While beginning college is an exciting time for students, the first year also brings many changes. During this period, new students naturally progress through a four-stage transition—disorientation, exploration, reorientation, and equilibrium. As we seek to provide these students with resources and relationships for a successful transition, we believe that you, the parent, can join us in providing critical support. We hope this guide will equip you to understand and help your transitioning student to Geneva College.
**ACADEMIC, SOCIAL AND SPIRITUAL ISSUES**

**AUGUST**
- Feeling overwhelmed by new environment
- Feeling lost in the crowd
- Feeling anxious about roommates/friends
- Misperceiving the workload
- Building college skills, such as reading a syllabus
- Exploring worship styles, denominational perspectives and churches

**SEPTEMBER**
- Seeking opportunities to connect
- Struggling with roommate living
- Longing for the familiar
- Gauging the demands of each class
- Discovering different expectations
- Developing time management
- Setting into a routine

**OCTOBER–DECEMBER**
- Building community in the residence hall
- Finding places to connect
- Searching for “identity niche”
- Receiving feedback and grades
- Realizing need for more effort
- Establishing routine of study and classes
- Exploring core values and beliefs

**JANUARY–MAY**
- Feeling greater ownership of learning
- Identifying more closely with major
- Engaging in curricular activities, such as study abroad or student leadership

**WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR STUDENT**

**AUGUST**
- Pray that God will lead wonderful mentors and friends to your student
- Ask questions about new experiences and relationships, helping your student to process and reflect
- Balance your involvement with your student’s need for space
- Encourage your student to set aside time for personal devotions

**SEPTEMBER**
- Pray that God will help your student be wise with time, energy and priorities
- Explore ways for your student to connect, such as churches, clubs and community programs, and ask about classes and friends
- Send a care package, offering consistent support
- Encourage your student to join a Bible study or small group

**OCTOBER–DECEMBER**
- Pray that God will guide your student into solid peer groups
- Ask about specific classes, professors and grades, and connect with resources as appropriate
- Support new relationships by inviting your student’s friends over
- Encourage your student to get involved in a service organization

**JANUARY–MAY**
- Pray that God will clearly lead your student to make quality commitments for next year
- Make sure that your student chooses housing and registers for fall classes
- Welcome home your student, recognizing that a change has occurred
- Encourage your student to commit to a local church and participate in a Quest mission trip