



Student Academic Support Services Center  
Dartmouth College  
6064 Carson Hall, Suite 125, Hanover NH 03755-3529  
Tel: (603) 646-2243  
Fax: (603) 646-6166  
Email: [undergraduate.deans.office@dartmouth.edu](mailto:undergraduate.deans.office@dartmouth.edu)

August 2019

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Families of the Class of 2023:

Greetings from Hanover! Welcome to our community. The purpose of this correspondence is to introduce our office and to enlist your help in preparing your student for the opportunities and decisions that lie ahead.

The Undergraduate Deans Office, in conjunction with the Academic Skills Center, Student Accessibility Services, and the Office of Pluralism and Leadership (OPAL), serves as a key resource for academic, social, and personal advising. All our initiatives, programs, personal advising, and communication are directed toward anchoring every student in the intellectual life of the College, supporting meaningful and inclusive interaction across difference, and maximizing each student's potential. We serve as a storehouse of information about the College and its procedures, and as a source of encouragement and information for students as they explore all that Dartmouth has to offer.

We are aware that students are not the only ones transitioning. Perhaps the most difficult adjustment for you is watching your student seek out or display an independent set of values and behaviors. You will not be able to regulate what they eat, when they sleep, which classes they attend, and how they study or recreate; as distressing as it may seem, neither can we. We appreciate and know first-hand how exhilarating and challenging this transition can be for students, as well as for those who care about them. Our expectation is that each student will explore new personal and intellectual interests, engage fully as a scholar and community member, and seek to excel, with vigor and determination, in all their endeavors. Undoubtedly, there will be some bumps along the way, but please know that they are not alone in this journey. We have a community full of professionals who care deeply about your student's success and wellness, and who work tirelessly to help each student realize their potential. If you are concerned about what you are hearing from your student regarding academic or personal challenges, particularly issues of alcohol consumption, drug use, or risky behaviors, please reaffirm your love and concern and encourage them to seek advising and support from staff and student leaders.

It is our belief that students must demonstrate the same intelligence in *all* aspects of their Dartmouth lives that they utilize in their academic lives. They must think for themselves and conduct themselves in a manner becoming of an emerging adult who will be asked to lead in a complex and changing world. In our advising, we affirm education as a process of discovery, challenge, and perseverance. Students are strongly encouraged and empowered to take increasing responsibility for their experience, while engaging in critical reflection and synthesis.

Please carefully review any message that you or your student receives from the Dean of College and discuss how the expectations outlined within those messages fit with your student's anticipated role in the Dartmouth community. These conversations with your student, and your support of their attention to community expectations, will reaffirm a lifestyle that reinforces personal responsibility and a healthy progression toward adulthood.

An additional key point of transition for parents and guardians is access to their student's information. The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) recognizes students in higher education as adults regardless of age. Therefore, we will require a student's permission to release information to their parents or guardians.

The primary relationship will be between our office and your student. As mentioned above, the College considers your student to be an adult who is ready to assume responsibility for their own affairs; consequently, the relationship between our office and your student is considered confidential. We usually find that students are willing to share information with families and the negotiation that leads to this revelation can often be quite rewarding, so please do not hesitate to broach the subject with your student.

Seeing your student off to college is a major milestone. All of us—new students, families, and undergraduate deans—possess our share of excitement and apprehension. Be aware that the Undergraduate Deans Office can provide the answers and support that you may need for a myriad of questions or concerns. We expect that you will receive a fair amount of phone calls, texts, and emails from your student this fall, and some may be in the form of a lament of one kind or another. When they seem at a loss as to what to do, please encourage them to speak with their undergraduate dean or to stop by our office; it is our job and our pleasure not just to address the problems and concerns of students, but also to facilitate their achievements and growth.

Our phone number is (603) 646-2243; we are available from 8 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. For emergency situations, the Department of Safety and Security is available 24 hours per day, seven days a week. Their responsibility, like ours, is to assist students. Their phone number is (603) 646-4000.

The Class of 2023 is our 250<sup>th</sup> entering class. Dartmouth continues to benefit from each unique individual who steps across the threshold. May the coming year be one of growth and understanding for us all.

On behalf of the entire staff of the Undergraduate Deans Office we wish you and your family well.

Regards,

Brian D. Reed, Ph.D.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B. Reed', written in a cursive style.

Dean of Undergraduate Students