



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

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

I am pleased to be communicating with you at this important juncture in your student's collegiate experience. Your student has completed their first term at Dartmouth and has returned with new knowledge, key insights, and many questions they may wish to discuss with you. The Undergraduate Deans Office encourages listening carefully to their stories; rejoicing in their successes and empathizing with any disappointments they may have encountered. Winter break is an excellent time for your student to engage in meaningful reflection to identify potential changes in habits or practices that will allow them to better reach their personal and academic goals and/or to solidify the approaches they know helped them most succeed.

Your student's first term grades should now be available for them to view. We aim for families and students to develop trust and direct communication with each other around the issue of course grades. It is our experience that students will be quite candid about any challenges when they feel supported and heard. This is a great opportunity to assist them with developing a plan of action around their sleep schedule, study habits, and courses selections that are well-balanced and aligned with their academic strengths. We welcome partnering with your student to help them achieve their goals through individualized, strategic advising and hope that you will recommend your student schedule meetings with their dean. We deeply understand the importance of a holistic support network and invite parents, guardians, and families to get in touch with our office if you have general questions or concerns.

FIRST-YEAR ADJUSTMENTS Perhaps the most difficult transition for some Dartmouth students in their first few months is adjusting to both the pace of a ten-week term and the increased rigor of college courses as compared to high school. In our experience, especially strong academic performance requires a student to tap deeper into their motivations, manage their time better, develop or hone college-level study skills and behaviors, and engage persistently. If your student did not earn the grades they are accustomed to, they might be feeling like they are not "smart enough," and we know this is not true. Your student's academic performance can improve when they put in the work, adjust study habits, and take advantage of support resources. Your student is surrounded by caring professionals and trained fellow students who are available to support and advise, if they are willing to engage.

RESOURCES Dartmouth offers a wide range of resources to help students thrive. The **Undergraduate Deans Office** is in the **Student Academic Support Services Center** in Carson Hall, which is connected to our main library. Your student has been assigned to an undergraduate dean who serves as a central source of support around personal and academic success. Undergraduate deans are available to students via appointment, as well as during afternoon "Drop-In Hours," where no appointment is necessary.

Other resources include:

- Academic Skills Center (tutoring, study skills)
- Office of Pluralism and Leadership (OPAL)
- Student Center for Research, Writing, and Information Technology (RWIT)
- Counseling Center
- Faculty Advisor and House Professor (connected to your student's House Community)
- Course Professors
- Health Professions Program: Pre-Health Advising
- Undergraduate Advisors (UGAs) (available in the residence halls)
- Senior Academic Mentors (SAMs) (peer advising through the Undergraduate Deans Office)
- Student Wellness Center

INFORMATION ON THE WEB Please visit the "[Parents, Guardians, and Families](#)" section of our website for resources you might find useful as you partner with your student around their success. The information and documents found on the [D-Plan Planning webpage](#) will be helpful in conversations with your student as they develop their long-range plan for their Dartmouth career. The deadline to submit their D-Plan will be in April. We have sent communication directly to your student to encourage them to spend time over break reflecting on their experiences and planning for winter term. Many students will be considering whether to apply for a study abroad experience and will need to seek recommendations at the very start of winter term.

WINTER TERM Winter term online check-in will be available from January 5, 2020 through January 8, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. **Check-in** is different from registering for classes or moving into the residence hall; check-in signals to the College that your student is on campus and committed to taking classes. Your student must check-in on DartHub during the period stated above or they risk being withdrawn entirely from the term. To avoid a late fee, students should have “holds” cleared and be “checked-in” via DartHub by January 7, 2019 at 11:59 p.m. Students may have a “hold” on their check-in due to missing requirements, such as a “financial hold” for an outstanding tuition bill. Students can view if there are holds online through their DartHub. Students should plan ahead in arranging for their return to Hanover; New Hampshire weather is especially unpredictable this time of year.

CALENDAR The following list of dates may help you plan for the coming months. Please note that because of Dartmouth's term system, breaks generally occur at different times than at other colleges. These schedules can also be viewed on the [Registrar's website](#) as slight changes can occur.

WINTER TERM, 2020

January 5 (Sunday)	Winter term online check-in begins
January 6 (Monday)	Classes begin
January 8 at 11:59 p.m. (Wednesday)	Online deadline to complete check-in without fee
January 20 (Monday)	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day holiday
March 6 (Friday)	Winter term classes end
March 7 - 8 (Saturday - Sunday)	Pre-Examination break
March 9 - 13 (Monday - Friday)	Final exams
March 23 (Monday)	Grade reports available on the web

SPRING TERM, 2020

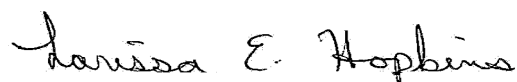
March 29 (Sunday)	Spring term online check-in begins
March 30 (Monday)	Classes begin
April 1 at 11:59 p.m. (Wednesday)	Online deadline to complete check-in without fee
April 9 (Thursday)	Enrollment patterns (D-Plans) due
May 1 - 3 (Friday - Sunday)	Family Weekend
May 25 (Monday)	Memorial Day holiday
June 3 (Wednesday)	Spring term classes end
June 4 (Thursday)	Pre-Examination break
June 5 - June 9 (Friday - Tuesday)	Final exams
June 19 (Friday)	Grade reports available on the web

COMMUNITY VALUES Community is an integral part of the Dartmouth experience. Your student has been engaged in multiple conversations regarding our community values since their arrival for Orientation. We invite you to ask your student what they have learned or shared with their new community and how they are incorporating a broader perspective about these values into their lives.

Looking ahead to spring term, I do hope some of you will find it possible to join us for **Family Weekend, Friday, May 1 – Sunday, May 3, 2020**. This is an opportunity to meet and talk with various staff, faculty, and administrators (including undergraduate deans); visit the [Family Weekend webpage](#) for more information.

The entire Undergraduate Deans Office joins me in extending to you and your family our very best wishes for a joyful holiday season and a healthy and rewarding 2020.

Sincerely,



Larissa E. Hopkins, Ed.D.
Interim Associate Dean of Undergraduate Students