Here are some topics you may want to discuss with your student before they begin school to reduce misunderstandings or conflict.

Money Matters:

⇒ Will your student have a checking account set up? If so, who will be responsible for balancing the account?
⇒ Whose name will the account be in?
⇒ What will happen to any refund money that the student/family may receive?
⇒ Who will supply spending money?
⇒ How much spending money is needed?
⇒ Will your student be getting a job at school?
⇒ Will your student have a credit card? If so, who will be responsible and what are the limitations?

Bills, Bills, Bills:

⇒ Who pays for tuition? How?
⇒ Who pays for room and board? How?
⇒ Who pays for school supplies? How?
⇒ Who pays other bills (phone, car, etc.)? How?
⇒ Can your student charge expenses to their student account?

No Place Like Home—Commuter Style:

⇒ What rules are they expected to live by when they are home (curfew, housework, use of car, etc.)?
⇒ Who pays for car maintenance or repair?
⇒ Will your student share their class schedule so you know when they will be coming and going?
⇒ Are friends allowed to come home?
⇒ What additional chores will your student have while living at home? Laundry? Housework?

No Place Like Home—Residence Hall Style:

⇒ How often will you plan to visit?
⇒ How often will your student come home?
⇒ Are friends allowed to come home?
⇒ Will you come for Family Weekend or other special events?
⇒ How much notice will be given before a visit?
⇒ What kind of rules will there be while home on a holiday break?

Let’s Talk:

⇒ Who calls whom?
⇒ Should we email/text each other?
⇒ Should we send letters or cards?
⇒ How often will we talk on the phone? Should we set a time?

There’s something I’ve got to tell you:

⇒ What do you want to know about their life?
⇒ What do you feel comfortable sharing?
⇒ What will they want to know about family events?
⇒ Do parents get to know about grades? Progress in classes? Dating relationships? Roommate issues? Homesickness?
⇒ What is shared about disciplinary troubles?

Don’t Overlook:

⇒ Will your student add your phone number/email address to the campus emergency alert system?
⇒ Will you be added as an additional user to view bills?
⇒ What kinds of things does your student still need to purchase for school? Who is responsible for this?
⇒ If you live in a blended family, what issues arise out of that? (Who pays for what? Where are breaks spent? Who makes decisions?)
⇒ What insurance coverage does your student have for medical, personal, renters, car, etc.?
As a family, fill in the table below as you discuss situations which may arise with your new student. Understanding both student and parent expectations is helpful to avoid misunderstandings or conflict.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>STUDENT EXPECTATION</th>
<th>PARENT EXPECTATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student decides to drop a class.</td>
<td>Tell my parent beforehand so it doesn’t disrupt any scholarship, loan or insurance coverage.</td>
<td>Be understanding, expects student to receive academic advising, and check with financial aid office before making a decision.</td>
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<td>A bill is due at the beginning of the month.</td>
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<td>Student gets a job.</td>
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<td>Student receives final grades for the semester.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student decides they want to switch roommates, or move out of Residential Hall.</td>
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<td>Student has a roommate conflict.</td>
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<td>Student plans to take a road trip.</td>
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<td>Parent wants to visit student for the weekend.</td>
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<td>Student charges additional expenses to student account</td>
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<td>Parent can’t reach student at specified time.</td>
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<td>Student has a medical emergency.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student has a psychological emergency.</td>
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