

Southern Adventist University

Office of Academic Administration

FAQ for Parents of Southern Students

What Can I Expect? What Can My Son or Daughter Expect?

Who will advise my son or daughter?

Academic advisor

(<https://www.southern.edu/records>)

Chaplain

(<https://www.southern.edu/chaplain>)

Student Success Center

(<https://www.southern.edu/student-success>)

Counseling & Testing Services

(<https://www.southern.edu/counseling>)

Librarians

(<https://www.southern.edu/library>)

Professors

Residence hall deans

Residence hall assistants

Peers

Pastoral staff

What if my son or daughter can't find his or her advisor?

Steps to follow in this order:

1. Stop by the advisor's office during posted office hours, or
2. Telephone and/or e-mail the advisor for an appointment.
3. If unavailable in a reasonable period of time, consult with the school's/department's program director, department chair, or school dean.
4. If unavailable in a reasonable period of time, contact the Director of Advisement, Sharon Rogers, at 423-236-2896 or at srogers@southern.edu.

May my son or daughter request a different advisor?

Yes. Advisors are assigned by the Director of Advisement based on the student's major and interests, as well as on the number of advisees already assigned to an advisor. However, a student may request to change advisors if they believe that the probability of their academic success will be enhanced by doing so.

What are typical class sizes? (Will my son or daughter become lost in the crowd?)

17:1 = student/faculty ratio; 15 – 30 for most classes

How will university be different from academy or high school studies?

Benjamin Bloom's Taxonomy (Ways of knowing) – in college courses students are pushed towards higher order learning & developing critical thinking skills. Causes some discomfort!

6. Evaluation
5. Synthesis
4. Analysis
3. Application
2. Comprehension
1. Knowledge

Key differences from High School

College is voluntary & expensive

Each student manages their own time

Schedules look lighter than they are (4-5 classes/semester)

Need to study 2-3 hours outside of class for each hour in class – lots of reading

Need to constantly review material so as not to be overwhelmed at test time

Professors may not remind students of work due or prod students to turn in work

College is based on performance, not “good-faith” effort

What if my son or daughter gets “swamped” by all the studies?

Credit hour = class time per week plus homework/class period

(2:1 ratio, plus labs, plus activities)

Student Support Team

Student Success Center (career counseling, tutoring, personal counseling, testing, disability services, international student services) (<https://www.southern.edu/successcenter>)

What kinds of academic adjustments can we expect?

Use of time

Sleep

Study times

Class attendance & punctuality

Worship time

Exercise time

Ability to assume almost full responsibility for personal success

Selecting a major (What if my son or daughter wants to change?)

Choosing between “too many” extracurricular options

Considering a diversity of opinions and beliefs

Asking new questions

How can I find out how my son or daughter is doing?

Family Educational Right to Privacy Act (<http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/reg/ferpa/>)

SAU’s FERPA policy (<https://www.southern.edu/records/ferpa>)

E-mail or call your son/daughter

How can I stay in touch with Southern happenings?

<https://www.southern.edu/app/Pages/parentportal.aspx>

<http://www.southern.edu>, select “Academics” tab

Information re: majors & departments, links to department web pages, online catalog, online schedule

Links to: Campus Webcam; streaming of Friday night vespers, special concerts, graduation services

What might be the times of highest stress for my son or daughter?

First two weeks of the semester

Midterm

Final exams week – see schedule at <https://www.southern.edu/records/examschedules>

Special events -- *Calendar* at <http://www.southern.edu>, select the “Campus Life” tab, choose “Event Calendar”.

What can I do to help my son or daughter succeed at Southern?

Pray for them daily

E-mail, text, Facebook, call

Give them time and space to adjust to college life

Send money and/or food

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