7 - DO NOT say
“This are the best years of your life”

#8 - Trust your student

#9 - Encourage volunteerism
Spartan Code

The community of learners and educators at The University of Tampa strives to support the development of each student as a productive and responsible citizen who embraces the values of honesty, citizenship, trust, respect, and responsibility.

As a member of The University of Tampa Spartan community, I agree and pledge that I will...

... promote and practice academic and personal 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.

... respect 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.
A few items of interest from Smart Money – 10 Things That Your College Student Will Not Tell You.

I will touch on several:

- **Academic Integrity**
- **Stay Forever – give limits**
- **College and Health – College students share everything.**
- **Internet postings – have you ever viewed their Facebook information?**
- **Grades none of your business – but I have told you what to do.**
- **Credit/debit card – soon.**
Other “Unexpected Detours”

* Finances – Student spending
* Resolving problems
* Communication
* Health and Wellness
* Alcohol and Other Drugs
Finances

• Establish ground rules for spending money
  “Pay it”
• Talk with students about using credit
• Be careful to define “emergency” – nothing you can eat, drink, or wear!
February 2010 rules changed

- Adult co-signer
- Send the bills to you
- Help students budget
- Financial Responsibility
- Good money management skills needed
UT Communications

• Our students are issued UT email accounts, voice mailboxes, and post office boxes.

• We suggest you begin to use these methods to contact your students so they will get used to using them.
Health and Wellness

• Be sure that your students find practitioners in the area for chronic health related concerns.

• Ask about their sleeping, eating, working, and relaxing habits.
Alcohol and Other Drugs

- UT supports FL state law and our own published policies
- FL is a zero tolerance state for under-aged drinking and driving
- Support students to make healthy choices
- The majority of UT students DON’T abuse alcohol or other drugs.
Partner with us in AOD issues

- Ask your student to commit to NEVER getting into a car with someone who has been drinking
- Or operating one themselves after drinking any amount of alcohol
Motorcycles

• Special safety message to your students
UT Web Alerts, RSS and Mobile Web

UT News and Tropical Weather Alerts
Subscribe to UT Web Alerts at www.ut.edu and receive the latest UT news and tropical weather updates direct to your e-mail account.

RSS Feeds
UT news is now available through the www.ut.edu RSS service. With RSS you can take UT news and incorporate it into your preferred newsreaders and Web logs. Look for the RSS symbol on UT’s homepage.

UT is Now Mobile
Visit UT from your mobile device at m.ut.edu.
Well, today is your day to leave!

1. You have a schedule to keep
2. Your student needs to make new friends and begin to establish relationships with others
3. Staying only divides their allegiances – desire to be with you and their desire to move into their new community
We need your parking space!!!
This is a time when your student is on center stage. In this production, the play begins when the audience leaves...