With the end of January rapidly approaching, the smell of spring is in the air. Spring semester, that is. No doubt, your student has begun to make plans for their return to campus. Be aware: you may see some unexpected and welcome changes in them in the coming months. We find the spring semester reveals a considerable amount of development in freshman students: in their career and academic interests, maturity level and adopting a more serious focus on academics. Read on and hear what else may await your not-so-new freshman student.

**Mixed emotions:** The spring semester often starts with excitement in seeing their friends from the fall, but also with a little stress in getting to know new professors, their expectations, and an increased pressure (often from themselves) to perform well academically.

**Career goals become more clear:** During their spring semester, students begin to ruminate over their career and academic aspirations a bit more seriously. Even those who are still undeclared at this point in their college education may have a good idea of what they would like to pursue. Or, some who came in with a major in mind may be considering a change. This is not uncommon. Either way, we recommend that if students are ready to commit themselves to a program, they should meet with someone in that academic department. Although students officially have until the end of their sophomore year to declare a major, it’s important to start conversations with professors and/or deans in the programs they are interested in. They also may want to consider a visit to Career Services for other useful resources as they explore their interests.

**Figuring finances:** If your student depleted their spending money last fall, encourage them to look for a part-time job. This is a great way to help students learn the value of a dollar (if they’re still wondering...), manage their time and gain experience by working in different areas on campus. It’s also a great way to meet new people: other college students, and faculty and staff—connections that may come in handy in the future. The Career Services’ JobShop is the most efficient way to find jobs on and off campus, allowing students to search based on their availability, interests, etc. ([www.brockport.edu/career](http://www.brockport.edu/career)). (continued on page two)
Next year’s housing sign-up is just around the corner. Students reapply for on-campus housing each year allowing them to choose new roommates and housing preferences.

**Second year residency reminder:** All first-year students are required to live on campus for the first two years (4 semesters) of attendance at the College. The only exception is for those who are commuting from the home of a parent or guardian within a 30-mile radius of the College.

Students are encouraged to attend **Housing Information Sessions** in their residence halls, beginning February 28, to learn about the process and how to submit roommate and/or building preferences. Below are some important dates:

1. **Now through April 12 at 4 pm:**

   Students pay the $100 Advance Housing Deposit at the Office of Student Accounts and Accounting. (EOP and scholarship students receive a housing waiver and are not required to pay the deposit. These waivers will be processed when the housing application becomes available.) Checks should be made payable to “SUNY Brockport” and either dropped off in person to The Office of Student Accounts and Accounting (Rakov Center) or mailed to:

   Student Accounts  
   The College at Brockport  
   350 New Campus Drive  
   Brockport, NY 14420

2. **February 27 through April 13 at 11:59 pm:** One business day after the Advance Housing Deposit is processed by the Office of Student Accounts and Accounting, students can complete their online housing application. Students have the ability to edit their preferences and roommate requests until the deadline.

For more information, visit brockport.edu/reslife or call (585) 395-2122.

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(continued from page one) **Keeping healthy:** During the winter months, students are often fighting off colds, the flu and other illnesses. It is important that they remain physically well—getting an adequate amount of sleep, eating right and staying warm. Encourage them to visit the College’s Health Center for a check-up or to pick up cold packs of over-the-counter medicine. We recommend students take advantage of the athletic facilities to stay healthy and in shape during the winter months. This, of course, helps improve students’ mental and physical state. Some students battle seasonal depression due to weather, darkness and lack of outdoor activity. But, as the temperatures steadily improve, so should your student’s mood, social calendar, and overall health.

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**Two great ways to stay connected:**

1. Join our Parent Listserv by e-mailing parents@brockport.edu. You will...
   - Receive e-newsletters and notifications
   - Keep abreast of important dates and information from the College
   - Stay in-the-know from home

2. Join us on Facebook (search “Parents of Brockport Students”). Who knows… you may end up with more friends than your kid!
A NOTE FOR EXTRAORDINARY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

In order for students to maintain their scholarship for next year, they must:

- Currently be enrolled with at least 12 credits
- Have a total of 30 credits for the year (excluding SummerSession and WinterSession) by May 2012
- Have an institutional cumulative GPA of 3.25

For more information regarding the terms of the Extraordinary Academic Scholarship Program, visit brockport.edu/scholarships.

Low GPA: high anxiety, but it’s not too late.

For many first-year students, the fall semester was one learning experience after another. Fortunately, this spring is a chance to reap the benefits from lessons learned. Many students find they did well in the fall, but earned grades that were slightly lower than what they expected. If this sounds like your student, here are four tips to help them improve this semester:

1. **Visit the Student Learning Center (SLC).** Many students who use this peer tutoring center are not failing courses, rather they are attempting to improve on a passing grade. Suggest they become familiar with their services at the SLC Office in Cooper Hall and online at www.brockport.edu/~slc.

2. **Introduce themselves to their professors.** Students who visit with their instructors during office hours or after class are generally glad they did so. These informal conversations will help them gain a better understanding of many things: the material, the perspective an instructor is coming from, etc. This also breaks down the barrier if your student needs to ask for help later in the semester.

3. **Discuss what worked for them last semester.** Did they find a favorite study spot? Did they write notes vs. highlight text? In your conversations with them, remind them of the successes they did have in the fall and build on those—no need to re-invent the wheel.

4. **Eliminate last semester’s distractions.** Suggest they re-examine how they spend their time each week. They should be spending 2 – 3 hours studying outside of class for every hour they spend in class. So, a student who is carrying a 15 credit hour load should be spending 30 – 45 additional hours a week on coursework. The commitment to college is like a full-time job, or close to it, for many students.

In general, students have ironed out the big issues they faced last semester: time management, avoiding procrastination, etc. Second-semester freshmen students are usually more diligent about deadlines and staying on top of coursework now that they realize how quickly the semester passes by. An occasional reminder that they did get through one semester gives them confidence along the way that, with a little more concentration, they will succeed again and achieve a higher GPA.

S.T.E.P.S. to success for students on academic probation

Students with a 1.0 – 1.99 cumulative GPA after the fall semester are placed on academic probation. The Office of Student Retention works closely with these students through a voluntary program called S.T.E.P.S. (Strategies To Eliminate Probationary Status). Students meet weekly with the office and discuss plans to tackle this semester with a more successful game plan than the fall, eliminating negative influences and solving the problems that affected their grades. For more information about S.T.E.P.S., please contact Marcy Esler at (585) 395-5346.
IMPORTANT DATES, SPRING 2012

January 20, Friday: Welcome Week begins

January 21, Saturday: Returning students can move in anytime beginning Saturday morning (there is no need to check in if students lived on campus in the fall)

January 23, Monday, 8 am: Instruction begins for the spring 2012 semester

January 30, Monday, 5 pm: Last day to add classes

February 20, Monday, 5 pm: Last day to drop classes

March 10, Saturday: Mid-semester

March 12, Monday: Mid-semester grades due from faculty

March 10–18: Spring Break

April 6, Friday, 5 pm: Last day to withdraw from classes

April 11, Wednesday: Scholars Day

May 5, Saturday: Last day of classes

May 7–12: Finals week

May 12, Saturday: Commencement