

The KU Advising Nest

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Editor's Note: The KU Advising Nest newsletter is published in August, October, December, January, March and May. You will remain on the subscription list until you decide you would like to be removed. To be removed, please email me at smarino@ku.edu with "remove please" in the subject line. If I receive an Over Quota notice three times in a row, I will remove the email address.

I hope that you find the information provided within the newsletter useful. If you have a question, please feel free to contact my by email at smarino@ku.edu or by phone at 785-864-0178.

Academic Advising at KU

Peer Advisors—The Heartbeat of the Undergraduate Advising Center (UAC) By Brad Whitsell, Assistant Director

The Undergraduate Advising Center (UAC) has a group of fifteen dedicated, well-educated and just plain awesome student staff members called Peer Advisors (PAs). The PAs are undergraduate students who are hired to first start work with the UAC in May. The PAs' main duties consist of assisting during new student orientation sessions in the summer and working in our office throughout the academic year. During new student orientations, the PAs help students change their majors and talk them through that process. Alongside of professional advisors, they help students figure out their transfer credit, advise students on their first semester schedule and help students enroll in classes.

The office work they do consists of staffing our two front desks and working hours during the day for drop-in appointments. Drop-in appointments are an option for students to speak with a Peer Advisor or a professional advisor from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday on current semester issues. The PAs also have drop-in appointment hours during the evenings in McCollum and Oliver residence halls. At times throughout the year PAs also scan and link student files to a campus sharing network for faculty, staff and administrators to view. The PAs are the first face that all customers see when they visit the UAC. Simply put, they keep our office running smoothly and efficiently and without them the office would not function in such a manner.

Becoming a PA in the UAC requires an extensive training process to learn about all the academic programs and campus resources KU has to offer. They go through Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) training as well as confidentiality training. Additionally, the PAs complete development exercises throughout the academic year at their monthly team meetings and work through a course on Blackboard, KU's Learning Management System, to help them grow professionally. There is never a dull moment in the life of an UAC Peer Advisor.

The PA position is truly a valuable asset to the office, to our staff and to the students they assist. They are treated and valued as our para-professionals and with the knowledge and skills they have, they live up to these expectations. Our office is grateful to have such a great group of student staff members to work with and hope they are serving you and our students with fantastic customer service.

Undergraduate Advising Center cont.

The Trip Home—a Time for Affirmation **By Jody Johnson, Senior Associate Director**

I remember going home from college for the first time after starting my freshman year. I was excited about being in college, and being a true extrovert, I was talking about my college encounters the moment I sat down at the table that Friday night. My parents had not attended college, so they had not had the experiences I was so excited to discuss. They were glad that I was enjoying myself, but the conversations turned quickly to life at home—the planting of wheat and the prospects for rain (we were a farming family)—even though I had more to tell. I was disappointed that there wasn't an excited response to my new life.

Many students have left campus for fall break, some of them going home for the first time. This is a good time to consider parent-student conversations. I have a college freshman attending college far away, and she will be home in a few days. My mind easily goes to questions like “How is she doing with her homework—is she keeping up as well as she says she is?” and “has she made an appointment with her advisor?” But I have to remind myself not to lapse into my parent instructional mode. I have to remember that she probably has lots to tell me, and to let the conversation unfold. Questions like “who is your favorite professor?” and “what's the best thing about college so far?” can start the conversation. There will be time for other discussions about grades and adjustment, but it's really important for us to hear and celebrate any excitement and growth our students have experienced.

Letting a conversation unfold is about timing. Some students are more introverted, maybe more reflective or even quiet and won't burst through the door spilling details like I did. Others are ready to see friends from high school and won't have time for you right away. Some will be balancing homework and jobs with family time and socializing. You know your student, so make sure their time at home takes into account their schedule. Determine the best time for conversations, but most of all, listen *and respond* to the things they share. Some parents take in all their student has to say, often with pride and admiration, but fail to voice these feelings to their student. Now is the time to show your affirmation.

Parents of first-year KU students are generally more eager to connect with their students. Parents of returning students see the trips home at this point as more routine. However, students change and grow all through their college experience. Don't let the listening and affirming wane. Every semester is new and provides the opportunity to see your student in a new light.

Eventually, I was able to connect with my parents about my college experience. The more I shared, the more they learned, and trips home affirmed my efforts and drew my parents into my college world. Every family has a different level of openness and communication. Start where you are and be ready to listen the next time your student is home.

Academic Achievement and Access Center

The Academic Achievement and Access Center promotes academic success By Deborah Meyer, Education Program Manager

The **Academic Achievement and Access Center** is an important resource for academic success! If your student is needing help with their coursework and guidance regarding effective study strategies, there are two opportunities available to them through the Academic Achievement and Access Center in addition to their professors' office hours:

Tutoring Services – Students may request tutoring through Tutoring Services until **Friday, October 31**. It is small group and course specific; students meet with the same tutor at the same time on the same days in the same location through the last week of classes. Many of our tutor groups are already full but we continue to hire more tutors based on student demand. More information is available at www.tutoring.ku.edu.

Supplemental Instruction – Students who are enrolled in specific classes in Accounting, Anthropology, Astronomy, Biology, Classics, Economics, Geology, Philosophy, Political Science, and Psychology may attend SI Sessions and Office Hours throughout the semester. SI activities are led by a student who successfully completed the course and is currently attending the class with the students. Your student received information and the schedule in class but it is also available on the SI website. For more information can be accessed at <http://achievement.ku.edu/supplemental-instruction>.

Read & Write Gold --

In addition to these two AAAC opportunities, the university also supports Read & Write Gold software for all students and staff. [Read & Write Gold](#) is literacy software that was originally developed for individuals with reading disorders. However, over the years it has grown in popularity and usefulness for many types of learners. The software is now available to any KU student, faculty or staff member as a free [download](#) from the KU Information Technology web site.

Once installed, the software places a customizable, moveable toolbar on the desktop of a computer (both PC and Mac downloads are available). The software has numerous components and functions that can assist with reading and writing tasks.

One of the more powerful components is the reading feature, which will read digital text aloud from various electronic sources (Internet, Microsoft Word, PDF, etc.). Another component includes a speech-to-text function, wherein the user speaks into a microphone, and the program then types the corresponding text into a word processing document. Other components include a "fact mapper" for brainstorming and organizing essay writing, a picture dictionary (very useful for English Language Learners), a grammar and spell checker that can identify homophones (something Word cannot do), study skills tools (highlight words and automatically collect them as a list of terms for study and flash card creation). In addition, the software comes with the ability to scan text and create MP3s (audible digital files).

Video tours of how to use each component are built-in to the toolbar itself, to make learning the features easy. The company also offers mobile applications and extensions for browsers such as Google Chrome.

"...we continue to hire more tutors based on student demand."

Bursar's Office

Does your student have an enrollment hold? By Karen Bailey, Assistant Comptroller

Hard to believe but very soon, students will begin enrolling for the spring 2015 semester. As part of that enrollment process, students should check for enrollment holds prior to their enrollment appointment time. There are certain holds that will prevent a student from enrolling and must be cleared before a student can enroll. These holds can be viewed in Enroll & Pay in the Student Center on the right hand side. Each hold will provide instructions on the office to contact for more information regarding the type of hold or the action needed to clear the hold.

Announcements:

FROM THE UAC:

If your student has not made an appointment with his or her advisor to plan for spring courses, now is the time to set up the appointment!

Peer Advisor applications for the 2015-2016 academic year starting in May will be posted January 12th.

FROM THE UNIVERSITY CAREER CENTER:

Education Career Fair

Wednesday, November 5, 2014

12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Kansas Union Ballroom

Internship Fair

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Kansas Union

For more information about any of our events, visit our website at career.ku.edu.

Academic Calendar

Monday, October 6, 2014	Deadline Credit/No Credit *
Saturday, October 11, 2014	First Day of Fall Break
Tuesday, October 14, 2014	Last Day of Fall Break
Monday, November 3, 2014	Undergraduate Application for Graduation deadline
Monday, November 3, 2014	Law Application for Graduation deadline
Wednesday, November 19, 2014	Last day to withdraw from a class or the University (full semester classes, excluding Law)
Wednesday, November 19, 2014	Second Period Drop Ends *
Wednesday, November 26, 2014	Thanksgiving Break First Day
Sunday, November 30, 2014	Thanksgiving Break Last Day
Thursday, December 11, 2014	Last day of classes
Friday, December 12, 2014	Stop Day
Monday, December 15, 2014	First day of Finals
Friday, December 19, 2014	Last day of Finals
Friday, December 19, 2014	Graduate Application for Graduation deadline
Monday, December 31, 2014	Grade submission deadline -- 11:59 p.m. (excludes Law)
Thursdays, January 1, 2015	Collection of non-posted grades begins for all careers
Thursday, January 8, 2015	Grade roster entry access shut off (excludes Law)
Friday, January 9, 2015	Law grade submission deadline -- 11:59 p.m.
Friday, January 9, 2015	Law grade roster entry access shut off
Friday, January 16, 2015	Course Completion Deadline
Friday, January 16, 2015	Official Degree list due
Monday, January 26, 2015	Degrees post to transcripts
Monday, February 9, 2015	Diplomas available

KU News - Headlines:

KU seeks public comment in advance of accreditation review

<http://news.ku.edu/ku-seeks-public-comment-advance-accreditation-review>

KU joins national alliance to help low-income students graduate

<https://news.ku.edu/2014/09/15/ku-ten-peers-form-national-alliance-help-low-income-students-graduate>

University of Kansas Medical Center approved for \$10 million award by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute to study obesity treatment options

<http://www.kumc.edu/news-listing-page/pcori-award-for-obesity-study.html>

More News

The Office of University Relations offers free reports about news and events on campus sent to your email address. To subscribe, send an email to listproc@listproc.cc.ku.edu with "subscribe KUNews1-L" in the body of the e-mail. You may also visit

<http://www.news.ku.edu>.

Other Useful KU Websites:

Academic Achievement and Access Center: <http://www.achievement.ku.edu>

Admissions: <http://www.admissions.ku.edu/>

Billing Information (Bursar): <http://www.bursar.ku.edu/>

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Undergraduate Services: www.collegesas.ku.edu

Counseling and Psychological Services: <http://www.caps.ku.edu>

Enrollment questions: www.registrar.ku.edu/

Financial Aid & Scholarships: <http://www.financialaid.ku.edu>

First-Year Experience: www.orientation.ku.edu

KU Continuing Education: www.continuinged.ku.edu

KU Online Courses: www.online.ku.edu

KU Parent/Family Assistance: <http://www.vpss.ku.edu/pal.shtml>

KU Writing Center: <http://www.writing.ku.edu>

Multicultural Affairs: <http://www.oma.ku.edu/>

Parking Department: <http://www.parking.ku.edu>

Sexual Harassment: <http://www.sexualharassment.ku.edu>

Student Affairs: <http://studentaffairs.ku.edu/>

Student Involvement and Leadership Center: <http://www.silc.ku.edu>

Student Housing: www.housing.ku.edu/

Supportive Educational Services: <http://www.apex.ku.edu/>

Testing Prep Link: www.Continuinged.ku.edu/programs/testprep/index2.php

Timetable of Classes online: <http://www.classes.ku.edu>

Undergraduate Advising Center: www.advising.ku.edu

University Career Center: www.kucareerhawk.com

Watkins Health Center: www.ku.edu/~shs

(For specific School phone numbers, call KU Directory at [785-864-2700](tel:785-864-2700).)