Season's Greetings!

It is hard to believe that semester is nearly over and that finals week is next week! Final exams will begin on Sunday, December 13 and will be complete by Thursday, December 17. You may have talked with your student recently - and their stress was palpable. Don't worry! What your student is experiencing is normal and fleeting. Finals are over on December 18th and then they will enjoy a three week winter break!

As you support your student, please remember that some stress is expected. Please encourage your student and help them manage stress so that it does not turn into a negative.

The campus is hosting a number of events to support students during finals and to provide a needed break, including Fun B4 Finals, which provides a safe, fun and relaxing environment; Buffalo Nites at the Rec Center, which includes free ice skating, or Late Night Breakfast, which provides free activities and a meal. Before you know it, finals will be over and your student will be able to enjoy the break!

Once finals are over and the semester has concluded, you may be wondering about grades. Shelly Bacon, Assistant Dean of Academic Advising and Student Success in the College of Arts and Sciences, provided the following information with respect to grades and I think it’s a good guide for both you and your student:

One of the big differences between high school and college is how final grades are handled. At CU-Boulder, grades are not mailed out in the form of a report card. Faculty enter students' final grades into an online grade book and students must log into their MyCUInfo portal (where they go to retrieve their degree audit, register for classes, etc.) to see their grades. This semester students can expect to view their grades by approximately December 30th. A couple of issues that often arise around grades:

Grade Disputes: if students feel their grade in a particular course is not what they expected, they should reach out via email to their instructor immediately. Students only have 60 days in which to raise a concern about a grade.

**Honors Program**: Students are eligible to take honors courses if their cumulative GPA is a 3.3 or above. They should contact the Honors Office if they are interested in learning more.

**Academic Alert or Probation**: Students for whom this is their first semester at CU-Boulder are placed on academic alert if their cumulative GPA is below 2.0. Official notifications from the dean's office are emailed to the student's colorado.edu email address but often the official notification doesn't arrive until just before spring classes are scheduled to begin and if students wait until they receive the notification, they won't have much time to decide on a best course of action. If students see that their GPA is below a 2.0, they should be
proactive and go ahead and review their options on the Academic Advising Center website. (Please note: Academic policies do vary between the schools and colleges. If your student is not in Arts and Sciences they should review the policies of their particular school or college by visiting the appropriate website. Your student’s academic advisor is also a very important resource.)

If you would like to view your student's grades, the best place to start is with your student! Sit down with them and review both their grades and their degree audit (if they don't know how to access or view the audit, the information is also available on the Arts and Science's Academic Advising Center website). Another option is to ask your student to submit a FERPA release to the Office of the Registrar. When they do so, they will establish a password which they will need to share with you. Once your student has shared the password with you, contact the Office of the Registrar and state the password in order to gain access to their grades. Students must submit the FERPA release in person so they would need to take care of this option before leaving campus for the winter break.

Next week is the time for your student to sell back and order new textbooks at the CU Bookstore. This can be done December 14-21 at the store in the UMC and at various times and locations around campus. For more information on textbook sell back, visit the CU Bookstore website.

Lots of freshmen parents have been asking about housing for next year. While the majority of upperclassmen—sophomores through seniors—live off campus, the University has on-campus housing available to upperclassmen. There are basically three options for our students: they can live in one of the residence halls, they can move into Bear Creek Apartments (a facility run by the university located next to Williams Village), or they can find off-campus housing. Off-Campus Housing and Neighborhood Relations will host Housing Fairs in the University Memorial Center on Wednesday, January 20 and Wednesday, February 24.

Winter Commencement 2015 is on Saturday, December 19 at 9:30 a.m. in the Coors Events Center. There are more than 2,000 graduates. Remember, if your student is graduating you will probably also want to attend their “recognition ceremony". These typically occur on Friday or Saturday of commencement week. For those of you with students approaching the “finish line," it’s not too early to start planning for Spring Commencement 2016 which will occur at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 7 in Folsom Stadium.

If you have questions about how your student can get to the airport and back to CU-Boulder for winter break, here are a few options:

  The least expensive option is the RTD SkyRide. This bus (use route AB) departs from CU-Boulder each hour and no reservations are necessary. Currently, the closest bus departure point to CU-Boulder is the 16th Street and Broadway bus stop (southbound side of Broadway). It takes about an hour to get to DIA. With their Eco Pass (bus pass) your student's ride to DIA is free!

  Your student can also reserve a Super Shuttle. This is a bit more expensive and reservations/booking for Super Shuttle is online.

  The final option is Green Ride Boulder. Again, this is more expensive than RTD SkyRide but it's a good option. Reservations for Green Ride Boulder are also made online.

Winter Break runs from the completion of fall finals (December 13-17) to the first day of the spring semester classes, January 11, 2016. The residence halls and associated dining centers are closed during Winter Break. Students must vacate their residence hall within 24 hours of the completion of their last final and no later than 1:00 p.m. on Friday, December 18. Students should consult with their hall director if they need to request an exception. The residence halls open up at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 6. Students are welcome to leave all of their possessions in their room during the break. Rooms and residence halls will be locked and secured during the entire break.

A quick tip! Having your student home during the holidays can be an exciting time to have a talk about life at college. Sometimes, alcohol can come up in your conversations. Click here for tips and resources for facilitating that discussion.
Important spring 2016 semester dates from the academic calendar:

- January 11: First Day of Classes
- January 18: Martin Luther King Day (campus closed)
- February 5: Tuition Due
- March 21-25: Spring Break (campus closed Friday, March 25)
- April 29: Last Day of Classes
- May 1-5: Final Exams (exams begin at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday)
- May 7: Commencement

During winter break, when you talk with your student about their recent experience at CU-Boulder, ask if there has been a faculty or staff member who has made a positive difference in their lives. If so, please consider nominating that person for the CU Parent Association’s (CUPA) Marinus Smith Award. CUPA created this award to recognize CU-Boulder personnel making a big difference in the lives of our students. Nominations are due Friday, February 26, 2016.

Finally, we wanted to let you know about an exciting change in our office. We are merging with New Student Welcome Programs to help support students throughout their first year at CU-Boulder and to continue to support parents throughout their student’s time on campus. We will be in touch with more information in the new year! We look forward to continuing working with you and will be in the office during the winter break, so please don’t hesitate to contact us if you have questions or concerns.

Best wishes to your student during the remainder of the fall semester and happiness and joy to you and yours during the holidays. We hope you enjoy all the blessings of this special time of year.

All the best!

Office of Parent Relations | University of Colorado Boulder
303-492-1380 | parents@colorado.edu | parents.colorado.edu
2249 Willard Loop Rd, Suite N460, Boulder, CO 80209
Like us on Facebook!

Unsubscribe from receiving future emails from the Office of Parent Relations. [open count]