



The Highs and Lows of Midterms

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On October 17, 2007, students with less than 30 credit hours received midterm grades. In high school, these grades would have been sent home to you, the parents, but not in college. We are bound by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) to keep a student's educational record private unless instructed otherwise by the student. What does that mean for you as parents? Kent State University cannot disclose anything about your student's educational record without the written permission of your son or daughter. So what should you do as a concerned parent? Talk with your student and ask to see his or her grades. It is easy to view the midterm grades by asking your student to log-in to his or her Flashline account. If your son or daughter is receiving a 2.75 or above, congratulate him or her on a job well done and provide encouragement to keep up the good work. With these grades, almost every major will be available to him or her. In some cases, your son or daughter may be eligible for the Dean's or President's Lists. The Dean's List for full-time students recognizes students who earned a GPA of 3.40 or greater in the semester and completed 12 or more regular letter-graded credit hours by the end of that semester. The Dean's List for part-time Students recognizes students who earned a GPA of 3.40 or greater in 12 or more regular letter-graded credit hours taken during the previous summer, fall and spring semesters. The President's List recognizes students who earned a GPA of 4.00 in the semester and completed 15 or more regular letter-graded credit hours by the end of that semester. These are great accomplishments by students. If your son or daughter is receiving between a 2.00 and 2.75, this is a sign that he or she may be struggling in one or more courses. These are some of the suggestions you can provide to your son or daughter:

- Talk to the professor during office hours about the grade. Bring questions about the material or ask for study strategies to be successful.
- Seek free tutoring offered by the Academic Success Center in 207 Michael Schwartz Center. This office provides study groups for popular Liberal Education Requirement (LER) courses and tutoring in math, writing, and computer skills.
- Seek tutoring offered by specific departments.
- In the event a C-, D, D+, F, NF, SF, or U grade is earned, consider repeating the course under the Rule for Recalculation of G.P.A.

(informally known as Freshman Forgiveness). Students may repeat any course or courses

taken at KSU during their first 30 attempted hours in which a grade of C-, D, D+, F, NF, SF, or U was received and use only the second grade in the calculation of the cumulative GPA. Academic Advisors can provide a full explanation.

- Make an appointment with the Counseling and Human Development Center in 325 White Hall to discuss stress management, time management, study habits or personal issues. This service is free and confidential for students.
- For students living on campus, suggest a meeting with the Resident Assistant or Residence Hall Director to discuss study strategies, forming study groups or for general advice.

If your son or daughter is receiving below a 2.00, it is time to have a serious discussion about these grades and encourage him or her to seek out assistance and guidance from an academic advisor.

It may be necessary to complete a University Exit (withdrawal of all courses – must meet with their advisor to do so). Students earning below a 2.00 at the conclusion of the semester will be placed on academic probation. With probation, a number of conditions can be placed on the student to encourage improvement. For example, probationary students are required to meet with their academic advisor more often to discuss goals, study strategies, and educational plans. The total credit load per semester can be reduced to encourage more focus on a limited number of student who is dismissed should expect to be away from any Kent State University campus for a period of 12 consecutive months. After this period, a student may apply for reinstatement, which is neither automatic nor guaranteed. The student must provide convincing evidence that he or she will succeed upon reinstatement. Academic dismissal is an indication that the student has little chance of obtaining the minimum grades required for graduation.

Midterm grades are a way for the University to provide feedback to students on their performance to date. What students do with information is what matters most. Let your son or daughter know you are thinking about him or her by sending a care package, a note of encouragement, or calling with words of support.

It is better to be proactive rather than reactive.
