

To parents concerned about their student's poor first semester performance, EducationDynamics offers a 10-point list strategies for managing concern and supporting the student in a constructive way. This advice consists of the following recommendations:

1. Take advantage of the academic centers to get help for your student. Many students are unaware of campus resources and simply need a nudge to seek them out. At SMCM, students can use the Writing Center, and can seek support from Academic Services (ext. 4388).
2. Have your student commit to a behavioral contract. Define a few reasonable goals and create measurable outcomes.
3. Encourage your student to get a campus job. A common misconception is that jobs are time intensive when in fact they actually force students to better manage their time. On-campus jobs also help students establish valuable social support networks.
4. Understand FERPA. According to law, parents cannot have access to their student's educational records without the student's written consent.
5. Direct inquiries to the Office of Academic Services or the Student Affairs Office in lieu of contacting faculty and professors.
6. Open the lines of communications with your student. Listen, and find out why he/she didn't hit their stride.
7. Help your student learn how to study. Bright students who are not used to studying can find college coursework to be a challenge.
8. Teach your student time management by buying him/her a planner.
9. Encourage your student to eat right and get plenty of sleep.
10. Stay calm. One bad semester does not define your student or his/her future.

Dr. Chrissy Coley, previously the assistant vice provost for student success initiatives at the University of South Carolina and the current vice president of retention products for EducationDynamics writes, " College is about a student asserting independence and constructing healthy adult relationships-parents must learn how to support their students while not interfering."