MAY TOPICS

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*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

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IMPORTANT KU DATES

May 13  Stop Day (No classes, University offices open)
May 16-20  Final Examinations
May 22  Commencement 2011
June 7  First day of Summer Term
July 29  Last day of Summer Term
August 22  First day of Fall Semester
September 5  Labor Day (No classes, University offices closed)
September 10  Family/Band Day
October 1  Homecoming
October 10-11  Fall Break (No classes, University offices open)
November 23-27  Thanksgiving Break (No classes, University offices open on 23rd)
December 9  Stop Day (No classes, University offices open)
December 12-16  Final Examinations
January 17, 2012  First day of Spring Semester
March 19 -25  Spring Break (No classes, University offices open)
May 4  Stop Day (No classes, University offices open)
May 7 -11  Final Examinations
May 13  Commencement
August 20  First Day of Fall 2012 Classes

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

GRADUATE PIN STAFF CERTIFICATION

Students may find their grades via Enroll and Pay and select "View My Grades." Students can print a copy of their grades from this screen. KU does not mail grades to students. If you, as a parent, want a copy of the grades you can have your student print the grades page from KU Enroll and Pay or you may request a copy of the grades by following the instructions found here: www.registrar.ku.edu/parents/grade_request.shtml.
COMMENCEMENT RECEPTION AT KANSAS UNION AND COMMENCEMENT INFORMATION

The Commencement Committee and the KU Memorial Unions will host a reception for graduates and guests, featuring a complimentary continental breakfast, from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. on Commencement Day, May 22nd. The event will be held in the Ballroom on level five of the Kansas Union. Additional commencement services will be available on level four, including professional photographic services, floral services, 2011 Class Gift information and KU Alumni Association membership information.

Information about KU’s 2011 Commencement is online at www.commencement.ku.edu.

Hotels in Lawrence do not have vacancies over the Commencement Weekend. You may wish to book your 2012 reservation now. Commencement ceremonies for 2012 are on Sunday, May 13th. The Lawrence Chamber of Commerce has a listing of local hotels. Visit: www.visitlawrence.com/visitor/accommodations/.

FALL SEMESTER INFORMATION

Classes for the fall semester begin on Monday, August 22nd. KU residence halls open for most students on Friday, August 19th. Select KU offices will be open limited hours on Saturday, August 20th and Sunday, August 21st.

KU does not hold classes on Labor Day which is September 5th. The fall break is October 10-11, a Monday and Tuesday this year. Offices are open during fall break; however, classes are not in session. Finals begin on December 12th and end on December 16th.

The complete calendar of fall semester is found here: http://www.registrar.ku.edu/~registr/pdf/enrollment/calendar_date_4119.pdf.

FOUR-YEAR TUITION COMPACT

The KU Four-Year Tuition Compact is an innovative plan that gives students and their families the ability to calculate the cost of tuition and fees for an entire four year college degree. Those students who entered KU as first time freshmen in Fall 2007 are the first class to pay tuition under the Four-Year Tuition Compact. The Tuition Compact established a fixed tuition rate for four calendar years (includes summer sessions) from the time the student enrolls in KU. When it expires, students must pay the going standard rate.

As a parent, you may want to check with your Class of 2011 student to see if he or she could use summer school classes to graduate. If they do, they can still take advantage of the Compact rate during Summer 2011. If your student will be enrolling for Fall 2011, they will pay the standard tuition rate. That rate is set by the Kansas Board of Regents in June. To learn more about tuition at KU visit: http://www.tuition.ku.edu/.

Even if your son or daughter is not graduating this semester, you may want to check with them to be certain they are on track to graduate in four years. As they enroll for each semester, remind your student that by taking 16 hours each semester, in most KU programs, they can graduate with a bachelor’s degree in four years. Save money and save time! Have your student visit with his or her academic advisor about summer school or staying on track to graduate in four years.

HAWK WEEK GUIDE POSITION

Hawk Week is the official Welcome Week for the University of Kansas and will be held August 19-27, 2011. Hawk Week Guides will assist in the implementation and coordination of Hawk Week. Each Hawk Week Guide will be assigned to a group of students throughout the week. Students selected for this position are expected to:

- Attend a mandatory training session, Monday, August 15 from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
- Be available Friday, August 19, through Saturday, August 27, to facilitate Hawk Week.
- Participate in follow-up evaluations and provide feedback for future programs.
- Provide ideas, leadership, and enthusiasm for Hawk Week!

Apply at New Student Orientation, Strong Hall Room 145, by Wednesday, June 1, 2011. For more information, or if you have questions about the position, please contact Megan Baker, mmbaker@ku.edu or 785-864-4270.

HEALTH INSURANCE FOR GRADUATES

For those students graduating and needing health insurance, the Kansas Alumni Association offers GradMed. This is an inexpensive, comprehensive, short-term health insurance for alumni as well as new graduates. You can learn more about this health insurance option by visiting: www.gradmed.com.
HOME FOR THE SUMMER
Although your student still remembers the family rules, they have experienced quite a bit of freedom while living on their own at KU. The two of you may have differing expectations when he or she returns home for the summer. It is important to sit down and discuss plans for the summer. The following tips are adapted from www.collegetipsforparents.org.

- **Talk about curfew.** A residence hall student who has not had strict curfews may have issues with them. Do you want to know where your student is at all times? Is it necessary to know if they will be home for dinner? Do you expect a check in before you go to bed?
- **Summer jobs and finances.** Do you want your student to contribute to their school costs? How much should be budgeted for summer fun?
- **Family responsibility.** Is your student expected to participate in family chores or assist with transporting siblings?

KU STUDENT HOUSING INFORMATION

**Thinking ahead to moving out**
At semester's end, your student will be asked to schedule a check-out appointment in order to leave student housing. Check-out schedules with the Resident Assistant or Scholarship Hall Director will be available at the front desk. The process takes only a few minutes and includes turning in keys, having the room checked for damage or missing items, and completing a forwarding address card. Failure to set up an appointment may result in a charge for an improper checkout, a bill for a lock change, or other charges. The full process is described here: http://www.housing.ku.edu/handbook/movingout.shtml.

**Student Housing move-in dates for next year**
The Department of Student Housing is already planning for your student to return in August:

- Residence halls and scholarship halls open at 8 a.m., Friday, August 19.
- Jayhawker Towers on-campus apartments open at 8 a.m., Tuesday, August 16.
- Residence and Scholarship Halls open for women registered for sorority recruitment 9 a.m., Wednesday, August 17.

If your student is participating in a program that requires an early move-in (such as marching band, international student orientation, or a KU sport), the program coordinator will communicate with us to arrange early move-in. If you have questions about times, contact the program directly.

**Are you sending another Jayhawk to Lawrence next year?**
Student Housing would love to meet your student’s needs for a safe, comfortable, convenient place to live next year. Studies show students who live on campus are more likely to get better grades and graduate on time. Visit our website, www.housing.ku.edu for more information.

LEASES AND STUDENTS

Legal Services for Students (LSS) LSS provides free legal advice to students who have paid the required campus fee. One area that keeps LSS busy is landlord-tenant issues. In a down economy, the number of housing problems (evictions/overcharges for damages/ failure to return deposits/refusal of landlords to make repairs) has increased. LSS helps students resolve their landlord and tenant issues so they can focus on their studies and move on toward graduating from KU.

LSS will review leases before a student signs it. To prevent problems, it is vitally important that every student (and their parents) closely review the “fine print” in the lease before they sign. Ask questions of the landlord, and if the landlord cannot answer to your satisfaction, walk away. Have your son or daughter ask current tenants in a complex how the landlord responds to maintenance requests. Also, check online for ratings of the landlord and management company at sites like http://www.apartmentratings.com/rate/KS-Lawrence-1.html.

Anyone can check to be sure if a residence is safe and complies with **minimum fire, zoning, and maintenance codes** by calling the Lawrence Code Enforcement officer at (785) 832-3107. With the cold winter this past year, LSS saw an increase in the number of damage claims by landlords blaming students for frozen pipes; be sure to carry renter’s insurance, either a separate policy or through parents’ homeowner’s policy.

To learn more about Legal Services for Students visit: www.legalservices.ku.edu.
RESEARCH ON RISK FACTORS FOR DROPPING OUT

A recent study examined critical events that cause students to consider dropping out of college. Surprisingly, some very major life events, such as the death or illness of a family member, pregnancy, or undergoing major surgery were not found to be statistically related to considering leaving college. However, six factors, mostly involving more common occurrences, were found to be associated with dropping out. These events were: receiving an unexpected bad grade; roommate conflicts; lost financial aid; being recruited by another institution or job; becoming clinically depressed; and a large increase in tuition/living costs.

These findings have several useful implications. The importance of "everyday" events such as roommate conflicts or receiving an unexpected bad grade should not be underestimated. A deeper examination of the findings also suggests that the students’ pre-existing level of certainty about being in college and their allegiance to the institution partially mediates the impact of the event itself. Students deeply committed to college or the institution are less likely to drop out even if distressing events occur. Although many disruptive events are outside of the students’ control, participating in extra-curricular activities, feeling connected to the university, and having good friends serves as a buffer if disruptive events occur. Finally, it is generally much easier to plan in advance and problem solve effectively when calm and rational than to try to devise solutions on the fly when a distressing event is occurring. Help your student think in advance about how to manage common occurrences, such as a roommate conflict or not getting their desired major.

Depression was found to be the leading cause of dropping out. Check in on your student now and then – simply ask how they are doing. If your student is starting to feel or act depressed, convey support and understanding, and help them to seek professional treatment if their symptoms last for more than a couple of weeks or are interfering with their academic performance. Research strongly shows that students who take advantage of campus resources are more likely to stay in college and more likely to graduate.

For more information about other self-help topics, or to find out information about services offered at Counseling and Psychological Services, please visit: www.caps.ku.edu.

SUMMER SCHOOL OPTIONS

KU offers students many options for summer term classes. There are classes on the Lawrence campus as well as the Edwards campus plus classes through Continuing Education. To see if a class from a different institution will transfer to KU, visit http://admissions.ku.edu/~admiss/credit/transfer/index.shtml. For more information about summer classes at KU visit: http://www.jayhawksummer.ku.edu/ or https://classes.ku.edu/Classes/ExternalDisplay.action.

HEALTHFUL 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.