

*** (13:03:18):Welcome to Parent Access , Beth Szczerowski!

*** (13:03:29):Welcome to Parent Access , Maura Reynolds!

*** (19:48:02):Welcome to Parent Access , Maura Reynolds!

*** (19:49:27):Welcome to Parent Access , taylor!

*** (19:50:01):Welcome to Parent Access , Julie!

Beth Szczerowski says to (19:51:27):

Good evening, welcome to our Parent Access Chat. Tonight's chat will feature Maura Reynolds, Director of Academic Advising. We will begin at 7:00 PM ET.

*** (19:53:53):Welcome to Parent Access , sboer!

*** (19:56:12):Welcome to Parent Access , Mark!

*** (19:56:27):Welcome to Parent Access , Glen!

*** (19:56:46):Welcome to Parent Access , Scott S.!

*** (19:56:55):Welcome to Parent Access , Janet!

Beth Szczerowski says to (19:57:46):

There is no audio with this chat. Guests are invited to submit questions at the bottom of the screen, and we will answer with text and links to more information.

*** (19:57:47):Welcome to Parent Access , Jill!

Beth Szczerowski says to (19:58:27):

Good evening and welcome to Parent Access. I am here with Maura Reynolds, Hope's Director of Academic Advising. Please feel free to ask any questions you may have regarding grades, advising and majors.

Mark says to (19:59:19):

Is this an open question/answer session?

Beth Szczerowski says to (19:59:30):

This is a moderated chat. When you submit a question, there will be a delay until it posts for the whole community. We will answer questions as fast as we can, in the order they are received.

Beth Szczerowski says to (20:00:19):

You can certainly ask questions about any topic, and if we aren't able to answer, we can point you to the right person.

*** (20:00:31):Welcome to Parent Access , tamib!

*** (20:00:32):Welcome to Parent Access , RWells!

Mark says to (20:01:21):

My son is "undecided" on a major. While he is only a freshman, it is very important that he chooses a path that will suit his strengths. How exactly does Hope College help a student find that path?

Maura Reynolds says (20:02:47):

Great question, Mark. We encourage students of all years to reflect on their gifts and abilities and to consult with others (including family :-). There are help available from FYS advisors (who have come to know their students well) as w

Maura Reynolds says (20:03:19):

as well as other profs, the Chaplains' Office, Career Services and many others.

sboer says to (20:03:23):

My freshman son is stressed about having to decide whether to go into nursing or if he should say he's "undeclared". What advice do you give to freshman who may not know for sure what they want to do in life?

*** (20:03:27):Welcome to Parent Access , Mom4ever!

*** (20:04:15):Welcome to Parent Access , Brad!

Maura Reynolds says (20:04:51):

It's normal for students to be unsure (there are times when all of us are, aren't there?). Nursing is a highly structured major, so if your son wants to keep it as an option, he should take the classes required for that major & keep in touch w Nursing dep

tamib says to (20:05:03):

can you explain the difference to me between a math major in the bachelor of arts and a math major in bachelor of science? which one would give more options for future job flexibility?

*** (20:05:43):Welcome to Parent Access , KWalls!

*** (20:05:57):Welcome to Parent Access , luann!

Maura Reynolds says (20:06:07):

Great question, tamib. The BS in math requires 60 credits of classes in the natural sciences; the BA requires less. Best resource is to talk with math faculty--what does your student want to do after Hope? One might be preferable.

RWells says to (20:06:18):

My son is a freshman and is fairly sure of a major. Should he go ahead and declare in the spring so that he is assigned an advisor in that field before registering for fall 2012 classes?

Maura Reynolds says (20:07:27):

Another good one, RWells: I encourage students to declare when they're ready. We encourage students to continue to talk with and consult people who know them--so he won't be cutting himself off from his current advisor.

Julie says to (20:07:37):

When my freshman son signed up for spring semester classes, he didn't tell me who helped him with this. Was he guided by his FYS teacher or might he have done it on his own? Jeanne Lindell in support services helped him in August with those decisions.

*** (20:08:16):Welcome to Parent Access , greg1!

Maura Reynolds says (20:09:08):

Julie, he couldn't have done it alone. At the very least, he talked w his FYS prof. I taught most of the FYS classes before registration--so he may have talked with me. Jeanne is also available--our goal is to see that students are connected w MANY othe

Scott S. says to (20:09:18):

Freshman utilize their FYS instructor for an initial source of career direction right? What about in sophomore and beyond years, do they still rely on the FYS instructor or do they transition more to your Academic Advising office exclusively?

*** (20:09:19):Welcome to Parent Access , pattib!

*** (20:10:06):Welcome to Parent Access , Michael!

Maura Reynolds says (20:11:09):

Thanks for this one, Scott S--I sound like a broken record--let's get them connected with LOTS of folks. If you wonder about sophs--you can check this site <http://www.hope.edu/admin/registrar/MovingAhead/index.html>

*** (20:11:15):Welcome to Parent Access , hopful!

Jill says to (20:11:29):

I am the parent of a Freshman. Is it possible for parents to view their student's grades, and if not during the semester can we see their final grades at the end of the semester? I am familiar with "Power School" at the high school level.

*** (20:11:30):Welcome to Parent Access , Cheryl!

*** (20:11:48):Welcome to Parent Access , Brad!

Scott S. says to (20:12:19):

Is there a way for us to see what grades they are currently getting? Part of me wants to "let go" of the high school kid we sent to Hope & part of me still wants to keep tabs/help out as needed.

Maura Reynolds says (20:12:44):

Hello, Jill & Scott. If your student gives you the ID# and PIN for their KNowHOpePlus account, you can see both their midterm and their final grades. Our goal is to encourage direct communication between students and families.

Mark says to (20:12:58):

OK, Do students simply walk into the career services office and ask for help? I wonder about the process the career services office follows to help a student make some of these decisions? Can you expand on that?

Maura Reynolds says (20:14:18):

Hi, Mark. Students are welcome to drop into Career Services any time--here's their website <http://www.hope.edu/student/career/> Career Services also sends targetted messages to groups of students about what's available.

Scott S. says to (20:14:31):

My daughter, free spirit that she is, says she wants to major in "marine archeology"...to become treasure hunter (maybe that'll pan out). How many kids end up changing their major during their 4 years @ Hope?

*** (20:16:23):Welcome to Parent Access , Lisa!

Maura Reynolds says (20:16:34):

:-) Gotta love your daughter, Scott! We don't keep track of how often students change direction. For some, it can be several times; others stay w what they first decided. Most are 18--and just beginning to explore their gifts. Will she share treasur

tamib says to (20:16:45):

He thinks he wants to be a Young Life area director for starters, but might want to teach math either at the high school or college level at some point.

Beth Szczerowski says to (20:17:23):

Mark, career services offers many career assessments, which many underclassman find very helpful when trying to determine what career path they are interested in. Here is more information: <http://www.hope.edu/student/career/resources/assessments/self.html>

Mark says to (20:17:50):

Thank you.

Maura Reynolds says (20:18:18):

Tamib--connecting with Young Life in the area is a great way to explore that possibility--we also have a youth ministry area. And CASA and Upward Bound use math tutors and so does the Acad Support Center--Explore!

Brad says to (20:18:27):

My daughter is a freshman planning to be Special Ed major. She was told she has to plan her schedule very carefully to stay within 4 years. So far, in her spring registration, she's managed to find 2 classes that aren't already full. Is there a problem her

*** (20:18:38):Welcome to Parent Access , rjerow!

Maura Reynolds says (20:19:12):

No--please check the Reg Office site for info about wait lists--students were sent this info last Friday evening: <http://www.hope.edu/admin/registrar/>

Lisa says to (20:19:34):

My daughter, who is a declared psychology major, really wanted to take Psychology of Women and Research Methods. However, she was placed on the waitlist for both classes. She finds it frustrating that she can't register for the classes she needs, consider

RWells says to (20:20:34):

MY SON MADE A'S AND B'S IN HIGH SCHOOL. WHAT GRADES DO MOST STUDENTS MAKE AT HOPE?

Lisa says to (20:20:59):

considering Hope gave her a later registration time. Hope wants her to graduate on time, but that's hard to believe when the class sizes are so small, and professors will not grant students permission to take the class. How can I assure my daughter that she

Lisa says to (20:21:01):

How can I assure my daughter that she will graduate on time?

Maura Reynolds says (20:21:39):

Hi, Lisa: Psych of Women is a 300-level class--full of juniors and seniors. I encourage her to give the wait list time to work--then, if necessary, contact the prof. Psych is not a highly structured major--since she's declared, she can put together a 4

Maura Reynolds says (20:22:19):

year plan with her psych advisor. Don't despair! Encourage her to talk with her psych advisor

Lisa says to (20:23:21):

Thanks for your encouragement. She is quite concerned about meeting the requirements to graduate in 4 years

RWells says to (20:23:53):

WHAT GRADES DO HOPE STUDENTS TYPICALLY MAKE DURING THE FRESHMAN YEAR?

Beth Szczerowski says to (20:24:21):

It just takes a moment to draft the answer...

Glen says to (20:24:28):

I did not see an answer to RWells' question. What is the average GPA at Hope?

Maura Reynolds says (20:24:45):

RWells: I believe the average gpa for first semester students is around 2.7-3.0 (B/B-range)--it's been a while since I checked. Midterm grades can sometimes give an indication of how things are going--and talking with profs is VERY encouraged.

Mom4ever says to (20:24:58):

My son, a junior, is majoring in economics and minoring in history and business. Now he's talking about "tacking" on a teaching certificate. I can't imagine that all that is possible in 4 years, especially since he'd have to student-teach. Advice?

Maura Reynolds says (20:26:07):

Mom4ever (and we are, aren't we?) Son should talk with faculty in the Ed Dept--he needs a game plan. Ed Faculty do this all the time with students

greg1 says to (20:26:14):

when do students register for next fall as a current freshman, is it before the end of the spring term

Maura Reynolds says (20:27:01):

Greg1: 1st years will register for FALL 2012 classes in March or early April--before Spring term ends

taylor says to (20:27:11):

Our Freshman son has no idea what he wants to major in. What resources are available to help him narrow down his major and career interests?

Beth Szczerowski says to (20:28:31):

We have touched on this a bit before you logged on, so be sure to review the chat log. Talking to FYS advisors, professors and connecting with career services is a great way to narrow in on an interest area. The more people your student talks to...

Beth Szczerowski says to (20:28:39):

the better (family included!)

Beth Szczerowski says to (20:29:01):

This link explains the career assessments offered by career services:
<http://www.hope.edu/student/career/resources/assessments/self.html>

Janet says to (20:29:12):

Maura, how can I get my daughter in touch with CASA and Upward Bound as she is looking for other service opportunities? Thank you! Janet

Maura Reynolds says (20:30:37):

Encourage her to check the bulletin boards around campus--CASA is in need of volunteers to work with el age students every semester--the rewards are enormous. Offices for both CASA and UB in the basement of Graves--stop in--great people!

rjerow says to (20:30:45):

I think I'm in the same boat. My son hopes to enter the teaching profession and has been told to take a ed psychology class this semester to be on track to graduate and all the sections are full.

Maura Reynolds says (20:32:20):

rjerow: depts are checking their wait lists as I type. The wait list process is outlined here--<http://www.hope.edu/admin/registrar/> Sounds like he has already met with the Ed faculty--that's what I love to hear.

Scott S. says to (20:32:32):

do you bring back recent grads to address the current students on their "real world" experiences & advice?

Beth Szczerowski says to (20:33:20):

Scott S: we do! Alumni Relations partners with Career Services on many different panel discussions and other opportunities for young alumni to connect with current students.

Beth Szczerowski says to (20:34:27):

The best opportunity for this is during our "Living and Working In" series of events each spring. These are held in both Grand Rapids and Chicago, and allows current students to interact with alumni about finding an apartment, a job, the grocery store, etc

rjerow says to (20:34:46):

What is the process by which Hope keeps track of Freshmen in terms of making sure they are connected with an academic advisor?

Beth Szczerowski says to (20:35:09):

This is a moderated chat. When you submit a question, there will be a delay until it posts for the whole community. We will answer questions as fast as we can, in the order they are received.

Maura Reynolds says (20:35:54):

RJerow: their advisor = their FYS prof whom they see twice a week in class. Beyond that first semester, students aren't permitted to register until they meet with their advisor. Advisors are great resources.

sboer says to (20:36:07):

Are there students at Hope who take more than 4 years to graduate? What majors are those typically?

*** (20:37:09):Welcome to Parent Access , Tina!

Maura Reynolds says (20:37:18):

Sboer: yes some students do take more than 4 years. Most often, it's not because of their major...but the time at which they decide on a major. As I've written, some are highly structured and students need certain classes right away...

Maura Reynolds says (20:38:19):

(cont) so if they decide after their first year, they may need more time or summer work. Profs in the area of interest are pros at helping students develop 4 year plans--that's our intent for all majors and all students.

RWells says to (20:38:27):

WHAT IS THE GRADE POINT AVERAGE THAT CORRESPONDS TO EACH LETTER GRADE?

RWells says to (20:38:34):

I DON'T THINK I MADE MY QUESTION CLEAR EARLIER. WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE (NUMERICALLY) BETWEEN A B- , B, AND B+?

Maura Reynolds says (20:39:01):

RWells: A= 4; A- = 3.7, B+ = 3.3 and so on

Mom4ever says to (20:39:07):

Thanks, Maura. You continue to be my "face of Hope." You really seem to have it all together and have students' best interests at heart. And you "get" parents.

tamib says to (20:39:16):

if we want to make a change to current meal plan for next semester how do we go about doing that? sorry it's not an advising question :)

Maura Reynolds says (20:39:21):

I have the best job at HOpe College

tamib says to (20:39:23):

is there someone else I need to ask my question about changing meal plan to?: Is there a deadline to do it?

Maura Reynolds says (20:40:07):

Tamib: ask you student to check with Student Dev (in DeWitt)--I'm not sure.

Lisa says to (20:40:21):

My son is a senior graduating with a teaching degree. How well did last years teaching class do in finding employment?

Scott S. says to (20:40:45):

for those of you with students going into the teaching profession, thank them for me (our schools are going to get a boost soon). Maura & Beth, thanks for your time tonight answering our questions.

Maura Reynolds says (20:41:27):

Lisa: great question for the Ed Dept. I do know that flexibility is key--are they willing to move, etc? Encourage your student to ask the dept--I think they keep a bulletin board of last year's grads and what they're doing.

tamib says to (20:41:35):

ok thanks

Tina says to (20:41:54):

What happens when a student does poorly or fails a class? What is failing?

Maura Reynolds says (20:43:46):

Hello, Tina: Easy part first: failing = F. We'd want to work with the student to see what happened (and to avoid a re-occurrence). Students can re-take classes. Encourage the student to stop in the Reg Office and talk with me

RWells says to (20:43:53):

Thanks for your help!

Lisa says to (20:43:56):

Maura, I just read your response to my daughter who is worried about graduating on time. Her response "well, Maura Reynolds is really smart and I admire her so if she says that it must be true"

Maura Reynolds says (20:45:09):

Thanks for the compliment, Lisa. Please do encourage your daughter to talk with her Psych advisor--I push my sophomore and juniors to put together an exit strategy--we love having them with us--we also want them to move on.

Julie says to (20:45:32):

I was able to attend Parents Weekend and loved meeting parents of Hope students. Living 14 hours away, it is tough to visit, and son is probably fine with that. Is there a parents weekend in the spring. Perhaps some parents come in for various sporting

Julie says to (20:45:34):

events.

Beth Szczerowski says to (20:46:37):

Julie, I am glad you attended and enjoyed the weekend! There is not another weekend during the school year that is specifically programmed for parents to visit. Many choose to come back during a time that your student would have something...

Beth Szczerowski says to (20:47:17):

specific to showcase for you, such as a musical performance, sporting event, science presentation, greek life event, etc. Dance Marathon is another fun time to be on campus, and takes place in March.

Tina says to (20:47:31):

Thanks Maura. If a class is retaken, are the grades blended? Is it possible to take the class elsewhere? (and then what happens to the grade?)

Maura Reynolds says (20:48:41):

Hi, Tina: the grades are not blended. The first grade stays on the transcript but only the 2nd grade is included in the gpa--whether the 2nd grade is higher or lower. Students should NOT take a class they did poorly in or failed at another college...

Maura Reynolds says (20:49:26):

grades earned at other colleges do NOT transfer (only credits transfer), so earning a higher grade elsewhere will not help the HOpe gpa.

KWalls says to (20:49:36):

For the highly structured majors, will the registrar's office assist the student to get the classes they need if they are currently wait listed; especially if the classes are only offered in certain semesters and are required for the next sequence?

Maura Reynolds says (20:50:59):

Hello, KWalls: depts, not the Reg Office, determine whether students can be added from wait lists. Most majors can be easily completed without certain classes in the first year--encourage your student to talk with the dept s/he's considering

Lisa says to (20:51:07):

Just a comment - I have two students at Hope and my husband and I could not be more pleased with the level of academics and the Hope experience my children are enjoying. Thanks for all you do.

Maura Reynolds says (20:51:27):

Thanks for the trust you have in us, Lisa. May we always merit it!

Julie says to (20:51:36):

Do they need volunteer parents to help at an event like Dance Marathon?

Beth Szczerowski says to (20:52:20):

I do not know about Dance Marathon specifically, you could connect with Shauna Morin in Student Development about that event specifically. We do use parent volunteers for other programs in Parent Relations...

Beth Szczerowski says to (20:53:14):

including the Parent Calling program, which can be done even from 14 hours away. You can visit the parents website at www.hope.edu/parents for more information, or contact me directly at szczrowski@hope.edu.

Tina says to (20:53:20):

Thank you so much Maura. My daughter is very concerned about an important class. She is meeting weekly with the Prof, doing extra homework and studying a ton. She's still struggling . . .

Maura Reynolds says (20:54:38):

Encourage her to keep working with the prof--I'm sure you're happy that she working hard and connecting with the prof and doing her best. We can't ask for more, can we?

Mom4ever says to (20:54:49):

Do all advisors create an exit strategy with their students? What does that entail?

Maura Reynolds says (20:55:58):

Mom4ever: I don't know if everyone does. I know I encourage students to put a plan together. I like to remind my advisees that I have all the degrees I'm prepared to work for...and this one is THEIRS--they need to grab hold of it

*** (20:55:59):Welcome to Parent Access , Kay!

Tina says to (20:56:05):

Absolutely Maura! She's a great kid and LOVES Hope College.

Tina says to (20:56:06):

Thanks for your time.

Julie says to (20:57:37):

thank you . I will find out about the calling program. We like Hope College very much and would like more people from Kansas and the midwest to know about it.

Janet says to (20:57:46):

As a parent of an undeclared freshman, when should my student be able to talk about their four-year plan? Does every Advisor work with each Advisee to create one?

*** (20:58:00):Welcome to Parent Access , Markd!

Beth Szczerowski says to (20:58:48):

Wonderful Julie! Parents are great ambassadors of the college, especially out of state where our presence isn't as strong. So glad to have you involved.

Maura Reynolds says (20:59:18):

For some majors, Janet, it is VERY important that students work in faculty in their dept to put a plan together--if you check the Ed Dept website, for example, they make it very clear every student should meet with a faculty member. Depts are in the best..

Maura Reynolds says (21:00:17):

position to help students with this--any many have 4 year plans posted on their web sites. We just finished a round of dept get-togethers aimed at first and second year students to give them a chance to explore possible majors and meet faculty...

Maura Reynolds says (21:00:41):

please check the advising website for details
<http://www.hope.edu/admin/registrar/student/index.html>

Tina says to (21:00:54):

One more question . . . are any of the classes graded on a curve?

Maura Reynolds says (21:01:56):

None that I'm aware of are graded on a curve, Tina. Your student can check with his/her profs to verify.

Kay says to (21:02:04):

My student is interested in becoming a PhD. When she mentioned this to her FYS instructor, she was told that it's too early to worry about that. Is it really too early?

Maura Reynolds says (21:02:58):

It's never too early to think about our futures, is it, Kay? Encourage your student to talk with faculty in the depts she's considering

Lisa says to (21:04:21):

Good night...thank you so much for taking your evening, Maura and Beth, to host this chat.

Maura Reynolds says (21:04:35):

It's our pleasure--thanks for your questions and your presence!

Mom4ever says to (21:04:41):

Thanks, Maura. Might I suggest all advisors develop exit strategies with their charges? I'm encouraging my son to meet up with you, if only once or twice to get a plan on paper. I think he's feeling a bit overwhelmed with what happens after graduation.

*** (21:04:39): Welcome to Parent Access , filsaime7!

Beth Szczerowski says to (21:07:31):

Are there any questions we've missed, or additional questions you have?

Mom4ever says to (21:08:25):
Blessings to you both!

Beth Szczerowski says to (21:08:28):
[A log of this chat will be available to download later this week at www.hope.edu/parents/access.](http://www.hope.edu/parents/access)

Janet says to (21:08:39):
Maura, thank you, again, for the great information and for your time and expertise! Hope continues to be a challenging, friendly and terrific learning experience for our daughter. And Beth, thank you to you and your department for terrific hospitality

Janet says to (21:08:43):
Family Weekend!

Beth Szczerowski says to (21:08:55):
[Thanks for joining us tonight. Our next chat event is scheduled for Tuesday, February 7, 2012 with John Jobson from Residential Life.](#)

Beth Szczerowski says to (21:09:09):
[You can learn more about resources and services available to you as a Hope parent at www.hope.edu/parents](http://www.hope.edu/parents)

Beth Szczerowski says to (21:10:36):
Goodnight!