

Keys Issues in the Senior Year: Ways to Provide Support



Well, it is finally here, the senior year. You don't know who is more excited, you or your student. Then again, he may not be as excited as you think as he prepares to leave friends and the familiarity of campus life, to embark on the "real

world" journey. You may think your support is no longer needed, nor desired, but you can rest assured he still will be looking to you for guidance as he takes the final steps of his college career.

Senior Year Issues

Academics

- Lack of motivation to go to, or prepare for, classes (sometimes called "senioritis")
- Take the first step in job or graduate school search
- Awareness of academic strengths and weaknesses
- For some, will wish they had prioritized academics earlier in their college career
- Priority on developing relationships with professors for purpose of career advising and job referencing

Relationships

- Fear of leaving the comfort and stability of college relationships
- Friendship circle tightens as peers prepare to say good-bye
- Redefine relationship with family

Provide These Tips to Your Senior:

- Take a class, not necessarily related to his major, for fun
- Make plans to spend intentional time with friends
- Take steps to plan for the job search:
 - Visit the Career Services Office
 - Continually update resume
 - Confirm and stay in touch with references
 - Attend mock-interviews
 - Purchase interviewing attire
- Visit the Financial Aid Office for account information
- Breathe! Don't panic, just take baby steps

Warning Signs of Senioritis

Not sure if your student is experiencing senioritis? Consider these warning signs:

- He begins the year looking most forward to...graduation.
- He complains that he doesn't need to know art history in his future profession, so why study?
- He skips more classes than he attends.
- He tends to extend class deadlines to fit his "senior-social" schedule.
- He is "burned out" on co-curricular activities and involvements.
- He plans on securing a job before the end of the second-semester, so those course grades don't really matter.

If you have heard one or more of these excuses, your son is suffering from an acute case of *senioritis* (n): a less than moderate interest in school-related activities, especially academics, that students usually acquire around the last semester of their senior year.

Source: eCampusTours.com at www.ecampustours.com/collegeplanning/senioritis.aspx

- Feel a sense of "job search" competition

Finances

- Anxiety about how loans are going to be paid
- Worry about immediate costs such as insurance, car, and living arrangements
- Concerns about future salary, and the role it will play in career decisions
- Prepare to manage own finances
- For some, realizing the credit debt that has piled up over the college years

Self-Awareness

- Take time to savor friendships and campus life
- Realize that maybe what he wanted to do when he started college isn't necessarily what he wants to do now
- Pressure of living up to expectations of parents, family, peers, or faculty
- Ability to demonstrate and communicate skills gained through co-curricular involvements