Welcome to Panther Points, our newsletter for first-year parents at Pitt-Bradford. Here you can find information about upcoming events, campus services offered throughout the semester and a few monthly tips for parents with college students. We’d like for you to feel comfortable using this newsletter as a snapshot of what you and your student may be experiencing throughout the semester. Hopefully, we can help bridge the gap between parent-student communications at Pitt-Bradford.

**May Dates**

- **May 1**: Commencement
- **May 16**: Earn your degree ceremony
- **May 18**: Last day to add or drop a course for 4-week Summer Session I
- **May 20**: Last day to add or drop a course for 6-week Summer Session I
- **May 23**: Last day to receive a Refund for Textbooks
- **May 30**: Memorial Day
- **May 31**: Transfer Tuesday

**Tips for Finishing College in 4 Years (or Fewer!)

- **Plan Ahead**: Try getting a snapshot of the classes that your student will need to take. Let them know that there are 2-year and 4-year suggested plans for each major available in the Academic Advising Center and on the Pitt-Bradford website. These plans, which were developed by our professors, are intended to help students navigate throughout each semester with ease.

- **Read the Fine Print**: Also, make sure that you and your student are paying close attention to the major requirements as well as the general education requirements. If your student has questions regarding these requirements, there are several options: stop by the AAC, check with the program advisor or check the degree progress report. The degree progress report, which is a snapshot of what courses your student has fulfilled, will be in your student’s Student Center on my.pitt.edu.

- **Reconsider Part-Time/Reduced Loads**: Students may find it tempting to put off courses and say, “I’ll just try this class next semester.” This can come back to haunt them later on in their academic career. Taking a reduced load may cause students to fall short of the 120-credits needed to earn a bachelor’s degree at Pitt-Bradford, so be mindful of this when they are signing up for classes. It is recommended that students take 15 credits each semester. Let your student know that he or she should be as strategic as possible when organizing his or her schedule.

**Semester-End Reminders**

- **Check Final Grades**: The final grades for the semester will be available for viewing as early as May 6. Tell your student to check periodically because some grades will take longer to submit than others. If too much time passes, he or she may want to get in contact with his or her professor.

- **Sell/return textbooks**: Panther Shop book buy-backs are the same week as finals week so make sure that your student gets to the Panther Shop before it’s too late. Also, check the time that your student’s rent is due back. The dates vary based on when the book was rented, so you want to make sure you’re not accumulating late fees.

- **Register for Next Semester**: If your student hasn’t registered, let them know that they should contact their advisor to get registered for fall. They’ll also need to register in order to secure housing for the next semester.

- **Complete Housing Request**: If they haven’t done so, students will need to pay their housing deposit before they can reserve their space on campus. If your student is staying on campus, make sure that he or she has secured their housing for the following semester.

- **Relax!**: Summer 2016 is here. You and your student should congratulate yourselves on a job well done.