We are happy that your student has chosen to learn and grow at Midwestern State University. We look forward to working together to help your student begin the next chapter in their life and walk the graduation stage. While this is an exciting time, the transition can be overwhelming.

To help the newest members of our Mustangs family, we are providing you with our latest Parent Resource Guide, which includes basic student resources and support services as well as insight into college life. With our families working together, we know that great things will happen.

With Mustangs Pride,
Fred Dietz
Vice President of Enrollment Management

FALL 2020 CALENDAR

August 22
Classes begin

August 24-26
Change of schedule and late registration

September 7
Labor Day – No classes

September 18-19
Family Weekend

October (mid-month)
Spring 2021 schedule of classes available

October 26
Last day to drop a class with “W” (withdrawal)

November 24
Thanksgiving Holiday begins at 10 p.m.

November 25-29
Thanksgiving Holiday

November 30
Classes resume

December 4
Last day of classes

December 5-11
Final exams

December 12
Commencement
TIPS & COMMUNICATION FOR PARENTS

1. If/when possible, send care packages of goodies to remind them of your love and support.

2. Send occasional emails and texts (even if they don’t write back)!

   Don’t expect a reply to every email or text that you write. But know that whether they admit it or not, they will love getting anything that reminds them of home!

3. Be supportive and trust them!

   Parenting can feel like a thankless job during the college years as your son or daughter tries to establish independence while still needing support and guidance. However, remember that they are striving to build identity, relationships and knowledge during this time. Provide support when they ask for it or make missteps but also allow and encourage them to make most of their own decisions.

STAY INFORMED

We want to make sure you are informed about any emergency on campus. MSU ALERT SYSTEM is the official emergency notification system at Midwestern State University. Subscribers receive urgent information from university officials. MSU ALERT is a free service to all MSU students, faculty, and staff. Students may add parent contact information through the student portal.
ACADEMIC ADVISING

What is an Advisor and why does my son or daughter need to be “advised”?

An Academic Counselor or Academic Advisor is a member of the faculty or staff who guides your student in the selection of courses and progress toward degree completion via a degree plan. MSU Texas wants all students to be successful during their time here! The advising staff can answer questions, direct students to MSU resources and will make sure your student is on the right track with class choices.

How does my son or daughter determine who their Academic Counselor is?

MSU's Academic Advising model relies on Academic Counselors assigned to each college who report to college deans to coordinate student progress toward degree. Undecided students are advised through the Tutoring & Academic Support Programs (TASP) Office. Student-athletes work with an Academic Counselor (or faculty advisor) to create a course schedule; once they have done so, they must also meet with the Student-Athletes Academic Coordinator. For a list of Advising contacts visit msutexas.edu/academics/advising.

What if my son or daughter wants to drop a class?

Your student should contact the assigned Academic Counselor to discuss. Changing course load (the number of semester credit hours the student is enrolled in) can have implications to financial aid awards and progress to degree completion. There are specific dates that students can change or drop courses without ramifications, but any desired changes should first be discussed with the Academic Counselor.

What is a major and what if my son or daughter wants to change majors?

A major is the specialized field of study that your student chooses to pursue. The major is first declared on the application for admission. If a change needs to be made, your student will visit the department of the new major being declared to complete the appropriate paperwork.
ACADEMIC TERMS TO KNOW

CLASSIFICATION OF STUDENTS
- A freshman has fulfilled all admission requirements.
- A sophomore has a minimum of 30 semester hours of credit.
- A junior has a minimum of 60 semester hours of credit.
- A senior has a minimum of 90 semester hours of credit.

CORE CURRICULUM
To achieve the goals of academic foundations the faculty of Midwestern State University has developed a core curriculum for all baccalaureate degrees, which your student is expected to complete before beginning academic specialization. The core is 42 semester credit hours.

SEMINSTER HOUR OF CREDIT
This is the unit of credit in a course for a semester. Credit hours are earned after a student successfully completes the course. The minimum number of semester hours required for graduation with a bachelor’s degree is 120 semester hours. Developmental courses are excluded from the 120 hours.

SEMERST
The school year is composed of semesters. The fall semester and spring semester are the long semesters at MSU; typically three to four months in length. Summer semesters are typically five weeks long.

GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)
An MSU grade point average of 2.0 is required for graduation. It is important to note that transferred grades are not considered in MSU grade point average computation. GPA is calculated cumulatively (total) and also for each semester.

To calculate, use the table below to assign points to each grade earned.

HOW TO CALCULATE GPA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Grade Point Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Passing</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Failing</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I*</td>
<td>Incomplete</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W*</td>
<td>Withdrawn</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*These grades are not computed in the grade point average.

FOR EACH CLASS:
Grade Point Value  
x Semester Credit Hours  
= Quality Grade Points

TO CALCULATE CUMULATIVE GPA:
Sum of Quality Grade Points  
(Referred to as “Quality Points” on the MSU Portal)
√ Sum of Total Semester Credit Hours  
(Referred to as “GPA Hours” on the MSU Portal)  
= Cumulative GPA
ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES & SUPPORT

THE REDWINE HONORS PROGRAM
This academic community is built upon academic excellence, research and creativity, leadership, and service. The program offers students the opportunity to study with the most dynamic professors on campus while participating in a deeper learning experience that includes such experiential learning opportunities as study abroad, internships, and faculty-led research. This academic community is supported by academic scholarships as well as Honors program facilities that are designed to enhance the learning experience for high-achieving students.

CAREER MANAGEMENT CENTER
Develops students professionally with mock interviews, job fairs, critiques of professional documents, and msutexas.edu/career/mustangs-hire (job postings).

TUTORING & ACADEMIC SUPPORT PROGRAMS
Provides free, walk-in tutoring and supplemental instruction for general subject areas (especially math and science); teaches first-year seminars (College Connections and Skills for Success); and advises undecided majors and student-athlete eligibility.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES
Provides academic advice and assistance, career services, study services, tutoring, and workshops (academic, business etiquette, financial aid, and time management) to eligible students.

THE WRITING CENTER
Provides students with feedback and support to help develop more effective written communication skills for various assignments. Provides trained writing tutors, facilitates writing workshops, and hosts writing outreach events.

FIRST2GO
Supports success and involvement for first-generation MSU students (students whose parents have not achieved a four-year college degree). Programs include Student Success Series, Student Ambassadors, and the First Gen Network.
BILLING

The Business Office is responsible for billing and collecting tuition, fees, campus housing, and other university-related charges. The Business Office also invoices third-party agencies, audits MSU student accounts, and processes student refunds. No information regarding a student’s business account will be released to anyone but the student unless there is a valid Release of Information form on file. The Release of Information form must be submitted through the Dean of Students Office and is available on the Dean of Students webpage under “Student Privacy.” For more information about the Business Office visit msutexas.edu/busoffice or call 940-397-4101.

FINANCIAL AID

The Financial Aid Office is available to assist those students who have difficulty meeting the cost of attending college. MSU Texas offers need-based and non-need based financial assistance to those students who would otherwise not be able to attend. Students must apply yearly in order to continue receiving aid, as eligibility can vary from one year to the next.

The priority application deadline for Fall is March 1 and the priority application deadline for Spring is November 1. For more detailed information, visit msutexas.edu/finaid or call 940-397-4214.

THE PRIDDY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

MSU and The Priddy Foundation have partnered to offer scholarships for outstanding students who are the first in their immediate family to attend a four-year university. Scholarships are selective and cover tuition, fees, books, room, board, and study abroad. Geographic restrictions apply. For additional criteria and information visit msutexas.edu/priddyscholars.

MUSTANGS GUARANTEE PROGRAM

This program is offered to students whose family combined annual adjusted gross income is $65,000 or less. The program covers the remaining balance of any tuition and mandatory fees for 12 or more credit hours each semesters that are not covered by other forms of free aid. For more details and to see if your student qualifies, visit msutexas.edu/finaid/m-guarantee.

The types of financial aid available at MSU Texas are:

• Grants & Loans
• Scholarships
• College Work Study and Student Employment
• Graduate Student Aid
• Consortium Agreements
• TEXAS Grant
• Mustangs Guarantee Program
• TEACH Grant
• Priddy Scholars Program (administered by FIRST2GO Office)
HOUSING
The Office of Residence Life & Housing provides campus housing accommodations including traditional residence halls, suite-style living, and apartments. Residence Life also collaborates across campus to offer a range of programs and activities to help students find their home at MSU Texas. Student and professional staff are on-call 24/7 to provide assistance as needed.

Most freshmen are assigned to our traditional residence halls: Pierce Hall, Killingsworth Hall, McCullough-Trigg Hall (suite-style), and Legacy Hall. There are also two apartment complexes (usually offered to upperclass and transfer students) on campus: Sunwatcher Village and Sundance Court.

For more detailed information, visit msutexas.edu/housing or call 940-397-4217.

DINING
On-campus dining services are contracted through Chartwells and offer various meal plans and catering to the campus community. These dining locations offer breakfast, lunch, and dinner options for the students’ convenience.

There are four meal plan options and all meal plans can be used at any dining location on campus. Meal plans also include “flex dollars” that can be used at any retail location or the Legacy Market. Flex dollars carry over from the fall to the spring semester and any unused flex dollars are forfeited at the end of the spring semester.

The on-campus dining options are:
- Maverick’s Corner
- Mesquite Dining Hall
- Starbucks
- Einsteins Bros. Bagels
- Chick-fil-A
- Burrito Bowl
- The Market @ Legacy
- Grill Nation

For more detailed information, visit dineoncampus.com/midwesternstate or call 940-397-4203.

HEALTH & WELL-BEING
VINSON HEALTH CENTER
The Vinson Health Center offers diagnosis and treatment of general medical illnesses, certain immunizations, STD screening and treatment, women’s health, referrals, and minor procedures. Students may incur fees for lab work, X-rays, some medical supplies, and other procedures. The Health Center will accept some insurance policies. In order to see if your student’s insurance will be accepted, please contact the office directly at 940-397-4231.

COUNSELING CENTER
The Counseling Center offers aptitude testing, consults, counseling, mental health educational programs, and motivational/educational presentations throughout the year.

BRUCE & GRACIELA REDWINE STUDENT WELLNESS CENTER
The Wellness Center offers group fitness classes such as indoor cycling, circuit training, and ZUMBA, as well as recreational sports. Includes an indoor track, outdoor pool area, fully equipped gym, and exercise machines.
INvolvement

MSU’s Student Leadership & Involvement Office oversees more than 100 student organizations, fraternities and sororities, campus traditions, leadership programs, Volunteer MSU, and campus events. Encourage your student to stop by their office located in the Clark Student Center to see a giant calendar of events happening on campus each day!

Traditions

Homecoming
This weeklong event is always a highlight of the fall semester! Homecoming is filled with free activities to promote school spirit. Students compete in events such as Lipsync and the cardboard boat race. Other activities include the All Campus Picnic, Maverick’s Birthday, the Torchlight Parade and bonfire, homecoming court, and the football game.

Cardboard Boat Race
Held in conjunction with the Homecoming Fish Fry, this event attracts numerous spectators to cheer on the student organization teams as they try to make their way across Sikes Lake. Fully constructed from nothing more than cardboard and duct tape, these boats are decorated and launched to see who will win the race, or otherwise compete for the important Titanic Award.

Torchlight Parade, Bonfire & Shirt Swap
The Torchlight Parade, a precursor to the bonfire, began in conjunction with America’s Greatest College Weekend in the 1980s. In the week leading up to the bonfire, the Office of Student Leadership & Involvement collects shirts from other schools that are used to decorate the wooden pallets that burn during the event. The shirts are collected in exchange for a free bonfire shirt.

Senior Campus Walk
Graduating seniors each May and December take part in a “farewell” Senior Walk. The walk celebrates seniors from each academic college and culminates at the Spirit of the Mustangs statues.

Mascot

Maverick T. Mustang is a perpetual sophomore at MSU Texas. He is known for wild antics at football and basketball games where he is known to fire-up the crowd to cheer the Mustangs to victory!
WICHITA FALLS

Wichita Falls is a city of about 104,700. In addition to Midwestern State University, it is home to Sheppard Air Force Base, the area’s largest employer. Wichita Falls is less than a two-hour drive from both Dallas/Fort Worth and Oklahoma City. It boasts easy commutes, an amazing cost of living and a welcoming community for college students and residents.

AIRPORTS

• **Wichita Falls Regional Airport (SPS)** is a joint military/civilian airport utilizing the runways and taxiways of Sheppard Air Force Base. The airport is served by American Eagle, with daily service to DFW.

• **Kickapoo Airport** serves the general aviation needs of Wichita Falls with small jets and helicopters.

HEALTHCARE

• **United Regional Health Care System** provides comprehensive medical care including inpatient and outpatient services, advanced diagnostics, surgical specialties and life-saving emergency care to a nine-county service area.

• **Kell West Regional** is an acute care hospital that accommodates outpatient, inpatient, and urgent care needs.

TOP EMPLOYERS

• U.S. Air Force (Sheppard Air Force Base)
• Wichita Falls Independent School District
• United Regional Health Care System
• Midwestern State University
• City of Wichita Falls
SAVE THE DATES
SEPTEMBER 18-19, 2020

Join your MSU student for a weekend of fun and college memories. This year’s program will feature a variety of activities and events for the whole family!

msutexas.edu/familyweekend

MSU TEXAS SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us on social media to keep up with all things MSU!

Facebook  facebook.com/MSUTexas
Twitter    @MSUTexas
Instagram  msutexas
YouTube    MSU Texas