



## OFFICE OF PARENT AND FAMILY SERVICES

If you know someone who would like to receive our Cowbell Connections communication, please send them the below link to subscribe.

[Cowbell Connections Sign-up](#)

If your student is graduating or not returning, you can unsubscribe by clicking the link [located at the bottom of this email](#).



## STUDENT SUPPORT LINE + VIRTUAL COUNSELING

Attending college is an exciting life experience for our children, but it can also be a time of stress, change and adjustment. Mississippi State University has partnered with My Student Support Program (MySSP) to help our students be successful. MySSP provides free, confidential mental health and wellbeing support to Mississippi State students. There are many resources to explore including 24/7 free mental health support by phone or text through the app.

Students can receive help anytime with:

- adapting to changes or challenges
- being successful at school
- navigating relationships with friends and family
- handling feelings or sadness, loneliness, homesickness, or more
- or to just to talk to someone.

Make sure your student downloads the app today! Students can search "MY SSP" in the app store to download the My SSP App and get connected.



# COWBELL CONNECTIONS



## Hello Bulldogs,

How in the world is it already October? Family Weekend is right around the corner and we sure hope you will be able to join us and spend some time with your Bulldog while meeting other families. *Friendly reminder, registration will close on October 7.* If you are not able to join us, please plan to visit soon. Fall is such a beautiful time of the year at Mississippi State. If you can't visit, you can always check out campus on the [Junction WebCam](#) and arrange a time for your student to stop by and wave to you.

It is progress grade time! If you have access to the Parent Portal, log in to see if your student has any grades posted. Please remember, some professors may not post progress grades. However, your students should know exactly where they stand academically in each class by viewing their student Canvas page. Be sure to ask them if you see a missing grade.

Faculty advising for pre-registration for the Spring semester will begin October 24; some departments will begin advising earlier. Please remind your students to check their Mississippi State emails regularly for instructions from their academic advisor. We also wanted to share a few suggestions to help make this academic advising process is easier for them. Please pass these tips on.

- Make sure your students have the current curriculum program for their desired major. Most curriculum programs can be found by visiting [msstate.edu](http://msstate.edu) and searching in the top right-hand search bar, *i.e.*, *Electrical Engineering curriculum*, or by running a CAPP report.
- Students need to develop a pre-planned spring schedule with multiple back-up options in case a specific course is not available.
- Students need to check their **myBanner For Students** page to be sure there are no unpaid balances or holds that may restrict their ability to register.

Freshman and Transfer students were admitted and allowed to register contingent upon receipt of their final high school or college transcript.

Freshman and Transfer students who have not submitted their final transcript to the Office of Admissions and Scholarships by October 24, will have their record placed on hold, and they will not **(Faxed or emailed transcripts cannot be accepted.)**

Fall Break is October 13 and 14 and while our office will still be open, this is a great time for students to rest, recharge, and review their academic progress performance as they prepare for the last stretch of the semester.

As a family member of a Mississippi State student, we know you want to be helpful. Our goal is to provide you with guidance and the resources available so you can share them with your student. Knowledge is power! If you know a resource exists, your student should, too. Partnering together can help ease your student's stress level and give them tools for success. When you need someone to talk to or guidance on what to do, please reach out to us.

We are ***always*** here to lend an ear and point you in the right direction.

Cat Walker and Becky Faulk  
662.325.3611  
[family@msstate.edu](mailto:family@msstate.edu)

# IMPORTANT DATES

## **October 6**

Last day to drop a course with a W grade  
(36th class day) 5:00 p.m.

## **October 13 and 14**

Fall Break – no classes scheduled  
(subject to change)

## **October 21**

Last day to apply for December 2022  
degree via myState - \$50 fee

Second progress grade reporting deadline  
(end of week 10)

## **October 22 to November 28**

Late December 2022 degree application via  
myState - \$50 fee plus \$100 late fee

## **October 24 to November 4**

Faculty advising for pre-registration (Some  
departments begin advising earlier)

## **November 7 to November 18**

Pre-registration period for spring semester

## **November 14**

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

Academic Calendar



*Register* **NOW**

*Registration will close October 7.*

Join us for **Bulldog Family Weekend!**

Bulldog Family Weekend will be held **October 21-23, 2022**. Mississippi State football will take on the Alabama Crimson Tide in Tuscaloosa, 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. It will also be an opportunity to highlight some (other) wonderful things on and off campus.

Our feelings won't be hurt if you would rather come another time to visit with your student and enjoy the area or see a home football game. As we have said in the past, EVERY weekend is a great weekend to be on campus. Come whenever it works best for you and your family.

If you're interested in making plans to join us, we would like to encourage you to make your hotel reservations now while rooms are available.



## *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



## **PROVIDING GUIDANCE** *from Home*

It's a real balancing act... learning when to intervene and when to sit back and let your college student problem-solve on their own. As the mid-point of the semester rolls around and more tests approach, you may start to hear less and less from your student, or they may sound a bit more

stressed than usual when you do hear from them. This can be concerning to you, especially if your student hasn't typically been one to stress much over academics or fitting in.

College should be viewed as a student's full-time job but shouldn't take away from their overall experience, such as engaging with peers, getting involved with student activities, and taking time for self-care. Passing a class takes hard work. Your "all A's" student may not be making all A's just yet and that should be okay. Each academic semester brings a learning curve for any student as they navigate new course materials, familiarize themselves with a professor's teaching style and tests, and interact with their peers.

#### **Allow your student time to reach out.**

- Studying and preparing for classes is exhausting. Students forget (more often than you'd think) about the missed text or call from home while sitting in class or walking to/from class. Your student may be too busy to answer.
- If it's been 24 hours and you haven't heard back from your student, check the Parent Portal for absences. If there are no recent absences, your student could easily be swept up in a busy schedule (or being involved with campus activities.)
- Consider emailing your student since that's one tool they should be checking daily!

#### **Send a personalized care package from home.**

- Packages can include anything from a photo of the family pet wishing your student good luck to a favorite t-shirt from home.
- Students love anything homemade. Consider baking cookies and popping them in the mail.

#### **How can you help your student academically from home?**

Remind your student about the following resources that are on campus:

- [The Writing Center](#)
- [The Center for Academic Excellence](#)
- [Student Counseling Center](#)
- [The Career Center](#)
- [Academic Advising Center](#)

Remember, campus has tons of resources that are available to students, and we hope you will help guide your student to access those resources. Always feel free to reach out to us, too.



## **SHOWING *Your* SUPPORT**

#### **Have a conversation with your student about organization skills and test preparation.**

Time management is key to completing tasks. Encourage your student to create a calendar with time schedules. When asked to do this, students quickly realize they are not taking advantage of free blocks on time, i.e., time between classes, free afternoons, etc. A good visual of available time goes a long way.

#### **Stop thinking of yourself as the Mr./Mrs. Fix-It.**

Listen to your student. Encourage your student to utilize campus resources, to reach out to an RA,

director, friend, or visit with a member of the Office of Parent and Family Services. Students should not be afraid to ask for help. They will develop valuable tools for their toolbox as they navigate different situations.

**Ask your student where their ideal study location is on campus and why.**

Students find little nooks all over campus to study. Whether it is the third floor of McCool Hall, outside under a shade tree, or on the porch of the YMCA Building, students are getting out and studying in places that you may not consider the 'ideal' study spot. Get to know your student a little more by asking where they find peace in studying and if they don't have an 'ideal' study spot, encourage them to find one.

**Trust that your student can make good decisions.**

Be sympathetic but careful not to provide too many suggestions on how to "fix" a problem. Convey confidence in your student's own ability to navigate this new environment.

**Encourage your student (and yourself) to be okay with something less than they are used to.**

A grade of less than a B is not the end of the world. Truly. Lower grades than expected are a great opportunity to re-access priorities and study habits. Each student will have a different experience and will need an individual plan.



## ALLOWING TIME *for Involvement*

We're now over a month into the semester and you've probably heard from your student and learned if they have or have not gotten involved with student activities and/or student organizations.

Class attendance, homework assignments, and tests preparations are a priority for students (at least we hope), but it's important for students to get out and about. As those first big grades are published and students continue to see their peers get involved, they may feel overwhelmed and wonder "are these *really supposed to be the best years of my life?*"

Students need to be reminded that it's important to get involved, try something new, or dive into old interests. Taking time away from studies is important for the mind, body, and spirit. Not only does getting involved help rejuvenate a student, but it can also open up a world of new opportunities. Students may meet new people, discover new talents, enhance learning skills, establish connections with the university, and provide lasting memories for years to come... just to name a few.



# FROM A BULLDOG

Getting involved at Mississippi State University has allowed me to find my strengths and form numerous relationships on campus and throughout the Starkville community. I came to Mississippi State as a freshman in fall 2020, a time when involvement was extremely limited to all MSU students due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result of missing out on all of the freshman year excitement, I found it difficult at times to find things that fit my interests. It was sophomore year before I felt like I was getting more plugged in, and after experiencing a little taste of involvement, my love for MSU ignited, and I have not looked back.

Since then, I have had the opportunity to join several committees and club organizations, volunteer at Mississippi State and in the Starkville community, and study abroad. My advice to students encountering all the transitions of coming to college is to not be afraid to reach out and ask questions on the opportunities that you find interesting. College is a very small part of our personal development in life, so looking for those opportunities that suit your lifestyle and allow you to enjoy college is so important.

Mississippi State University's most popular motto is "family." When you find yourself involved, you will be able to fully grasp what that word means.

*Hannah H. | Junior - Food Sc Nutr. Health Promotion*

MSU provides hundreds of ways to be involved on campus. When searching for organizations, I looked for community involvement, leadership and career development, and a place where I could make lifelong friends. I found those opportunities in organizations like IDEAL Woman and SPARK. MSU even allowed me to form a new community. I cofounded an organization called MAPS (Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students).

Student involvement is essential because the organizations connect with and educate students. There are many that students can select from or a student can opt to create a student organization that best fits their involvement need. Therefore, no one should feel left out. Personally, my student involvements are what makes Mississippi State my home away from home.

*Tomyah S. | Senior - Biochemistry*

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## A BANNER YEAR TO BE A *Bulldog*

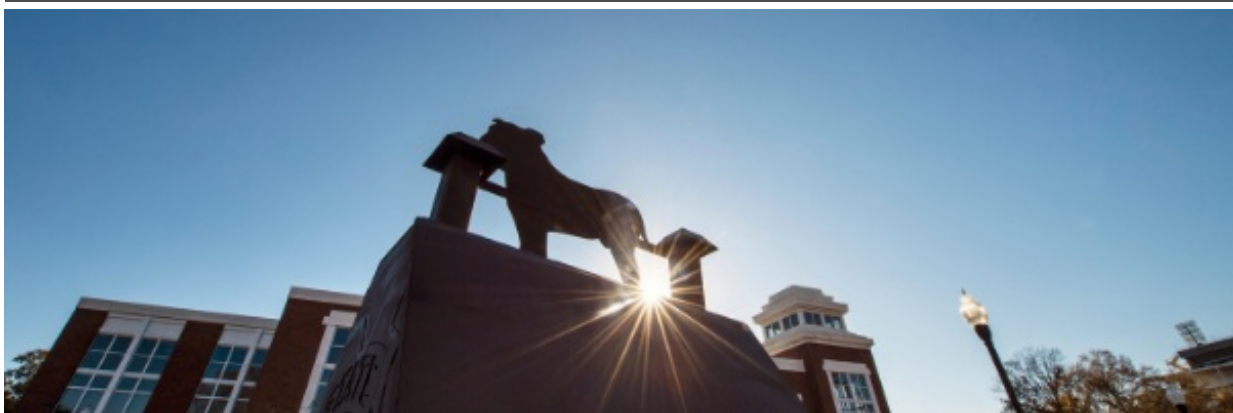
Mississippi State University's 2022 fiscal year, which ended on June 30, marked a new milestone in fundraising success. Support from alumni, faculty, staff and friends enabled the university to raise a record \$125.3 million in cash and gift commitments, securing the ninth consecutive year of private gifts totaling \$100 million.

Alumni participation again reached over 19 percent (19.7%), enabling MSU to maintain its ranking ahead of several major peer institutions in the measure of support among former students. Additionally, nearly 7,000 individuals contributed to MSU for their first time and more than \$5.3 million of the total funds raised were accounted from gifts of \$1,000 or below.

The Bulldog family prioritized their support for MSU more than ever this past year, providing incredible momentum to drive ongoing success. In addition to private giving, MSU's commitment to excellence has enabled significant achievements in a number of areas in FY22.

Click the button below to view the many accomplishments realized during FY22.

A Banner Year



## *Special* ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Previous Issue of our e-Newsletter**

In our September e-Newsletter, we provided information on various topics that included:

- Mental Health and Wellness
- Student Counseling Services
- Campus Safety

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

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### **Conversation Starters**

Take time this month to ask your students the following questions:

1. When will you see your advisor to discuss your upcoming spring semester?
2. What classes do you need to take next semester?
3. What academic struggles are you having and is there anything we can do to help?



### **Connecting Students through Purposeful Engagement**

Through the efforts of the Dean of Students Office and collaboration with upperclassmen, a new student organization designed to encourage, promote, and assist with student involvement has been created, Bulldog Buddies! The primary purpose of this organization is to provide students with a fun, interactive networking opportunity and to plug into additional sources of involvement.

**Bulldog Buddies will meet EVERY Friday at 2PM on the YMCA Plaza.**

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### **Upcoming Events**



#### **Oktoberfest**

Tuesday, October 4 | 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Marketplace at Perry

#### **Serve. Engage. Lead**

Thursday, October 6 | 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Colvard Student Union

#### **The Silhouettes**

Tuesday, October 11 | 7:00 p.m.  
Bettersworth Auditorium

#### **SA Puppies & Pumpkins**

Wednesday, October 12 | 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Drill Field

#### **MSU Terror Stories**

Tuesday, October 18 | 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
Dawg House



### **Bulldog Bash**

*Friday, October 21 | All Day Event  
Downtown Starkville*

### **Trick-or-Treat on the Row**

*Thursday, October 27 | 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
Fraternity and Sorority Row*

### **Costume Carnival**

*Thursday, October 27 | 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
The Junction*

### **Dawgs After Dark: Murder Mystery Dinner**

*Friday, October 28 | 8:00 p.m.  
Foster Ballroom*

### **Boo-a-thon**

*Sunday, October 30 | 12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Chadwick Lake*

## **WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT EVENTS HAPPENING ON CAMPUS?**

Check out cowbell connect via the link below to find all campus connected events.

**MSSTATE.CAMPUSLABS.COM/ENGAGE/**

**Cowbell  
Connect**

### **Alumni Delegate Tuition Drawing:**

The Mississippi State University Alumni Delegates will hold its 18th Tuition Drawing in November! Any student returning for the spring 2023 semester are eligible to enter. The winner of the drawing will receive **one in-state semester** at Mississippi State paid in full.

Tickets can be purchased online through the [Alumni Association](#) by November 3. Cost of tickets start at \$5. The winning ticket will be drawn on November 10, 2022, and the winner will be announced on the Mississippi State Alumni Association's social media accounts (@msstatealumni) following Prize Patrol the week of November 14.

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### **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.

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### Scholarships

Do you have a student interested in being considered for scholarship resources for the upcoming academic year? The scholarship applications for the 2023-2024 Academic Year will open on October 1. Current students may apply for competitive, private, and departmental scholarships by completing the General Scholarship Application. The priority date for submitting these applications is March 1, 2023.

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**BARNES & NOBLE**  
AT MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY®

**GRADUATION FAIR**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20  
& FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21**

**8:00 A.M.—5:00 P.M.**  
**SECOND FLOOR OF THE  
BOOKSTORE**

It's your chance to purchase regalia before Commencement. Enter to win a free diploma frame, set of graduation regalia, or waive graduation fees.

Can't attend? Online ordering will be available after the Grad Fair at [gradsupply.com/msu](https://gradsupply.com/msu)

The image block contains a large poster on the left with the Barnes & Noble logo and event details. To the right of the poster is a vertical green leaf graphic. Further right are four smaller images: the top one shows the Barnes & Noble bookstore entrance; the middle one shows a bulldog statue in a graduation cap; the bottom-left one shows three graduates celebrating with confetti; and the bottom-right one shows a single graduate in a cap and gown.

### Graduation Details

**APPLY NOW!** Students planning to graduate in Fall 2022 **must apply by October 21** to avoid late fees.

Students planning to graduate will need to complete the following:

- Confirm with advisor that all degree requirements have been met. CAPP degree audit system is a guide for this, but we recommend consulting advisors to be sure.
- Log in to myState (Banner) and select “Apply for a degree.”
- Complete ALL steps of the application and select SUBMIT.
- Students will receive a confirmation number signifying the application was successfully submitted.

### Other graduation notes:

- Students must have their account balance paid in full in order to graduate. This includes everything from tuition to parking and library fines.
- Students with an unpaid balance will not receive a diploma.
- Students who plan to walk in the December commencement ceremony must order caps and gowns through Barnes & Noble bookstore.
- Students who have taken courses away from MSU at any time (summer courses at home, etc.) need to have all transfer transcripts sent to MSU. If a transcript containing a required course has not been received, a student may not be eligible to graduate.

Click the button below to view the December 2022 commencement details, along with dates and times.

Commencement Details

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# 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 a 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://mfa.msstate.edu) for more information and we look forward to working with the new Mississippi State Maroon Family Alliance!

Join Now

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Visit us on social media and at [family.msstate.edu](https://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](mailto:family@msstate.edu)

MSU Office of Parent and Family Services | 195 Lee Boulevard, Mississippi State, MS 39762

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