FAMILIES

INFORMATION ABOUT LIFE AS THE PARENT OF A PIRATE

2020
A MESSAGE FROM
THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the Southwestern University community. Your student will soon embark on the Southwestern Experience, a four-year journey of intellectual and creative growth that will lay the groundwork for a lifetime of engagement, discovery, independent thought, and meaningful accomplishment.

The first institution of higher learning in Texas, Southwestern is among a select group of residential undergraduate liberal arts and sciences universities. In the best spirit of our 19th-century founders who pioneered higher education in the rough and dangerous territory of the Republic of Texas, Southwestern dedicates itself today to pioneering the future of meaningful higher learning in our constantly evolving world. Here, your student will be asked to think carefully, effectively, and creatively; write frequently and eloquently; form arguments from multiple perspectives; interact with individuals from diverse backgrounds; and integrate concepts from their coursework and experiential learning opportunities to generate new ideas that respond to and enhance the world around them. In short, we hope your student will embrace our vision to Think, Create, Connect...To Make Meaning and Make a Difference.

I speak for the entire Southwestern University community when I say we are delighted that your family has committed to this profound and purposeful educational experience. My staff and I, our faculty, and the entire campus are available to assist in any way we can. This is sure to be an exciting journey. Congratulations and welcome!

Sincerely,

Dale T. Knobel
Interim President
GETTING CONNECTED

Welcome to our newest Pirate Parents! We are eager to see you and your student on campus for Move-in this fall. Due to COVID-19, your student has experienced the most unusual of circumstances, and it is natural that you and your soon-to-be Pirate may have some added apprehension mixed with excitement and anticipation for the fall semester. The Office of Alumni and Parent Relations, along with others on campus, will be here every step of the way to answer your questions and share the most current information available. We are committed to creating an environment that allows the entering class of 2020 to have an amazing first year at Southwestern, while working closely with health officials to keep our Pirates healthy. We want your student to experience the challenges, joys, excitement, independence, and growth that is all part of the first-year experience at a residential liberal arts university. We have done our best to update this publication as our world has been rapidly changing. For this reason, some sections will be shared electronically at a later date. Expect to receive two additional digital Families Magazine editions: the Virtual Sprog Orientation for Parents Edition and the Move-in Edition.

The Office of Alumni and Parent Relations will serve as your connection to the University for the latest news and event invitations and also as your first point of contact when questions arise. You will hear from the University regularly, including Southwestern, the University magazine; News from SU for Parents, a monthly electronic newsletter; invitations to campus events; and much more. The Southwestern Parents Facebook Group is also a great place to connect with fellow SU families.

We look forward to welcoming your family to Southwestern soon.

Sincerely,

Grace Josey Pyka ’05
Senior Associate Director of Alumni and Parent Relations
pykag@southwestern.edu
512.863.1410
southwestern.edu/for-parents
EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW (at least right now)

ACADEMICS

CENTER FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS & REGISTRAR
Charles and Elizabeth Prothro Center for Lifelong Learning (first floor), 512.863.1286, 512.863.1952
- southwestern.edu/offices/success
- southwestern.edu/academics/records-registrar
- southwestern.edu/advising
  - Academic coaching
  - Academic skills development
  - Accommodations for students with disabilities
  - Planning for Academic Success Seminar (probation program)
  - Academic progress and degree-plan questions
  - Transfer credit or study abroad credit approval
  - Declaration of major
  - FERPA clearinghouse and parent questions
  - Course scheduling or registration issues
  - Updating student contact information
  - Requesting transcripts and certifications of enrollment

What does my student need to do to remain in good academic standing? Students must maintain a 2.0 cumulative GPA after each semester and pass 24 total graded credits each academic year. Students who do not meet both requirements will be placed on academic probation. First-semester students have the additional requirement of needing to complete a minimum of 8 credits in order to return the following semester. Academic standing is based only on coursework attempted at Southwestern. Additional information on academic standing may be found in the University Catalog.

Will my student have easy access to their advisor and professors? New students are assigned an academic advisor (a faculty or professional staff member) through the admission and registration process. Because all advisors are trained to advise first-year students in any major, students may be initially assigned to an advisor outside their intended major. Students may change their advisor at any time. Although advisors are concerned with each advisee’s academic welfare, it is ultimately the student’s responsibility to initiate contact with the advisor. Advisors help students understand academic expectations.
and requirements, choose classes, and understand how to access campus resources. Generally, advisors meet with students during posted office hours or by appointment. All students must meet with their advisor prior to course registration each semester.

How is the first year of study selected? What is an average academic load? Students will be enrolled in a First-Year Seminar (or Advanced-Entry Seminar if they are a transfer student), one introductory course in their major of interest, and will have the opportunity to select additional courses through Virtual Sprog Orientation over the summer. Returning students register online through a process coordinated by the Registrar’s Office. The CASAR staff are available by phone and email to answer questions about the registration process. It is important that students check their new Southwestern email address frequently during the summer for important details regarding registration tasks. During Welcome Week, each student will meet with their academic advisor to make any necessary schedule modifications. Typically, students take an average of 16 credits (four classes at four credits each) each semester.

When do we find out how much credit our student receives for AP or IB tests? Advanced Placement (AP) test scores of four or five always earn credit; an International Baccalaureate (IB) score of at least five earns credit. Academic advisors will have this information to help facilitate registration. Students also receive a copy of their credit evaluation from the CASAR. For more information, visit southwestern.edu/academics/records-registrar/policies-for-acceptance-of-external-academic-credit.

Does Southwestern assign “watchdog” staff to first-year students? Although faculty members and the CASAR staff are always on the lookout for students who may be struggling, it is ultimately a student’s responsibility to take the first step in seeking help and guidance, which is readily available through a variety of campus resources. Faculty are able to inform the CASAR staff of specific problems in a student’s performance, attendance, or engagement. Every faculty member is expected to participate in the Academic Warning System (AWS). The goal of the AWS is to identify students (first-years through seniors) who demonstrate signs of academic distress and to
encourage them to seek out assistance. The student and the CASAR are notified of an academic-warning designation. When these situations occur, the student is informed and encouraged to follow up with their professor. In addition, the CASAR staff contact the student to create a plan for improvement.

What grading system does Southwestern use? Southwestern uses an A, B, C, D, F grading system; the grades of A, B, C, and D may be awarded with a plus or minus. In addition, a grade of P (pass for a C– or better) may be awarded but does not count in a student's grade point average (GPA). Please refer to the University Catalog for specific instructions on determining a GPA and for additional details regarding the grading system.

Are semester grades sent to parents? Because students may view their grades online, grade reports are generally not mailed. The best way to see grades is to ask your student. Parents may request copies of final grades at the conclusion of each semester, provided that your student has signed a release allowing this to happen. If a student did not do this prior to Welcome Week, they may file a release in the CASAR. The authorization to release grades to parents is effective until rescinded by the student. Because of government regulations regarding student privacy, student performance cannot be discussed with parents without the student's explicit written permission.

Who can talk to me about my student's academic performance, and what can they tell me? The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) prohibits the release of student information without written consent from the student. Southwestern University complies with this law. Although some students still may be the financial (and perhaps legal) responsibility of their parents, this does not automatically entitle the parents access to student data. When students sign a release to issue their grades to their parents, the release only covers final course grades. If your student gives written consent to faculty or an administrator to discuss their progress with you, only the information specifically stated in the release will be discussed.

What is Paideia®? Paideia is Southwestern's philosophy of making connections by bringing together multiple perspectives from different disciplines. Students integrate different ways of learning across their major, between disciplines, and in relation to both in- and out-of-classroom experiences such as community-engaged learning, study abroad, academic internships, student-faculty research, advanced language proficiency, and student-directed creative and innovative projects. Students graduate with a cultivated curiosity and desire to learn, explore, and create change. These are the valuable, real-life skills that make SU graduates highly sought-after by recruiters, employers, and the nation's top graduate programs. Learn more at southwest.edu/about-southwestern/paideia.

BILLING AND FINANCIAL AID

BUSINESS OFFICE
Roy and Lillie Cullen Building (first floor)
512.863.1928 or 512.863.1927
studentaccounts@southwestern.edu

southwestern.edu/business-office/student-accounts

- Billing statements (E-Bills)
- Tuition payments
- Payment plans
- Texas Guaranteed Tuition Plan and 529 plan payments
- Pirate Buc$ deposits (cash or check)
How can I discuss my student’s account with the Business Office?

Students and parents with questions related to paying tuition, fees, and other billing concerns are encouraged to contact the Business Office, located on the first floor of the Roy and Lillie Cullen Building. In compliance with the Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), Southwestern University cannot release or discuss a student's financial information to anyone—including parents or guardians—unless authorized by law or unless the student consents to the disclosure in writing by completing the Parent Access to Student Information Form found at southwestern.edu/academics/records-registrar/transcript-request-other-forms.

Online Access to Student Accounts:

Please note that in addition to the general FERPA form permissions mentioned above, there is a separate process that students must complete to give parents online access to their student account information on CashNet and their financial aid information on Self-Service.

1. Online Student Account Access on CashNet –

   Student account statements are sent electronically to the student and any authorized payer that the student sets up. In order for parents or other individuals to receive online access to the student account to view E-Bills, to receive alerts, to make online payments, or to setup a payment plan, the student must send the individual a “Payer Invitation” and give them the proper permissions. To give an individual access, students log into their CashNet payment portal and send a payer invitation following the detailed instructions found at southwestern.edu/live/files/8720-2019-12-final-cashnet-payment-portal-12-2019pdf.
2. Online Proxy Access for Financial Aid Information –
In order for parents/guardians to see information about the status of the student’s financial aid, a student will need to grant proxy access to the parent through the Self Service website. Detailed instructions for setting up access for this can be found at: southwestern.edu/live/files/8119-proxy-set-up-instructionspdf.

◆ My student does not have health insurance. Can we purchase a policy through Southwestern?
Yes. We encourage you to complete the “Early Enrollment” process to begin your student’s policy on August 10, 2020. Visit southwestern.edu/health-center/student-resources to complete the form.

◆ When will financial aid be disbursed to my student’s account? Financial aid disbursements for the fall term begin in mid-August and in early January for the spring term. Until the aid is disbursed to a student’s account, financial aid will appear on billing statements as either “confirmed” or “needs attention.” Confirmed aid is aid that will be disbursed in August (for the fall term) or January (for the spring term). Only confirmed financial aid is considered when determining a student’s balance.

◆ Will all financial assistance automatically renew from year to year? No. Need-based financial aid such as federal grants, state grants, Southwestern University need-based grants, and student loans require that a family submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) each year. The FAFSA may be submitted online at www.fafsa.gov and can be accessed through the Financial Aid website. The deadline for submitting the FAFSA is March 1 of each year. Financial aid notices will be sent out in the spring. Most types of merit-based financial aid (e.g., Barcus, Cody, Finch, Hyer, McKenzie, Mood, Ruter, Southwestern, and University Awards) are renewed each year, provided that the student maintains satisfactory academic progress as defined in the University Catalog. Some scholarships (e.g., the Brown Scholarship and Fine
Arts Awards) have additional renewal criteria. Information about scholarship renewal criteria can be obtained from the Financial Aid website.

Are there scholarship opportunities available for continuing students? Yes, there are a limited number of non-need-based scholarship opportunities for continuing students. Information about these scholarships is available through the Financial Aid website.

When does my student reapply for financial aid for the upcoming year? The FAFSA will be available beginning October 1. The deadline for submitting the FAFSA for the upcoming academic year is March 1.

How can my student view their financial aid information? Your student may view this information through their Self Service account.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
Smith Library Center
512.819.7333
southwestern.edu/library-and-it
- WebAdvisor
- Computer Labs
- Info Desk
- Apogee Telecommunications (residence hall services)
- High-speed wireless and wired Internet connectivity and digital cable TV in every residence hall room at no additional charge.

Do students need to bring their own computers? Students are not required to own a computer, although most do; 100% of the entering class brought a computer last year, with laptops being the most popular. If a student does not have a computer, Southwestern has several open labs and public computer workstations available in various locations around campus. Our most popular lab and printing facility is located in the A. Frank Smith, Jr. Library Center, which is open 24 hours a day, five days per week, with reduced weekend hours.

If my student brings a computer, should they also bring a printer? A personal printer is not a necessity. Our student labs and various accessible locations across campus are equipped with high-speed laser printers; color laser printing is also available.

How much does it cost to print pages in the campus computer labs? All students are allotted $30 each semester for printing. Page rates are priced below commercial alternatives (e.g., FedEx Office), and students rarely exceed the initial $30; however, additional “Pirate Print” dollars can be purchased if their account runs low.

Is Southwestern a wireless campus? Yes. Wireless access is available in all campus buildings and many outside areas. However, to ensure uninterrupted Internet service in all residence halls, students should bring an Ethernet cable to use with their personal computers.

If my student already has a personal email account, do they need a University email account? Yes. All students are required to maintain an active Southwestern email account for University communications. This account will become an integral part of their daily communication with faculty, service departments, and other students. Southwestern uses Google Apps for Education, which provides communication and collaboration tools for the campus and is accessed via the SU portal at my.southwestern.edu.

CAMPUS POST OFFICE
Red & Charline McCombs Campus Center (third floor)
512.863.1576

Is there mail service on campus? Yes! The campus post office is located on the third floor of the McCombs Center. The service window is open Monday–Friday, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. for students to pick up packages, mail packages, and purchase stamps and envelopes. The post office accepts cash and Pirate Buc$ only.

How do I mail or ship items to my student? Your student’s school address includes an SU box number that is essential in order to ensure timely delivery of their mail. Students are sent an email when a package arrives. They must present their Pirate Card at the service information desk for package pick-up. All mail and packages should be addressed as follows:

Student’s name
SU Box XXXX
1001 E. University Avenue
Georgetown, TX 78626
When may I begin shipping packages for my student to pick up at move-in? Shipped packages from Amazon, Target, etc. may be shipped beginning August 1. They will be held for pick-up once students move to campus. The campus post office will be open Saturday, August 15 from 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

PIRATE CARDS
Smith Library Center
512.819.7333
southwestern.edu/library-and-it/infodesk/pirate-card

The Pirate Card is your student’s access to the Robertson Center and the Smith Library Center as well as their dining card for their meal plan. Many buildings on campus may be accessed by students by swiping their Pirate Card at the entrance. The Pirate Card offers Pirate Buc$ , a convenient and cashless way to pay on campus. As a prepaid, stored-value account, Pirate Buc$ can be used to pay for meals, goods, services, and much more. For a list of places where Pirate Buc$ are accepted, visit southwestern.edu/offices/pirate-card.

How can I add Pirate Buc$? Can I view my student's purchases? Family members may add money to a student Pirate Buc$ account by visiting southwestern.edu/offices/pirate-card. Click on “LOG IN TO YOUR PIRATE CARD ACCOUNT” and choose the option “Add Money to a Student’s Account.” You will need your student’s Pirate Card ID number and a Visa, Mastercard, or Discover card. Although family members may deposit money, only students may view their account balance and history.

What is the difference between Dining Dollars and Pirate Buc$? How are they used? Dining Dollars are part of the meal plan and may only be used at campus dining locations. Pirate Buc$ may be used at these locations plus many more. Pirate Buc$ never expire, whereas Dining Dollars must be used within an academic year. When purchasing food and beverages in the Cove, a student’s Dining Dollars balance will automatically be used first. Once exhausted, purchases in the Cove will be applied to a student’s Pirate Buc$ balance.

My student doesn’t have a Pirate Card yet. When will they get one? If your student has not yet received a Pirate Card, there will be an opportunity during student check-in on Saturday, August 15. For fall athletes arriving early, Pirate Cards may be printed at the A. Frank Smith, Jr. Library Center during their regular hours of operation.

My student is moving to campus early for athletics practice. Will their Pirate Card be activated? Fall athletes will be able to use their cards; however, Pirate Buc$ associated with the meal plan will be activated the Friday prior to classes beginning. It is recommended that parents or students add Pirate Buc$ to their accounts for use of laundry facilities and campus vending machines during the first few weeks.

Don’t miss a single message from Southwestern! The University will send monthly e-newsletters, important billing information, urgent updates from campus, messages from the President, and event invitations. Provide your contact information by visiting southwestern.edu/parentinfoform.
How can my student get an internship?
The CCPD has two staff members dedicated to helping students connect with internship opportunities, and all staff members are knowledgeable about opportunities for high-impact experiences (e.g., internships, shadowing, and research). These experiences add value to the overall educational and professional development critical for student success, allow students to test the fit of possible future careers, and greatly increase their marketability to employers upon graduation.

When can my student visit the Health Center, and who will treat them?
The Health Center is open Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. during the fall and spring semesters. Appointments are strongly recommended, and same-day appointments are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Our team of healthcare professionals includes physicians, advanced practice clinicians, and a registered nurse. Our services include treatment of common illnesses and chronic conditions, medication management, wellness exams, physicals, laboratory testing, and prescriptions. When appropriate, we will make referrals to off-campus resources and specialists. The Health Center does not provide emergency care. Students should always call 911 for life-threatening emergencies. A list of local after-hours resources can be found at southwestern.edu/health-center.

Does my student need health insurance? All students are required to have an active health insurance policy at all times, and students should always bring a copy of their most current health insurance card to all appointments. The Health Center will see all students regardless of what health insurance coverage they have. All students will be automatically enrolled in a student health insurance plan unless they opt out. They may waive the auto-enrollment by entering their current health insurance information before the deadline at eiiastudent.org/southwestern.
COUNSELING SERVICES
- Individual counseling
- Relational counseling
- Group counseling
- Motivation and stress management

The Counseling Center provides confidential, short-term counseling regarding personal issues. Southwestern students may seek counseling for a wide variety of concerns, including adjustment to college, making friends, motivation, depression, anxiety, sexuality, body image, eating disorders, sexual assault, alcohol or drug abuse, stress management, bereavement, family issues, and romantic relationships. Counseling Center staff members also offer outreach programs, group counseling, and referrals to off-campus professionals for psychiatric medications and long-term counseling. While the counselors at Southwestern represent varied areas of expertise and diverse personal backgrounds, they all have training in helping college students grow through the personal problems they occasionally encounter.

What can parents do if a time comes when they have concerns about their student’s emotional welfare? Parents are welcome to call the Counseling Center to talk with a counselor about their student. Because of confidentiality laws, the counselor typically cannot disclose whether their student is a client but can listen to the parents’ concerns and help them explore various strategies for offering support and assistance.

DIVERSITY EDUCATION
Julie Puett Howry Center
Cross Cultural Center: Charles and Elizabeth Prothro Center for Lifelong Learning (second floor)
512.863.1342 • southwestern.edu/diversity-education

The Office of Diversity Education seeks to make Southwestern a welcoming and affirming place for the entire community. In order to promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice, the Office of Diversity Education facilitates workshops, supports student programs and events, and explores cultural and identity awareness. The Office of Diversity Education specifically works with student organizations such as the Coalition for Diversity and Social Justice and the 10 cultural- and identity-based groups within the coalition: the Asian Student Association, EBONY, the Hispanics and Latinx Organization (HALO), Kappa Delta Chi, Pirates for Pride, Students for Environmental Activism and Knowledge (SEAK), SU Native, the Food Justice Association, Muslims and Allies, and the Reproductive Justice Alliance.

Diversity Education events include the following:
- Asian American Heritage Month
- The Coalition for Diversity and Social Justice Retreat
- The Borderlands Symposium
- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dream Week
- Black History Month
- The SU Native Powwow
- The Dolores Huerta and Cesar Chavez Dinner
- The Drag Ball
- The Multicultural Recognition Ceremony
- Lavender Graduation
- Lavender Spaces Training
- Diversity Student Leadership Retreats
- Documentaries, forums, symposia, and workshops
- The Office of Diversity Education Lecture Series

INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS
Corbin J. Robertson Center
512.863.1381 • southwesternpirates.com

Southwestern University prides itself in providing a unique athletic program that allows student-athletes to pursue
athletic excellence with the ultimate commitment of preparing them for the world beyond college. Southwestern competes in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division III and adheres to their guidelines of awarding financial aid based only on family need and academic merit. The intercollegiate program offers 20 varsity sports, 10 for women and 10 for men. Nineteen of those sports compete in the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference (SCAC) with the only exception of football which competes in the American Southwest Conference (ASC). With nearly 500 student-athletes and over 300 contests taking place each year, the Athletic Department places the highest priority on academic success and the overall quality of the educational experience while striving for excellence on the playing field. The primary goal is for our athletics programs to reflect Southwestern’s commitment to the principles of sportsmanship, ethical conduct, honesty, fairness, and respect for others, emphasizing the health and welfare of the student-athletes. The Athletic Department at Southwestern works with other campus constituencies to implement programs that provide fair and equitable treatment of men and women while maintaining focus on a values-centered education of the whole person. Faculty members play an important role in helping student-athletes balance the rigors of their academic studies with the challenges of intercollegiate athletic participation, and because of this partnership, Southwestern has graduated a significant number of outstanding student-athletes who have distinguished themselves as scholars and as athletes.

❖ Does participating in intercollegiate athletics hurt students academically? Rarely. The average GPA for student-athletes is usually comparable to the overall average student GPA.

❖ What about missing classes? Are the athletes excused? Team travel is considered a University “field trip” under the excused absence policy. Student-athletes must work closely with their professors and discuss missed classwork in advance of the absence. Southwestern faculty are generally very supportive of student-athletes.

❖ My student was not recruited; can they still make the team? It is possible. Varsity athletics are competitive at Southwestern, and our coaches recruit throughout the year to fill their team rosters with qualified student-athletes. However, the tryout process is open to all students, and those wishing to seek a position are encouraged to contact the respective coach to immediately declare their intention.

❖ How good are the athletic programs at Southwestern? Excellent and highly competitive. Our teams have won multiple conference championships, and many teams have competed in NCAA Regional and National Championships. Our goal is to become one of the top Division III programs in the country!

❖ Is any experience necessary to participate in intramural and recreational activities? No experience is necessary, and the majority of activities can accommodate students of all ability levels.

❖ Is there any cost to participate? Many activities are free to current students. However, the sport clubs charge dues, and all fitness classes have a modest participation fee (e.g., a $20 fee for 7–8 weeks of class one day per week).

INTRAMURAL & RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES (SIRA)
Corbin J. Robertson Center
512.863.1606
southwestern.edu/life-at-southwestern/intramural-recreational-activities-sira/

Southwestern Intramural and Recreational Activities (SIRA) provides the University community with opportunities for physical, social, and educational development through participation in intramural sports, fitness and wellness classes, sport clubs, and outdoor recreation programs.

❖ Intramural sports
❖ Fitness classes: Cardio Sculpt, Weight Room 101, Yoga and Zumba
❖ SU Climbing Club, SU Cheerleaders and SU Pom Squad
❖ Camping and sports equipment that can be checked out for weekend use at no cost to SU community members.
A DAY IN THE LIFE
Students populate the Academic Mall on a sunny spring day on campus.
RESIDENCE LIFE

Red & Charline McCombs Campus Center
(third floor)
512.863.1624
southwestern.edu/life-at-southwestern/
office-of-residence-life/

Residence halls are a vital part of the Southwestern campus community, complementing the educational program by providing an atmosphere conducive to meeting students’ academic, social, and personal needs. Students who have completed less than four full semesters are required to live on campus. Students living in traditional residence halls are required to participate in the meal plans provided by Southwestern’s Dining Services. Students who have completed at least four full semesters (after high school graduation) are not subject to the residential requirement; however, most juniors and seniors choose to live on campus. Currently, 78% of Southwestern students live on campus.

❖ Is there an adult in the residence halls? Yes. Although Southwestern considers its students young adults, it also recognizes the adjustments college students—and especially first-year students—are attempting to manage. There are three professional staff members who are employed by the University and live on campus to help with building community, managing crises, and handling emergencies.

❖ What is your alcohol policy? Each individual and group within the Southwestern University community is required to comply with all applicable laws and regulations pertaining to the possession, use, and distribution of alcoholic beverages. Students 21 and older are allowed to consume alcohol in their private rooms. Student organizations must register parties where alcohol will be allowed.

❖ Are there any curfews? What are the policies regarding coed visitation? There are no curfews in the residence halls. In single-gender first-year halls, coed visitation ends at midnight Sunday through Thursday and at 2:00 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Guests of students are required to have escorts in single-gender halls.

❖ How do you reconcile differences between roommates or suitemates? Selected upper-class students hold positions of responsibility within the residence halls. These students, called resident assistants (RAs), provide direct assistance to the students in their living area (approximately 30 students per RA in upper-class halls and 15 students per RA in first-year halls) by providing information; helping to ensure that University community standards are met through brief counseling and/or referral; offering acquaintanceship; fulfilling basic administrative tasks; and helping to organize interesting educational, social, and recreational events and programs.

❖ What are the roles of resident assistants (RAs)? Selected upper-class students hold positions of responsibility

The Mosaic approach encourages the Southwestern student to develop as a whole person. At SU, our students have a variety of opportunities to get involved in activities that align with their personal and professional goals. As students interact with their peers, faculty, and staff, Mosaic helps them identify and enhance those opportunities through formal and informal experiences designed to support their growth as an individual.

Throughout your student’s first year, they will have a chance to learn more about Mosaic so they can take advantage of this uniquely Southwestern opportunity.

mccombs.campuscenter.com

southwestern.edu/mosaic
between the students to reconcile differences. Although this normally works, students are allowed to change roommates if an unresolvable situation exists. The Southwestern residence life philosophy is that no situation in the residence halls should be allowed to negatively affect a student’s academic experience.

How much does it cost to do a load of laundry? How accessible are the machines? The cost is $1.25 per wash and $1.25 per dry, which the student can pay with their Pirate Card. Laundry rooms are located in all residence halls and in the Grogan and Betty Lord Community Center.

Is there a place to cash a check on campus? An ATM? Students may cash checks for up to $100 in the Business Office. An ATM is located in the Red & Charline McCombs Campus Center.

SPIRITUAL & RELIGIOUS LIFE

Julie Puett Howry Center
512.863.1527 • southwestern.edu/life-at-southwestern/spiritual-and-religious-life/

To keep up with the current offerings of Spiritual and Religious Life, follow @SpiritualLifeSU on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Spiritual and Religious Life offers opportunities for the campus community to slow down, breathe, and take care of the body, mind, and spirit. The spiritual dimension of life is integral to a liberal arts education; therefore, there are a number of ways to engage with Spiritual and Religious Life throughout the week that help students explore spiritual identity; seek true meaning and understanding; and ask big questions through intentional conversation, unlikely relationships, and shared action. These opportunities allow each individual to develop and affirm their identity in relationship to the larger spiritual community and the world as a whole.

Are there opportunities to worship on campus? Each week on campus, there are multiple worship gatherings, Bible studies, and other small group meetings that will support your student’s spiritual growth. In addition to the on-campus spiritual communities, it’s also important to many students that they find a local faith community or church to be involved in while they’re at school. Most students do this by visiting local congregations with friends or roommates, talking with upper-class students about where they go to church, or asking others on campus for suggestions.

How can my student connect with other students around their faith? The student religious organizations on campus offer places for students to meet others who believe similarly to them and help one another grow in their faith journeys. A list of organizations is available online: southwestern.edu/life-at-southwestern/student-organizations/religious/.

Are religious holidays observed on campus? Southwestern faculty work with students of all faith backgrounds to ensure they have the time needed to celebrate the observance days affiliated with their religious tradition. If your student needs accommodations for a religious holiday, encourage them to talk with their faculty to make the appropriate arrangements.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Red & Charline McCombs Campus Center (third floor)
512.863.1345 • southwestern.edu/life-at-southwestern/student-activities/

The mission of the Office of Student Activities is to act as an advisor, ally, educator, and mentor to the students of Southwestern University by facilitating learning experiences through leadership opportunities, student organizations, social activities, and services that promote personal growth and the empowerment of students for success in our diverse community and beyond. The office works closely with all student organizations, student leaders, and various University committees. Student Activities has responsibility for the development and coordination of campus-wide programming, leadership development, advising various student organizations, and Welcome Week.

How can my student get involved? There will be a Student Involvement Fair early in the fall semester to give students an opportunity to visit with members from many of the 90+ organizations. A full list of all
active organizations, descriptions of each and contact information is available at southwestern.edu/life-at-southwestern/student-activities/organizations.

❖ Is there anything to do on weekends? Yes! Weekend programming includes nationally touring performances in The Cove every Friday night and monthly Saturday-night first-run movies, complete with freshly popped popcorn. The University Programming Council (UPC) is a group of students who plan, organize, and execute a variety of campus activities. Student Activities can provide more information about UPC membership.

❖ Is there student government? Yes. One benefit of university life is the opportunity for students to participate in their own governance. This opportunity comes through participation in the Southwestern Student Government Association (SGA) and other campus-wide committees. The SGA is a group of elected representatives who sponsor monthly meetings to inform students of campus issues and to provide a forum for concerns and opinions. In addition, students have the unique opportunity to participate with faculty and administrators in the major governing councils of the University.

❖ When is social fraternity and sorority recruitment? Deferred recruitment, held in January, provides students with a chance to get organized academically before joining a Greek organization. Recruitment information will be made available during the first semester. Students may also choose to wait until their sophomore year to join a fraternity or sorority.

❖ What percentage of students pledge social fraternities and sororities? Approximately 30% of Southwestern students are involved in Greek organizations. Southwestern has four national social fraternities (Kappa Alpha Order, Kappa Sigma, Phi Delta Theta, and Pi Kappa Alpha) and six national social sororities (Alpha Delta Pi, Alpha Kappa Alpha, Alpha Xi Delta, Delta Delta Delta, Kappa Delta Chi, and Zeta Tau Alpha).

UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT
Field House
supd@southwestern.edu
512.863.1944 ("0" from on-campus phones) • southwestern.edu/life-at-southwestern/safety-security/

The mission of the Southwestern University Police Department (SUPD) is to serve our diverse and inclusive community by promoting a safe, secure living and learning environment that fosters thinking, creativity, and connection. The SUPD accomplishes this mission by engaging with students, faculty, and staff under a community policing philosophy; by sponsoring a variety of proactive safety and awareness programs and events; and by protecting life and property through equal and unbiased enforcement of University policy as well as local, state, and federal laws. Each SUPD officer holds a master peace officer license. SUPD officers are always available to offer assistance when needed and patrol campus 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

❖ Is there any crime on campus? What are the crime statistics? Southwestern is not immune to crime. Most crimes on campus are crimes of opportunity, which include theft or criminal mischief. Crime statistics are kept on a calendar basis, are compiled in an annual report per the Campus Safety and Security Act of 1990, and are available on request or by accessing southwestern.edu/life-at-southwestern/safety-security/annual-security-reports/ The SUPD presents crime awareness programs throughout the year.

❖ What measures are taken to ensure safety for students on campus? Campus grounds are patrolled 24 hours a day, 365 days a year by uniformed, armed, state-certified police officers. Officers patrol in highly visible vehicles and on foot for easy access to the interior of campus. Residence halls are locked 24 hours a day and are checked by SUPD and resident assistants on a regular basis. Police provide an on-campus escort for any student requesting one. The University has also instituted an Emergency Notification System to alert students, faculty, and staff about on-campus emergencies via telephone, email, and/or text message.
Where do students park their cars? What is the cost to keep a car on campus? Southwestern has parking lots throughout the campus for students, staff, and faculty. Students must register their vehicles with the SUPD by filling out a registration card and affixing a parking permit to the vehicle’s rear window. All Southwestern students are automatically charged a vehicle registration of $100 per semester ($200 for the academic year). If a student does not park a vehicle on campus, the charge may be waived by completing the Vehicle Registration Waiver form online at tinyurl.com/parkingwaiver. The online waiver form must be submitted each semester by the required deadline date. For Fall 2020, the waiver site will open May 1, 2020, and the online waiver must be completed by July 16, 2020, to receive the credit to the student account. For Spring 2021, the waiver site will open Nov. 1, 2020, and the online waiver must be completed by Dec. 10, 2020.

Maximize the Power of the Tower, and connect online at PirateConnect, Southwestern's new digital gateway to the Southwestern network. Through PirateConnect, your student can
- Expand their Southwestern professional network
- Share and receive career advice and guidance with Southwestern alumni
- Connect with Pirates in your student’s industry or city of interest
- Learn more about industries and initiate conversations
- Access career-development resources
- Set up phone, video chat, or in-person meetings with ease

JOIN US AT PIRATECONNECT.SOUTHWESTERN.EDU. QUESTIONS? EMAIL PIRATECONNECT@SOUTHWESTERN.EDU.

Welcome to PirateConnect

February 5–7, 2021
PARTNERING FOR SUCCESS

SOUTHWESTERN AND PARENTS

Southwestern University, like you, is focused on one outcome: the success of our students. Southwestern’s academic and student life programs seek to engage students’ minds and transform their lives through a rigorous liberal arts education and a vibrant residential campus. Our objectives are likely very similar to your own. We aim to help your student develop into an intelligent, resilient, responsible, productive, well-rounded young adult prepared to contribute to the well-being of humanity.

With these shared aspirations, we ask parents and family members of Southwestern students to partner with us. Taking responsibility for one’s own education is central to the Southwestern Experience. Southwestern offers an extensive network of resources so students can help themselves, solve problems, and build the confidence to manage their own educations. By learning to use these resources, students develop competencies that will serve them well in life.

We invite you to share our hope that Southwestern students and graduates will be confident, self-motivated young adults in charge of their lives, capable of dealing equally well with both challenges and opportunities and prepared to contribute to the world.

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP MY STUDENT FROM A DISTANCE?

Here are some ways that you can enhance your student’s growth into adulthood as well as their experience at Southwestern. The following is adapted, with gratitude, from You’re on Your Own (But I’m Here if You Need Me): Mentoring Your Child during the College Years by Marjorie B. Savage (2009, revised edition):

1. **Listen to their concerns.** Even though your almost-adult is experimenting with independent choices, they still need to know that you’re there and available to talk about everyday events and difficult issues. If your student needs help or support, the subject is more likely to come up if you are not inquiring pointedly about what time they came in last night. Listen to the melody, not just the content. Do not trivialize any of your student’s concerns or emotions. Much of what they are saying is “I’m changing, and I’m scared,” even when the content is “I know what I am doing.”

2. **Stay in touch (but not too much)!** Remember the names of roommates and friends who are mentioned often. Encourage your student to send you pictures of their room and friends. Be interested but not intrusive. Send photos of family activities and pets as well as care packages at exam times.

3. **Negotiate frequency of communication.** Talk about how often you’ll speak on the phone, text, visit each other, or send emails. If an uncharacteristically long amount of time passes with no word, it’s not bad to check in and make sure everything is going smoothly.

4. **Be willing to cut the cord.** Encourage an appropriate level of independence and responsibility. Let them use their own judgment to decide what is best for them, and trust them to make good decisions. Teach them life skills such as how to do laundry, live on a budget, set up a checking account, and manage their time.

5. **Help your student problem-solve.** If your student calls home with a problem, stay calm. Practice reacting to such
“melt-down calls.” For example, you could say, “I’m sorry you are having a rough time. How are you going to handle it?” Then coach; don’t rescue. Coach them in talking things through with their roommate or making their own phone calls to the professor. Encourage your student to use the University’s services instead of relying solely on you for help. On-campus professionals have a wealth of experience to quickly help resolve your student’s issue.

6. **State your concerns.** It is OK to ask whether they have thought about study habits, sexual conduct, or alcohol. As parents, you can send a clear message to your student that they can choose not to drink, and if they choose to use alcohol, they should do it moderately, legally, and appropriately. Don’t glorify your own “youthful drinking days” if you had them.

7. **Don’t overburden your student with your own emotional issues.** What you want is to be useful to them, and you will need to find someone else to help you with how you feel. They want to know you care, but they don’t want to know too much. Keep them informed, but grant them a little distance from any family problems that arise.

8. **Encourage smart financial practices.** Most students come to college with a fairly detailed plan about how tuition, room, board, and books will be paid for and what their family’s expectations are about spending money. Work together to set up a budget plan for the year. Warn your student not to apply for every credit card offered. Smart money management is a lifelong skill that will benefit your student.

9. **Be realistic about academic achievement and grades.** Southwestern attracts bright students from all over the country, but not every first-year student who excelled academically in high school will be a straight-A student here. Developing or refining the capacity to work independently and consistently and to demonstrate mastery can be more important than grades as long as the student meets the basic academic requirements set out by the University. Instead of focusing on grades, ask your student to discuss class projects and papers with you. Again, these are choices that each individual student makes, though certainly it is appropriate to coach your student in setting their own long-term goals.

10. **Keep your cool.** Students tend to share their good times with friends and rely on family in difficult times. Although a “melt-down call” may be troubling, it is a sign of trust. They are allowing themselves to be vulnerable with you. Try not to be overly reactive to their venting or jump to intervene.

11. **If your student does experience difficulties at Southwestern, encourage them to take advantage of the wealth of resources available for students.** The small and personal environment of the University offers many sources of help. For academic issues, talking with a professor or academic advisor is probably the first step, but the Center for Academic Success and Registrar (CASAR) is also available to help. For stress, relationship problems, or more serious concerns, the Office of Counseling Services is available and free for students.
Sprog Parent Orientation

Your family will select a two-day virtual Orientation session during the week of June 22-27, 2020. Over the course of two days your student will participate in critical Orientation programming, including course registration and a virtual tour of the residence halls. Additionally, parents are invited to several virtual sessions to orient you to the logistics of being a Pirate Parent!

Sprog I – June 22-23
Sprog II – June 24-25
Sprog III – June 26-27
**SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY PACKING LIST**

* Coordinate with Roommate

### Bed & Bath
- Linens (extra-long twin in Brown-Cody, Mabee & Ruter; standard twin in Kurth)
- Pillows
- Bath towels
- Posters, decorations, etc.
- 3M command adhesive strips (for hanging pictures & posters on walls in Ruter, Mabee, & Kurth)
- Push pins (for hanging pictures & posters on walls in Brown-Cody)

### Desk & Study Supplies
- Computer + charger
- Study lamp
- Extension cord(s)
- HDMI cord + adapter
- Stapler
- Tape
- Scissors
- Pencils/pens
- Notebooks
- Ethernet cable
- Binders
- Sticky notes
- Folders
- Flash drives

### Personal Items
- Umbrella
- Hangers
- Laundry hamper
- TV
- Water bottle(s)
- Tissues
- Wet wipes
- Headphones
- Speaker

### Cleaning Supplies
- Trash bags
- Broom
- Vacuum
- Paper towels
- Laundry bag and detergent (not pods)
- Disinfecting cleaner & wipes

### Snacks & Meals
- Microwave
- Refrigerator
- Snacks, microwave meals, breakfast foods