

Tips from Students to Parents

What better way to find out what students truly want from their parents during the college years than to go straight to the source? We asked current HPU students and recent graduates to provide tips for Sea Warrior Parents. They came up with some great advice!

I think a parent's level of involvement should be...

"I think up until college, parents should be very involved, checking assignments, etc. Then in college, I appreciated my parents allowing me to talk over class discussions with them, bounce ideas for papers/projects around, and proof read papers before I turn them in."

"They should follow the student's progress but not influence what courses or majors they should focus on, students are old enough to decide by themselves."

"They should be involved enough to know how everything is going, but should not be controlling and make their child feel bad for every little mistake. Don't treat them like a baby or it {could} come back to haunt you when they don't want to leave home."

"Parents should be there for students when they need advice, reference, financial and emotional support. They should not control who they meet or what they do."

"Keeping in touch with parents is absolutely important for us as students and young professionals. Their support and insights are part of our decision-making; yet, their involvement has to foster notions of independency and responsibility in order to make the best of their children."

"I am happy to have my parents there to give me advice on academic and social issues but I like to directly handle my own business concerning school and friends."

"I think parents should always be involved in a student's academic life and leave them free to get social. HPU is the safest place to study for anybody and Hawaii is also great place to socialize and make new friends every day. I got to learn a lot by making friends from all over the world in Hawaii; that made me strong and confident to talk to anybody now."

"One of my friends parents' allowed me and a few friends to stay at their place over Thanksgiving. It was the true meaning of aloha and ohana."

"Even though you miss us a lot, we miss you even more. It's like Goldilocks, we need not too much, not too little, but just the right amount of contact and influence to make it through."



"HPU has been a home away from home for me, so your students will be in good hands. Their friends will turn into their new family and the island will become their home."

"Be involved but not over bearing. Your child is going to be emotional when coming; take time to be emotional with them but remember that you need to be their rock, too. If you know someone on the island that you trust put your child and them into contact with one another."

The nicest thing my family has done for me is...

"Skype me at family holidays that I cannot attend, and my mom listens to me vent to her when I have a lot going on and I just need to complain about it to someone who is not in Hawaii."

"CARE PACKAGES!!"

"Said that they 'missed me very much.'"

"Send me snacks and some food that I can't find."

"My mom would send me a small allowance \$50 every two weeks to go and try something different, be it a new restaurant that I couldn't afford or to save up for a rental car to take to the north shore."

"My family has sent many care packages for me. A family friend has taken me in as her own child and takes me to the airport, helped me unpack my dorm and even let me come over for Thanksgiving."

I wish my parents would have...

"Encouraged me to go and try everything that is different and to always maintain a high level of encouragement when things seemed a little rough. Yes, the distance can be great, but that does not mean that your young adult cannot have fun and grow in a safe environment."

"Be(en) more aware of what's going on at HPU; learn what I've been doing at school from sources other than myself."

"Visit(ed) more often because international students unfortunately do not always have the time or money to travel home."

"Nothing, my parents have supported me in every decision both financially as well as emotionally, letting me decide but always helping me."

"Skyped more."



I think all Sea Warrior students should know...

"How to respect other people from different backgrounds, the cultures and nationalities."

"Establish good relations with professors and engage in HPU clubs."

"Take notes and actually participate in class, they'll get so much more out of the experience. Also, don't skip class to surf; they are paying for the classes, not the beach."

"That there is always a hump during the year and no matter what, you get through it, so keep pushing hard. But that hump is usually just hesitation with one's self. (i.e., "I can push that assignment back ONE more day and hang out today") and it makes the next day harder to play catch up on top of regular assignments, usually around big tests/due dates."

"It rains a lot in Hawaii so make sure to bring an umbrella and a light rain jacket if you want."

"They are living in the real world and Hawaii is a very different atmosphere than one would encounter on the mainland. They are going to have to take the bus places and they are going to have to realize that they are on an island and be okay with that."

"Always be friendly. Bring a beautiful smile on your face and you will start enjoying Hawaii."

Families who are moving their student to Hawaii should know...

"Just be patient, relaxed, and supportive of the huge change that your student is undergoing."

"Prepare them to start living by themselves, for example in terms of completing house chores. Give them tips in using money. Prepare them to be open minded as they will meet other people from different backgrounds and nationalities."

"Everything is expensive, especially food."

"Let your child go and grow. Don't hold a tight grip. Hawaii Pacific has so many wonderful opportunities that you shouldn't prevent your child from experiencing them. Don't worry too much."

"Don't over pack. Although it is an island it is still a US state you can purchase almost anything on island."

"Keep in touch! Write letters, call every so often, show your child that you still care."

"Don't try to take everything from home with you; minimize the packing load as it will help save money on overweight luggage. There are a lot of second hand stores that have the necessities at such low cost."

Local families living with their student should remember...

"You see each other less, but that's a part of the package. Students will see you less due to studying or hanging out with friends. Know that it's a new chapter in life and we are exploring ourselves as individuals, but know we always need you, even though we don't say it."

"If you want them to be a responsible adult now is the time to let them make mistakes."

"The little daughter and son have grown to be adults. Show them respect and give them a lot more personal space. They are now responsible for their own acts."

"To give their child some space and not clobber them."

"HPU is a small school. Word gets around if someone needs something. Your child/young adult will make friends and find ways to get what they need. Don't worry."

As a Sea Warrior student, the #1 piece of advice I would give to parents is to...

"Trust your student. If they have chosen to go to Hawaii they probably are independent enough to handle it and survive on their own. Give your kid some breathing room because they are taking their own life into their hands now."

"Be supportive."

"Know HPU, keep in touch always and be aware of how the daughter or son is doing at HPU in order to provide much needed support and be a proud parent."

"Support your child to the fullest."

"Students grow through the bonds made with their fellow HPU students in a way that makes the students lean towards being professional individuals. So parents should always keep in mind that there is a lot that goes on in one year here at HPU as growing occurs and the key is not to 'tell them what to do' but to help guide the student in the right direction with the choices they are making."

"Try to understand that your child is growing up and is no longer a baby."

"Be supportive and listen. Don't lecture too much."

"Support your child and tell them congratulations and that you love them."

"Relax; it will be over before you know it."

"Allow your student to experience the life as a young adult, but remind them that you're always there whenever they are in need of help or encouragement."

"Pick up the phone and call your child."

"Be understanding that A's in college aren't always achievable. B's are great as well. College is a whole different ball park from high school."

"Encourage their children to become independent and take responsibility for their actions."