

HEAR FROM CURRENT CUI PARENTS:

“What is one piece of advice you would give to a parent of a senior in high school or transfer student as they prepare to take their child to college?”

- * Let them make their decisions at their own pace. Support and encourage.
- * Be prepared for the extreme pride and joy as well as the extreme sadness and emptiness felt all at the same time....literally.
- * Be involved with their student in every aspect of their education and social situation. Be available to their student for whenever they need the parents' input, but don't be pushing your agenda.
- * Participate in SOAR!
- * Let their child problem solve issues themselves as much as possible and praise them when they are successful so she/he is more prepared to deal with challenges at college.
- * Advise him to keep his relationship with God a priority.
- * Say the majority of your goodbyes at home. The pace is pretty hectic and you may not have the time to say everything.
- * Complete the enrollment requirements and on-line forms early.
- * The first year of college is one of the most impressionable time of an adolescent's life. Choose a place that is safe, that offers intellectual challenge, that provides students with good Christian role models, that brings together interesting people from different backgrounds, yet connected through a solid Christian core value.
- * Be realistic with both yourself and your student about the college transition. There will be ups and downs. Allow the student to make mistakes but let them know you are there to support them always.
- * Talk with them early about expectations and begin letting go early, they will muddle through mostly fine and trust what you have already taught them, let them come to you with questions, because they will.
- * Be excited for them, encourage them to get involved and don't cry in front of them when it is time to say goodbye. Let your child know that this is a wonderful time in his/her life journey.
- * It is the one of the hardest things you will have to do with your child, to let them go. BUT it is necessary and rewarding to watch them soar.
- * Keep up with all the things on the "checklist" so that they are ready to go when they arrive.
- * Do not let the cost of admission prevent you from applying. We had no idea that our daughter could ever receive enough financial aid to allow her to attend a private school. CUI made this possible and we are grateful, indebted and know when her financial circumstances allow, she will help others through CUI.
- * You have to give them space to mature and become responsible. The temptation to solve problems for them is great; you have to learn to control that urge.



*Excerpts taken from CUI's Parent Orientation Survey
Office of First-Year Experience Programs & Initiatives*