UCF Students Encouraged to "Think 30"

A campus-wide initiative will be launched this fall at UCF to encourage students to enroll and complete 30 credit hours each academic year. The Think 30 Campaign at UCF was created to encourage UCF students to complete 30 credit hours each year with the goal of a timely graduation that minimizes the expense of a college degree. Most <u>undergraduate degrees at UCF</u> require 120 credit hours. Completing 30 credit hours per year will allow a student to graduate in 4 years.

Although this may seem like a realistic goal, the path to graduation may not be as simple for many college students. According to national data from <u>Complete College America</u>, of those who do graduate, students are taking too long to do so. In fact, the majority of college students are taking six years to complete a 4 year bachelor's degree; only one in five students at a 4-year university will complete their bachelor's degree in four years. Additionally, today's college students are graduating with larger amounts of debt.

Think 30 seeks to further improve UCF graduation rates and student success by focusing on three main areas: academic advising, financial literacy, and preparing for the future. Students can expect to see Think 30 marketing across campus in the fall semester and discuss this concept during their advising appointments and meetings with other faculty and staff.

As a parent or family member, you can also contribute to your students' academic success and timely graduation. Here are a few tips to support your student's educational goals and timely graduation:

- Discuss academic goals and expectations early and regularly with your student.
- If completing 30 credit hours a year is unrealistic for your student, what is a realistic goal that will allow your student to balance college and their personal responsibilities?
- Encourage your student to identify and meet with their <u>academic advisor</u> to discuss course progress, explore majors, and for assistance with schedule planning and academic goals.
- Recommend that your student visits <u>Career Services</u> and <u>Experiential Learning</u> for exploration of career options, resume building and various internship opportunities.
- Communicate with your student about developing a financial plan and seeking additional financial advisement regarding concerns such as scholarships, loans and tuition from the <u>Office of Student Financial Assistance</u>.

Learn more by visiting the <u>Think 30 website</u>.

