A GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES
Welcome, LSU Families!

We are excited to welcome our Tiger families to LSU!

The precious years we spend teaching our children to learn and grow, and stretch and challenge themselves, is culminating in their decision to come to LSU.

With this life transition, our roles as parents also change, encouraging our students to become more independent and to understand what being young adults is all about! Our role is now to support them in new ways and convey a sense of confidence in their ability to achieve and succeed.

One opportunity LSU provides to parents to stay engaged is the LSU Family Association and the LSU Family Association Council. As members of the association and council, we regularly connect with other parents, interact with faculty and staff, and discover what makes being a Tiger so special! Council members have the unique opportunity to award scholarships, assist students in crisis with emergency funds, and provide valuable parent voices to the leadership on campus, plus much more.

This experience has been invaluable to us so far, and we would encourage each of you to consider joining us.

Our students are proud to wear their purple and gold, and we, of course, are so proud of them! We are all family now, so let’s hear a big GEAUX TIGERS!

Kevin and Tracy Ferguson
Co-Chairs, LSU Family Association Council

Family Experience

Provides communication and programming to educate and engage LSU families in order to enhance student learning, development, and success, while partnering with families to foster lasting relationships with the university

Goals

• Communicate regularly in order to develop a critical parent-university partnership.

• Provide information and the necessary tools to become productive supporters of their student’s success.

• Encourage parental involvement throughout a student’s time at LSU.

• Create opportunities for parents to develop connections with other families.

• Enable parents and families to connect and develop relationships with the university.

• Educate parents and families on their new role in their college student’s life.

About This Guide

We have compiled this guide to help familiarize you and your family with the LSU campus and its policies. We encourage you to use this guide in conjunction with the online parent resources page [lsu.edu/experience/parentresources] and the LSU family calendar that you received at Orientation.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please call 225-578-2634 or email experience@lsu.edu.
Now that my student is a TIGER...

By: Peggy Frazier | LSU Mom

The most exciting part of any college acceptance is realizing that your student will be starting adulthood with the tools needed to succeed. But let’s face it, finding out that he/she will be a TIGER goes above and beyond that. It means they will be part of a community, part of a family. From the food to the music, from the activities to the weather, they will be immersed in a culture unique to LSU.

By choosing LSU, your student has already shown his/her ability to make wise decisions (wink wink). But it doesn’t stop there. Here are a few tips, from personal experience, to help you navigate the year ahead.

**Move-in Day**
Move-in day is an experience all its own. You will be pleasantly surprised at how many people volunteer to help on Move-in Day. There will be football players, student ambassadors, resident advisors, and off-campus neighbors. There will be carts available, but they are limited, so if you have a hand truck/dolly, bring it. A few tools are also helpful. We didn’t think about bringing tools, but were able to borrow a rubber mallet and a few other items to raise the bed off the floor.

**Don’t overpack!** There are plenty of stores around campus, so it is not necessary to pack a semester’s worth of toiletries. And while they may envision themselves as “dressing to impress,” it won’t be long before they are settled into a routine of sleeping until the last minute, throwing a cap on over their unwashed hair, grabbing the nearest t-shirt and shorts, and running out the door. Sorry moms, but it’s a fact.

**Saying goodbye at the end of Move-in Day**
This is the hard part. Many parents like to brag that they are just glad to get their student out of the house. But the reality is that there are few dry eyes in the building when it’s time to say goodbye. Don’t expect your student to show how hard this day is for him/her or to show how anxious they may really be. It took three years for my son to admit how hard it was.

**Transition from high school to college academics**
Our Tiger was an honors student in high school, so we just naively believed that the transition would be a breeze. However, that was not the case. First of all, because he made excellent grades without studying, he never really learned how to study. He was also in an environment where attendance was not required, and “mom” didn’t know his professors or have access to his homework/test schedule. There was a learning curve while he figured out what kind of studying worked best for him and how to prioritize his free time. Fortunately, LSU has resources in place for this like the Center for Academic Success (see page 8).

**Best advice I gave my TIGER**
My son is quiet and reserved. I worried he would sit back and wait for friends/opportunities to come to him, rather than go out and pursue them. I took every opportunity to tell him to go outside his comfort zone and try new things. But the best advice I gave him was to attend STRIPES, a program that prepares first-year students for the transition to LSU. He had so much fun. He met a great group of friends, learned where his classes were, and could sing every LSU fight song! To this day, he’ll tell you it was the best thing I ever made him do (ahem…I mean the best advice I ever gave him).

**The first year...**
Thankfully, LSU has many opportunities for parents to get involved on campus. So while you are watching the helicopter parents around you, and proudly bragging how you are not that parent, you can hover all you want under the guise of “volunteering.” Join the Family Association and consider becoming involved in the Family Association Council. We’ve personally done both and have met so many wonderful people. What started out as a way to spend more time with our Tiger turned into something so much more rewarding, and we truly are a part of the Tiger family!
Graduation Starts Today

By: F. King Alexander | President

Your student is our #1 priority. From the second they set foot on campus, LSU students know that they have access to one-on-one support mechanisms tailored to their individual needs. My motto is simple: graduation starts today. Everyone at our university, no matter what their position, knows that their real job is to help your Tiger succeed. And that’s what makes LSU unique: we’re a big-time campus with a personal touch.

So it’s no surprise that our graduates go on to achieve great things. Not only do they have higher-than-average starting and mid-career salaries, but they enjoy careers ranging from Fortune 500 CEO, Mars rover flight director, and political leader to Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, New York Times bestselling author, and Academy Award-winning composer. That’s the value of an LSU degree—a secure future with great things just around the corner. And that’s what your Tiger gets the moment they join our family.

Thanks for trusting us with your Tiger—you’ve made a great decision for the future.
Registration

A fee bill will be available through the student’s myLSU account prior to the start of the semester after courses have been scheduled. Students may use a bank draft or a credit card to pay their fee bill balance through myLSU, under “Registration Services,” “Fee Bill.” If the balance due is zero, students must click the “Complete Registration” button in the “Fee Bill” application. Payments must be received by the due date shown on the fee bill to complete registration. If registration is not completed by the due date, your student’s courses will be purged.

The timeline for when students are eligible to enroll for the next semester can be found in the schedule booklet at lsu.edu/registrar.

Registration “Holds”

The university may place a registration “hold” on a student’s account that prevents them from scheduling courses or altering their class schedule. If a hold is placed on a student’s account, instructions on how to remove the hold will appear on the “Schedule Request” section of their myLSU account.

Additional Services

Before utilizing some services offered by the university, students must register for them through myLSU. Additional services offered to students include LSU Dining meal plans, parking permits, TigerCASH, and health insurance. Additional services must be selected before online fee bills are generated so that they appear on your billing statement.

Advising

During Orientation your student will meet with an academic advisor prior to making their fall schedule. Moving forward, it is your student’s responsibility to meet with an academic advisor before scheduling each semester. Please encourage your student to make an appointment with their appropriate advisor well in advance of scheduling so they are prepared when their scheduling priority arrives.

University College Center for Freshman Year

The University College Center for Freshman Year (UCFY) is the academic home for most first-year students and some transfer and re-entry students. All new students, with the exception of those pursuing majors in the Colleges of Agriculture, Art & Design, or Music & Dramatic Arts, will begin their academic careers in University College. Students can contact an academic advisor in the Center for Freshman Year by calling 225-578-6822 to schedule an appointment, walking in to 150 Allen Hall, or by emailing ucinfo@lsu.edu.

Senior Colleges

LSU has 10 degree-granting senior colleges. Each college has its own rules, regulations, and requirements, and each is responsible for advising students and registration activities. Students will need to meet the admission requirements for their respective college in order to exit the Center for Freshman Year. This typically occurs after their first year at LSU.

Tiger Transition Team: Peer Mentoring Program (T3) helps incoming students make the transition to LSU by pairing them with a peer mentor. Mentors are upper-class students with similar majors or career paths or from the same geographic area as their mentees who have done well academically and been involved on campus.

There are a few steps your student must complete each semester to stay on track and graduate.
Academic Support

Transitioning from high school to the rigor of college can be challenging for any student. College academics differ from high school academics in several important ways.

- College academics press past basic memorization to applying, analyzing, and evaluating many new concepts.
- Class lectures may highlight subject concepts, but students are expected to spend a considerable amount of time outside of class studying additional sources (textbooks, etc.) and assessing their own level of material mastery so time management becomes crucial for students’ success.
- Class testing tends to be more high stakes—there may be only two or three grading opportunities during the semester, and each test is far apart. Students must learn new strategies on how to move information to long-term memory.

Below are a few resources to assist your student with the transition from high school to college:

Center for Academic Success
The Center for Academic Success (CAS) offers a wide variety of services to help students make the transition from high school to college and maximize their learning potential. Services include tutoring, Supplemental Instruction, individual consultations, presentations, and workshops on topics such as test preparation, time management, note-taking, overcoming test anxiety, college reading strategies, and concept mapping.

Visit students.lsu.edu/academicsuccess to learn more.

Communication across the Curriculum (CxC) Writing Support
As the first program of its kind in the nation, Communication across the Curriculum works with LSU faculty to advance the communication skills of all LSU undergraduate students. Through enhanced learning experiences inside and outside the classroom, CxC initiatives help students improve their written, spoken, visual, and technological communication skills. CxC’s writing coaches help students with any kind of writing from essays and research papers to personal statements, application letters, and oral presentations.

Shell Tutorial Center
Our on-campus tutorial center offers free assistance with homework, test preparation, and study strategies in many subject areas. The free tutoring services are provided by trained peer tutors and no appointment is necessary. Students can drop in to the center located at 141 Middleton Library with their text books, notes, and assignments and tutors will be available to assist them. The center always offers tutoring in math and science 1000- and 2000-level courses.

Visit lsu.edu/experience/parentresources and click on “Academics” for a list of support services.

When Things Don’t Go As Planned

Unforeseen Incidents
If something unexpected occurs, such as an extended illness, an injury, or a death in the family, it is the responsibility of your student to communicate with their professors the reason for their absence. Each situation will be handled on a case-by-case basis between the student and the faculty member.

Visit lsu.edu/experience/parentresources and click on “Academics” to see the LSU Absence from Class policy and other resources to assist with unforeseen incidents.

Dropping a Class/Withdrawing from LSU
Your student may mention wanting to withdraw from a class during the semester. There are specific dates that classes can be dropped with and without receiving a “W” grade, and a deadline when students are no longer able to drop a class. All students should meet with their academic advisor and financial aid counselor to understand the full ramifications of dropping a class and/or withdrawing from LSU.

Tiger Terminology

myProxy
Students can give their parents access to view fee bills and/or grades through the myProxy application. When creating a myProxy account, you will be prompted to create a community LSU ID which will then allow you to request access from your student.

For more information on myProxy, you may access the LSU GROK Knowledge Base at lsu.edu/grok and type “myProxy” in the search field.

myLSU
Students stay connected through a myLSU account (my.lsu.edu), an online portal for all LSU students. Through myLSU, your student can apply for housing, pay the enrollment deposit, schedule classes, and much more! Your student received a myLSU login and password after applying.

For help retrieving any login credentials, have him or her contact the LSU IT Help Desk at 225-578-3375 or helpdesk@lsu.edu.

TigerCASH
TigerCASH is a debit card system, which your student accesses with his or her Tiger Card (LSU ID) to provide a fast, safe, and convenient way to make purchases on and off campus. They can make deposits easily, via their fee bill, at one of four Value Transfer Station machine locations campus-wide, or by the TigerCASH website. Students will enjoy convenient purchasing power at more than 300 locations throughout Baton Rouge without carrying cash.

Visit lsu.edu/tigercash to learn more.
An LSU Professor’s Keys to Success

Associate Professor of Biological Sciences Bill Wischusen may split his research time between vertebrate ecology and science education, but through all of his years at LSU, he has always put students first. This is why he is one of the top professors at LSU and why he wanted to share with Tiger parents a few keys to unlock your student’s future success.

In your opinion, what, in addition to good study habits, factors in to undergraduate student success?
Persistence, would be number one, as well as being able to learn from one’s mistakes. Students are going to make mistakes; how they respond is key to their success.

Do practices that lead to college success translate into the professional world, and, if so, how?
Yes, learning how to really absorb material, how to communicate complex ideas to others, and time management are all key practices that lead to success in college and in the professional world.

Some students don’t always feel comfortable approaching their professors during office hours. What would you say to these students? What if students can’t make it in to see a professor during office hours; are there other options?
First, students need to know that we expect them to have questions and we expect them to visit us, so they shouldn’t feel uncomfortable. If they can’t make it to the scheduled office hours, they should try to make an appointment for another time. There is also support through the Center for Academic Success, tutoring, and supplemental instruction.

With the availability of notes and syllabi online, what is the importance of students attending class in person during standard hours?
While it is true all the information presented in many classes is available in other forms, none of that information will provide the context or let students know the specific emphasis, which the instructor thinks is important. Students often think that the classroom is the place to provide information, but it’s really the place to set the context and expectations for the material, as well as to emphasize specific information.

“College is a time for students to learn and to experience new things, in the process they are going to make some mistakes. The best thing you can do is to help them learn how to recover from their mistakes and encourage them to continue to reach for new heights”

— Bill Wischusen | Biological Sciences
LSU is a small community within the larger Capital City of Baton Rouge. And like any community, we are dedicated to preserving a peaceful, safe, and healthy environment for the entire university community.

**Live**

Whether they’re coming to Baton Rouge from across the country or just down the road, living on campus gives your student total access to all the LSU community has to offer right at their doorstep—academics, tradition, passion, involvement, culture, and more. LSU Residential Life enhances the full campus experiences of residents through living-learning communities, dedicated on-call staff and intentional programming.

Visit [lsu.edu/reslife](http://lsu.edu/reslife) to learn more.

**On-Campus Mail**

All on-campus residents will be assigned an LSU box on campus, and a $35 fee will be added to their fee bills each semester. These boxes will be able to receive USPS mail, as well as packages from commercial carriers, such as FedEx and UPS. Students will receive a pick-up notification via email when packages arrive. When sending mail to your student, please address it as follows:

Student’s Full Name  
LSU Box #  
101 LSU Student Union Building  
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Residential communities’ front desks will accept deliveries from local businesses of fresh-cut flowers, cut-fruit bouquets, or cookie bouquets only. When sending perishables to your student please address it as follows:

Student’s Full Name  
Room Number and Residence Hall Name  
Louisiana State University  
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

**Eat**

Open seven days a week, both LSU resident dining halls—The 5 and 459 Commons—are state-of-the-art, all-you-care-to-eat dining facilities. Students may dine at either location. The 5 and 459 Commons boast 10 culinary stations, each serving a unique menu with healthy options to create a varied and truly Louisiana-centric dining experience.

Your student’s meal plan (mandatory for first- and second-year students living on campus) may come with or without “dining dollars” called Paw Points. Students can use their Paw Points at all LSU food service locations on campus, including concessions for football, baseball, or basketball home games. Paw Points are also designed to give your Tiger maximum flexibility within each meal plan.

Visit [lsu.edu/dining](http://lsu.edu/dining) to learn more.

**Park**

Student vehicles are welcome on campus but require a valid parking permit, which can be obtained during the LSU registration process. Permits are required at all hours, day and night. In addition, LSU is a bike-friendly campus; however, Baton Rouge city ordinance requires bicycles to be registered with the Baton Rouge Police Department. This registration costs $5.

**Visitor Parking**

The Visitor Center is conveniently located at the corner of Highland Road and Dalrymple Drive and offers visitor parking passes, as well as maps and directions for campus and the surrounding area. All vehicles, including visitor vehicles, are required to have a permit while parking on campus Monday–Friday.

Visit [lsu.edu/parking](http://lsu.edu/parking) to learn more.
Health & Wellness

The health and well being of your student is our number one priority. Below are a few resources to available to help keep your student happy and healthy.

Student Health Center

The Student Health Center is composed of a Medical Clinic, Mental Health Services, and the Wellness Education Department. Full-time students pay student health fees, which provide them with unlimited visits to medical and mental health clinicians, health educators, and registered dietitians.

The LSU Student Health Center can assist your student with issues such as:
- Injury
- Illness
- Mental health issues
- Stress

Visit shc.lsu.edu to learn more.

Emergency Text Messaging

The LSU Emergency Text Messaging System provides alerts to students in the event of an emergency on campus. Students should register for the service through their myLSU accounts. Only members of the LSU community are eligible to receive these emergency texts in order to maintain the fastest delivery time for over 30,000 students, faculty, and staff. When an emergency text is sent out, the LSU website is also updated with a red border stating the same message as the text. Parents are encouraged to visit lsu.edu to stay informed in emergency situations.

Visit lsu.edu/eoc for more information.

Emergency Contacts

In case of emergency ................................................................. 911

LSU Police Department .............................................................. 225-578-3231

Baton Rouge Police Department .................................................. 225-389-2000

LSU Student Health Center ......................................................... 225-578-6271

Baton Rouge General Hospital (Bluebonnet Blvd.)
Main number .............................................................................. 225-763-4000
Emergency room ......................................................................... 225-763-4400

Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center (Essen Ln.)
Main number .............................................................................. 225-765-6565
Emergency room ......................................................................... 225-765-8826

Lake After Hours (Lee Dr.) ............................................................. 225-302-5757

Baton Rouge Clinic Urgent Care (Perkins Rd.) .............................. 225-246-9997
Money Matters

Cost

In order to determine an estimated cost of attendance, families and students will need to consider tuition and fees, as well as costs for housing, meal plans, and books. General information on cost of attendance is available at lsu.edu/experience/parentresources. From there, click on “Finances”, then “Estimated Yearly Costs.”

Aid

LSU students are encouraged to complete the free application for federal student aid (FAFSA) found at fafsa.ed.gov. This will ensure continued eligibility for any existing financial aid awards. Current students may also apply for scholarships through their myLSU account. Students can also reach out to their senior college for additional scholarship opportunities.

Visit lsu.edu/financialaid for more information.

Pay

The Office of Bursar Operations (Bursar) creates an electronic fee bill for each student accessible through myLSU.

What does the fee bill include?

Tuition, nonresident fees, and campus fees are standard. Other charges such as housing, meal plans, parking, etc., will vary with your student. The General Catalog offers a complete overview of fees and expenses with descriptions. The Office of Budget and Planning also maintains a list of fee schedules.

When are fee bills sent?

The Bursar’s Office will notify students via email each semester when fee bills are available on myLSU. All fees and other university charges are due by the date indicated.

How does LSU accept payment?

Payments may be made online via your student’s myLSU account (or via your myProxy account) with a check or credit card. You may also make payments in person at the Bursar’s Office. The university also offers a deferred payment plan as a payment option. Eligible students are allowed to defer up to one-half (1/2) of their current semester charges. Payment of one-half (1/2) of current semester charges plus any account balance must be received by the due date.

All students must be sure to click the “Complete Registration” button, even if they have a $0 balance.

If you have any questions about any of your student’s payment options, including deferred payments, email bursar@lsu.edu.
Get Involved

Family Association

Join the Family Association at lsu.edu/join to take advantage of these exciting benefits:

• Priority registration for LSU Family Weekend
• Invitations to LSU Family Association social events
• Access to scholarships available exclusively to students of Family Association members
• Opportunities to partner with the university and help contribute to the success of current and future LSU families as part of the Family Association Council
• LSU Family Association tote bag and other souvenirs

Families are invited to take a more active role within the Family Association by joining the Family Association Council. The council meets twice a year and has conference calls throughout the year to plan new initiatives to support students and families. They also assist the Family Association by volunteering for orientation, selecting our Family Association Scholarship recipients, and serving on our Student Life Emergency Support Fund Committee.

Attend Family Weekend

All families of current LSU students are invited to campus for a weekend of activities, programs, and a chance to see the LSU Tigers play under the lights of Tiger Stadium. The weekend gives parents and families an opportunity to gain a better understanding of their students’ college experiences, to connect with other LSU families and LSU administration, and to enjoy the energy of campus on game day.

“Family Weekend is an outstanding, fun and family oriented event, and the timing is perfect. I would encourage all parents to attend Family Weekend. I guarantee your student will be grinning from ear-to-ear when you arrive and will take pride in the fact that their family attended Family Weekend.”

— Laticia Khalif | Milton, GA
Family Checklist

We have provided this checklist to make sure you and your student are ready for LSU and that you stay informed throughout your student’s time at LSU!

- Become a member of the LSU Family Association.
- Bookmark the LSU parents webpage [lsu.edu/experience/parentresources] for a comprehensive resource guide for parents.
- After your student schedules classes, remind him or her to add additional services via myLSU before the deadline. Additional services include their parking permit, meal plan, etc.
- Encourage your student to complete My Student Body and Student Strengths Inventory [lsu.edu/mystudentbody] sooner rather than later. Both are required for all incoming students.
- Submit Immunization Forms to the Student Health Center.
- Create a Move-in Day checklist [lsu.edu/moveinday].
- Create a myProxy account to have access to your student’s fee bill for payment.
- Make a financial plan and talk about how your student intends to budget and pay for expenses.
- Discuss the use of alcohol and other personal choices that your student will be making.
- Encourage responsibility and express your expectations for your student.
- Complete registration by paying tuition and fees by the deadline. Students pay their fee bill via myLSU and parents can view and pay via a myProxy account.
- Encourage your student to attend as many events as possible during Bengal Bound, the official welcome week of LSU [lsu.edu/bengalbound].
- Send care packages with notes from home, practical items, or treats to share with roommates and friends. These are especially welcome during more stressful times of the semester.
- Make plans to attend LSU Family Weekend.
- Call or email with any questions you may have: 225-578-2634 or experience@lsu.edu.

Hope to see you soon...

Come to Family Orientation to learn about all LSU has to offer your Tiger.

Move-in Day can be bittersweet, but most parents wouldn’t miss it for the world.

Move-in Day can get hot, but the Banana Split Party will cool you off with amazing treats.

Future Tigers enjoy Family Weekend too!

In Louisiana, spring means the Family Association Spring Crawfish Boil can’t be too far away.

Your journey doesn’t end at graduation. LSU families are Tigers for life.