

Pepperdine Parents ~ Tips/Suggestions to Support your Emerging Adults

The college years are full of student learning. Clearly, this includes learning academic material in the classroom or growing in their understanding of careers through career coaching and internships. University student learning also includes learning to be an adult.

“Adulting” includes, among other things, time management, money management, dealing with conflicts, managing disappointments, and advocating for change. Part of the student experience can include learning to navigate roommate conflicts, speaking up in an appropriate way with a critique of the anything from the curriculum to cafeteria food, suggesting a new student activity or opportunity, or accessing needed resources such as an RA, the Counseling Center, or the Student Success Center.

Parents do their young adult “kids” a favor when they let them have those opportunities and resist the urge to intervene on their behalf too soon. Clearly, there is a time of parent intervention. For example, if there are emergent safety issues, parents should call the Department of Public Safety (310.506.4441). If there are major concerns about a student’s functioning or adjustment, parents can contact the Student Care Team (Studentcareteam@pepperdine.edu) to share information that will help us support a student. If a student has tried to navigate a challenge on their own, and even after accessing resources, has not been able to find their way, parents might provide assistance. But generally, it is best for parents to let their student practice being an adult. Students will grow and learn through the experience and be better prepared for life after Pepperdine.

When your son or daughter calls with a concern, it is often best to listen, express confidence in their ability to navigate the challenge, assure them you are praying for them, and point them to Pepperdine resources (information, phone numbers, and emails are available on department websites). So many departments stand ready to offer support! Here are some to consider:

- Student Success Center
- Counseling Center
- Student Health Center
- Office of Student Accessibility
- Intercultural Affairs
- Student Employment
- Housing and Residence Life
- Student Activities
- Campus Recreation
- Student Care Team/Title IX Office
- RISE (Resilience-Informed Skills Education)
- Faculty members or the Seaver Dean’s Office

They are also welcome to contact me, Connie Horton, VP for Student Affairs,
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