

2021-2022

Bear Family HANDBOOK



Missouri State[™]
U N I V E R S I T Y

CollegiateParent

About This Guide

CollegiateParent has published this guide in partnership with Missouri State University. Our goal is to share helpful, timely information about your student's college experience and to connect you to relevant campus and community resources.

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Welcome to Missouri State University



Dear Bear Family Members:

The office of Family Programs is excited to welcome you and your student to Missouri State University. Our goal is to help family members support their student while also giving them the independence they desire. We call this process not “letting go,” but “letting grow.”

Please consider us your resource for everything Missouri State. Our office assists you by providing:

- Information on events, such as our annual Family Weekend.
- Bear Notes, our monthly e-newsletter of campus news and tips.
- A first point of contact to answer your questions and much more.

Please encourage your student to take advantage of the opportunities at Missouri State. By becoming an informed partner,

equipped with knowledge of campus resources, events and policies, you'll be well prepared to coach your student toward success.

Stay in touch with us by liking us on Facebook: [MSUFamilies](#), or following us on Twitter [@BearsFamilies](#).

The family programs website has numerous resources that will help you encourage and assist your student: [MissouriState.edu/BearsFamilies](#)

Please don't hesitate to contact me at PChildress@MissouriState.edu or [417-836-3060](tel:417-836-3060) with questions.

Again, welcome to the Bear Family!

Go BEARS!

Priscilla Childress

*Director of Family Programs and
Student Affairs Special Events*



Meet Dr. Dee Siscoe

Vice President for

Student Affairs

Dr. Dee Siscoe, an alumna of Missouri State, joined the university staff as the Vice President for Student Affairs in 2013. Under her leadership, the Division of Student Affairs is committed to supporting student success, fostering student engagement, inspiring a commitment to public affairs and instilling pride and traditions.

The Division consists of multiple support services, including departments dedicated to:

- Residence Life, Housing and Dining
- Student Conduct
- Student Engagement (including fraternity and sorority life, leadership programs, student organizations, as well as a variety of programs and activities)
- Enrollment Management (including Admissions, Career Services, Financial Aid, Registrar, Student Employment and Veterans Student Services)
- Health and Wellness Services
- Orientation and Transitions
- Family Programs
- Multicultural Services (including TRIO, Access Programs, Disability Resource Center and Multicultural Programs)
- Campus Recreation
- Bookstore



Q: What advice do you have for incoming families as their student begins their journey at MSU?

A: I've been doing this for a long time, so I've interacted with a lot of students and family members. The best advice for families is to give their students some space. As a mother, I know that's not easy. But students have to learn how to make their own decisions, make and learn from mistakes. Even the best kids have a misstep and that's okay.

Q: What's one aspect of MSU where you have seen improvement since graduating from the university?

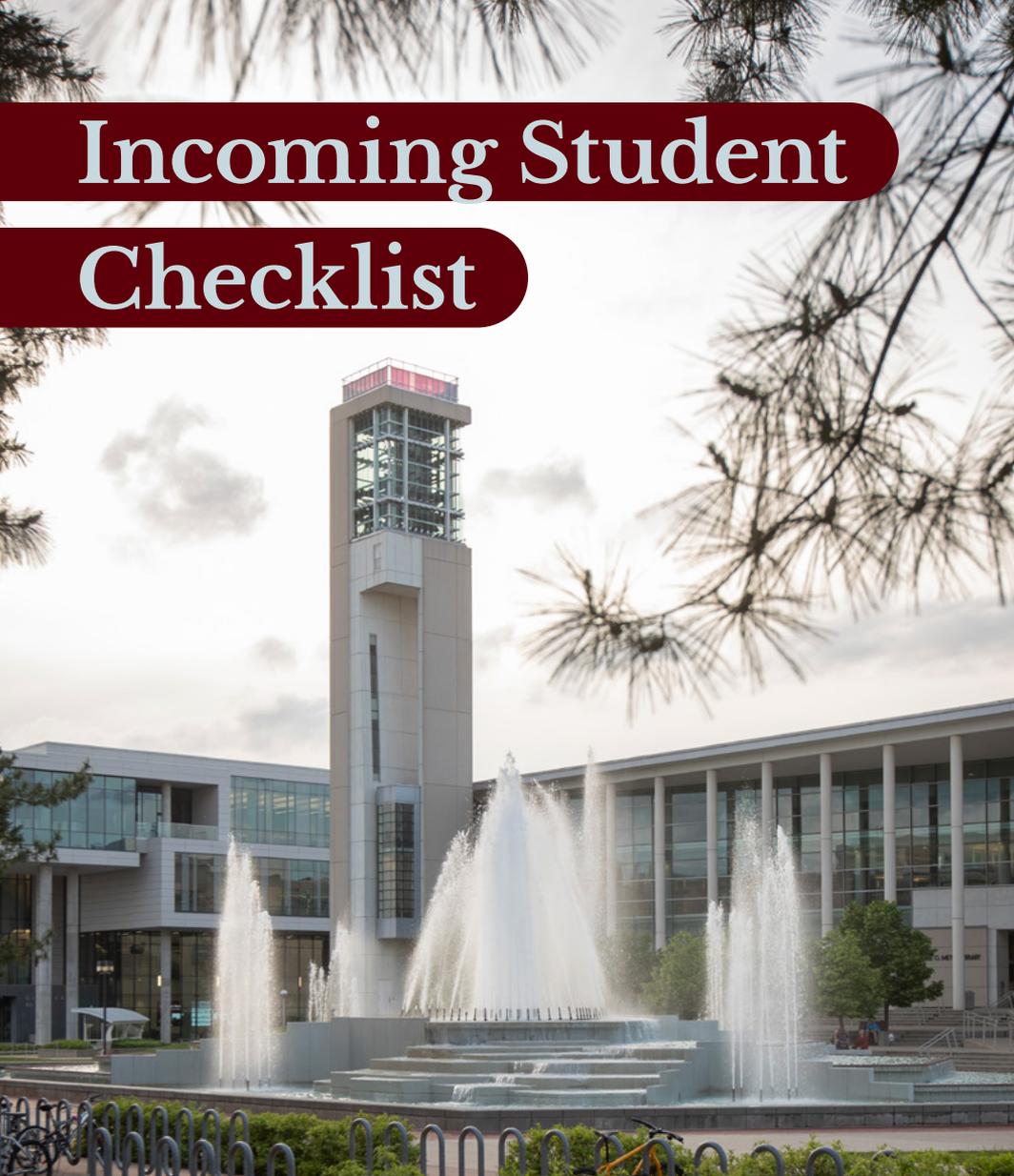
A: When I was a student, it was Southwest Missouri State University. Now we are Missouri State University. The addition of the public affairs mission allows the university to focus on the three pillars: Cultural competence, community engagement and ethical leadership. Everything that happens on campus is rooted in the public affairs mission and that's significant. There's the Public

Affairs Conference and initiatives such as URSA: The Maroon and White Overnight, where students learn about the public affairs mission. Everything is executed in accordance with the three pillars. I didn't see that when I was a student and I think it sets Missouri State apart.

Q: What resources are available for family members to stay connected with their students at MSU?

A: A relationship with Priscilla Childress, Director of Family Programs and Student Affairs Special Events, is most important. She sends out regular newsletters and has a huge presence on social media, so it's a great way to stay informed and engaged. Families can also follow President Clif Smart on Twitter [@ClifSmart](#) and they can follow me [@DeeSiscoe](#). Doing this can help families stay abreast of what's happening on campus. Just being aware of what is going on, attending events such as Family Weekend and periodically coming to campus is a good way to stay connected.

Incoming Student Checklist



Students have a lot to remember as they start classes at Missouri State. Use this checklist to help remind your student of requirements and best practices.

Required

- ❑ **Complete the online Tuberculosis screening questionnaire**
Missouri Law requires all Missouri institutions of higher education to perform a targeted tuberculosis testing program for all on-campus students. Your student can complete the online survey through their [My.MissouriState.edu](https://my.missouri-state.edu) portal. Select the Profile tab, then select the “Tuberculosis Screening Survey” link under the Wellness heading.
- ❑ **Submit your Medical History Form and Immunization Record**
Access and print a medical history form and submit it to the Health and Wellness Center. Doing so will reduce time and effort on your student’s part if they need to see medical staff in the future: [Health.MissouriState.edu/Forms](https://health.missouri-state.edu/forms).
- ❑ **Complete the sexual assault prevention online program**
The sexual assault prevention program is required for incoming freshmen and transfer students. The purpose of this training is to initiate understanding of consent, sexual assault, relationship violence and bystander intervention. Completion of the program is required prior to registering for your next semester. The training link can be found on the Registration tab of [My.MissouriState.edu](https://my.missouri-state.edu). Select the Registration Status link and find the course link under Holds.
- ❑ **Review tuition and fees statement**
Statements are sent monthly to your student’s Missouri State email account. Payment is due on the 10th of the month. Statements are not mailed. Your student can access statements by logging into [My.MissouriState.edu](https://my.missouri-state.edu), selecting the Student tab and viewing the options under the Account Balance and Payments section. Your student can also enroll in Non-Payroll Direct Deposit at this location to have financial aid and refunds directly deposited into a personal bank account.

Highly Recommended

- ❑ **Consider opening a local bank account**
Commerce Bank has ATMs and banking locations on campus. Learn about services specialized for students at: [CommerceBank.com/MSU](https://commercebank.com/MSU)
- ❑ **Get what you need, wherever you are**
MissouriState.edu/Mobile gives your student quick access to campus resources such as Blackboard, Office 365, CampusLINK, the MSU Mobile app, and more.
- ❑ **Order textbooks**
Ordering textbooks early is a great way for your student to save time and money. Visit [Shop.MissouriStateBookstore.com](https://shop.missouri-state-bookstore.com) and select the Textbooks tab. Your student can follow the prompts under Find Textbooks to select textbooks. Then have them shipped or held for pick up during move-in weekend. These can be charged to your student’s charge account.
- ❑ **Purchase an MSU parking permit**
Students who bring a vehicle to campus must have a valid Missouri State University parking permit. Enforcement of MSU parking regulations is 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For more information: MissouriState.edu/Parking.
- ❑ **Review the “What to Bring” list on the residence life website**
The “What to Bring” list outlines items your student will need in the residence halls, plus items that are not allowed: ResLife.MissouriState.edu/WhatToBring.



Academic Resources for Students

For many students, the transition to college courses can be challenging. Missouri State offers resources to support students as they become comfortable with the format of college classes.

Nearly 80% of students who use these services see an increase of one letter grade! Encourage your student to take advantage of the following resources:

Academic Advising and Transfer Center

The advisors in the Academic Advising and Transfer Center empower undeclared students to explore majors and make meaningful academic decisions. They help students plan courses and schedules, identify campus resources and establish educational and professional goals. Advisors also help students learn more about themselves, options available at Missouri State and which academic program aligns with their unique strengths and interests. Students with a declared major are assigned an advisor within their academic college.

MissouriState.edu/Advising

Bear CLAW (Center for Learning and Writing)

Where should your student go to find assistance in:

- Subject-area tutoring?
- Writing?
- Computer and information technology?
- Public speaking?

The Bear CLAW. It's an interactive space in Meyer Library where your student will find an environment that fosters informal, collaborative work and social interaction with fellow students. The Bear CLAW space is open during regular library hours.

[🔗 BearClaw.MissouriState.edu](https://bearclaw.missouri-state.edu)

[🔗 WritingCenter.MissouriState.edu](https://writingcenter.missouri-state.edu)

[🔗 Pass.MissouriState.edu](https://pass.missouri-state.edu)

Writing Center

Located in Meyer Library, the Writing Center is a welcoming place for your student to gain advice on any writing assignment, regardless of the course or topic. Whether they are just beginning an assignment or are in the final stages of a project, the Writing Center can help.

[🔗 WritingCenter.MissouriState.edu](https://writingcenter.missouri-state.edu)

Disability Resource Center

If a student anticipates a barrier to participation related to a disability in academics, housing, or activities, students are encouraged to contact the Disability Resource Center. Students are able to complete an online application to request accommodations, and provide any supporting documentation regarding their disability and request. Students will then meet with an Access Advisor at the DRC to determine appropriate accommodations and referrals.

[🔗 MissouriState.edu/Disability](https://missouri-state.edu/disability)

Open-Access Computer Labs

Computer services maintains three computer labs. Whether your student needs wireless setup on their laptop or mobile device, help with using a computer program or just somewhere to sit and study, they have a place in Cheek, Glass Hall and on the second floor of the Meyer Library.

[🔗 MissouriState.edu/ComputerLabs](https://missouri-state.edu/computerlabs)

Get Your Family Gear at the Missouri State Bookstore!

Check us out online @
[Shop.MissouriStateBookstore.com](https://shop.missouri-state-bookstore.com)

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Campus Safety

The Office of University Safety coordinates campus safety, dispatch, emergency preparedness, parking, shuttle service, vehicle and bicycle registration, safe walk services, the Missouri State Alert system and many other safety programs.

Bear Line Shuttle Service

Bear Line is MSU's free shuttle service for students, faculty, staff and guests of Missouri State. The shuttle makes numerous stops across campus and downtown. Your student can track shuttles through the MSU mobile app: MissouriState.edu/Mobile.

Blue Light Safety Phone

Blue light safety phones are located around campus. If students are in an uncomfortable situation, pressing a button on the phone activates flashing blue lights. Students will be connected with campus safety and a safety specialist will be dispatched to their location.

Missouri State Alert System

Missouri State Alert is the university's mass notification system. It uses a variety of methods to contact students, faculty and staff in the event of an emergency, severe weather or school closing.

MissouriState.edu/Alert

Safety and Prevention Training

The office of university safety offers a variety of training opportunities for the safety of the campus. Examples include sexual assault prevention and defensive tactics 101; defensive tactics 102; defensive tactics 103; Run, Hide, Fight active shooter training; fire prevention/fire extinguishers; emergency preparedness; CPR/AED and first aid; hands-free CPR and Stop the Bleed training. Courses are posted on the Safety First blog: Blogs.MissouriState.edu/Safety.

Springfield Police Campus Substation

The Springfield Police Department maintains a substation at MSU. Located at 636 E. Elm, this substation places officers on campus, making them readily available to the university community. Commissioned Springfield police officers regularly patrol campus and partner with university faculty and staff to provide programs and information.

Safe Walk Services

Students who do not feel safe walking from one campus location to another during dark hours can request a safety specialist to accompany them. To do this, students should call [417-836-5509](tel:417-836-5509) and state their name, location and destination. A specialist will be dispatched to that location. Encourage your student to add this number to their contact list.

Office of Student Conduct

The office of student conduct serves the students of the Missouri State community. It is responsible for implementing the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities, adjudicating alleged violations of the code, safeguarding student rights and dealing with emergency situations that involve students. Staff members within the office recognize that every facet of student life is an opportunity for learning and inquiry. The Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities should be viewed as an educational tool designed to assist students in their endeavors to educate themselves and become active, involved and responsible citizens.



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Special Dinner/Dance/Function?
Let us dress you right with the most popular floral accessories.

We serve all Dorms, Sororities, Fraternities and Housing in and around MSU!



Self-Care for a Bear

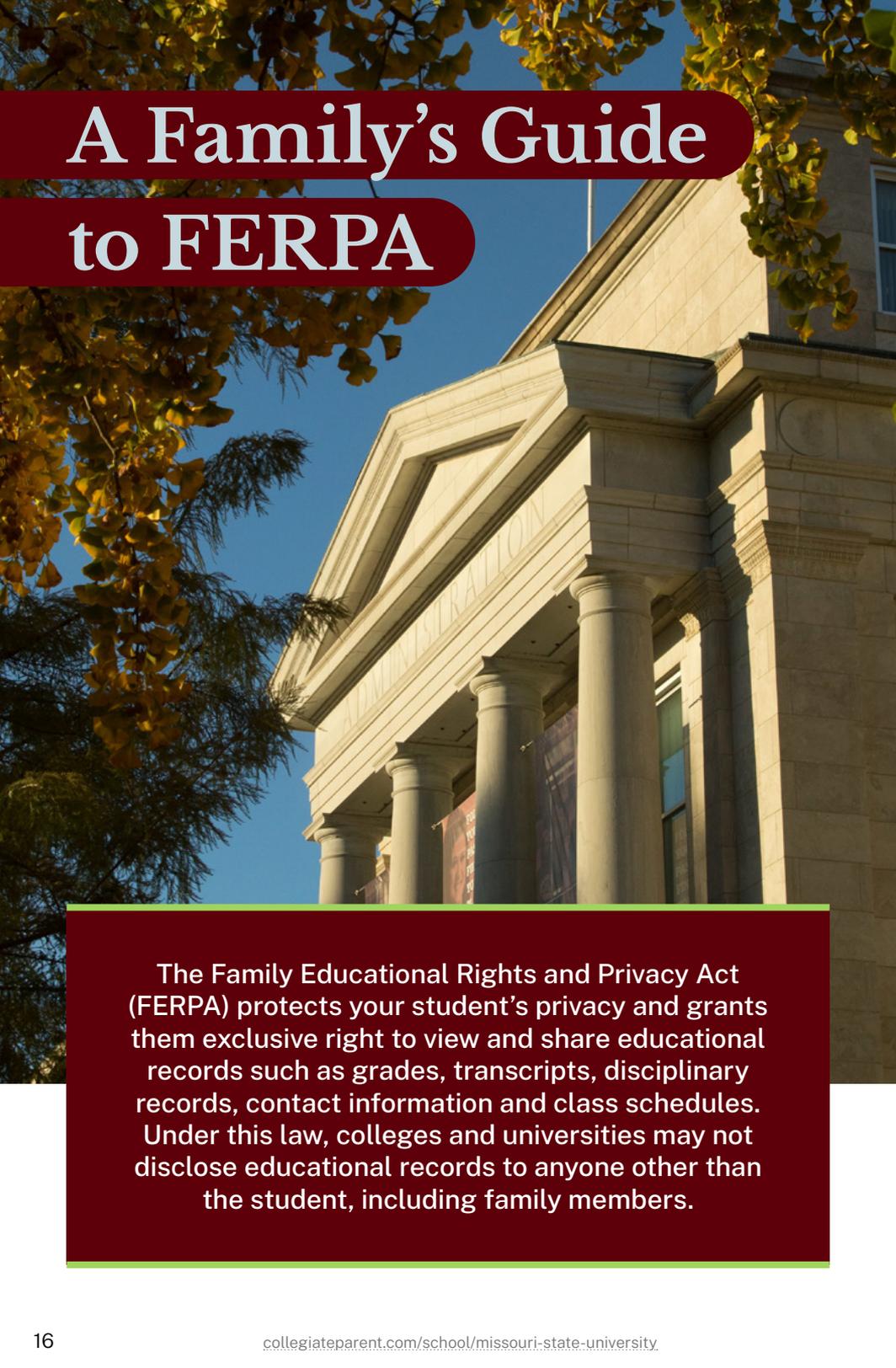
Encourage Your Student to Live Well, Be Well

Did you know that seven of the top 10 reasons why students struggle in their first year of college are health and wellness related? Concerns like stress, sleep problems, depression, anxiety and alcohol abuse have been linked to failure in college. Partner with us to ensure these issues don't become barriers to your student's success.



Help enhance your student's overall well-being by encouraging them to:

- 1. Select healthier foods and never skip breakfast**
Breakfast can improve energy levels, help maintain their focus and increase the overall quality of a student's life. Students should choose leaner, whole grains and consume plenty of fruits and vegetables.
- 2. Utilize the Magers Health and Wellness Center**
Should your student become ill, the Magers Health and Wellness Center provides free general office visits. It includes an on-site clinic, pharmacy, lab, x-ray, treatment clinic, specialty and wellness services: Health.MissouriState.edu.
- 3. Stay hydrated**
Dehydration is often mistaken for hunger. Your student should drink plenty of water and limit their consumption of beverages high in sugar or caffeine.
- 4. Stay physically active**
Campus Recreation Center offers opportunities for students to be physically active through programs and services. Remind your student to visit the Foster Recreation Center, try an intramural sport, take a BearFit class or tackle the rock-climbing wall. Physical activity is a great way to manage stress and meet new people.
- 5. Recharge with sleep**
Seven to nine hours of sleep are crucial for optimum performance.
- 6. Get connected with friends and organizations**
While homesickness can be a normal part of the college transition, residential students who are engaged on campus cope better when dealing with homesickness. We encourage commuter students to connect with students and organizations rather than leaving campus between classes. Involvement is linked to student success.
- 7. Address signs of stress early**
Forgetfulness, moodiness and fatigue can all be early signs of stress. Bears need to make stress management a part of their everyday college life. Encourage your student to visit the Counseling Center if they are experiencing stress. Our full-time counseling staff are licensed professionals, experienced working with college-aged students and have a passion for helping our students. CounselingCenter.MissouriState.edu



A Family's Guide to FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) protects your student's privacy and grants them exclusive right to view and share educational records such as grades, transcripts, disciplinary records, contact information and class schedules. Under this law, colleges and universities may not disclose educational records to anyone other than the student, including family members.

These restrictions may be challenging to family members who are accustomed to having full access to their student's educational records. Rather than seeing these restrictions as obstacles, we encourage you to view them as an opportunity to have important discussions with your student.

Relationships between families and students are strengthened when your student is provided independence to grow and supported when they make mistakes. When it comes to grades and academic work, talk to your student as an adult. Share your opinions, but respect their decisions, too. MissouriState.edu/FERPA

Partners in Education (PIE) Program

Partners in Education aims to help first-year students and their families build a relationship of trust and communication and improve students' academic success.

By enrolling in the program, students can grant authorization to a designated partner (usually a parent or family member) to access information regarding the student's academic progress for their first year. The partner will be mailed or emailed the student's mid-term and final grade reports. Students may withdraw permission to release information to the partner at any time. Please note that only the Student Success office personnel may release academic information to the partner indicated on the PIE form.

Students can enroll by visiting the Partners in Education Agreement link on the Students tab of their MyMissouriState.edu portal, My Student Profile and choosing Review Online Agreements and choosing the Partners in Education Agreement link. To learn more, contact the Student Success office at [417-836-8346](tel:417-836-8346) or visit MissouriState.edu/Pie

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Every week we'll share fresh and relevant perspectives that you won't want to miss.

- ✓ Information about the transition to college with tips to help your student thrive
- ✓ Career prep, majors, health, finances and more (high school topics, too)
- ✓ Stories you'll love from parents and students alike
- ✓ Our brand new advice column, Dear Adina, where we answer YOUR questions!

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What If My Student Wants To...

Become an Army officer?

The military science department, Army ROTC, offers a variety of leadership development courses. The introductory courses, which involve no military obligation, are available to all students and majors. Eligible students who make a commitment to become an Army officer will receive additional benefits while in college. Scholarships and tuition assistance are common within the program.

MissouriState.edu/MilSci

[BearBattalionROTC](#)

Develop leadership skills?

MO State LEAD, part of the Office of Student Engagement, offers your student the skills and tools needed to thrive in college and a changing world. Through immersive experiences and social interactions, our collection of programs and signature events are some of the top leadership development opportunities on campus.

MissouriState.edu/LEAD



Explore dining options on campus?

Your student, residential or commuter, has many options for dining on campus. There are three dining halls, a food court in the Plaster Student Union, The Market in Strong Hall and Meyer Library, and an Einstein Bros. Bagels in Glass Hall.

[🔗 DineOnCampus.com/MissouriState](https://DineOnCampus.com/MissouriState)

Explore Study Away Programs?

Encourage your student to visit the Study Away Programs office and learn about the extensive opportunities available to them. Study Away offers experiences in more than 70 international locations, ranging from one week up to one academic year.

[🔗 MissouriState.edu/StudyAway.](https://MissouriState.edu/StudyAway)



Find a part-time job?

There are a variety of job opportunities through Student Employment Services. Most campus departments hire student employees. Benefits of being a student employee include developing time management skills, gaining work skills and enhancing a résumé. Professional relationships can lead to future letters of support and recommendation. Positions for off-campus employers are also listed.

[🔗 MissouriState.edu/StudentEmp](https://MissouriState.edu/StudentEmp)

Find something fun to do on campus?

Student Activities Council is the premiere programming board on campus. They host multiple events each week ranging from concerts and films to speakers and craft nights. Funded by the Student Involvement Fee, SAC provides all the entertainment your student could want for free. Encourage your student to stay in the know about SAC events by following them on social media @MOSStateSAC or online at Organizations.MissouriState.edu/Sac.

Get involved in a campus organization?

There are more than 375 student organizations at Missouri State! Through a variety of activities, programs, events, workshops and services, there is something for everyone. The Office of Student Engagement is a great resource for students who want to make their Missouri STATEment.

[🔗 MissouriState.edu/StudentEngagement](https://MissouriState.edu/StudentEngagement)

Join a fraternity or sorority?

Fraternity and Sorority Life (FSL) at MSU are comprised of more than 3,000 students that includes 32 organizations: 21 fraternities (18 Interfraternity Council fraternities and three National Pan-Hellenic Council fraternities) and 12 sororities (eight National Panhellenic Conference sororities, one local sorority, two National Pan-Hellenic Council sororities and one Multicultural sorority). FSL members at MSU are very involved with community service, philanthropies, orientation and major leadership positions on campus. FSL provides opportunities for diverse and lasting social networks, academic support and positive group experiences. Learn more online at MissouriState.edu/StudentEngagement/FSL.

Learn more about choosing a career?

Encourage your student to visit the Career Center which offers career assessments, career counseling, job search coaching, résumé critiques, practice interviews and career fairs. Internships and full-time professional employment opportunities are posted in Handshake, the online career management system.

[🔗 CareerCenter.MissouriState.edu](https://CareerCenter.MissouriState.edu)



Learn more about diversity and social justice?

Encourage your student to check out multicultural programs to learn about programs, resources and diverse student organizations. Facilities include the Multicultural Resource Center, Mary Jean Price Walls Multicultural Resource Center Annex and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer+ Resource Center.

MissouriState.edu/MCulture

Learn more about the Bear Pantry?

The Bear Pantry is an on-campus resource for members of the Missouri State community who may be facing food insecurity. Members of the Bear Pantry can access food and hygiene items, as well as connections to other basic-needs resources on and off campus. It is located in University Hall basement.

MissouriState.edu/CCE/Bear-Pantry

Make a difference in the community?

Missouri State is a campus that is devoted to developing ethical leaders, whether it be on campus, in neighborhoods or globally. The Center for Community Engagement offers service-learning programs that help students discover passions, talents and leadership skills. It gives them the opportunity to work with their communities.

MissouriState.edu/CCE

Meet new people in the residence hall?

Residence Life, Housing and Dining Services provides opportunities for students to get involved with others living on campus. Encourage your student to join the Residence Hall Association or their building's hall council. They can be involved in creating events, engaging in leadership development and influencing their residential community.

ResLife.MissouriState.edu

Consider an accelerated master's degree?

Your student is just beginning their higher education journey, but did you know that many departments offer an accelerated master's degree? Qualified students can start taking graduate-level courses while working on their undergraduate degree (during their junior or senior year). Encourage your student to ask their advisor if this option is available.





Advice from Seasoned Family Members

Urge your student to get involved!

.....

Encourage your student to get to know their professors.

.....

Encourage them to get a Study Buddy for every class. If your student gets sick or stuck on an assignment, they have someone to text or ask for help.

.....

Don't overpack. Plan on making a store run once you see your child's lodging. Until you see the space, you might not know what will fit or work best. Keep a list of what you aren't bringing so you know what toiletries and cleaning/cooking items you need to buy.

Conversation Starters for Families

Try these questions to get the conversation flowing with your student:

- What is the biggest difference for you between high school and college?
- What groups have you joined? If you haven't joined one yet, have you found some that interest you?
- What is your plan if you get sick? Have you been to the Health and Wellness Center?
- How are you managing your workload? What is your study schedule?
- What would you put in a time capsule that showcases your freshman year in college?

Advice from Campus Experts

Give your student enough space to grow, to make decisions on their own and to learn from failures. Encourage your student to become involved on campus and explore new ideas and experiences. That may be harder with the coronavirus still a part of our lives, but it is even more important in these challenging times. Be there to support their efforts when they are successful and when they fail. Much can be learned from either outcome.

– President Clif Smart, Missouri State University

This is likely the first time your students have been on their own. With all of the events of the past year, we know this year will be even more challenging for parents. While it is generally more nerve-racking for parents than students, here are some tips that will help keep your student safe and give you some peace of mind.

First, get informed about risks on a college campus. I have found **The Ultimate Guide to College Safety**, by Peter J. Canavan, to be an excellent resource. This easy read covers a wide variety of topics such as a “problem” roommate, bullying, hazing, cyber-security, alcohol and drugs, residence hall safety, self-defense and more.

Second, find out what can be done to mitigate those risks. Go to the university safety’s website to understand the resources available to students. For example, there are safety courses offered to students. We have safety initiatives, such as the Safe Walk program to help students get from one location to another when they feel uncomfortable.

Lastly, have a conversation with your student so they are informed about their responsibility to help provide for their own safety. Oftentimes, students have never been responsible for their own safety. Simple things like locking a bicycle with a quality U-lock or locking your vehicle and not leaving valuables in plain sight will go a long way in preventing your student from becoming a victim of crime. Knowing what to do in the event of a tornado or fire can help keep them safe from other hazards. Following these steps will help you feel more comfortable and will make your student safer.

– David Hall, Director of University Safety



There's Nothing to Do...

Involvement is an important aspect of your student's college experience. Students who are involved outside the classroom develop leadership skills and learn how to balance their social and academic life.

If your student tells you, "There's nothing to do on campus," remind them about the resources that were presented at SOAR. Suggest visiting the Office of Student Engagement website to check out the events calendar and explore the many options: MissouriState.edu/StudentEngagement.

→ **Check Twitter for events and opportunities**

Twitter is a great way to keep up with activities. From [@ClifSmart](https://twitter.com/ClifSmart) to [@MOStateOSE](https://twitter.com/MOStateOSE) (student engagement) and [@MOStateCCE](https://twitter.com/MOStateCCE) (volunteer opportunities) to [@BearsFamilies](https://twitter.com/BearsFamilies) (a resource for our family members and students) plus many more, your student will be "in the know" about MSU events.

→ **Attend Welcome Weekend**

Welcome Weekend has a full lineup of events to help your student acclimate to Missouri State. Your student is bound to find things that interest him/her and connect with new friends and resources.

MissouriState.edu/Welcome



→ **Encourage joining the Student Alumni Association (SAA)**

The SAA is sponsored by the Missouri State University Alumni Association. The SAA is about getting involved with the university, developing leadership skills, connecting with alumni, building relationships, community service and much more.

Alumni.MissouriState.edu/SAA

→ **Explore Springfield**

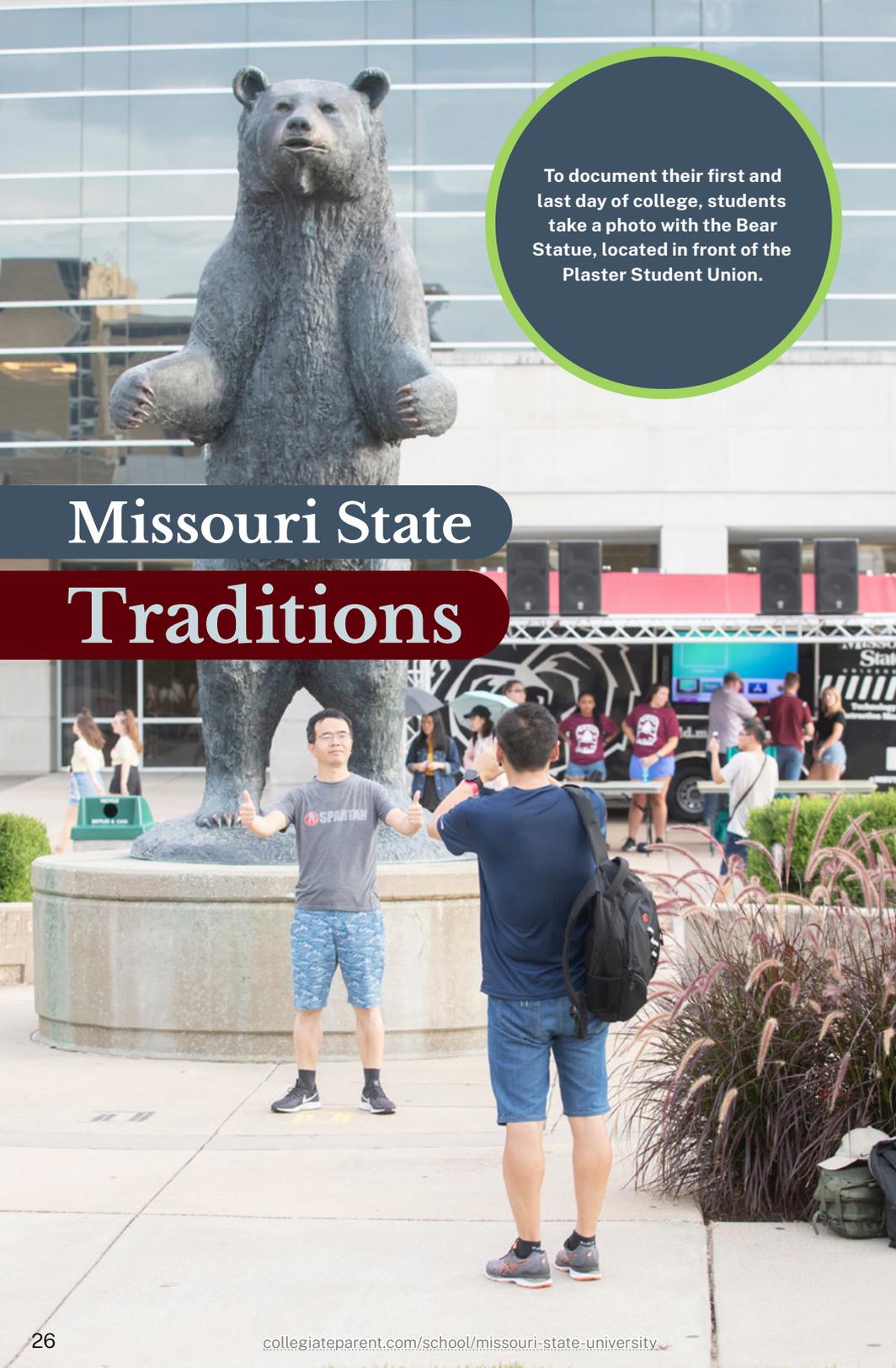
Springfield has all the conveniences of a large city, but the charm and familiarity of a small town. Here, students can explore great restaurants, a vibrant downtown and arts scene, and the natural beauty of the Ozarks. There are many free events and the park board has more than 100 miles of trails.

→ **Suggest attending an athletic event**

It's a great way to generate school spirit and have fun with friends and classmates. With 17 NCAA-sanctioned sports teams represented at MSU, there is always an athletic event. Students get in free to most home games. The schedule for all teams can be found at MissouriStateBears.com

→ **Take part in MSU campus traditions**

There are many fun Missouri State traditions including Homecoming, Bear Breaks, Maroon Madness and Study Abroad.



To document their first and last day of college, students take a photo with the Bear Statue, located in front of the Plaster Student Union.

Missouri State Traditions

The Traditions Council

The Traditions Council is a great organization for your student to join and leave a legacy on the campus. The council plans events across campus and allows students to learn more about our long-held traditions. Students have the ability to track the number of traditions they experience through the Traditions Bearer app, which makes them eligible for incentives throughout their college career.

MissouriState.edu/TraditionsCouncil

BearWear Friday

Show your pride and wear your BearWear every Friday!

Join a student organization

There are more than 375 student organizations on campus which means there's a group for everyone. If your student doesn't find what they're looking for, they can always start a new organization. Encourage them to check CampusLink for organization events, meetings and updates. Learn more: MissouriState.edu/StudentEngagement

Grab some grub at the President's Finals Breakfast

Offered on Monday of each finals week, the President's Finals Breakfast is the perfect opportunity to get some much-needed snacks while studying. A partnership between Missouri State Dining Services and the President's Office, the President's Finals Breakfast features everyone's favorite breakfast food as well as games, prizes, and activities. Be on the lookout for President Smart.

Rub the bear in JQH Arena for good luck

The senior class of 2008, as a gift to support the Bears, donated the bronze bear statue in JQH Arena. On your way to the student section, give the basketball team some good luck by rubbing the bear!

Attend May Day

The last Wednesday of classes is one of the biggest parties on campus. Student Activities Council takes over the North Mall to celebrate the end of the academic year. Participate in the oldest traditions on campus by jumping on some inflatables or checking out some of the other activities.

Ask a Bear



What conversation do you wish you had with your family before starting your first year of college?

I wish my family and I talked about credit scores and budgeting. I love to spend money but coming to college I had to keep track of my own finances and had to start building credit in my name. Also, how to cook! I am a senior in college and am still trying to learn how to cook on my own.

– Anna Pellegrini, Senior



What was your biggest shock/challenge about the change from high school to college?

I come from a small high school with a lot of like-minded individuals. Since coming to college, I have been given the opportunity and honor to meet people of different ethnicity, race, religion, sexual orientation and gender identity.

Opening myself up to people different than myself is such a rewarding experience and I have Missouri State to thank for introducing me to an environment that is so inclusive.

– Colin Weber, Sophomore

Can you share some study tips that helped you transition from high school to college classes?

Honestly, using a planner like the one at the bookstore or your Outlook calendar will help you so much! That way, you can stay on top of your deadlines and easily put down other important dates. Also, going to the library and studying with friends is helpful. And finally, asking for help is the easiest and most useful study tip. I was so afraid to ask for help in high school, but at college — especially at Missouri State — your professors genuinely want to help you succeed. Don't be afraid to meet with them or go to the Bear CLAW for some extra assistance!

– Chrissy Nguyen, Senior



How did your involvement on campus help you during your freshman year?

It made me feel that I was making a difference at Missouri State and in the Springfield community. Ultimately, it made me want to explore more ways to leave a legacy after I graduate.

– Michael Chapman, Junior





Key Contacts

Department Name	Phone Number
Academic Advising and Transfer Center	417-836-5258
Athletics	417-836-5244
Campus Directory Assistance	417-836-5000
Campus Recreation	417-836-5334
Career Center	417-836-5636
Center for Community Engagement	417-836-5774
Counseling Center	417-836-5116
Dean of Students	417-836-5527
Dining Services	417-836-5660
Disability Resource Center	417-836-4192
Family Association	417-836-3060
Financial Aid	417-836-5262
Leadership Development	417-836-4386
Magers Health & Wellness Center	417-836-4000
Multicultural Programs	417-836-5652
Office of Student Engagement	417-836-4386



Department Name	Phone Number
Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs	417-836-5526
Orientation and Transition Programs	417-836-7641
Parking and Transportation	417-836-4825
Partners in Education (PIE)	417-836-8346
Plaster Student Union Info Desk	417-836-5885
Police Substation	417-836-5509
Residence Life, Housing and Dining Services	417-836-5536
ROTC	417-836-5793
Student Conduct	417-836-6937
Student Employment	417-836-5627
Student Government Association	417-836-5500
Study Away	417-836-6368
University Safety	417-836-5509
Veteran Student Center	417-836-6199

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