

WELCOME

Welcome to the 2019-2020 academic year! While I am a new member of the Learning & Student Development Center team, my experience at West Liberty University started in the Housing & Residence Life department from 2012-2016. It is exciting being back at WLU and I hope to continue to grow the Parent Power program through these newsletters and other communication, including the [Parent Power Facebook Page](#). Feel free to reach out to me directly with thoughts on how to enhance current efforts or create new opportunities to best engage parents through these communications.

I hope this information will be useful to you! The schedule of additional newsletters to be released this year are as follows: October, November, January, March, and April.

- Chris McPherson (Student Support Services Coordinator)

An easy-to-read bulletin designed to keep you informed about important dates, deadlines, and discussions you should be having with your college freshman to help promote academic and personal success

[Like our West Liberty University Parent Power Facebook Page](#)



Important Dates:

- Sept 2:** Labor Day (no classes) - Offices Closed
- Sept 5:** Last day to add classes
- Oct 12:** Homecoming
- Oct 18:** Mid-Term
- Oct 21-Nov 8:** Pre-Registration for Spring 2020 & Summer 2020
- Oct 25:** Last day to add 2nd half classes
- Oct 25:** Fall Holiday—No Classes—Offices Open
- Nov 1:** Last day to Withdraw with a grade of “W”
- Nov 27-29:** Thanksgiving Break—No Classes—Offices Closed
- Dec 6:** Last day of classes and *last day to drop a class*
- Dec 7-13:** Final Exams
- Dec 14:** Commencement

Useful Links

At this point, you have probably become somewhat of an expert at navigating WLU’s website and retrieving information as needed. Throughout the fall semester you may need to quickly visit or search the website. Below you will find hyperlinks to various website areas. I encourage you to save these as a favorite on your web browser, whether that be on your smart phone, laptop, or desktop computer so you can visit these more quickly in the future.

- [Business Office](#)
- [Financial Aid](#)
- [Residence Life](#)
- [Bookstore](#)



School's F-I-N-E

As we continue through the first weeks of the semester, students will become (if they haven't already) entrenched in their daily routines, which can prove difficult for you, as parents, to find a time when you don't believe you're interfering or intruding on their independent lives. When you do find that time to have a conversation, you may feel the response to your question, "How's school?" is less than adequate. Here are questions you can try asking that may produce a more elaborate response:

- "What was the best thing that happened to you today?"
- "What was the most interesting thing you learned in class today?"
- "What is your relationship with your roommate like?"
- "What types of activities are you getting involved with outside of your classes?"
- "What is something that made you laugh recently?"
- "What are some of your goals for this semester?"



FERPA

Undoubtedly, you have come into contact with this acronym that stands for the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). According to the U.S. Department of Education, "When a student turns 18 years old, or enters a postsecondary institution at any age, the rights under FERPA transfer from the parents to the student ("eligible student")."

This change can be difficult for parents that are comfortable having regular access to their student's records and instructors through an online portal or a quick phone call. Remember: This is a time for your student to become more independent and provide opportunities for you to have constructive conversations about decision-making and responsibility. Take a look at this article from **College Parent Central** on **FERPA** and feel free to browse around other articles on their website.



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IN THE NEWS



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UPCOMING CAMPUS ACTIVITIES



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