

Welcome to Fall Term

Dan Larson, Associate Vice Provost for Student Affairs and Interim Dean of Student Life

Dear parents and family members,

The fall is an exciting time of year at OSU. The colors are changing, the campus is full of students, and your new students are learning what it means to be a member of Beaver Nation.

As a parent of a first-year student myself and as someone who has worked with first-year students for the past 22 years, I understand the transition from both perspectives.

Your student is grappling with what it means to be an adult, and perhaps for the first time, they are beginning to understand the freedom and responsibility that this includes. As a parent or family member, you are adjusting to your routines and family dynamics in their absence. Whether this is your fourth student to go to college or your first, there is always an adjustment and transition each time. I want you to know that this transition takes time and can look different for everyone. My biggest adjustment to my son leaving was surprisingly not seeing his shoes in the middle of the floor – which was actually something I was looking forward to not tripping over every morning!

At Oregon State University, we understand this process and the family commitment and investment that goes along with your student attending OSU. Hopefully you have heard this before, but we are here to help support you and your student. We want your student to be successful at OSU. Students often face challenges which may overwhelm, confuse, or even excite them, and we know it is through those periods of challenge that students grow the most toward independence and self-efficacy. Parents and family members often play an important role in overcoming these obstacles, and we ask that while you may help your student navigate the process, please allow the student to lead their process.

There are several resources that your student has right now to help them adjust, such as their Resident Advisor (RA) or the Resident Director (RD), both living inside your student's residence hall. New Student Programs & Family Outreach can also assist with helping you or your student navigate a process or a problem. Their contact information is provided here:

New Student Programs & Family Outreach
newstudents@oregonstate.edu
541-737-76247

As a parent or family member, you have worked hard to get your student to this point--be proud not only of them, but of yourself, and enjoy the new relationship that will evolve as your student continues into this next phase of their life.

Sincerely,

Dan Larson
Associate Vice Provost for Student Affairs and Interim Dean of Student Life