

Family & Friends Orientation 2024

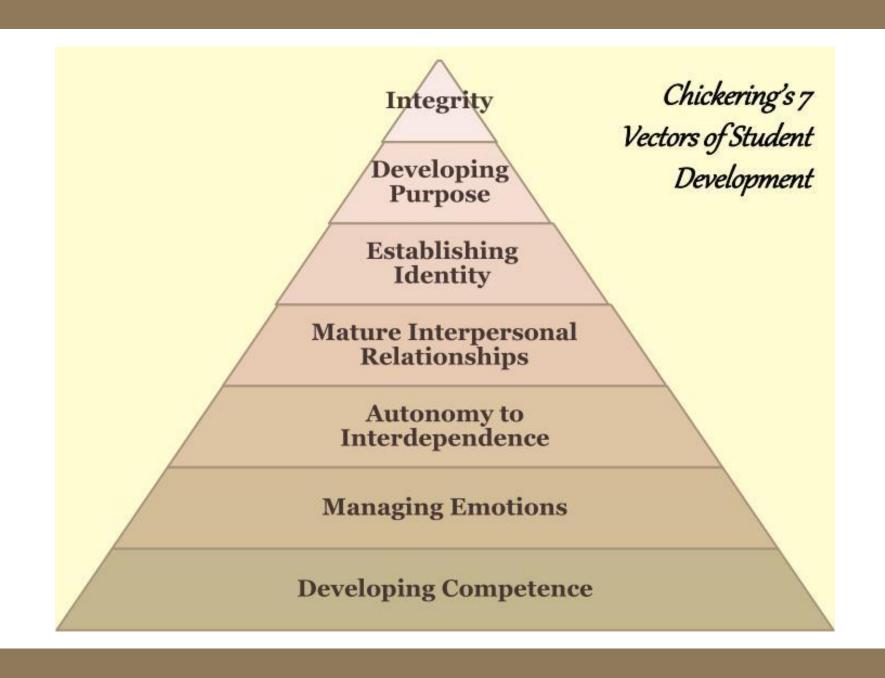
WELCOME Shaynie McRae, MS, LPC Counseling and ADA Services Coordinator



GOALS

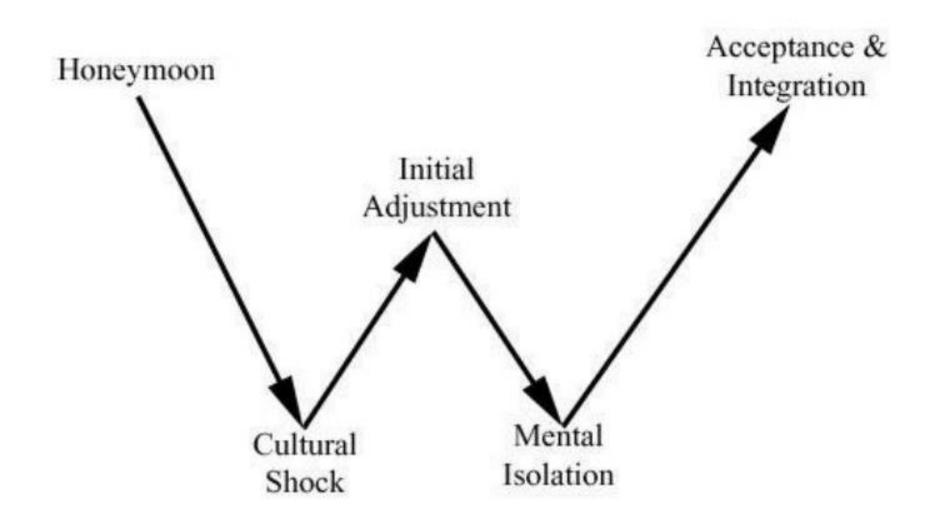
- Answer your questions
- Prepare you for the coming transitions
- Help you to support your college student







PHASES OF THE W-CURVE





Phase 1: THE HONEYMOON

- Excitement, curiosity & enthusiasm
- Often starts before they come to college
- Students desire independence (may limit contact)
- May lack homesickness during the first few days or weeks of college.



This is normal behavior.

Phase 2: CULTURE SHOCK

- Comparing expectations to reality.
- May feel lost and confused.
- Initial excitement may start to wear off.
- Academic demands may be more complex than anticipated.
- Homesickness may start to kick in.



Phase 3: Initial Adjustment

Develop a routine

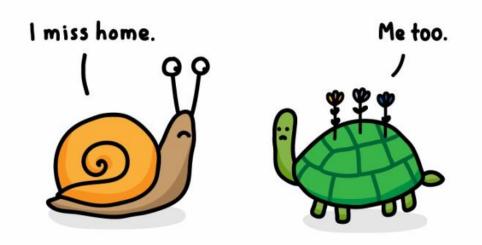
Get comfortable with campus, academic, and social environments

Call home full of excitement... or less frequently.



Phase 4: Mental Isolation

- Comparing home to college
- May occur during an academic break.
- May not feel as comfortable at home as they used to.
- Uncertainty about where they belong and miss the comfort that home used to provide.
- Peer conflict may increase.









OPEN
COMMUNICATION
What are your
expectations?

- Personal Safety
- Alcohol/drugs
- Sex
- Money/Budget
- Academics vs. Social Life
- Independence getting to class, scheduling appointments



What You Can Do

- Allow the student to take the lead
- Send care packages
- Be patient and empathetic
- Take a step back and avoid hovering
- Be encouraging!
- Remember, there is a wide range of "normal" when it comes feelings, emotions and experiences.





"There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children. One is roots; the other is wings."

~Hodding Carter

Northern Wyoming Community College District

CARES

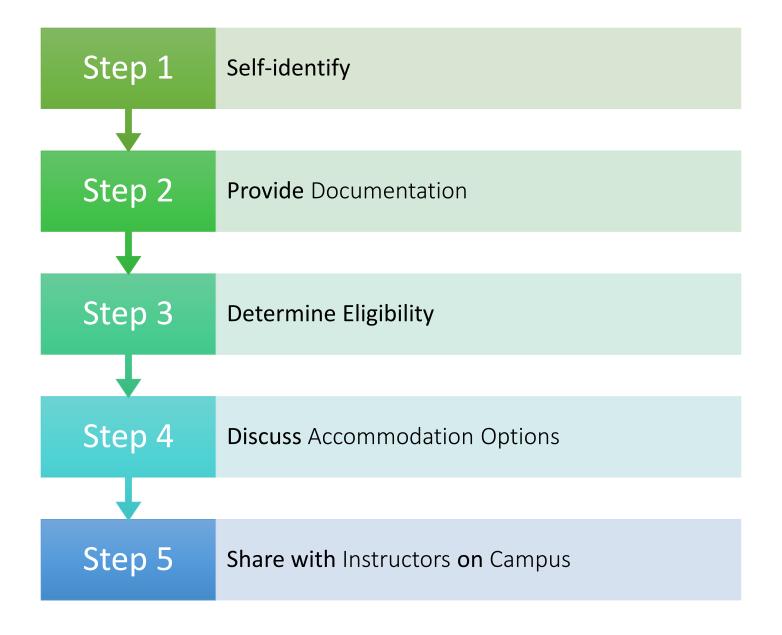
Campus Assessment, Response & Evaluation Team

Student Resources

- Campus Life and Housing
- RAs/Residence Life
- Counseling & Disability Support Services
- Veterans Center
- Academic Advisors
- Generals Pantry

- TRIO
- Writing & Math Centers
- Library
- Tutoring
- Faculty Office Hours
- CARE Team
- Vice President of Student Affairs

Disability Services (DS)



Counseling Services

- Meet with a Licensed Professional Counselor
- Solutions-focused, brief therapy
- Community Referrals
- Crisis Intervention
- UWill free online teletherapy



It can be overwhelming – take breaks

Explore the town & campus with your student

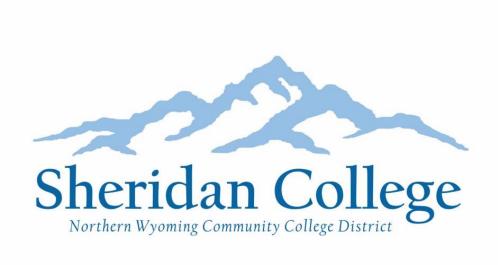
View this transition as a celebration and the next step in their journey

ENJOY this experience!



"It is not what you do for your children, but what you have taught them to do for themselves that will make them successful human beings."

- Ann Landers





QUESTIONS

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