

COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS

Knowing who to contact for the right circumstance is an important step in getting the support you need. Below are some examples of common circumstances students have brought up recently, who to contact to address the concern, and examples on how to approach the campus resource.

Common Concerns

Financial Concerns

The current pandemic has resulted in students dealing with added financial constraints. This includes parents/family members losing jobs, financial responsibilities falling on students, or basic needs not being met.

Campus Partner

Financial Aid Office

If you find yourself in a situation where your finances are in jeopardy and affecting your academics, it may be helpful to set up a meeting with a Financial Aid Advisor. Below are some questions to consider when meeting with an advisor:

1. What additional financial aid am I eligible for?
2. Are there any type of appeals that I qualify for that may support my current financial situation?
3. Are there additional resources I am eligible for I haven't considered yet?

Academic Concerns

Academic concerns may come up for students in various ways. For some students the content of the course was not what they expected or does not align with their major requirements. Perhaps the course load may be more than they could handle and students may be considering dropping a course.

In addition, academic concerns may be related to a specific course; this may be unclear expectations of the course or trouble studying for specific assignments. Academic concerns may result due to personal circumstances out of your control (i.e. family obligations, health concerns, COVID 19).

Academic Advisor

Students who would like to discuss their major course requirements or considering dropping a course this semester should consider meeting with their academic advisor. Below are some questions to consider when meeting with an academic advisor:

1. Are there courses offered next semester that focused on my interests and meet my requirements?
2. What is the process of dropping a course this semester?
3. How often is it recommended I meet with an academic advisor?

Faculty/TA/Instructor

Students who may be struggling with their course requirements or need to discuss course accommodations may want to email or visit their faculty/TA/instructor's office hours. Below are some questions to consider when meeting with a faculty/TA/instructor:

1. How do they recommend studying for the course material?
2. What options are available if personal circumstances impede submitting assignments on time?
3. What are their research interests and career recommendations related to their field?

Loneliness / Lack of Community Concerns

Through remote instruction it has been difficult to connect outside of class and at times it may feel lonely. While our Bobcat community is strong, we are now challenged to create this community virtually.

Student Dens

Student Dens provide opportunities for UC Merced undergraduate students to develop friendships with fellow students, engage the resources of a world-class research university, and connect to the vibrant community of students, faculty and staff at the heart of the UC Merced experience. Below are some questions to consider when meeting with your Den Guide/Den Assistant:

1. What do they like most about working/attending UC Merced?
2. What advice would they give students who want to connect with other students?
3. What is their educational background? Why did they select their major?

RESOURCES:

- [FINANCIALAID.UCMERCED.EDU](https://financialaid.ucmerced.edu)
- [ADVISING.UCMERCED.EDU](https://advising.ucmerced.edu)

- [SUCCESS.UCMERCED.EDU](https://success.ucmerced.edu)
- [COUNSELING.UCMERCED.EDU](https://counseling.ucmerced.edu)
- [STUDENTAFFAIRS.UCMERCED.EDU/ DEAN-STUDENTS](https://studentaffairs.ucmerced.edu/dean-students)