

## PARENT QUESTIONS from Orientation....

**What we have been asked before!!** Please see that we tried to categorize these for easier reference.



### How can we help as parents? I chose to answer this one at the beginning.

First of all, if you could make it to Orientation that was one huge step in sending the positive message that you are still very interested in what happens to them. TRUST ME....they will need this more than they realize but you need to realize they are in a huge transition. Even if you have had other children to leave home for whatever reason, this is the first time for this student and you to deal with this for them.

TIPS to help me and them...

- Get a copy of their schedule....call their room sometimes to be sure they are out of BED especially if you know you have one of those hard to awake students. They get WORSE here, not better. **(AND DON'T tell them I told you to!)**
- The first couple of weeks, send them something in the mail at least once!! That works some really interesting effects on them.
- Call or email them just to talk about what's happening at home. But be careful here...if they are homesick this could really open a flood gate..BUT THAT IS GOOD!! If you detect something really serious, let me know.
- Don't even ask them how they are doing the first 2-3 weeks or longer in some cases...they won't have any grades PLUS they are expecting that question. DON'T expect them to suddenly know a lot more about their major, their future career, what college is all about....any of those big issues for a while. As a matter of fact, my advice is to back off of that line of conversation for this first semester at least. They have a lot more on their mind to deal with.
- **PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE....**please talk with your student about joining a fraternity or sorority the first semester. Over and over again those who do tell me how much they wish they had waited at least until the second semester. **I AM NOT opposed to all such organizations at all.** As a matter of fact I am an alumnus of one of the fraternities and serve as an advisor to the guys. BUT, I know they are better to get their academics under control the first semester. **I guarantee them without question that they will be just as wanted and welcomed into these organizations any semester they choose to join AND they will not miss anything by waiting.**
- Just talk to them and be prepared for them to be up and down about school, to not be really happy with their roommate(even if it is their life long friend), to not really want to talk sometimes(TRY not to take that too personally and just say something supportive anyway!!), to be unsure about their abilities in classes....and this list has no end as you know. PLEASE always feel free to contact me if you detect something serious.



## **Scholarships, Financial Aid, Tuition Costs, Eli Whitney Scholars, Work Study Programs**

### **a. What are the tuition and general costs?**

Instate Tuition and Fees - \$2,141.00 per semester Out-of-State - \$8,090.00 per semester  
Residence Hall cost – between \$1495 and \$2190 per semester depending on the dorm they are placed in.  
Books – around \$300 per semester Meal Plan/food costs vary but at least \$1000-1500 (probably more??) per semester will be spent on eating somewhere. They are always “shocked” at how many times they eat out at least the first semester. Then there is the “miscellaneous” category that depends entirely on the student but at least \$500-1000 in many cases per semester.

So, in all honesty a student does well to make it on around \$5000 per semester **in my opinion**. Some will be less and some a lot more.

### **b. What scholarships may be available? Qualifications needed? After 1<sup>st</sup> year?**

Students in the College of Textiles are encouraged to apply for a scholarship at any time IF they are not already on a scholarship with the College. Ideally a student not already on a scholarship would submit an application to the Student Services Office (Kent Hester) and then update it each semester as they become more involved. If a student is already on scholarship with us, sometimes they will receive an increase depending on their records and availability of funds. **Scholarships from other sources do not affect a student's eligibility for Textile scholarships.** Students need at least a 2.8 to be serious contenders for a scholarship and of course, higher is better. In addition, students need to be involved in the College of Textiles organizations and activities on main campus **to the degree that they can handle this**. We are also very interested in students being involved in community service activities either here or at home. Students will be told that allocation of scholarship money starts at the Senior level and goes down so they should not expect to receive a scholarship the first semester they apply in most cases.

### **c. Is scholarship money from Textile Foundation applied to first semester or split between semesters?**

It is split between semesters. If any money is left after paying tuition, etc, the student goes to the Cashier's office and picks up a check for the difference after classes start.

### **d. What is the minimum credit to keep scholarship?**

We expect all students to complete 30 credits during the calendar year which includes summer school if needed. We ask that they attempt 15 per semester. The GPA required depends on the scholarship they have received.

### **e. How to get in-state tuition?**

This requires that a student live off campus for at least a year, pay taxes if applicable in NC, have a NC drivers license, and have car insurance in NC among other things. I am NOT an expert with this but there is legal aid free for students at NC State that can help with this.

### **f. Student Work Programs?**

We are particularly interested in working with our students who receive “Work Study” as part of their financial aid package. PLEASE, if this is the case with your student tell them to see me as soon as they know about this. We will put them to work in the College of Textiles if at all possible.

Then we do have a number of jobs we hire students to do that are not connected to financial aid. I admit, most of these jobs are offered to upper class students because the professors know them from the previous year, but some first semester students will be able to find work in the College of Textiles. If not in the College itself, perhaps they can find a job on Centennial Campus with some of the other agencies. I have established a connection with all of them and they are beginning to request our students a LOT!! There are some good experiences in these other agencies for our students.

**g. Credit card/cash**

If you are not aware of this, your student will have credit card offers at almost a rate of 1 per day, especially at the first of the semester. BY ALL MEANS, have a clearly defined position of this. My recommendation – unless they have used their own credit card responsibly before college- don't do it!!! I do recommend they use their All Campus Card as a debit card and reduce the need to carry cash around.

## **Scheduling and Curriculum Questions**

**a. Math Placement? English placement? Placement in general?**

Questions about placement were thoroughly covered at Orientation or in the letter I sent much earlier.

**b. How difficult is it to change your major if this one is not for you?**

This depends largely on what major a student would chose. In many cases on campus, to transfer to another college requires at least a 2.7 overall GPA and in some cases certain courses must have been completed. Students are required to visit the college in which the major they are considering is located to ask such questions. Sometimes credits are lost in the transfer process. Again this depends on the new major they choose.

**c. Will my student be able to handle the work load?**

And what a question this is!!! All of you know the answer to this lies in their control for the most part. I will do all I can to show them how to manage college as effectively as I can, BUT IT IS STILL up to them. They will hear early on from me that time management is totally crucial for them to learn. They will also hear that time management is SELF MANAGEMENT!! This first semester they will actually be more likely to succeed with heavier credit loads than in the spring. This is something I will monitor closely. **But the answer to this question will not be known until we try it and see!!**

**d. How large are the classes in Textiles?**

The largest class I have seen was one I taught that had 96 students..that is RARE. Most of the classes are between 25 and 45. The nice thing is that everyone knows each other.

**e. When does the curriculum get textile specific?**

Students will have at least one course the first semester that is specifically about textiles.

**f. How many credit hours must be completed per semester?**

In order to be full time which is important for most family health coverage, a student must be enrolled in 12 credits minimum. For scholarship students, 15 credits are needed. However, a student can go part time (less than 12 credits) if they need to because of situations that make it necessary. If this happens, they should tell you and check on their insurance coverage. I ask that they talk to me about this also.

**g. Requirements for the different programs in COT?**

Students will learn about this. If you have access to the internet, please check here at [www.tx.ncsu.edu](http://www.tx.ncsu.edu) at the site For Students, Undergraduate Information.

**h. Are there opportunities to explore most options they will have when ready to matriculate?**

I was not quite sure what this question meant but I think it is referring to before the student definitely commits to a textile major perhaps? The "T" students and "TEU" students are the only ones that technically have to "matriculate" which means "be accepted into a major of their choice". As long as a "T" students stays in textiles, they can choose any major they want. Both "T" and "TEU" students interested in Textile Engineering must pass a set of courses decided upon by the College of Engineering and maintain at least a 2.5 or higher GPA in order to be officially accepted into Textile Engineering.

**i. Can students take 2 years of foreign language at a technical college and transfer it in to meet COT foreign language requirement?**

First of all, the College of Textiles DOES NOT require any foreign language in any degree. The University requires that the Foreign Language Proficiency be met either from high school or later. (Again, see the “red” information book.)

A student can take courses at any community college, other 4 year institution, in or out of state as long as they are enrolled in a degree at NC State and transfer the credits back. **WARNING!!** The student must be certain the course will count in their degree before doing this. They can ask their advisor or follow the curriculum guide carefully. When in doubt, they should ask and get prior permission.

**j. Are courses interchangeable in the different textile majors?**

Many of them are. This again depends on which degree is involved.



**Location of Classes and Transportation between campuses**

**a. Will most first-year classes be held on Main Campus or Centennial Campus?**

Main campus.

**b. Do class schedules allow sufficient travel time between Main Campus and Centennial Campus?**

Yes, plus there is a Centennial Express bus that runs every twenty minutes and stops only at 2 strategic places on Main Campus. Students say it is really easy to make it to class on time. If a student has any question about times, they should ask their RA in their dorm or just get on a bus and ask the driver.

**c. How to get around campus? Bus schedules?**

Walking is probably the best way. Most students have plenty of time with the 15 minutes to make it anywhere they need to go on Main Campus. **Students must allow 45 minutes between classes on Main and Centennial Campuses.**

**Parent Concerns about student’s progress and attendance**

**a. Can we get in touch with any of your staff questions about our concerns?**

We welcome your questions. For me, email is the fastest since I am in class a lot and with students a lot. However, feel free to call but please be patient. You can always call our main office – 919-515-6622.

**b. How can we be informed of progress and attendance?**

No. There is no official means to do this. Your student will receive some feedback from most professors about performance and attendance around 6 weeks into the semester. Often this is too late in some cases. That is the first time I will officially receive such information as their advisor, BUT I promise you I will be checking from the very start. **The total truth is this. I depend on their honesty in this matter since there is no effective and reasonable way to check this.**

**c. Under what circumstances will you contact us?**

This is a great question. I usually establish the kind of relationship with my students that will facilitate my contacting you if I need to about most anything. I always encourage the student to talk to their parents about any issues I think they should. I definitely contact you if I think there is a serious problem that needs your immediate attention. **Again, I cannot know some of what I need to know if they do not tell me. I give them every option and means to do this.**

## **Tutoring and Staff Support**

### **a. What do we do if we have a problem in an academic course?**

I assume this means the student has a problem. I always discuss strategies for dealing with this including the following: ask student about their attendance, ask if they have talked to the teacher and insist they do if at all possible, stress getting tutoring, and ask about other issues that are affecting their academics. We have 6 weeks to drop a course if needed and always I can allow later drops if the circumstances justify this, BUT I must have been aware of the problem before the 6 weeks deadline.



### **b. How much tutoring will be offered?**

More than they will ever use all over campus and here in the College. I have never seen such an elaborate and student-focused tutorial system as on this campus. Trust me, if they want help and do something about it other than think about it, the help is available. Also, they have the right to ask their teacher for help. The College of Textiles offers between 30 to 40 contact hours of tutoring each week but this includes 2 or 3 tutors working at the same time of course. We offer tutoring one night per week in math and chemistry as well as Monday through Thursday afternoons.

### **c. Is tutoring required?**

No.

### **d. Is it up to the student to know how many activities to get involved with?**

For the most part, yes. We do discuss this.

### **e. Is there a fee for tutoring?**

Not for any of the services provided by campus services including the College of Textiles. Some students do hire private tutors which of course do cost.

### **f. Sources of tutorial help, aids, computers?**

Most tutoring is with a live person however there are lots of such help on line as well as in print. I have observed that most students prefer to work with a person.



## **Job Opportunities after graduation and “hands-on” experience**

**How much “hands on” experience do students get?**

**Jobs available?**

**Summer Job Opportunities?**

**Job market other than apparel—are you opening up to the upholstery market?**

**Potential for jobs, travel and study abroad?**

I will tell you that we are alive and well with regard to all these questions. Specific questions about such should be directed to the Student Services Office at 919-515-3780 or you may email any of the following people:

[Kent\\_Hester@ncsu.edu](mailto:Kent_Hester@ncsu.edu), or [Terry\\_Brasier@ncsu.edu](mailto:Terry_Brasier@ncsu.edu).