Parents as Coaches: How to Support Your Student Academically

Academic Advising & Planning Center
Center for Student Learning
Helicopter parent *n.* A person who pays extremely close attention to his or her child or children, particularly at educational institutions. They rush to prevent any harm or failure from befalling them or letting them learn from their own mistakes, sometimes even contrary to the children's wishes. They are so named because, like a helicopter, they hover closely overhead, rarely out of reach whether their children need them or not.

Source: wikipedia.org
Vocabulary Change

Child Vs. Student
Caregiver Vs. Consultant
“We” Vs. Their Student
Always “yes” Vs. Sometimes “No”
Access Vs. Confidentiality
Customer Vs. Student-Centered
Service Vs. Focus
Our Communication Goal

Student

CofC

Parent
SEASONED PARENTS?
Picture it…

During New Student Orientation, your student learns that their schedule is “lousy.” You know that the best time to pick up better classes is early on the “drop for non-payment” date. Classes will go quickly, so students should log on early to make schedule changes…

BUT your student is still asleep.
A. Log onto MyCharleston and make the schedule changes yourself (after all, you have your student’s CWID)

B. Wake your student up and hand them the list of the courses you compiled.

C. Wake your student up and tell them to log-on to MyCharleston to make the appropriate changes.

D. Do nothing.
DO NOTHING!
Homesick…

Your student calls you at the end of the first week of school, is miserable, and wants to come home.
A. Tell your student that you miss them and that life hasn’t been the same without them since they left.

B. Give your student a pep talk about how grown up they are and that it’s time for them to “step up.”

C. Tell your student that it’s the college’s fault that he or she feels this way.

D. Encourage your student to talk with their RA, Academic Advisor, or campus counselor.
You’re worried…

You suspect that your student is failing a course at the midterm.
A. Call anyone at the university that will talk to you. After all, you pay the bill!
B. Get your student’s roommate to tell you the grades.
C. Ask your student to give you access via the FERPA so you can discuss grades with your student’s academic advisor.
D. Ask your student to show you their grades.
It’s Time to Register

Your student’s course registration date for the next term is approaching and you know that your student has yet to meet with his academic advisor and complete his mandatory first year or transfer student advising appointment for this semester.
A. Encourage your student to schedule an appointment with their academic advisor for as soon as possible.

B. You call the Academic Advising and Planning Center and attempt to schedule your student’s appointment on their behalf.

C. You act as academic advisor for your student and tell your student which courses to register for.

D. Do nothing.
Make Ryan Happy!
Undecided on a major...

Your student is still undecided regarding which major to declare while at the college.
A. Log-on to MyCharleston and use the Program of Study Management (POSM) tool to declare my student’s major. I know what will make my student happy!

B. Encourage your student to explore their options and attend a “Choosing Your Major” workshop hosted by the Career Center and the Academic Advising and Planning Center.

C. Tell your student which major to pursue and demand that they declare this major as soon as possible. After all, time is money!

D. Do nothing.
Helping Your Student Decide

Choosing a Major at the College of Charleston
The Academic Advising Dialogue

- Recognize Challenges, Competing Demands
- Identify Values, Strengths, Interests & Abilities
- Develop Action Plan
- Discuss Courses
- Establish Goals

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Students have ultimate responsibility for their decisions and academic record.
What Happens Next?

TODAY
• Students are in academic advising sessions with our advising staff

TONIGHT
• Your student has homework!
• Take ALEKS Online Math Placement Test (if not already taken)

TOMORROW
• Your student will register for fall courses
• AAPC will have walk-in registration assistance for students from 2:30-4:30 p.m.

THIS FALL
• Connect with his/her advisor early and often
• Schedule an appointment online or by calling our office
Center for Student Learning

- Provides academic support for all students at the College of Charleston
- What percentage of students do you think use the CSL services in the last academic year?
Tutoring complaints

Your student complains that they don’t like the tutor they’ve been working with in the Math Lab. They say they used the lab but "didn’t get ANY help."
You...

A. Complain about the tutor on the parent listserv.
B. Email the Math Lab Director and the CSL Director about their poor hiring practices.
C. Ask your student if there is another tutor they can work with during walk-in hours.
D. Hire a private tutor.
Walk-in Labs

- Accounting
- Foreign Languages
- Math
- Science
- Writing

No Appointment Necessary; Come prepared

Faculty-recommended & CRLA certified tutors

Open Monday-Thursday until 9pm, Friday morning, And Sunday 6-9pm
Individual Tutoring

• Faculty recommended, trained tutors

• Flexible hours by appointment

• ALL other languages

• Speaking Lab

• And available for limited introductory courses, such as: ECON 200, PSYC 103, CSCI 110
Concerned about student?

Your student is missing class, sleeping in (even more than usual), and seems to be slipping in their classes.
You…

A. Call or visit and have a ‘heart to heart’ about what may be going on.

B. Encourage them to make a study skills appointment to get a time management plan.

C. Call your student’s professors and ask them to update you on your student’s performance in class.

D. Insist your student just come home now. They obviously can’t handle college.
Study Strategies

- One-on-one appointments with a trained professional staff member to assess study strengths & weaknesses

- Study plan is created to incorporate time management & study strategies

- Supports many students in addition or outside of tutoring
Weekly Strategies Skills Workshop Topics

- Time Management
- Textbook Reading
- Note Taking
- Memory Techniques
- Test Taking
- Exam Planning

- Offered Multiple Times Each Week—Afternoon and Evening Sessions
- Practical Techniques and Strategies
- Workshops Held in Residence Halls
- Recorded Sessions are Available Online
What is SI?

You student says that she went to this group study thing (called “SI”) but all they did was give out a worksheet. You thought they were supposed to help them study and understand the material, but it sure doesn’t sound like SI is working.
You…

A. Hire a private tutor for your student.
B. Email the professor asking why this class is so hard.
C. Email the SI Director asking what SI is really supposed to be doing.
D. Look at the CSL’s website to learn about SI and then talk with your student about the purpose of SI.
Studying effectively?

Your student says that he/she is studying but is still not doing well in Biology 111.
You...

A. Ask them how they are studying? What are they doing? Where?
B. Ask them if they have met and talked with the professor? What happened?
C. Ask them if they have been using any CSL services? Which ones? How often?
D. All of the above
Center for Student Learning
Academic assistance for students at the College of Charleston

Walk-In Tutoring Labs
Supplemental Instruction
Individual Tutoring
Study Strategies Assistance

Come early; Come often!
Addlestone Library, First Floor

http://cofc.edu/csl
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