



OFFICE OF PARENT
AND FAMILY SERVICES



COWBELL CONNECTIONS

Hello Bulldogs!

How is it April already!?!? We hope your student is hanging in there and working hard to wrap things up. The last few weeks of each semester are typically filled with projects, exams, and paper deadlines. Studying for finals may get pushed back unintentionally.

Take time to ask your students about their final exam schedule and how they plan to prepare. It is important that they know when their final exams will be. The Spring 2023 final exam schedule is located on the [University's Registrar](#) website. Students should double check exam schedules and compare them to each class syllabus. Conflicts should be addressed early with professors.

Pre-advising is in full swing and all students planning to take classes during the summer or fall semesters should have made contact with their academic advisor to prepare for enrollment. If available, students can locate academic advisor information on their myState page.

Finally, if you and your family are planning to attend Commencement, please take a moment to view the details below. *(And Congratulations!)*

Cat Walker & Becky Faulk
Office of Parent & Family Services
662.325.3611 | family@msstate.edu

IMPORTANT DATES

April 1

Second progress grade reporting deadline
(*end of week 10*)

April 3 to April 14

Pre-registration period for
summer and fall semesters

April 7

Holiday
*Classes will not meet;
University offices closed*

April 10

Holiday
*Classes will not meet;
University offices open*

April 18

Last day to withdraw from the semester
(*ten days of classes remaining*)

April 21

Deadline (*last day*) to apply for
May 2023 graduation via myState with
\$50 fee plus \$100 late application fee

May 1

Last regularly scheduled class day

Deadline for graduate students
receiving incomplete grades in a previous
semester to submit the coursework

May 2

Additional class day for Monday only
classes and optional day for
Monday/Wednesday and
Monday/Wednesday/Friday classes

May 3

Reading Day (*No mandatory class
assignments, requirements, meetings*)

May 4

Final examinations
May 4, 5, 8, 9, 10

May 12

Commencement.
Details listed below.

Last day for May 2023 degree applicants
to pay account balance 3:00 p.m.

May 15

Final Grades Due 10:00 a.m.

May 16

Maymester classes begin
*Class meet 16, 17, 18, 19, 20,
22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30*

May 17

Last day to drop (without a grade)
or add a course (*2nd class day*)

Academic Calendar

FAMILY *Hub*

Over the next couple of months, the Office of Parent and Family Services will be working in partnership with CampusESP to implement the **Mississippi State Family Hub**. This partnership will enhance your Mississippi State Family experience and provide you with the ability to customize the information you receive based on your Mississippi State interests.

What do you need to do? Nothing! If you currently receive our Cowbell Connections e-newsletter, you will be automatically enrolled in the **Mississippi State Family Hub**.

Stay tuned, my friends... exciting times ahead!



Save THE DATE

October 27 - 29, 2023

family.msstate.edu

BULLDOG *Family* WEEKEND

We are excited to announce the dates of our Bulldog Family Weekend fall event. **Bulldog Family Weekend** will be held **October 27 - 29, 2023**. MSU football will take on the Auburn Tigers in Auburn, AL and we will host a tailgate and watch party here in Stark Vegas. We are working out the details, but we sure hope you will make plans to join us.

Registration will open in June.



COMMENCEMENT *Details*

The Spring 2023 main campus commencement ceremonies will be held on Friday, May 12, 2023 in **Davis Wade Stadium** on our Starkville Campus. Graduates must arrive no later than 30 minutes prior to their ceremony start time and should arrive dressed in their regalia to check-in. Graduates and faculty will enter in the NE Service Gate of the stadium off of Barr Avenue.

*Students planning to graduate in May have until **April 21** to apply for their degree.*

Spring 2023 Ceremony Divisions are as follows:

Friday, May 12 - 8:30 a.m.

Davis Wade Stadium
(Doors open 1.5-2 hours prior to the ceremony)
Academic Affairs
College of Architecture, Art & Design
College of Arts & Sciences
College of Education
ACCESS

Friday, May 12 - 6:30 p.m.

Davis Wade Stadium
(Doors open 1.5-2 hours prior to the ceremony)
Bagley College of Engineering
College of Agriculture & Life Sciences
College of Business
College of Forest Resources
College of Veterinary Medicine

Commencemnt Details

Livestreams of Ceremonies

If you wish to watch the Starkville Campus Commencement Ceremonies but are unable to attend, you can watch them live online! The following links may be used to access the livestream that will broadcast the live ceremonies:

[Mississippi State University Television LIVE](#)

[Mississippi State University Facebook page \(@msstate\)](#)

Details related to **commencement parking**, **guest accomodations**, and **service and assistance animals** can be found by visiting the [Office of the Registrar](#).



CELEBRATE *the little* VICTORIES

Do you remember the time when you would celebrate the smallest of victories with your child? From going down a slide by themselves to putting their shoes on the correct feet? Every small victory that was celebrated led to a bigger victory.

The same is true for your college student. While the joy of being a child, who is cared for and celebrated for everything seems to almost vanish in college — and adulthood, your support from home can make a world of a difference. Students easily get bogged down by

work, academic and personal responsibilities, and the stress from it all. Your student might be feeling a lot of pressure about whether or not they're heading in the right direction toward success. With finals week approaching at the end of this month, those stressors and pressures of succeeding can become quite overwhelming.

You can relieve some of that pressure and stress by validating what they're already doing right now: taking care of themselves, making new friends, learning to take care of a budget, managing their time, preparing for the next big or small assignment, etc. As we continue to finish out this spring semester, we would like to challenge you to encourage your student to think about their tasks as small achievements, not boring necessities for living or large unreachable tasks. Remind them of the small victories that got them to where they are to help them push through those difficult moments.

Letters or texts can go a long way, especially when your student lives out of state. When your student tells you about how they survived a tough week, send them a message letting them know you're proud of their strength and dedication. Keep reaching out, celebrating, and supporting your student as they grow into an independent adult...remember, small victories lead to bigger victories!

Inspired and derived from the Collegiate Parent article [Celebrating the Little Successes in College.](#)



TIPS & REMINDERS: *Preparing for Finals*

As students prepare for finals, remind them to...

- Prepare their study spot. Eliminate distractions. Encourage your student to make their study spot of choice a place that's comfortable and pleasant.
- Touch every subject every day! Daily study is better than saving it up for longer study sessions a couple of times a week. Break homework down into small steps that are well-defined and practice active studying.
- Make flashcards, quiz yourself, or make a graphic organizer/mind-map. Create mnemonic devices, such as acrostics, rhymes or acronyms, to help remember information and then quiz yourself.
- Get organized! Schedule out what subjects will be studied and in what order, when to study, and schedule out time for themselves; *i.e. eat, sleep, time outside, etc.*
- Keep a running to-do list. Pick out your top 3 priorities on your list each day - and do them!
- Take short breaks and take care of yourself. Brains can only process a limited amount of information and will benefit from some rest. Remind your students to eat healthy, exercise, drink water, and get plenty of sleep.



CHECKING OUT: *Housing & Residence Life*

On-campus residents need to plan to check out **no later than 24 hours after their last final exam** for the Spring 2023 term. In order to officially check-out, students will need to complete the checklist and checkout process that will be provided by their Resident Advisor. Once your student checks out, they will no longer have access to their residence hall/room.

Residence Halls will close **Friday, May 12 at 12:00 p.m.**

Note for students:

- Rooms must be left in clean and rentable condition upon check out.
- Refrigerators and microwaves must be defrosted, emptied and cleaned.
- All personal belongings must be removed from the room.
- Keys must be returned, and other checkout procedures completed prior to checking-out with a residence hall staff member.
- Failure to properly check-out with an RA or RD will result in the student being assessed a \$50 improper checkout penalty.
- Cleaning fees begin at \$25 and increase depending on the extent of the cleaning that is necessary.

All residents must properly clean the room and complete the list of action items. Failure to properly clean the room and complete the list of action items will result in penalties and cleaning charges. By failing to properly check out, a student is waiving their right to appeal charges, so please encourage your students to check out with a staff member before leaving campus.

Any damages to the room will be charged to the **MSU account of each resident** in the room. Repair requests must be submitted through a Fix-It Ticket prior to checking out.

Consider using area storage facilities during the summer. A suggested list of storage facilities can be found in the **Off-Campus Student Services Guidebook**.



Special ANNOUNCEMENTS

March Issue of our e-Newsletter

In our March e-Newsletter, we provided information on Study Abroad, which included sections that covered:

- Online Readiness with Online Education
- Benefits of Online Education

If you would like to view the March e-Newsletter, please visit [Get Connected](#).



2023 Super Bulldog Weekend Schedule

Bulldog fans have plenty to look forward to this Super Bulldog Weekend, April 14 - 16, during the spring homecoming tradition with softball, baseball and women's tennis all competing against Southeastern Conference opposition throughout the weekend. Additionally, football will host their annual Maroon and White Spring Game, while volleyball will host Ole Miss in a spring exhibition match at Newell-Grissom.

Friday, April 14

Women's Tennis vs. Georgia @ 4:00 p.m.
Softball vs. Alabama @ 6:00 p.m.
Ron Polk Statue Unveil pregame @ Dudy Noble
Baseball vs. Ole Miss @ 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 15

Football - Maroon & White Spring Game @ 12:00 p.m.
Passing of the Harness - Davis Wade Stadium
Volleyball vs. Ole Miss @ 12:00 p.m.
Baseball vs. Ole Miss @ 1:30 p.m.

Tickets for the baseball series against Ole Miss are available now for \$20. For more information on Mississippi State Athletics, follow on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram by searching for "HailState."

BRETT ELDREDGE @ THE DUDE

SATURDAY, APRIL 15 | POSTGAME | DUDY NOBLE FIELD



Upcoming Events

International Fiesta

Saturday, April 1 | 11:00 a.m.

MSU Drill Field

The annual International Fiesta is a day of cultural exchange and entertainment. This year's program will be held on Saturday, April 1st between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Student organizations, campus departments, and other groups on campus and in Starkville will have booths to showcase their cultures through displays and homemade dishes. On the main stage, there will be various performances through dancing, playing instruments, singing, and traditional clothes. Inflatables and unique cultural activities will be available for children.

Foundation Ambassador Donor Appreciation Day

Tuesday, April 4 | 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Drill Field

Foundation Ambassadors will be hosting a letter writing day on the Drill Field where students can write a letter to a donor and get a sweet treat in return.

SERVE. ENGAGE. LEAD.

Tap into your power when you may feel powerless - gain self-awareness, foster connections, and center justice in your communities and on campus.

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY
MAROON VOLUNTEER CENTER

✔ Tolerance vs Advocacy
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH

✔ Disruptive Leadership
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH

Revolutionary Change
TUESDAY, APRIL 4TH

**All sessions will be from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm in the Moseley Hall 4th-floor classroom.



If you require special assistance relating to a disability, please contact Alexis Hampton at alexis@saffairs.msstate.edu. Mississippi State University is an equal opportunity institution.

Lyceum Series: Boston Brass

Tuesday, April 4 | 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Bettersworth Auditorium

For 31 years, Boston Brass has set out to establish a one-of-a-kind musical experience. Performing exciting classical arrangements to burning jazz standards, Boston Brass treats audiences to a unique brand of entertainment captivating all ages. The ensemble's lively repartee, touched with humor and personality, attempts to bridge the ocean of classical formality to delight audiences in an evening of great music and boisterous fun. The philosophy of Boston Brass is to provide audiences with a wide selection of musical styles in unique arrangements, provided in a friendly and fun atmosphere.

Red Sand Project

Thursday, April 20 | 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Drill Field

The Red Sand Project will encourage students to fill in the cracks on the concrete sidewalks with red sand to signify that we won't let human trafficking victims fall through the cracks.

UNITY MONTH EVENTS

April 5 - April 30

Finding Common Ground

CREATING SYSTEMS OF SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS April 5 📅 April 5 🕒 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. 📍 Union 324 <small>Hosted by: Office of Institutional Diversity & Inclusion</small>	UNITY MONTH ART GALLERY: "FINDING COMMON GROUND" April 18 - 30 📅 April 18 - 30 🕒 All Day 📍 Union Art Gallery <small>Hosted by: Access, Diversity and Inclusion & Center for Student Activities</small>	STATE OF BLACK MEN SYMPOSIUM April 21 📅 April 21 🕒 All Day 📍 Colvard Student Union <small>Hosted by: Man of Excellence Program</small>	EARTH DAY SERVICE April 22 📅 April 22 🕒 9 - 11 a.m. 📍 Thompson Hall <small>Hosted by: College of Forest Resources Dean's Council</small>	UNITY MONTH MIXER April 24 📅 April 24 🕒 4 p.m. 📍 YMCA Plaza <small>Hosted by: Access, Diversity and Inclusion; College of Forest Resources; Health Promotion & Wellness</small>
DE-STRESS + GREEN EVENT April 17 📅 April 17 🕒 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. 📍 Drill Field <small>Hosted by: College of Forest Resources Dean's Council & Health Promotion & Wellness</small>	OLD MAIN MUSIC FESTIVAL April 20 📅 April 20 🕒 All Day 📍 MSU Amphitheater <small>Hosted by: Center for Student Activities</small>	ARCADE NIGHT (DAWGS AFTER DARK) April 21 📅 April 21 🕒 8 - 11 p.m. 📍 Aux Gym, Sanderson Center <small>Hosted by: Center for Student Activities</small>	BLACK VOICES GOSPEL FEST April 22 📅 April 22 🕒 4 p.m. 📍 MSU Amphitheater <small>Hosted by: Black Voices Gospel Choir</small>	 MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY <small>DIVISION OF ACCESS, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION</small>

Prom on the Plaza

Friday, April 21 | 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
YMCA Plaza

The student organization, F.L.A.R.E, will be hosting a Royal Spring Garden prom night for students of Mississippi State to participate in.

African Night

Friday, April 28 | 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Old Main Room 1030

The African Students Association invites students to celebrate African culture through African cuisine, a fashion show, dance performance, and more.

More details about each event can be found by visiting [Cowbell Connect](#).

Student Counseling Services - Group Services

scsgroups@saffairs.msstate.edu
662.325.2091

What is Group Therapy? is a free service provided by the Student Counseling Services (SCS). It is a form of psychotherapy in which individuals share and grow amongst others with similar concerns. For many presenting concerns, research has shown that group therapy can be as effective as individual therapy. Group therapy also offers a key component that is not available in individual therapy, social support. Group therapy can help reduce stigma, isolation, and feelings of alienation.

Each group has a different meeting schedule, but typically groups meet once weekly for between 6 and 14 weeks. This schedule will be shared with you by the group facilitator at the time of or after group screening. All groups will meet virtual during the spring 2022 semester due to COVID 19.

What types of groups are offered? SCS has a different menu of groups each semester, and we are open to creating new groups to meet student need and interest. Groups offered this semester are listed below:

- **Dealing with Distress** - Manage chronic negative emotions and/or behaviors through distress tolerance, emotion regulation, and mindfulness skills.
- **Journey to Wholeness** - This is a skills-based group that will help survivors of sexual assault or abuse cope with symptoms of trauma, feel empowered in their relationships and receive support from fellow survivors.

- **ACT UP** - A group for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans*, questioning, or other students coping with coming out, adjusting to campus, relationships, or other concerns.
- **RISE - Respect, Inspire, Support, and Empower.** This group will assist survivors of emotional, physical, and/ or verbal abuse to cope with their experiences by learning coping skills and connect with a community of other survivors.
- **Tabletop Talks** - Travel to strange places. Meet interesting people. Fight unspeakable horrors together. Members of this group will engage in weekly installments of the tabletop role play game “Monster of the Week”, followed by a process discussion regarding their interactions in the game setting.
- **EMERGE - Experiencing, Making sense, Equipping, and Reinvesting** after your Grief Exposure. This group will provide a place to explore, along with others, your grief experience as you work toward acceptance, healing, and wholeness after the loss of a significant person in your life.

Is group therapy confidential?

Group facilitators guarantee their own confidentiality, with an exception if the facilitator has sufficient reason to believe that someone is in danger. In this case, the facilitator has a professional obligation to take direct action in order to keep everyone safe. Each group has its own rules and guidelines, but all groups have the rules that group members will keep what is shared in the group by other group members and the identities of other group members confidential.

To speak to a clinician about your interest in group therapy, please visit our website counseling.msstate.edu and click on Mississippi State Virtual Waiting Room, Monday through Friday, 9:00 am - 4 pm. Group screening with the group facilitator(s) is required before group involvement can begin, to ensure that the group is a good fit for your concerns.

Scholarship Reminders

Students with scholarships are encouraged to review the guidelines of their scholarships to maintain their awards by logging into their MSU Scholarship Portal.

The scholarship applications for the 2022-2023 Academic Year opened on October 1, 2021. Current students may apply for competitive, private, and departmental scholarships by completing the General Scholarship Application. The departmental scholarship application and other applications can be found under their Recommended Opportunities. The priority date for submitting these applications is **March 1, 2023**.

Money Matter\$

Past due holds and late fees will be assessed on the October 15th statement. Holds prevent pre-registration for the upcoming semester. Remember, classes fill up fast! In order to be eligible for pre-registration, students must be enrolled in an active payment plan or have a current account balance of zero.

As of October 1, the 2023-24 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is available to complete. Students can complete the **FAFSA** online. The FAFSA will ask for income data from the 2021 tax year. Some federal aid has limited funding. Therefore, to receive maximum consideration for all aid types we encourage your student to complete the FAFSA today.



Join the **FAMILY CLUB**

The Family Club was started in 2008 to help parents stay informed about Mississippi State University. By joining, you will receive email notifications of important dates, be informed of the latest campus news, and stay connected to campus life and resources for your student. We believe that the Mississippi State family extends beyond our campus borders to include students, parents/guardians, grandparents, siblings, alumni, staff, and faculty.

The Family Club enables you to be an integral part of the Mississippi State family! The Family Club membership is open to parents and family members of current, former, and future Mississippi State University students. Benefits of joining include:

- Mississippi State Family Club Padfolio
- Family Programming Support

Join
Today



MAROON FAMILY *Alliance*

Would you like to make an impact on your student's Mississippi State experience and represent Bulldog Families just like you?

We would like to personally invite you to become an **inaugural member** of our Maroon Family Alliance. The Maroon Family Alliance will financially support programs and events

that enhance your student's experience and our campus community as a whole.

The Maroon Family Alliance will meet on a Friday afternoon in both the fall and spring semesters. During these meetings, members will tour some of Mississippi State's top facilities, learn about innovative programs, hear from dynamic faculty and administrators. Most importantly, members will decide as a group how Maroon Family Alliance funds will be used to strengthen Mississippi State University and its Division of Student Affairs. It is a special way for parents and families to become connected with key University members and other Bulldog families.

You can be a part of the Maroon Family Alliance by following the **“JOIN NOW”** link below to make your annual contribution of \$2,500. You may also call Jana Berkery, Director of Development, at 662.325.9129 to make your contribution by phone. Visit [MFA.msstate.edu](https://family.msstate.edu) for more information and we look forward to working with the new Mississippi State Maroon Family Alliance!

Join Now

Visit us on social media and at family.msstate.edu.
Make sure you mention **#MSStateFamily** when you make a post.



Office of Parent and Family Services | 662.325.3611 | family@msstate.edu

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