

welcome to lsa

Dear Parent:

College can be a transformative experience. It is a time when students will learn about themselves and the world in which they live. It also is a period of transition; you may encounter changes in your son's or daughter's thought processes, behaviors, maturity, and decision-making skills. Because some students have more difficulty than others adjusting to the transition from high school to college, we provide a supportive environment in which students can thrive and grow. Sharing your own experiences with your son or daughter and talking with him or her about what it takes to be successful at the University of Michigan can also help ease the transition. Here are some basics he or she might consider for academic success:

First and foremost, go to class! The significance of attendance cannot be emphasized enough. Research has shown that there is a high correlation between class attendance and academic performance.

Avoid procrastination. All UM students are bright and have the potential to be successful here. However, waiting until the last day or hour to complete an assignment can have serious consequences for college-level work. To ensure success, students should employ consistent study habits rather than wait for last-minute inspiration. For every credit taken, students should be prepared to spend up to three hours outside class in preparation.

A student must be willing to **set goals** and be realistic enough to **evaluate those goals** over time to make sure that they remain compatible with his or her interests and intellectual strengths. We hope that students will explore many areas of interest and receive the broadest possible liberal arts education, but setting goals for performance and selecting courses that match their curiosity and interests are strategies that will increase the likelihood of a successful academic experience. It is central to LSA Academic Advising's mission to help students make important decisions about exciting opportunities, from choosing a concentration or finding an internship to deciding which medical school or law school best suits their needs. We encourage students to stay in touch with their academic advisor.

If your son or daughter experiences any problem in a class, he or she should bring it to the attention of the instructor immediately. Seeking assistance is not a sign of weakness, but a sign of active intellectual engagement. Our faculty are more than willing to assist students in gaining a better understanding of the course material. If students need help resolving a problem in or out of class, they should contact the **Newnan LSA Academic Advising Center** at (734) 764-0332 and make an appointment with their academic advisor.

Each student should know that our college expects students to take full responsibility for their actions both in and out of the classroom; that we will treat them as adults (even as we recognize that they are still maturing); and that we will expect them to take the initiative in making their college education a successful, productive, and positive experience. Each student is joining a community of scholars and is expected to act with integrity and honesty in all academic endeavors.

To help you support your son or daughter in making the transition from high school to college, we have put together this Parent Handbook. If you have questions that are not answered by this handbook, you will have an opportunity to have them answered at Orientation. In the meantime, don't hesitate to contact the Newnan LSA Academic Advising Center with additional questions or concerns.

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