Top Ten Things! Huskie Parents need to remember when your child becomes a NIU Student:

10. Remember to bring your student back in the FALL! (Move In Day: Thursday, August 18th)

9. What NIU is allowed to say when you call about your student:
   - CONSIDERED
   (Without a signed consent to release information-FERPA prohibits any disclosures)

8. ...Student Parking? Don’t!

7. We are a State Funded Institution! Therefore: Health Insurance, Technology Surcharges, Lost Key Charge, Floor Damage, Book fines are all REAL charges.

6. Huskie Bucks is a pre-paid debit account to pay for on campus services such as: Laundry, Copy Machines, & Transcripts. Huskie Bucks are also accepted by participating restaurants & cafés—on & off campus! [No huskies or bucks were ever injured in the making of Huskie Bucks!]

5. Learn to channel all of your questions through your student! [Tip: know how to access MyNIU, Blackboard & Email]

4. BUSTED! NIU’s Information Technology Services sees & knows all! Illegal downloading of movies and music are federal offenses—NIU cooperates with the appropriate agencies to identify offenders! Then swipes & wipes your PC!

3. NIU believes there is only one and true email account & it belongs to NIU!

2. Facebook is not merely a social outlet but a dangerous “Black Hole Phenomenon” absorbing precious minutes and hours away from academic pursuits!

1. Ultimately it is the student’s responsibility to ensure his or her own success by utilizing the variety of resources available at NIU!

Move In Tips

- Don’t wait! Move in on Thursday, August 18! NIU Students, Staff & Faculty will be available to help your student move in!
- Take advantage of being on campus early & encourage your student to attend the Welcome Days Events!
- If you help your student move-in: Wear comfortable shoes & clothing! Bring an umbrella—just in case...
- Encourage your student to introduce themselves to their Community Advisor (CA) & House Leaders
- Suggest they only pack the essentials but don’t move the whole house!

Don’t Forget to have the student.....

- Send final official transcripts from all institutions attended to NIU Admissions (high school and/or colleges, if applicable)
- Provide proof of immunization records to NIU’s Health Services
- Confirm NIU Housing
- Obtain a NIU One-Card
- Pay the Bursar’s Bill!
- Confirm all A.P. Credit has been sent to NIU, if applicable!
- Remember to bring back the Academic Advising Center’s Student Advising folder.

Welcome Huskie Parents!

To our New Student Orientation Parent Presentation
First Year Advising

Welcome Parents! We look forward to serving your students throughout and beyond the first year! Each student will receive a Student Advising Handbook with valuable information that will provide the student with:

- A better understanding of the role that academic advising plays in student success.
- An introduction to the new academic and personal responsibilities the student has accepted.
- More knowledge about how the major selection process works.

We encourage Parents to:

- Review the Student Advising Folder together with your student.
- Encourage the student to complete suggested exercises within the Student Advising Handbook.
- Encourage the student to utilize the Student Handbook within their individual advising meetings in order to track academic progress towards meeting University requirements.

The Academic Advising Center

Provides a variety of services to help students achieve their personal, academic, and career goals at NIU. We advise students as they develop meaningful academic plans compatible with their educational and life goals. Our academic advising focus is on undecided students, students seeking alternative majors, and students reassessing their current academic situation. Finally, we support the distinct advising within the colleges and academic departments at NIU.

Exploring Majors House

The Academic Advising Center—along with Housing & Dining—offers a residence hall living/learning option for students who are exploring majors & other academic opportunities.

AAC’s Satellite Office

The Academic Advising Center is also responsible for the coordination of a satellite office. As part of the First Year Residential Experience (FYRE) program, the satellite office is located in the lower level of Grant South Tower B, one of the residence halls on campus. Students have the ability to make academic advising appointments or exploring majors appointments with AAC advisors in this satellite office.

Moving from Undecided...To Decided

Did you know... As many as 50-75% of college students change their major at least once!

Entering college as “undecided” can provide students with certain advantages—

- Students remain open to exploring & learning about the many majors available here at NIU!
- Students are in a better position to make informed decisions and find the major that suits them best!

Our goal is to assist your student in making a knowledgeable and timely decision about choosing a major!

Student Success Initiatives supported by the Academic Advising Center:

- Exploring Majors Fair: September 26th
- Mid-Semester Check: (Fall) October 4th & 5th; (Spring) April 3rd
- Office of Student Academic Success: Early Alert & Mapworks

How AAC Advisors Assist Students

- Help students achieve their personal, academic, and professional goals.
- Provide Major Exploration Appointments in which we discuss areas of interest, academic strengths, personal qualities, past experiences, extracurricular activities, and life goals with students. We encourage students to initiate these appointments early in the semester to better prepare them for an advising/course scheduling appointment.
- Provide Academic Advising Appointments in which we assist students with the appropriate selection of general education courses that complement major(s) of interest. This will allow students to explore possible interests, preferences and passions while keeping students’ academic options open.
- Introduce students to specific major requirements and curricular options to help them make an informed major choice.
- Refer students to appropriate academic departments, college advising offices, and other support services so that students can learn more about what’s available to them at Northern.

AAC’s Administrative Services:

- Withdrawal from a course
- Withdrawal from the university
- Academic probation advisement
- Third time course attempts
- Concurrent registration approval
- Overloads (semester course load over 18 hours)

Questions we assist your student in answering:

- How do I find a major?
- Who can help me clarify my academic, career, and personal goals?
- What are major and/or career options related to my interests, values, and goals?
- What can I do with the major I have chosen?
- What are the university general education requirements?
- What are some introductory courses that would assist me in exploring possible majors or fields of study?
- What is the difference between a B.A. and a B.S. degree?
- What minors would complement my major?
- What can I do to enhance my academic program?
- How can I make adjustments to my schedule?
- What are the implications of academic early warning, probation, or dismissal?
- Who do I contact if I have a question about an academic rule or regulation?
- Where do I find specific campus resources I need?

Academic Advising, Exploring Majors & University Requirements...

Understanding the first-year/first semester schedule includes understanding University Requirements and possible Majors of interests. Most first-semester schedules will consist of courses within NIU Core Competency & Distributive Area of Studies requirements.

Sample Schedule

| 7:00 a.m. | CCOMS 100 |
| 8:00 a.m. | "ENGL 103 |
| 9:00 a.m. | "MATH " |
| 10:00 a.m. | Gen Ed |
| 11:00 a.m. | Gen Ed |

(*determined by the student’s placement evaluation; Core Competency)

A typical schedule can vary greatly between students given the following factors: intended Major, Placement Evaluations and AP credits.

As we work with your student, many factors go into planning and registering a NIU class schedule. We...

- Identify appropriate general education courses that complement your student’s major(s) of interest.
- Identify general education courses that assists in the major exploration process.
- Identify and ensure your student’s schedule meets University Requirements.

Appropriate Student Referrals:

Career Services:

- Career Events (Internship Fairs, Full-time Job Fairs and Educator Job Fairs)
- Career Resource Center (Computer lab, professional publications on careers and presentations)
- Career Support (Individual counseling, resume and cover letter preparation, practice interviews and on-campus interviews)

NIU’s Six Colleges:

- College of Business
- College of Education
- College of Engineering & Engineering Technology
- College of Health and Human Sciences
- College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- College of Visual and Performing Arts

Helpful Links:

- Academic Advising Center: www.aac.niu.edu
- NIU Majors: www.niu.edu/academics/undergrad
- NIU Major-Weblinks: www.niu.edu/careerservices/weblinks
- NIU Undergraduate Catalog: www.catalog.niu.edu

Tips for Success:

- Meet with your advisor at least twice a semester: (1) Exploring majors appointment & (2) Mid-Semester Check.
- Seek out the academic and career information you need.
- Be ready to explore your interests, skills, and goals.
- Check your NIU email account regularly.
- Get involved on campus.
- Go to class!!

Academic Advising Center Staff:

Michelle Pickell, M.S.Ed., Director
Steven Barleen, M.A., M.Ed., Acting Associate Director

Professional Advising Staff:

Susana Das Neves, M.S., Ed.S
Jon Ferguson, M.S., Ed.
Colette Maher, M.S., Ed.
Beverly McCall, M.P.H.

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