

UL LAFAYETTE

PARENT & FAMILY NEWSLETTER



Advising for Summer & Fall 2026

It's already time for your student to start preparing for their **sophomore year** of college! Advising for Summer and Fall 2026 takes place **March 23 - April 2**. During this time, your student is required to meet with their academic advisor who will help them plan for the upcoming semester and lift their advising hold. Your student can find their advisor's contact information on the "Academics" card in ULink. As your student prepares for advising, remind them to do the following:

- Schedule an appointment with your advisor.**
- Check your registration time ticket in ULink.**
- Use the [Schedule of Classes](#) and [Academic Catalog](#) to start planning your schedule.**
- Check for [holds](#) and have them cleared from your account.**

The [Registration FAQ's](#), provided by the [Registrar's Office](#) is a helpful place that students can visit to prepare for course registration.

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Should my student take summer classes?

There are several reasons why students might consider taking summer classes:

- **Completing a pre-requisite for a course they plan to take in the Fall**
- **Retaking a course that they received a poor grade in or withdrew from**
- **Getting ahead with their degree plan requirements**

There are, of course, financial and housing considerations to keep in mind as your student weighs the pros and cons of summer classes. If your student is considering enrolling in summer classes, they should talk to their academic advisor about their options. After their advising session, be sure to discuss the decision as a family as well.

Study Abroad

Having the opportunity to study abroad is a transformative experience! As our world becomes more globally connected, students with international experience and global competence stand out to potential employers. Most students wait until later in their academic career to study abroad, but it's never too early to discuss the locations, costs, and options with your student.

The UL Lafayette [Study Abroad Program](#) facilitates a variety of these unique experiences. Typically, students enroll in 3-9 credit hours while they live and study abroad during the summer. UL Lafayette hosts summer programs in [Barcelona](#), [Costa Rica \(MBA\)](#), [England](#), [France](#), [Ireland](#), [Italy](#), [Japan](#), and [South Korea](#).

[Semester or year-abroad programs](#) are also available through our partner institutions around the world.

[Scholarships and financial aid](#) packages may be available to offset costs. If your student is interested, have them fill out the ["I'm Interested" form](#) online or email studyabroad@louisiana.edu.

SPRING 2026 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

(Subject to change)

March 23 - April 2

Advising Session for Summer/Fall

April 13

Last Day to Drop Class with "W"

April 3 - April 12

Spring Break

April 29- May 3

Dead Days

May 1

Last Day of Classes

May 4 - 8

Final Exams

May 8

Semester Ends



Spring Campus Visit

While there is no official “Family Weekend” for the Spring semester, we highly encourage all parents and family members to visit their student on campus in the Spring. As the weather starts to warm up, UL Lafayette blooms with beauty and lots to do! Below are our suggestions for fun activities on and around campus in the Spring.

- **Cheer on the Ragin’ Cajuns at an athletic event:**
 - [Ragin’ Cajuns Baseball Schedule](#)
 - [Ragin’ Cajuns Softball Schedule](#)
 - [Ragin’ Cajuns Women’s Soccer Schedule](#)
 - [Ragin’ Cajuns Men’s Tennis Schedule](#)
 - [Ragin’ Cajuns Women’s Tennis Schedule](#)
- **Explore new exhibits at the [Hilliard Art Museum](#).**
- **Check out the [University Events Calendar](#) for other on-campus options.**



The city of Lafayette is the proud home of [Festival International de Louisiane](#) (April 22-26, 2026), the largest international music and arts festival in the United States. This FREE, five-day music festival takes place in Downtown Lafayette, just blocks from campus, and offers activities and events for the whole family! Lafayette truly comes to life during Festival, making it a great time to visit your student.

Visit the [Lafayette Travel website](#) for other events and activities in the local area.



The March Student

During the month of March, students begin preparing for the upcoming Fall semester by meeting with their advisor and scheduling classes. Many students begin to feel the pressure and stress of mid-term exams during this time as well. Additionally, if your student is dissatisfied with their major choice, they may consider changing it. Students may also feel stressed about the summer as finding summer jobs or internships can often be difficult. *Here are some tips:*

COMMUNICATE

As always, be open to communication. If your student expresses their stress or worries to you, give advice and support. Remind them of the various student support services available to them on campus.

BE OPEN TO CHANGE

Remember that change is a good thing! If your student is considering a major change, encourage them to explore their interests and to visit [Career Services](#). Share this "[Major and Career Exploration](#)" video with your student!

DON'T FORGET ABOUT LEE HALL!

If your students asks for guidance, especially in academic-related areas, refer them to academic counselors. The [Academic Success Center](#) in Lee Hall offers counseling to students who are unsure about their major, want to see if they're on track to graduate, or are in need of other academic advice.

[The Learning Center](#), also located in Lee Hall, provides free tutoring for students in a variety of subjects.

Parent-to-Parent Advice

Here's what former freshman parents and guardians have to say:

***"Encourage your student to be proactive when it comes to scheduling.
Press the student to confidently reach out to their advisor."***

***"Tell your student to take advantage of all the resources UL offers.
The staff is always willing to help."***

***"Push your student to try new things and join organizations
so they can better understand their strengths and interests."***

***"Have your student write down a plan that details their educational goals,
the steps to achieve them, and a weekly schedule to allocate time for out-of-class
work which includes reviewing past tests and notes."***