Welcome Back to MSU!

Every year the Department of Student Life publishes the Success @ State newsletter series for MSU students and their families (also available on our website at studentlife.msu.edu). These newsletters are designed to assist you as you transition back to life as a Spartan. This edition of Success @ State is designed specifically for students (and their families) in their second year at Michigan State. You undoubtedly learned a great deal during your first year, but there will be some new challenges this coming year. Welcome back...we are glad you have chosen to continue as a Spartan!

Spartan Money Smarts

Tuition, books, recreation, food…it all costs money. There is no single answer to questions about money and how much it costs to be a student at MSU, but there are some general guidelines that may help you in making financial decisions.

1. Make a list of anticipated expenses. From this list, families should decide which are covered by the student, which by the parent/guardian, etc. There is no one right answer to who should pay for which part of college, but knowing ahead of time may alleviate a lot of tension later.

2. Credit Cards. Students will receive countless offers to get a credit card. Some students find credit cards a safe and convenient means of payment. Others, however, (if not careful) find themselves owing significant money to the credit card companies. As such, students and parents are encouraged to discuss credit card use prior to arrival on campus. In cases where a student obtains credit cards for “emergencies”, everyone should agree what constitutes an emergency.

3. Working while enrolled in school. The decision to work depends on a variety of factors such as class load, job demands, financial needs, and the individual student. Students who are good at time management and take no more than 15 credit hours per semester may be able to work between ten to twenty hours per week. In fact, research indicates that working less than twenty hours per week in an on-campus job helps students become better acquainted with the institution and complements their academic learning. Students are encouraged to make school their top priority. However, with proper time management, students can enjoy sufficient time to prepare for their classes, socialize, participate in extracurricular activities, and work.

To learn more about part-time student jobs, contact Career Services, 113 Student Services, (517) 353-9510, or visit their website at CareerNetwork.msu.edu.

Hey You...Get Involved!

Congratulations, you have successfully made it through your first year of college. Have you joined a Registered Student Organization yet? Have you become a part of ASMSU (your undergraduate student government)? Have you joined a chapter in MSU’s Greek community? If you have answered “no” to these questions, the only remaining question is WHY NOT? Involvement in student groups can provide you with great opportunities to meet new friends, assume leadership positions, and apply what you are learning in classes to real-life issues.

If you are interested in getting involved, but not sure how to go about it, check out the list of Registered Student Organizations that is available on the Department of Student Life’s website at studentlife.msu.edu. The list has contact information for most of the over 660 organizations. Would you rather meet with some of the organizations’ membership in-person? Then plan to attend Fall Welcome Spartan Spectacular from 4-10pm at Cherry Lane Field on Tuesday, September 1 to be a part of Sparticipation ‘15. For more information visit fallwelcome.msu.edu.

MSU Sustainability – Be Spartan Green

At Michigan State University, green is more than a color. It’s an attitude of personal responsibility and hard work that is shared by students, faculty, and staff who, through both small steps and big collective actions, show how daily intentional actions can make a big impact – and a better world.

Today, MSU is one of the world’s top research universities and one of the nation’s top sustainable campuses. And every day—through teaching, research, outreach, and campus innovation—Spartans are working to improve the quality of life at MSU and in communities around the globe.

Our actions are powered by more than a century-and-a-half commitment to empowering ordinary people to do extraordinary things. Working together we can move mountains—or preserve them for future generations.

There are plenty of opportunities for students to get involved in sustainability at MSU; visit www.bespartangreen.msu.edu to see how you can Be Spartan Green!

Don’t miss Fall Welcome Spartan Spectacular!

Tuesday, September 1, 2015
4-10pm, Cherry Lane Field
For more information visit fallwelcome.msu.edu
Learning Outside The Classroom

Being a student is not just about taking classes and fulfilling degree requirements. It’s about becoming involved in your whole undergraduate experience. There are many ways for you to enhance your employability, develop marketable skills, and prepare for a career by learning outside of the classroom. Be sure to take advantage of these opportunities!

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS: Try joining one of the hundreds of student organizations on campus. It’s a great way to meet people, develop special interests and gain leadership skills. A complete list of student organizations on campus is available from the Department of Student Life at studentlife.msu.edu.

STUDY ABROAD: Are you thinking about studying abroad? Now’s your chance to come and browse virtually all of MSU’s programs at the 2015 Study Abroad Fair on Thursday, October 15th from noon to 6pm at the Breslin Center.

Sponsored by the Office of Study Abroad, the fair offers you the opportunity to explore your options among the more than 275 study abroad programs offered at MSU and begin planning ahead for your own experience abroad. It will feature programs representing a variety of academic fields and locations. You can talk with program leaders, representatives from partner institutions, former participants, and academic advisers. The fair provides a “one-stop shopping” experience for everything you need to know about choosing a study abroad program.

Staff from the Office of Study Abroad will be on-hand to answer questions and help you understand what you need to know before studying abroad. Representatives from other support units will also be available to help with questions about travel logistics, funding opportunities, health issues and more. Academic advisers can offer assistance about individual degree requirements.

Watch your email for updates or check the web at studyabroad.msu.edu/safair for more details.

Don’t Miss This Opportunity to Showcase Your Talents

The annual University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum (UURAF) provides Michigan State undergraduate students with an opportunity to showcase their scholarship and creative activity. Held each spring in the historic MSU Union, UURAF brings together an intellectual community of highly motivated students to share their work with faculty, peers, and external audiences. UURAF provides a unique educational opportunity for aspiring researchers. MSU undergraduates gain experience in presenting their research, answer questions about their work from audience members and guests, and receive constructive feedback from judges.

For more information, go to urca.msu.edu/uuraf or email ugrsrc@msu.edu.

Wellness Matters for Personal & Academic Success

To all our returning MSU students, we want to say “welcome back to another exciting year!” By now you are probably aware that successful transition to college isn’t just about academics. And as a returning student, you may have experienced firsthand or know of classmates who had health problems or challenges that made it difficult for them to attend class, concentrate or complete assignments on time and whose grades suffered as a result. Indeed, it is the loss of a student’s health (physical or emotional) that can most significantly impact a student’s ability to be truly successful academically.

Every 2 years we conduct a campus wide survey called the National Collegiate Health Assessment (NCHA) survey. This survey asks questions about the health and wellness behaviors, perceptions and concerns of MSU students that have impacted their health and/or academics. Through this information gathering we are able to provide you information, resources and tools to ensure your personal and academic success while at MSU.

For example, something as simple as a cold or flu can cause one to miss class or not complete homework. Indeed, NCHA results show: 54% of MSU students reported having had a cold or flu in the last academic year; and, 16% stated that had a negative impact on their academics. A simple preventative measure for you in the upcoming year? Wash your hands, and cover your mouth when you cough. Other health concerns are more complicated, and their impact even stronger: 84% of MSU students stated they were affected by stress (to the point of feeling overwhelmed at least once during the year); 28% reported that their academic performance was negatively impacted by stress. Did you know that you can help yourself decrease stress and help manage it better through simple strategies such as using a planner, not falling behind on assignments and scheduling regular activities such as exercise, talking issues over with family and friends, getting enough sleep, etc.

The results from NCHA 2014 are highlighted in a brochure; I’m a Spartan-True Life: Wellness Matters for Personal and Academic Success. It is available online at olin.msu.edu/truelife/. Other topics covered include: Tobacco, Nutrition, Physical Activity, Injury Prevention, Pregnancy Prevention, Sexually Transmitted Infection Prevention, Sexual Assault and Relationship Violence Prevention, Depression & Anxiety, Suicide Prevention, Alcohol & Drugs. Each topic has what MSU students say and do (perception vs. reality), why it matters and what you can do to help yourself or others. Be sure to check it out!

Our primary job and that of our colleagues here at MSU, is to help you, the student, to be academically and personally successful at MSU. We believe we can help you maximize your ability to do your academic best by providing the information and resources you need to help avoid and/or minimize the impact of health problems or poor lifestyle choices. We wish you a safe and healthy journey through your years at Michigan State University. Indeed, with this information, you can look forward to a successful, challenging, and exciting year ahead.

Students with Children

MSU recognizes that students with families juggle their responsibilities as students and parents. The Family Resource Center (FRC) provides resources and referral services and supports student parents with child care grants, Emergency Back-up Child Care, Sick Child Care services, Care.com, family activities and much more. Visit our website at www.frc.msu.edu.

Student Parents on a Mission (SPOM) is a Registered Student Organization (RSO) and a peer network of students with children that provides encouragement and support to student-parents. SPOM provides an opportunity to network with other student-parents and discover the many resources available at Michigan State University and in the surrounding communities. Visit our website at www.msu.edu/user/studentp/.
Connect Your Academic and Career Interests

Now that you’ve settled into life at State, it’s a good time to explore ways to connect your academic and career interests. Take time to talk with your professors, advisors, and fellow students about majors, specializations and other areas of interest. If you’re not sure about what you’re interested in or have too many interests, you may want to meet with a Career Advisor to help you focus on your purpose – what you’re hoping to do or become. Set a career advising appointment at CareerNetwork.msu.edu by clicking the “make an appointment” button.

Prepare for Your Future

• Get a job or internship on campus or in the local area to build critical career and work place skills. Current openings are available 24/7 in your MySpartanCareer account found at the CareerNetwork.msu.edu website.
• Experiment with electives, Study Abroad, and Alternative Break programs.
• Go to a career fair or the graduate/professional school fair to get ideas or make early contacts.
• Talk with faculty about their research and field experiences. Check out venture.msu.edu.
• Join a student organization.
• Participate in Career Services’ “Career Exploration” events and business, non-profit, or government organization tours – find more information at CareerNetwork.msu.edu.
• Connect with alumni to get a sense of what others graduating in your major are doing now. Start by joining the Spartan Links group in LinkedIn.com with more than 16,000 members!
• Talk to professionals working in fields that interest you.

What is MySpartanCareer?
It’s your resource to part time jobs, internships, career events and much, much more. Only for MSU students and recent alumni, this website allows you to access job and internship postings, career fair information and career-related workshops. Log in to your MySpartanCareer account at CareerNetwork.msu.edu to create your profile, post your resume, apply for part time jobs and internships, research employers, apply for summer jobs, manage your on-campus interviews, and access other career-related announcements and resources.

For more information about careers, internships and links to the latest career resources, visit the MSU Career Services Network online at CareerNetwork.msu.edu.

Living Off-Campus This Year?

Welcome to the City of East Lansing! East Lansing is a wonderful community with a diverse mix of families, students and young professionals residing in close-knit, cozy neighborhoods.

Michigan State University and the City of East Lansing have worked together to enhance student-community relations and the connections between the university and city. As Spartans, we ask you to invest in the East Lansing community and treat it with the same respect and caring as you do your own hometown!

There will be many people supporting you while you live in the community. A few of your resources include:

• MSU’s College Life: East Lansing website, www.collegelifeEL.msu.edu, designed to help students learn about being involved in the community, as well as living off-campus. The site includes information about arts, entertainment, housing resources, transportation options and more.
• MSU’s Housing Listing Service is a free service available to the MSU community that features multiple property listings and includes advanced search filters, a roommate finder, message boards, and educational resources. Visit offcampushousing.msu.edu to start your search.
• The City of East Lansing’s dynamic website features information about City services, events and activities. Visit www.cityofeastlansing.com to check it out!
• The Community Relations Coalition is a group that was created to enhance relationships and improve communication in the university-community. The group is made up of students, local residents, City and University representatives and others. The group employs MSU student interns who live in the neighborhoods close to campus and serve as resources to students and residents. Visit www.WeAllLiveHere.org to learn more and meet the interns.

Part of being a member of the community involves lots of opportunities and responsibilities. East Lansing and MSU ask all Spartans to:

• become involved in the community and invest in the resources, services and opportunities available.
• contribute to their community and give back through service. Learn about the opportunities at www.servicelearning.msu.edu or www.cityofeastlansing.com/volunteer.
• remember that many families live a “first shift” lifestyle—up early, work/school during the day, and retire early. College students tend to have a “second shift” lifestyle where everything starts (and ends) later. Being aware of these differences can help avoid noise problems.

Here are a few fun facts:

• East Lansing is a community of more than 48,000 people.
• East Lansing is a family town, with 3,900 students in K-12 schools.
• East Lansing is famous for its many festivals, including the Art Festival, Summer Solstice Jazz Festival and Great Lakes Folk Festival. Event information can be found at www.cityofeastlansing.com under the Community Events department.
• East Lansing is a community of neighborhoods. Each neighborhood is different and prides itself on unique characteristics. Find out which neighborhood you live in!

For additional information and resources on East Lansing and living off-campus, visit www.collegelifeEL.msu.edu. Contact Community Liaison, Suchitra Webster, at hingwese@msu.edu for assistance or with any specific questions you have. Welcome to the East Lansing community!
Report your immunization history

The University requires all new undergraduate students to complete the Immunization Self-Report form at immunize.msu.edu. Failure to complete this requirement will affect your ability to register and enroll. This information is helpful to the University in the delivery of routine healthcare and in the unlikely event of a disease outbreak.

Visit fallwelcome.msu.edu for information on all Fall Welcome Activities.