OCTOBER 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

* Remove from this List  Subscribe to this List

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

IMPORTANT KU DATES

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>October 14-17</td>
<td>Fall Break (No classes, University offices open)</td>
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<td>October 23</td>
<td>Homecoming</td>
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<td>November 24-28</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Break (No classes, University offices open on 24th)</td>
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<td>December 10</td>
<td>Stop Day (No classes, University offices open)</td>
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<td>December 13-17</td>
<td>Final Examinations</td>
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<td>January 21, 2011</td>
<td>First day of Spring Classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 21-27</td>
<td>Spring Break (No classes, University offices open)</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 13</td>
<td>Stop Day (No classes, University offices open)</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 16-20</td>
<td>Final Examinations</td>
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<td>May 22</td>
<td>Commencement 2011</td>
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<td>June 7</td>
<td>First day of Summer Term</td>
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<td>July 29</td>
<td>Last day of Summer Term</td>
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<td>August 22</td>
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ADVISING & ENROLLMENT FOR SPRING SEMESTER

Advising for the spring semester has started. Students are asked to complete advising appointments prior to Thanksgiving, although appointments are available after that date. Most students see an advisor in the University Advising Center until they have declared their major or are accepted into a professional school. Students admitted into the Honors Program or professional schools are advised by those academic units. Students generally cannot enroll without an advising appointment.

For complete information about advising and enrollment, visit: www.advising.ku.edu.
BLACKBOARD

Today’s Blackboard is not the old chalkboard on the classroom wall. You may have heard your student talking about Blackboard or you may have used this powerful web-based software. Some instructors post the course syllabus, while others use it as the online grade book. Some faculty members use it to supplement their face-to-face classroom by posting materials or hosting discussions. Because there are so many features and different ways of configuring Blackboard, each instructor can customize the online course environment to fit the desired learning outcomes; thus, no two Blackboard sites may be the same. KU does not require faculty members to use Blackboard; thus, not all courses have a Blackboard page.

Some parents want access to their student’s Blackboard account so they can monitor their student’s performance: they think this is just like the access they had during high school. It is inappropriate for you as a parent to access the Blackboard account because it is for enrolled students and faculty members only. Even if a student has given his or her parent access to their academic records, they do not have a right to give access to Blackboard. The material on Blackboard is intellectual property that is to be shared only with enrolled students, and providing access to this system for individuals not directly affiliated with KU violates our license agreement. In addition, the discussions on Blackboard are for the class members and for others to read those discussions violates the privacy of all the students enrolled in the class.

It is understandable that parents experience concern for the student and her/his performance in class, although no one other than the student can be responsible for his/her class participation or preparation. If you are concerned that your student is not doing well, ask your student how a class is going. If it is not going well, suggest that your student discuss how he/she is doing with the faculty member or academic advisor and/or recommend the services of the Academic Achievement and Access Center (www.achievement.ku.edu) to your student. Part of your role as a parent of a college student is to help them take responsibility for their choices and that includes their academic choices and performance.

To learn more about KU’s Blackboard, visit: http://ids.ku.edu/content.php?layer=2&page=bb.

BOUNCE BACK PROGRAMS

The University Advising Center is offering a program geared toward students who are on academic probation. Students attending these sessions will learn about different campus resources/support, fill out their probation contract and remove their probation hold. The sessions are informal and students can drop by any time. The session lasts about 45 minutes.

- October 28th, anytime from 2-4 pm in the Jayhawk Room of the Kansas Union
- November 10th anytime from 12-2 pm in the Centennial Room of the Kansas Union
- November 30th anytime from 12-2 pm in the Jayhawk Room of the Kansas Union

CARE PACKAGES

As a parent, you may receive information from a wide variety of campus organizations and companies offering finals kits for sale. These items are also called “Survival Kits” or “Study Packs.” Before you order a kit, look closely at the order form to ensure that it is a reputable source. It is always wise to write down the contact information from the order form in case you run into any problems. If there is no contact information given, then it probably is not a reputable source.

If you do not get any information about finals care packages, you may wish to send your own or use a local Lawrence grocery store or florist to make a custom care package to deliver to your student. KU Finals Week is December 13-17.

FINANCIAL AID TV

“Financial Aid TV” is now available on the KU Financial Aid and Scholarships homepage (www.financialaid.ku.edu) by clicking on the Financial Aid TV icon on the right-hand side of our homepage. These easy to view Financial Aid TV videos provide answers to general financial aid questions.

The URLs for this and two other relatively new websites are:

- http://ku.financialaidtv.com/
- http://www.cashcourse.org/universityofkansas
- http://www.facebook.com/kuosfa
FALL GRADUATE RECOGNITION CEREMONIES
KU has one commencement ceremony and it is at the end of the Spring semester; however, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and some individual schools often have fall graduation recognition ceremonies. Fall graduates are encouraged to come back to campus for the May commencement as well. For specific information about a ceremony call the Dean’s Office of the College or appropriate school.

The following is a listing of December ceremonies:

- College of Liberal Arts and Sciences: December 12th at 2 pm at the Lied Center,
- School of Business: December 10th at 4 pm at the Lied Center,
- School of Engineering: December 11th at 9 am at Woodruff Auditorium in the Kansas Union,
- School of Journalism and Mass Communication: December 12th at 1 pm at Woodruff Auditorium in the Kansas Union.

Students must complete an Application for Degree to officially graduate. For more information visit: [www.timetable.ku.edu/~registr/current/graduation.shtml](http://www.timetable.ku.edu/~registr/current/graduation.shtml).

For information about the May Commencement visit: [www.commencement.ku.edu](http://www.commencement.ku.edu).

FLU SHOTS
The University of Kansas Student Health Services will offer the seasonal flu vaccine to members of the KU community at several campus clinics starting October 19. The seasonal flu vaccine protects against three influenza viruses that research indicates will be most common during the upcoming season, including 2009 H1N1. Flu shots will be available for those 18 and older for $15. The nasal-spray flu vaccine is also available for $20.50 to those ages 9 through 49 only. More information, including dates, times and locations, will be available at [www.studenthealth.ku.edu](http://www.studenthealth.ku.edu).

KU BOOKSTORE PROVIDES NEW SERVICES
The KU Bookstore has added new services to give students more options in purchasing books and other academic materials.

The first new service is an online rental option ([http://kubookstore.bookrenter.com](http://kubookstore.bookrenter.com)). Although not all books are available for rent, the ones that are available may offer a significant savings over purchasing a new book.

The second service is online price comparison shopping. On the bookstore’s website, [www.kubookstore.com](http://www.kubookstore.com), a student can select the price comparison shopping link and compare the textbook availability and options from the KU Bookstore, [www.KUBookstore.Bookrenter.com](http://www.KUBookstore.Bookrenter.com) and other leading online resellers. The site even allows the student to purchase the books from the vendors other than the KU Bookstore if they desire.

A third new service offered is a new HP Print-on-Demand feature which allows the Bookstore to print some required course materials on-site, bypassing the traditional printer, publisher and shipping requirements for a book. This service has already saved 3,000 students on campus approximately 40% on their required course pack.

All these services are in addition to the Bookstore’s preorder service. This service offers a 5% discount off new and used textbooks that are preordered for the next semester. All the books are then pulled by the bookstore staff and placed in a box for the student to pick up once they return to campus for the start of the semester. This service usually becomes available during enrollment time.

Visit [www.KUBookstore.com](http://www.KUBookstore.com) to learn more about some of these services.

MATH PLACEMENT EXAM FOR SPRING ENROLLMENT
The Math Department offers placement exams for proper math course enrollment. To take the exam a student must register online. The exam is offered again in January. You can find more information at: [www.math.ku.edu/academics/undergraduate/placement_dates.html](http://www.math.ku.edu/academics/undergraduate/placement_dates.html). 
KU STUDENT HOUSING
Register Online for Student Housing During Break Times
Students may stay in KU student housing during the break by registering at www.housing.ku.edu. There is an additional fee for break housing.

McCollum Hall remains open during all university breaks. GSP, Corbin and Oliver residence halls and all scholarship halls close for Thanksgiving, winter and spring break. Residents of those buildings that will close may ask to live in McCollum Hall during the break.

Ellsworth, Hashinger, Lewis and Templin residence halls may remain open if a sufficient number of requests for each hall is received. A final decision about whether a hall will remain open will be made no later than ten days before break. To register, go to the Student Housing website. For additional questions, e-mail housing@ku.edu or call 785-864-4560.

MIDTERM TIME
Midterm exams are in full swing and your student has probably received feedback on their academic work to date. The tutoring programs offered through the Academic Achievement and Access Center accepts requests for tutoring through October 30th. For more information, visit: www.tutoring.ku.edu/.

Students can find this time of the semester quite stressful. Remind your student to get plenty of rest, to eat right, and to get some physical activity to deal with the stress. For more tips on how to deal with stress visit: www.caps.ku.edu/~caps/selfhelp/reducestress2.shtml.

NEW ONE CREDIT OPTION FOR PRE 101
A new, eight-week, one-credit hour version of PRE 101 begins on October 18. The course is a college success seminar and in its two-credit version has documented success in making a positive difference for students in their first semester at KU. This “short course” will include topics such as academic success strategies and skills; how to make best use of campus resources such as the Writing Center, Advising Center, and Career Services; and how to focus on finishing the semester strongly. Students who were not able to participate in the full summer orientation program or those have encountered difficulties in the first half of the semester are encouraged to apply. More information is available at www.achievement.ku.edu.

PROOF OF ENROLLMENT
Often a student will need proof of enrollment for insurance reasons. The University calls this a certification of enrollment. This documentation is provided by the Student Records Center of the University Registrar’s Office in Room 151 Strong Hall. Students may request this certification in person or online. For more information, visit: www.registrar.ku.edu/current/enrollmentcert.shtml.

STUDY ABROAD
KU is a leader in providing low-cost, high-quality study abroad options and is among nine public universities in the nation cited by U.S. News and World Report for having the top study abroad programs. The publication stated that education experts agree that study abroad is a key ingredient to student success.

KU offers programs in approximately 70 countries throughout the world. Students can study in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Australia or Europe. Twenty-seven percent of KU students study abroad at some point in their time at the university. U.S. News described the selected programs as “stellar.”

Research shows that students who participate in a study abroad program are more likely to graduate in four years than other students and they have higher grade point averages. In fact, KU students who study abroad graduate in four years at twice the rate of students who do not study abroad. These positive signs of student success are even greater with students who enter college with lower to average test scores; thus, studying abroad enhances success for students who could be termed “at risk.”

If your son or daughter has not mentioned studying abroad to you, why not suggest it to him or her? To learn more about KU’s Study Abroad options, visit: http://www.studyabroad.ku.edu/.

TEA IS SERVED
Every Thursday afternoon when classes are in session from 3–4 pm on the 4th floor of the Kansas Union tea is served. Join Student Union Activities (SUA) for tea, cookies, and conversation. It is a fun way to bring some relaxation into a student’s hectic week. To learn about the many activities that SUA sponsors visit: www.suaevents.com.

HELPFUL LINKS

- **KU Parent Association:** [www.parentassociation.ku.edu](http://www.parentassociation.ku.edu)
- **KU Information Center:** [www.kuinfo.ku.edu](http://www.kuinfo.ku.edu)
- **KU Alumni Association:** [www.kualumni.org](http://www.kualumni.org)
- **KU Endowment Association:** [www.kuendowment.org](http://www.kuendowment.org)
- **KU on Facebook:** [www.ku.edu/facebook](http://www.ku.edu/facebook)
- **KU News:** KU news releases are available online at [www.news.ku.edu](http://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.