

**Tips from the Editor**

Having your student home for winter break can be a transition for both you and your student. Whether it is your student's first semester at school or not, your student has become use to the independence that college allows. It is important to have meaningful conversations of expectations and debriefing the fall semester during winter break. Below are a few suggestions.

**Household Responsibilities**

With your student being home for winter break, you might expect your student to help out around the house. This could mean cleaning, cooking or doing laundry. Let your student know ahead of time about any responsibilities over break, so that they know what is expected of them when they are home. Visiting Friends: Your student may want to reconnect with friends from home over the break and might be eager to spend time with those individuals. Talk with your student about how much time he or she plans to spend with his or her friends and how much time should be spent with the family. Parental Expectations: Your student is a young adult, and college is a time of development! It is quite possible that your student may have changed from the student you dropped off in August. Ask your student what they want the relationship to look like with you while home for winter break.

**Debrief the fall semester**

It is important to see how your student's semester at FAU went. How did he or she enjoy some of the courses that were taken? Are there areas where your student might be struggling either academically or personally? If you think that your student might be struggling academically, encourage him or her to visit the Center for Learning and Student Success ([www.fau.edu/class](http://www.fau.edu/class)) at the start of the spring semester.

**Spring Semester 2015**

Another important topic that you and your student can discuss is the upcoming spring semester. Talk to your students about the classes that he or she has signed up for in the spring. Be sure to ask if he or she has ordered the books for the semester. If not, you may want to encourage them to visit the Bookstore or pre-order the books so that they are ready for pickup in January.

**January Expectation and Conversation Tips**

* Relief that they are back at college and away from home again
* Love relationships during break at home might have been strengthened or terminated
* Satisfaction or reality check with fall semester grades
* The new semester brings a “fresh start”

Parent’s Role

* Remind student that you trust them
* Verbalize your understanding that college is difficult (more so than high school)
* Support and remind student of past successes and that they can succeed this semester also

Conversation Tips

* Revisit the conversation regarding goals for this semester
* Discuss finances for fall semester (FAFSA, scholarship applications, etc.)
* Talk about plans for involvement in student activities or a job this semester especially now that they have “gotten their feet wet”