Issues Students Face During the First Semester

The first year of college is a learning experience for you as well as your student. Sometimes families fear that their students will experience stressful and overwhelming situations. Knowing what some of these situations can be and some possible ways to support your student can relieve the stress for everyone.

Issues with academics

- **Learning the differences between high school and college.** College is very different from high school. Williams will address some of these differences and how to deal with them during Orientation.
- **Selecting a major.** Approximately 1/3 of incoming freshmen will be undecided about a major on the day they register for classes. Being undecided about a major is okay. All freshmen will take a career inventory during the semester. This inventory looks at personality, interests, skills, and values as they relate to career. WBC staff will go over this information with freshmen.
- **What to do with free time.** “Should I study, play a video game, spend time on Facebook, or …” The list is endless. Each freshman is placed in a freshman orientation class called Higher Learning. One class session covers time management. Topics include: how am I using my time, when do I have free time, and how do I find time to study. The WBC Student Success Center also assists students with time management and other study skills.
- **Getting to know faculty.** During Orientation, freshman will be given an opportunity to meet faculty. All professors are approachable and encourage students to come by their offices if there are questions about class assignments.

Issues with relationships

- **Fear of losing contact with friends back home.** With cell phones, Skype, Twitter and IM, students will stay in constant contact with friends back home.
- **Roommate relationships.** This may be the first time your student has had to share a room or live with someone other than a family member. Getting to know roommates and being flexible with expectations is important. Please read the information about “Roommates.”
- **Building new friendships.** Each freshman will be placed in a LifeGroup. LifeGroups are small groups of new freshmen led by two upperclassmen, one male and one female. The purpose of LifeGroups is to help your student meet other new students while receiving support from WBC students and getting answers to basic questions.

Issues with finances

- **Tuition costs and how will I pay them.** At Registration, your student’s admissions counselor will go over the financial aid package. The Financial Aid Office is always glad to answer any questions you or your student may have. Their phone number is 870-759-4112.
- **Job availability.** There are work study positions available on campus for those students who qualify based on FAFSA information. Your student can ask if they are eligible for work study when the admissions counselor goes over their financial aid package.
How Can I Support My Student

- Trust your student and the teaching you have done in their life. When faced with different situations, trust that they will know what to do, or at least, will ask for help to know how to handle them.

- When your student calls to discuss problems, encourage them to talk. Be available to listen. Ask questions to make sure you and they understand what the real problem is. Refer them to people on WBC’s campus to talk to about the situation. Help them learn independence and responsibility in solving their own problems.

- Encourage campus involvement. Some students need to be encouraged to get involved on campus. Other students get involved to the extreme and this involvement takes away from their academics. You know your student best. Talk to them about balance in this area. Campus involvement has been shown to help students reduce homesickness and be more academically successful. WBC, and you, want them to enjoy their time in college.

If you are concerned about your student, we want to hear from you. Please, call Mary Norvell, WBC’s Freshman Advisor and Parent Liaison, at 870-759-4134. She will be glad to discuss any problem with you and help your student get the help they need.