**JANUARY TOPICS**

Text Version  Printer Friendly Version

Commencement Information
Continuing Education Test Preparation
Course Repeat Policy
Credit/No Credit
Dean's List
Financial Aid Information – 2010 FAFSA
Fresh Start
Important Information about Illegal Downloading
Inclement Weather Policy
KU Student Housing Information
Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration
Net Nutrition®
Resolutions You Can Keep
Student Housing Information
1098-T Tax Form
University Career Fair

* KU Parent Association

KU Parent Assistance Line (785) 864-5872

Please address your questions or comments to parents@ku.edu. Please do not use the "Reply" key to send e-mail messages

* Remove from this List  Subscribe to this List

**IMPORTANT KU DATES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 21, 2011</td>
<td>First day of Spring Classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 21-27</td>
<td>Spring Break (No classes, University offices open)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 13</td>
<td>Stop Day (No classes, University offices open)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 16-20</td>
<td>Final Examinations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 22</td>
<td>Commencement 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 7</td>
<td>First day of Summer Term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 29</td>
<td>Last day of Summer Term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 22</td>
<td>First day of Fall 2011 Term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 5</td>
<td>Labor Day (No classes, University offices closed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 10</td>
<td>Family/Band Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 1</td>
<td>Homecoming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 10-11</td>
<td>Fall Break (No classes, University offices open)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 23-27</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Break (No classes, University offices open on 23rd)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 9</td>
<td>Stop Day (No classes, University offices open)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 12-16</td>
<td>Final Examinations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 17, 2012</td>
<td>First day of Spring 2012 Term</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IMPORTANT KU PHONE NUMBERS**

Vice Provost for Student Success (785) 864-4060
College of Liberal Arts & Sci. Acad. Serv. (785) 864-3500
Counseling & Psychological Services (785) 864-2277
Department of Student Housing (785) 864-4560
Office of Student Financial Aid (785) 864-4700
Office of University Registrar (785) 864-4422
Student Health Services (785) 864-9500

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**COMMENCEMENT INFORMATION INCLUDING CAP AND GOWN INFORMATION**

The KU Bookstore is pleased to announce this year’s Grad Finale to be held February 22-23 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the lobby on the fourth floor of the Kansas Union. Grad Finale is designed to offer everything your son or daughter would need for graduation and more.

Caps, gowns, and other regalia will be available for fitting, and representatives will be on hand to assist with ordering personalized announcements. Classic Photography, Inc. will be available to take cap and gown portraits with no sitting fee and no obligation required. Jostens will offer a display of official KU class rings and aid in regalia fitting. Other organizations will be present to provide assistance planning for life after graduation, such as career and financial assistance.

If you have questions, please call the KU Bookstores at (785) 864-4640 or visit www.union.ku.edu/grad. For more information about Commencement, visit: www.commencement.ku.edu/
CONTINUING EDUCATION TEST PREPARATION
Continuing Education offers test preparation courses for the GRE, GMAT and LSAT in both Lawrence and Overland Park. They also offer free Strategy Workshops for these graduate exams to learn proven strategies from experienced instructors. To learn more about when and where Continuing Education offers these courses and workshops, visit www.testprep.ku.edu.

COURSE REPEAT POLICY
Some first year students find that their grades were not what they expected. Students may be interested in the Course Repeat Policy. If a student takes a course at KU, receives a D or F in the course, enrolls in and repeats the course at KU, the new grade may be used in place of the original grade for purpose of GPA calculation, subject to some limitations. The complete policy can be found at https://documents.ku.edu/policies/governance/USRR.htm#art2sect2.

CREDIT/NO CREDIT OPTION
KU does offer the Credit/No Credit grade option. Many students refer to this as "pass or fail" although that is not accurate. To earn credit for a course, a student must earn a grade of C- or higher in the course. Students cannot use Credit/No Credit for required major courses or to meet Conditional Admission/Kansas Exception requirements. Some of the professional schools and majors also restrict which courses students may take Credit/No Credit. Thus, it is important for a student to double check with the School to be certain that the class being considered for Credit/No Credit is eligible.

DEAN’S LIST
The Dean’s List is synonymous with the Honor Roll. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences as well as each of the professional schools have a Dean’s List. Some schools honor the top 10 percent of students enrolled, some establish a minimum grade-point average and others raise the minimum GPA for each year students are in school. Students must complete a minimum number of credit hours to be considered for the honor roll. For more information contact the Dean's office for the particular school in which you are interested.

FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION
File the 2011-12 FAFSA (Priority Date: March 1st)
Find us on Facebook at facebook.com/ku.finaid.scholarships.

Now is the time for students and parents to file the 2011-2012 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Priority consideration for limited funded aid programs, including the KU Tuition Grant, will be given to students who have a complete financial aid file by March 1, 2011. Below is a checklist to help you and your student prepare to file the 2011-12 FAFSA:

- Obtain a Personal Identification Number (PIN): Prior to applying for federal financial aid, you and your student should obtain a PIN online at www.pin.ed.gov. This number serves as your electronic signature on the student's FAFSA. A PIN may also be used to electronically sign the Master Promissory Note (MPN) for a Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS).

- Ensure that you and your student's past and present employer(s) have your correct mailing address(es). Your employer(s) should send a copy of your W-2 to you sometime in January. Gather all applicable tax documents so you and your student can complete your Income Tax Returns in a timely manner. If possible, utilize your completed tax information on the FAFSA and submit the FAFSA by the priority date. Although changes in the tax law passed by Congress in December 2010 will require some taxpayers to delay filing their individual tax returns, you do not have to wait to file your FAFSA. If you have not yet completed your Income Tax Returns, your student may complete the FAFSA by estimating your income. As soon as you receive your Income Tax Returns, however, your student should update the FAFSA accordingly.

- Complete the 2011-12 FAFSA: The Department of Education recommends that students file the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.gov, but a paper version of the application is acceptable. Indicate KU as the school of choice on the FAFSA. KU’s Federal School Code is 001948. Priority Date: March 1, 2011.

- If your student is a Kansas resident and meets the eligibility criteria for the State of Kansas Scholarship, the Kansas Ethnic Minority Scholarship, or the Kansas Teacher Service Scholarship, your student should complete the State of Kansas Student Aid Application. Additional information is available at www.kansasregents.org (Students > Student Financial Aid > Scholarships and Grants). Note: A small application fee is required. Priority Date: May 1, 2011.

- Review the 2011-2012 Application Process Checklist on the Financial Aid and Scholarships (FAS) website to ensure you and your student are completing all of the steps required to be awarded and receive financial aid for the 2011-12 academic year. You may also want to review the 2011-12 Financial Aid Programs at a Glance and the Parent Guide for Financial Aid.

If you have questions about filing the FAFSA, please contact the Financial Aid and Scholarships (FAS) office at 785-864-4700 or financialaid@ku.edu.
FRESH START
The key to having a successful semester is starting off on the right foot. Student Success is committed to informing students about services, programs and activities that can help them achieve their semester goals. The "Start Fresh" website will soon be available with important dates, ideas and tips. We encourage you and your student to visit www.startfresh.ku.edu and start the semester FRESH.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT DOWNLOADING
It is a digital age and students are accustomed to having quick access to information and entertainment. Did you know that:

- music, movies, games and software are protected by federal copyright law?
- downloading or distributing these materials without the stated permission of the copyright owner is illegal?
- In October a woman in Minnesota was fined over $200,000 for illegally downloading 24 songs?

If your student uses Bittorrent, Gnutella, Frostwire, eDonkey, Limewire or other file-sharing software to collect or share music, movies, games or software, your student might be violating copyright law. KU acts quickly to respond to complaints of copyright violation we receive from copyright owners and their representatives, such as the Motion Picture Association of America, the Recording Industry Association of America, the Interactive Digital Software Association and the Business Software Alliance.

Copyright infringing activity violates U.S. copyright law, the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities, the University of Kansas Policy on the Acceptable Use of Electronic Information Resources, and the ResNet Responsible Use Agreement.

You may wish to advise your student search his or her hard drive for illegally downloaded materials and delete the material before returning to KU. Any copyright infringement notice to KU, no matter when the material was downloaded, will result in termination of the internet connection with the right to an appeal.

If you have not watched the 13-minute informal video "What do you think," we encourage you and your student to do so. You can find the video at www.technology.ku.edu/dmca. This video presents an informative conversation about intellectual property and file-sharing to encourage you to think about these issues for yourself. (Brought to you by The University of Richmond Intellectual Property Institute and its National CyberEducation Project.)

For complete information on how KU handles illegally downloaded materials, visit: www.dmca.ku.edu/.

INCLEMENT WEATHER
If KU cancels classes due to weather, students may check the KU website for information or call the KU Info Center 864-3506 or the Snow Line, 864-7669. Additionally, those signed up for the emergency messaging system will receive a text message with class cancellation information. To learn more about inclement weather practices at KU, visit: www.alert.ku.edu/weather.shtml.

NETNUTRITION®
NETNUTRITION® is KU Dining Service’s online nutrition analysis program that is accessible to everyone through www.kudining.com, click on "NetNutrition.®" This tool allows users to view a complete nutritional/caloric breakdown of most menu items served in each KU Dining location. It also allows you to identify particular food allergens to aid in menu selections. To visit KU Net Nutrition® click here.

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY CELEBRATION
The University of Kansas will celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King on January 24th in the Kansas Room of the Kansas Union. A reception will start at 5:30 p.m. and the keynote address by Dr. Adia Harvey Wingfield at 6:30. Following the keynote, there will be a book signing.

Dr. Adia Harvey Wingfield is an Associate Professor of Sociology at Georgia State University and the author of "Yes We Can?: White Racial Framing and the 2008 Presidential Campaign." This book offers one of the first sociological analyses of Barack Obama’s historic 2008 campaign for the presidency of the United States. This book counters many commonsense assumptions about race, politics, and society, particularly the idea that Obama’s election ushered in a post-racial era.
KU STUDENT HOUSING INFORMATION

Contract Now for Next Year!
We would love to have your student back in Student Housing next year. For them, it is an opportunity for lifelong friends and memories. For families, it is a great value—one payment covers rent, food, utilities and cable. We have held the line on costs next year—we are proud that KU’s rate proposal, approved by the Kansas Board of Regents, was the lowest of any school in the region.

There are many benefits to on-campus living. Students who live on campus get better grades, and graduate on time, even as they work through those upper-level classes. We have lots of options: apartments, private rooms, scholarship halls and more. For information about on-line contracts: www.housing.ku.edu or 785-864-4560.

Spring Break Housing
The Department of Student Housing offers housing during Spring Break, March 21-27. Watch for details about the online registration.

Security Cameras to Focus on Entrances
The Department of Student Housing recently added another layer of security to its communities with cameras focused on building entrances. Additionally, campus parking lots, including those at Student Housing facilities, have cameras that record 24 hours a day.

Ask your Student about Survey
The Department of Student Housing has recently surveyed students for their opinion about their community. We asked about programs, community climate, policies, accountability and other topics. We use the information to help us set goals for the next year to provide KU students a more comfortable and academically focused environment. Your student’s opinion is important to us.

Leadership Opportunity for your Student
Ask your student about applying to work as a Resident Assistant next year. Information is available at http://housing.ku.edu/employment/undergraduate.shtml.

RESOLUTIONS YOU CAN KEEP
A new year and a new semester is a time that many of us, parents and students alike, make resolutions to change and improve. But as many of us experience, the hope we initially feel can easily give way to discouragement and inaction. Here are a few suggestions adapted from the book Switch: How To Change When Change Is Hard by Chip and Dan Heath to help us engage both the “head” and the “heart” and increase our likelihood of sticking with our goals.

- Create SMART goals - Specific, Measurable, Actionable, Relevant, and Timely.
- But this is only part of the equation, and does not address the important element of motivation.
- We also need a “destination postcard,” a vivid picture of the near term future that shows us what can be possible when we make progress toward our goal.
- Engineer for early success. For example, studies have shown that people given punch cards to use for a free pizza or sandwich after making a specified number of purchases are far more likely to use the card if it is started with one or two free punches, even if the total number of purchases required remains the same. Identify the progress toward the goal that you are already making, even if it is small. Hope is essential to the change effort.

Finally, if we start to feel stuck, ask ourselves, "What's the next action?" When the process feels unclear we tend to quit.

John Wooden, legendary coach of the UCLA men’s basketball team that won nine championships stated, “When you improve a little each day, eventually big things occur. Don’t look for the quick, big improvement. Seek small improvement one day at a time. That’s the only way it happens – and when it happens, it lasts.”

For more information about helping your student with goal setting, stress management, or many other concerns, go to the Counseling and Psychological Services website at www.caps.ku.edu/.

1098-T TAX FORM
The Bursar's Office partners with a service so students can print their 1098T Tax Form. All the information you need is available at: http://www.bursar.ku.edu/tax_reporting/1098t.aspx.
UNIVERSITY CAREER FAIR
The University Career Center (UCC) sponsors the University Career Fair on Wednesday, February 9, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Kansas Union Ballroom. Every February, employers representing a wide variety of industries attend the University Career Fair to recruit KU students of all majors and levels for full-time, part-time, and internship positions.

Students can prepare for the event by attending UCC workshops in the weeks leading up to the career fair or by scheduling individual appointments with UCC career coaches. Encourage your student to visit www.KUCareerHawk.com for a list of attending employers and a schedule of career fair preparation workshops. The list is updated frequently.

HELPFUL LINKS
- KU Parent Association: www.parentassociation.ku.edu
- KU Information Center: www.kuinfo.ku.edu
- KU Alumni Association: www.kualumni.org
- KU Endowment Association: www.kuendowment.org
- KU on Facebook: www.ku.edu/facebook
- KU News: KU news releases are available online at www.news.ku.edu

Address your questions or comments to parents@ku.edu. Please do not use the "Reply" key to send e-mail messages.