

# 10 Tips for Parents

For your graduating senior leaves for college

10. Become the informed parent. Read the catalogs, the contracts and their textbooks (you might learn something).
9. Share their mail with them regularly. Financial aid or loan paperwork may still come to the home address.
8. There are two phrases that must become ever present in each guardian or parent's language. They are: I love you and I am sorry.
7. Keep in touch. Give your student a self-addressed stamped envelope for each week of the term. Make it easy for them to write home.
6. Send an email or text message. A "Have a great day" posted on a midterm test morning could be a big mood elevator.
5. Mail a "care package" to their dorm room. Homemade cookies instantly make your child the most popular frosh in the dorm.
4. Encourage your student to establish credit. An emergency credit card with a low maximum limit is not a bad idea.
3. And remember, before encouraging the credit card, have a serious discussion about being financially responsible.
2. Harry Truman once said, "the best way to give advice to your children is to find out what they want and then advise them to do it."
1. Say not, "if you graduate..." but rather "when you graduate..." Empower; do not enable. Encourage; do not discourage.