Parents' Commonly Asked Questions: ANSWERED!

Student Life

What are the first few weeks of college like?
The first few weeks of college are busy! The University and student organizations sponsor different events throughout the first two weeks which is called Welcome Week. Students can enjoy outdoor movies, sand volleyball tournaments, magicians, service projects, and lots of other fun activities with a ton of free prizes and food at many of the events. There is a calendar of events provided the weekend prior to classes starting with all of the events and activities. Visit orientation.nku.edu for a tentative schedule of events.

Do students need a bike or car on campus?
While students may want a car or bike to get around on or off-campus, all students also have free access to the TANK bus system with their ALL Card (student ID). There are bike racks located throughout campus and in the Residential Village. Both bikes and cars are permitted on campus. Parking passes are required for vehicles parking on campus and are available through Parking Services. The Parking Services office is located across from the Bank of Kentucky Center Arena, on the top level of the Welcome Center Parking Garage. The office hours are Monday through Thursday from 7:30am-5:30pm and Friday from 7:30am-4:30pm. The office phone number is (859) 572-5505.

How are on-campus jobs obtained?
Campus employment can be obtained by submitting an application through NKU’s online employment system at www.nku.edu/employment

- Click the link on the middle of the page that says STUDENT EMPLOYMENT.
- Under Job Opportunities, click the link under STAFF & STUDENT JOB SEEKERS.
- There is a link on the left-hand side of this page: STUDENT EMPLOYMENT.
- This will direct your student to the Human Resources Online Employment Site, where available jobs are posted! Be sure to check back often! Employment opportunities become available throughout the semester.

NOTE: Some positions are designated as work study positions. To qualify for a work study position, your student must submit the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) to the Office of Student Financial Assistance and be approved for the student work study program.

How many hours per week do you recommend students work?
Although each student handles the work-school balance differently, we generally recommend that students work between 15 and 20 hours a week, allowing time for homework, student organization involvement, and the social aspect of college life. During their first semester, students should limit their work to 15 hours per week or less, if possible, as they adapt to the academic rigor and social climate of the college experience.

What services are available for students who get sick?
The campus nurse service is located on the fourth floor of the University Center. The hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 4:30pm. To make an appointment, have your student call (859)-572-5650. The Office of Health, Counseling and Prevention also includes an emergency and urgent care facility listing on their website at hcp.nku.edu/communityed.php.

Free services on campus include the following: Basic First Aid for minor wounds, Blood Pressure Monitoring, Confidential Pregnancy Test, and Diabetes Screening Nutritional Counseling for Weight Control, Over-the-Counter Medications, Referrals, Strep Throat Culture, Urinary Tract Infection Testing, and Vision & Hearing Screenings

Services for a fee on campus include the following: Emergency Contraception, Flu Vaccines, Immunizations, TB Skin Testing

How do students create the best opportunities for success at NKU?
Get involved! Communicate with their professors! Meet new people and make connections on campus! Go to class!

What if my student is shy and is not interested in being involved?
Help your student recognize that there is something for everyone at NKU. Guide them to resources, such as OrgSync (http://norseup.nku.edu), where they can browse all the current student organizations or even find out more about starting their own group! Student involvement is an important part of personal and social integration, and we also find that students who are involved on campus have a higher GPA and are more likely to know where to go if they need help!

Parent Life

Where can I park when I visit campus?
Visitor parking is located in the Welcome Center, University, and Kenton Garages. Fees for the garages range from $1-$5 for visiting hours. If you have specific visitor parking questions please call us at (859) 572-5505.
If I want to do something for my child’s birthday, is there someone at NKU who can help?
Yes. The Office of Student Life also offers the Birthday Cake Delivery Program through a partnership with the Fantasy in Frosting bakery located in Newport, KY. To learn more about the program, contact the Coordinator of Parent and Family Programs by e-mailing parents@nku.edu.

What is the purpose of the Parents Association?
NKU’s FREE Parents Association is open to all current and alumni parents. The mission of the Parents Association is to:

- Empower parents/parental figures to play a supportive role in their student’s education and development.
- Provide a link between NKU students, parents and the university community.
- Encourage active participation in partnering with the university’s mission and values.

How can I stay current with what is happening at NKU?
Become a member of the Parents Association to receive regular communications that address timely issues on-campus and also provides tips for parents. To take your connection to NKU a step further, consider nominating yourself for a position on the Parent Advisory Board. Current PAB members suggest that this involvement is a great way to get the inside scoop on campus news as well as another reason to come to campus a few times a year. Go to http://parents.nku.edu for more information. More broadly, by logging on to www.nku.edu, you will be able to see all the great things happening at NKU. The website is updated consistently and is a resource for students and parents.

Does NKU have a safe campus?
Yes, the mission of the Northern Kentucky University Police Department is to serve, educate, and protect the public through community collaboration, problem recognition, problem resolution and police action. Crime reports and daily crime logs are available on the Department of Public Safety’s website: http://dps.nku.edu/

Does NKU have an emergency notification system?
Yes, NORSE Alert! By visiting http://norsealert.nku.edu/ your student can sign up for this free service as well as learn about the services NORSE Alert provides. Ask your student to include your home and/or cell phone number to the list of his or her contacts. Students can enter up to three phone numbers including land lines. NORSE Alert! keeps students, faculty and staff informed during threatening situations and weather-related closings.

Academics

My student had a fairly easy time in high school with academics. How can I help him/her succeed at this new level?
Become knowledgeable about the resources NKU has in place to help students succeed (see the answer to the following question). University 101 is a great place for students to learn about effective learning habits, personal development, and university resources. Encourage your student to attend class, get to know his/her instructors, and visit faculty during office hours. Talk to your student throughout the semester and guide them to get help early if they are struggling.

What kind of academic support do you offer?
Through our Learning Assistance Programs we offer academic tutoring for various classes. Academic Tutoring provides students with FREE assistance and support so you can better understand the content of specific courses. Tutoring is available for most 100-level courses, many 200-level courses, and some 300-level and above courses. If your student wishes to sign up or view available courses for Academic Tutoring, they may do so by logging into tutuortrac.nku.edu. For more information, students can visit University Center 170 or call (859) 572-5475. Office hours are M-F, 8:15am to 4:30pm, though tutoring can occur in the Center till 7:00pm, M-R.

Are computers available on campus?
Yes, there are computers labs available in two of the residence halls (University Suites & Callahan Hall) as well as multiple academic buildings on campus. There are also multiple computers located in the Steely Library, Griffin Hall, and the Student Union. For the complete list of computer resources according to department, visit: http://it.nku.edu/students/labs/departmental.php. For the specific locations of computers on campus visit: http://it.nku.edu/students/labs/index.php

What kind of computer should my student purchase?
The selection of a computer for your student is a personal decision based on desired features and price. NKU students can receive an education discount on DELL and Apple computers. To visit the apple or DELL student stores online, visit http://informatics.nku.edu/students/index.php. The login for the DELL and Apple student stores is the same as your student’s myNKU username and password. Students in an art program can find computer recommendations online at http://www.nku.edu/~art/student/computer.php.
Where can I access the academic calendar?
The academic calendar, as well as other important campus calendars, is accessible from NKU’s main website. Visit www.nku.edu/calendars.php for a list of campus calendars and campus holidays.

How does a student change or declare her/his major or minor?
When a student has chosen to change/declare their major or minor and they have spoken to their advisor, they can then complete the Program Change/Declaration form. This requires them to obtain the signature from department chair in the department they are changing to/declaring. The student then takes the completed form to the Office of the Registrar which is located in the Lucas Administrative Center room 301.

How do I know how my son or daughter is doing academically?
Following guidelines established by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, NKU does not routinely send grade reports to parents or guardians. Students can sign a form allowing others to access their academic information, financial information, or student account information, if they so desire. This form must be completed and submitted in person with the student’s ALL Card photo ID. The student also has the right to rescind access to any records without notifying those who previously had access. Parents do receive letters if a student does very well and is entered on the Dean’s List. For more information, contact the Registrar at (859) 572-5556 or online at http://registrar.nku.edu/.

Is UNV 101 required?
University 101 is not required. It is however a great class for first year students. This class covers various important topics such as learning styles/ preferences, time management, successful study skills for college, choosing a major & career, and NKU campus resources. For more information, contact the Office of First Year Programs at (859) 572-5913 or online at http://firstyear.nku.edu/contact/index.php.

Housing

How does move-in day work? What should we bring and what should we leave at home?
Look for an information packet from Housing and a publication called “Victor’s Guidebook” throughout the summer. Look through these to help you and your student prepare for the big move. There are lots of student volunteers who help out on move-in day, so getting items into your student’s residence hall can go very quickly!

Can students stay in the residence halls over winter break?
Kentucky Hall, Commonwealth Hall and University Suites residents must leave for the winter break. These facilities are closed for the winter break. Residents of Norse Hall, Woodcrest Apartments, and Callahan hall will remain open with limited services over the winter break.

What is NKU’s visitation policy for the residence halls?
Residents will be permitted 24-hour guest visitation to allow students the flexibility to visit each other's rooms. However, this does not permit or condone cohabitation. All regularly assigned occupants of the room must agree to and be responsible for guests. Any guest of the opposite sex must be 18 years of age or older, or a Northern Kentucky University student. S/he must be escorted to and from the resident's room. Any guest must be accompanied by the resident. These policies, to respect the rights of privacy of all residents, shall be supervised by members of the residence hall staff. Residents must remain in the unit whenever their guest is in the apartment/room.

What about roommate issues?
Living as part of a residential community can be challenging, but can greatly enhance satisfaction with college life. Residents are expected to take primary responsibility for working to maintain a positive roommate relationship, and are encouraged to invest themselves in working to resolve differences by speaking directly with their roommates in an honest manner. On occasion, when differences cannot be resolved, the student should seek help from their Resident Assistant or Hall Director. For more information, contact Housing at (859) 572-5676 or online at housing.nku.edu.

Commuting

My student is living off campus. How do I encourage them to get involved?
Many parents of commuter students encourage their students to schedule their classes with some “down time” in between them to allow for their students to have time on campus to explore the involvement opportunities. Rather than scheduling classes only on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am – 2pm, students may find it easier to connect if they come to campus most days of the week and build time in to attend organization meetings or social events on campus.

Are commuter students able to attend Welcome Week activities?
Yes! ALL new students are encouraged to attend Welcome Week activities, and it would be an especially great place for commuter students to meet new friends.

The preceding questions are questions received by the Office of New Student Orientation from NKU parents. All of these questions are available online at http://orientation.nku.edu/parent. If your question is not answered during the parent panel and you cannot find the answer to your question above or online, e-mail your question to parents@nku.edu to have a staff member assist you.