



OFFICE OF PARENT
AND FAMILY SERVICES



COWBELL CONNECTIONS

Hello Bulldogs!

It's difficult to believe that finals week has arrived so quickly. Time has surely flown by! We appreciate your support throughout the year. It's a privilege to serve as a resource for our Bulldog Families and students and our partnership with each of you is greatly valued. Although the campus may be quieter soon, we will remain here. Our office, along with our campus partners, will be busy during the summer welcoming parents and families of incoming students during orientation. If you know a family who is sending a new student to Mississippi State, please encourage them to connect with us. We always look forward to meeting new Bulldog Families.

In the upcoming days, you can anticipate receiving an email invitation from us to participate in an end-of-year survey. This survey is critical to use in the planning for the upcoming academic year and ensures that we are meeting the needs of our Mississippi State families and students. Please keep an eye out for this survey link via email.

While we usually do not send e-newsletters during the summer months, we'll still be available in the office, so please do not hesitate to call or email us if you need anything at all.

Have a great summer!

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

IMPORTANT DATES

May 12

Commencement
Details listed below

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

Commencement Details and Weather Updates

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*)

Last day to request undergraduate academic forgiveness

Academic Calendar

FAMILY *Hub*

The Office of Parent and Family Services is 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 are scheduled to 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.

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

Commencement Details and Weather Updates

Commencement Weather Updates and Contingencies

Weather expectations for Friday, May 12, 2023, at Mississippi State University include a low chance of rain in the morning with the heat index ranging between 75°-85°F. The evening forecast includes a 30% chance of rain with the heat index ranging from 85°-95°F. **Current plans are to proceed as normal.**

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 accommodations**, and **service and assistance animals** can be found by visiting the [Office of the Registrar](#).



WRAPPING *up the* YEAR

The past year has been filled with events and excitement! As each academic year brings new opportunities for personal and academic growth, it is important for students to take the time to reflect on their experiences, identify areas for improvement, set goals, and plan how to achieve them.

Final grades for this semester are due on May 15 and will be available for viewing in the parent portal within 24 to 48 hours. If you are unable to access the parent portal or have not done so recently, please contact your student for access or for a password reset. We hope final grades bring pride to both you and your student. In the event of a less-than-satisfactory academic performance, we suggest some tips to help you navigate the next steps.

1. *Assess the academic outcome.* Congratulate your student on their achievements, but also discuss the areas where they may have struggled. It's important to understand what may have contributed to a lower grade in a particular course(s). Was your student overwhelmed with too many courses? Was one course more difficult than others? How was their attendance in each class? It's important to evaluate how their academic outcome will impact their future semesters by understanding what happen.
2. *Discuss the GPA.* It may be helpful to remind your student why their GPA is important, especially if they receive academic funding through scholarships, financial aid, or are considering attending graduate school. Before you suggest retaking a class, allow your student to evaluate what happened and why they struggled.
3. *Refrain from comparing.* Each student undergoes a unique learning journey during their academic experience, and comparing their academic achievements to their high school record or the accomplishments of siblings may do more harm than good. Instead, remain aware of the negative effects that comparing can have and concentrate on the student's strengths that have been demonstrated throughout their academic journey.
4. *Reach out.* Mississippi State University is always available for support and guidance. Encourage your student to reach out to their academic advisor or college's front office to discuss their academic performance and plan for the future.



SUMMER *Advantage*

Mississippi State is more committed than ever to providing options to help your students stay on track with their academic goals. By enrolling in **MSU Summer Advantage**, your student can catch up on credits, get a head start on their next semester, or enroll in a course or two for professional advancement.

Students can choose from a variety of subjects and four convenient sessions with plenty of opportunities to explore new interests, engage with faculty and students in smaller classes, catch up on major or minor requirements, or forge ahead with a new emphasis. Courses are available in-person and online, there's no obstacle for students to advance their academic and professional interests.

Students who register for Mississippi State's summer classes may be able to utilize financial aid assistance to help cover their educational cost should they elect to do so.

2023 Summer Sessions and Schedule

Maymester: May 16 – June 1

Summer Ten Week Term: June 2 – August 4

Summer First Term: June 2 – June 30

Summer Second Term: July 6 – August 4

Students who register for MSU's summer classes may qualify for financial aid assistance to help cover their educational costs.

Keep in mind that summer is the end of the financial aid year; individual aid eligibility is based on each student's remaining annual limits for federal grants and loans. Students needing financial aid assistance for the summer term should complete the 2022/2023 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and enroll in at least six credit hours. The Financial Aid Office will then identify each of these students, do an analysis of the student's aid package, and make an award to the student.

For additional assistance, students can connect with the Financial Aid Office by calling **662.325.2450** or emailing at financialaid@msstate.edu.



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 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**.



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 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.



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