Welcome to the Rocket Family!

Congratulations! You and your student have reached a personal goal shared by literally millions of parents and family members. For you as a parent or guardian, the beginning of your student’s college years brings its own challenges — so you’ll be glad to learn about how UT provides academic support and opportunities for your student’s personal growth.

The first year at college is truly the most critical. One sobering statistic tells the story: Nationwide, during the first year of college, nearly 25% of students at four-year institutions drop out. At The University of Toledo, we’re on it. Your new Rocket will find many types of support to help them to academic success and graduation — you’ll find more on that below — but you may appreciate the tips and information in this newsletter that will give you support as well, and help you thrive during your student’s first year at college.

UT FAQs for Parents & Families — including list of important dates!

The 2015 edition of Frequently Asked Questions is now ready and posted online. Click here for a quick, colorful, informative review of the UT people, offices and services that are in place to help your Rocket student achieve graduation and launch into a successful future. Be sure to check the important calendar dates and deadlines for the academic year — you’ll find them in a convenient list near the end of the publication.
Tips for surviving your student’s first year

Whether this is your first college student or your third, you’ll benefit from these ideas, adapted from an article by parent Steve Gladis. (Special thanks to him and The Washington Post.)

Offer roots and wings: Providing a touchstone, a link back to stability during a year of continuous adjustment, is critical. As parents, you can offer firm roots to first-year students being blown around by the strong winds of change. At the same time, as students begin to stabilize, you have to let them go — to give them wings. First-year students need to make their own decisions. Thus, the first year is a balancing act for parents.

Communicate, communicate, communicate: Don’t be surprised to get a lot of contact in the very beginning and for it to taper off as the semester rolls on. Typically, as kids let go — get their wings — they feel more confident and take you for granted. This is not a bad thing but a reality. No matter where they are on their roller-coaster ride, communicate with them. Tell them what you’re doing and ask them what they’re doing. It’s not a sin to ask them if they’re going to class, eating well and getting sleep. In fact, if you suspect a problem, send a letter or an email about the issue before you discuss it. This will enable you to express your concerns without the heavy emotion that often comes in a face-to-face meeting or in a phone call. Kids listen despite what you might think. So tell them what you think, but only after you’ve done a lot of listening first.

Fasten your seat belt: You’re in for a roller-coaster ride, too. The smiley faces of the first few days as kids meet their cool roommates and their interesting teachers will turn into frowny faces by mid-semester, if not sooner. Students’ idealized views of college — parties, fun and sun — will turn rudely into the reality of tests, compromises and adjustments. So don’t get crazy when you get a call or an e-mail that reflects the elation of the first few weeks or the frustration of the mid-semester despair. It is normal. Let me repeat this: It is normal.
All about UT Success Coaches

Now that your UT student has been assigned a Success Coach, great things are starting to happen. UT Success Coaches are like personal trainers — but they help focus students on a goal of successful graduation with a UT degree.

This University of Toledo program was designed to enhance the student experience and increase retention. The program matches new and transfer students with a success coach who will be a personal resource from admission through graduation.

Each coach has an assigned roster of students, and each coach works very proactively with his or her students and develops a personal relationship with them. They connect with students regularly by whatever means is necessary — phone, texting, email, written messages — to keep them on track for their ultimate goal of graduation.

Success Coaches help students in many ways:
• connecting them with appropriate academic resources such as tutoring and the Writing Center;
• ensuring they respond to necessary deadlines and helping them navigate paperwork;
• assisting them in choosing student organizations and activities; and
• helping them manage the multiple priorities of college life.

A Success Coach is the student’s constant, beginning with a student’s initial adjustment to the policies and procedures of college, then providing support as each student finds a place in the academic community and begins planning for a successful life after graduation.

The comprehensive and ongoing training the Success Coaches receive includes both best practices for successful communication with their students, and an in-depth knowledge of the University’s programs, policies, procedures, systems and culture.

As a parent, you can provide valuable help by giving occasional reminders to your student: “Have you been talking with your Success Coach?”
Important dates for your student

REGISTRATION DATES
August 14   Fall 2015 Semester Due Date
           1st Fall Installment Payment Plan payment due
August 23   Fall open registration ends
August 24   First day of Fall Semester Classes
August 28   Last day to add courses via Web
August 29   Instructor’s signature required to add courses
August 30   100% refund ends
August 31   Late fees assessed for past due balances
September 6 80% refund ends
September 7 Labor Day — no classes
September 7 Last day to add/drop courses
September 13 60% refund ends
September 15 40% refund ends
September 21 2nd Fall Installment Payment Plan payment due
Oct. 5-6    Fall Break — no classes
October 21  3rd Fall Installment Payment Plan payment due
October 30   Last day to withdraw classes
November 11 Veterans’ Day — no classes
November 21 4th Fall Installment Payment Plan payment due
November 24 Spring 2015 Semester E-Statement available
Nov. 25-27  Thanksgiving Break — no classes
Dec. 19-Jan. 10 Winter Break
December 19 Fall Commencement
December 31 Spring 2015 Semester Due Date
           1st Spring Installment Payment Plan payment due

SOME ON-CAMPUS EVENTS DATES
Aug. 21 – Aug. 30 First Weeks programming (student events)
August 21   New Student Convocation: Savage Arena @ 4 p.m.
August 26   Student Job Fair/Student Organization Fair
Aug. 31 – Sept. 6 Sorority Recruitment
September 3 Football: Rockets vs. Stony Brook at Glass Bowl
Sept. 14-18 Fraternity Recruitment
September 19 Football: Rockets vs. Iowa State at Glass Bowl
September 26 Football: Rockets vs. Arkansas State at Glass Bowl
October 10  Football: Rockets vs. Kent State at Glass Bowl
October 17  Football: Rockets vs. Eastern Michigan at Glass Bowl
November 3  Football: Rockets vs. Northern Illinois at Glass Bowl
November 27 Football: Rockets vs. Western Mich. At Glass Bowl