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# AUGUST 2016

During and after Hawk Week's official welcome events, your student will begin to make friends on campus and form a deeper sense of self. Find meaningful ways to mark the transition and support your student.

Remind your student to complete Part 1 of AlcoholEdu, KU's mandatory online alcohol education course.

**[alcohol.ku.edu/ku-alcohol-education-online-course](http://alcohol.ku.edu/ku-alcohol-education-online-course)**

Use KU Bookstore's online tool to view textbooks and price comparisons from other sellers. **[compareku.com](http://compareku.com)**

On the same day that classes begin, students who plan to work on campus should stop by the job fair — one of Hawk Week's many important events. **[hawkweek.ku.edu](http://hawkweek.ku.edu)**

Talk to your student before classes begin about meeting academic expectations, using course syllabi to plan for tests and projects, and participating in activities such as KU Common Book discussions.

## IMPORTANT AUGUST DATES:

**18:** Move-In Day (Halls open at 8 a.m.)

**18-28:** Hawk Week

**19:** Jayhawk Jumpstart

**20:** Traditions Night

**21:** Convocation; Common Book discussions

**22:** First day of classes; Campus Job Fair

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# SEPTEMBER

Set a date for your next trip to campus. Doing so will give your family something to look forward to while establishing time for your student to acclimate. Family Day, Sept. 10, is a great option.

**[familyweekend.ku.edu](http://familyweekend.ku.edu)**

As the semester gets underway, recommend the Academic Achievement & Access Center's tutoring groups and study sessions. **[achievement.ku.edu/services](http://achievement.ku.edu/services)**

The Office of First-Year Experience acts as a resource for all new Jayhawks as they find their place at KU. **[firstyear.ku.edu](http://firstyear.ku.edu)**

Students can always turn to the dedicated experts at Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS). **[caps.ku.edu](http://caps.ku.edu)**

Encourage your student to join a student group by contacting the Student Involvement & Leadership Center. **[silc.ku.edu](http://silc.ku.edu)**

## IMPORTANT SEPTEMBER DATES:

**5:** Labor Day (no classes)

**10:** Family Day

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#### IMPORTANT OCTOBER DATES:

**1:** FAFSA available online

**8-11:** Fall break

**16-22:** Homecoming week

# OCTOBER

Emphasize a healthy approach to midterms — quality sleep, a good diet, and stress relief should be taken just as seriously as studying. CAPS has some great tips.

**[caps.ku.edu/10-steps-organization-college](https://caps.ku.edu/10-steps-organization-college)**

Start early on filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which is available online starting Oct. 1. FAFSA's priority deadline is March 1. **[fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov)**

Remind your student to make an advising appointment, which is required before enrollment for the spring semester. **[advising.ku.edu](https://advising.ku.edu)**

If your student is struggling with a paper or research project, suggest an appointment with one of the KU Writing Center's excellent peer consultants. **[writing.ku.edu](https://writing.ku.edu)**

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# NOVEMBER

Discuss your expectations. Your student will likely travel home for Thanksgiving, and you'll probably notice that he or she has become accustomed to more independence. Have an honest discussion to set new ground rules.

Traveling students should search for information on transportation options. KU Info maintains a list of shuttle services. [kuinfo.ku.edu](http://kuinfo.ku.edu)

Ask about spring enrollment, and be receptive to new directions your student is considering. KU's online list of majors can focus the discussion. Keep in mind that your Jayhawk will need to complete 30 hours to achieve sophomore status. [ku.edu/academics](http://ku.edu/academics)

Is your student feeling under the weather? Watkins Health Services provides health care services and outreach programs, including an after-hours nurse help line for non-emergency medical concerns. [studenthealth.ku.edu](http://studenthealth.ku.edu)

## IMPORTANT NOVEMBER DATES:

**23-27:** Thanksgiving break

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# DECEMBER

Send a message of support during this busy time of year. An encouraging email or a small finals kit with healthy snacks and study aids can lift your student's spirits.

Finals typically do not occur at the regular class time or in the same room. Also, a professor may forgo a final, instead requiring a paper or project. The Office of the University Registrar maintains an online exam schedule. [registrar.ku.edu/exams](https://registrar.ku.edu/exams)

## IMPORTANT DECEMBER DATES:

**8:** Last day of classes

**9:** Stop Day (no classes)

**12-16:** Final exams

**16:** Residence halls close at 8 p.m.

**17:** Winter break begins; scholarship halls close at noon

Students who can't travel home for winter break can stay on campus by making a reservation. [housing.ku.edu/forms/break-housing](https://housing.ku.edu/forms/break-housing)

Breaking a sweat through exercise and recreation can help students relieve stress between study sessions. [recreation.ku.edu](https://recreation.ku.edu)

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# JANUARY 2017

Celebrate your student's successes and reflect on the challenges. They'll help your student set realistic, measurable goals for the new semester.

Your student's readjustment to campus life and academic obligations might be a challenge after winter break. A new course schedule brings with it new classrooms, textbooks, and routines.

## IMPORTANT JANUARY DATES:

**14:** Residence, scholarship halls open at 8 a.m.

**16:** Martin Luther King Jr. Day (no classes)

**17:** First day of classes

In addition to academics, your student should review his or her first-semester finances and set goals for the spring with the help of Student Money Management Services. [money.ku.edu](http://money.ku.edu)

With one semester down, your student should feel more familiar with campus. Encourage exploration during this next semester, including KU's museums and performance spaces. [calendar.ku.edu](http://calendar.ku.edu)

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# FEBRUARY

Focus on your student's financial aid. Work with your Jayhawk to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid for the upcoming academic year. FAFSA's priority deadline is March 1. **[affordability.ku.edu/financialaid](https://affordability.ku.edu/financialaid) • [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov)**

With a semester completed, students often begin thinking about possible majors, if they haven't already. The Undergraduate Advising Center and the University Career Center can guide your student's exploration. **[advising.ku.edu](https://advising.ku.edu) • [career.ku.edu](https://career.ku.edu)**

Your student's interests may have led to new experiences — ones which might culminate in an Experiential Learning certificate. **[experience.ku.edu](https://experience.ku.edu)**

Now is a good time to consider on-campus employment, including leadership opportunities. **[employment.ku.edu](https://employment.ku.edu)**

## IMPORTANT FEBRUARY DATES:

**8:** University Career Fair

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# MARCH

Talk about spring break safety. No matter your student’s plans for spring break, reinforce the importance of safe behavior, and point to the alcohol education your student completed. [alcohol.ku.edu](http://alcohol.ku.edu)

Midterms return — and so does advising. Is your student planning to attend summer school? If so, mention that one advising appointment can cover advising for both summer and fall. (KU offers summer courses on its Lawrence and Overland Park campuses and online.) [advising.ku.edu](http://advising.ku.edu)

Turn to the University Career Center for ideas on summer employment or internships. [career.ku.edu](http://career.ku.edu)

## IMPORTANT MARCH DATES:

**1:** FAFSA priority deadline

**20-26:** Spring break



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# APRIL

Ask about summer or fall enrollment. How do your student's courses fit into his or her major?

Your student should feel more confident preparing for finals this semester and know what help to seek out — including the many services and spaces available at the KU Libraries.

[lib.ku.edu/services](https://lib.ku.edu/services)

If your student is feeling overwhelmed, suggest a meeting with his or her professors before finals. Office hours are listed on the syllabus.

## IMPORTANT APRIL DATES:

**TBD:** The Big Event (community service)

**22:** Undergraduate Research Symposium

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# MAY

Celebrate! By mid-May, your Jayhawk will have successfully completed the first year of college.

Is your student coming home for the summer? Talk about when you can come to campus to help, if that is a possibility. Residence and scholarship halls require residents to make an appointment with a hall staff member to check out of the room. [housing.ku.edu](https://housing.ku.edu)

Does it seem like your student's belongings have doubled? Consider recycling or donating those things your student no longer wants. You can find drop-off locations near residence and scholarship halls.

## IMPORTANT MAY DATES:

**4:** Last day of classes

**5:** Stop Day (no classes)

**8-12:** Finals

**12:** Residence halls close at 8 p.m.

**13:** Summer break begins; scholarship halls close at noon