

NOVEMBER 2015 - STUDENT ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES PARENT NEWSLETTER



Welcome Parents,

We have had a beautiful, colorful fall! As the semester is winding down, students are getting ready for final exams and Spring Semester (S216) registration.

REGISTRATION FOR SPRING SEMESTER

It's time for students to register for spring semester. Students have been sent an e-mail with specific dates and times for advising and registration. They must meet with their academic advisors prior to registration. (Advising for spring semester began October 26). Student accounts must be paid in full before a student can register for spring semester. Students with a balance on their student account have received an e-mail indicating there is a '**registration hold**' and that they should contact Student Administrative Services.

Following is the registration schedule:

- November 09 – Honors Program Students at 9:00 a.m.
- November 10 – Seniors at 6:00 a.m.
- November 12 – Juniors at 6:00 a.m.
- November 17 – Sophomores at 6:00 a.m. and 6:30 a.m.
- November 19 – Freshmen at 6:00 a.m. and 6:30 a.m.

PAYMENT FOR SPRING SEMESTER

Online bills will be sent electronically on November 30th with spring semester payment due by December 11th. If you need assistance with payment options, please feel free to contact one of our

representatives in Student Administrative Services directly at 513-244-4418. We will be happy to help you.

Has your student registered with our Student Account Center to view his or her bill? Has your student invited you to register so that you have access to his/her billing information?

Our online system for student billing provides convenience and easy access for our students and parents to manage their student accounts. Together with Tuition Management Systems (TMS), we have integrated the newest technology with our current student billing system. This electronic system has replaced hard copy billing statements and confirmation mailings. Some of the features are:

Account Summary Data - available 24/7

Account Activity – also available 24/7

Statements – view student account statement and options to pay: including enrolling in a payment plan, or making payment by check, EFT, or credit card

Ability to Share Account Access – students can give access to anyone of their choice, including their parent(s), to view and help manage their account

Direct Access – through mjs.afford.com for authorized participants

An e-mail is sent to students from ‘mjs.afford.com’ with a temporary password and a link to register with the **Student Account Center**. If your student cannot locate the e-mail, please contact the Student Account Center directly at 1-800-264-6017 (M – F: 8am -10pm ET, Saturday: 9am – 3pm). They will e-mail a new temporary password to the student.

SEMESTER EXAMS

Fall semester exam week is December 7-10. Students should check their exam schedule at: https://mymount.msjeu/ICS/Mount_Community/Mount_Groups/Registrars_Office/Public_Page.jnz?portlet=Handouts - click on Exam Schedule S116.

SEMESTER GRADES

Students can access fall semester grades online after December 15th at: <https://mymount.msjeu/ICS/MSJAcademics> > click on ‘my courses’ > click on ‘view final grade report’.

DECEMBER GRADUATION

December Graduation is right around the corner. Commencement ceremonies for these students will be held on campus Thursday, December 10, in the University Theater.

Graduating students received preliminary information related to commencement events including a request to confirm their participation. We want to make sure parents are aware of the schedule:

- Commencement Ceremony: Thursday, December 10th at 7:00 p.m. in the University Theater.
- A reception will immediately follow the ceremony in the Theater Lobby and Gallery.
- Each graduate will receive (8) tickets.
- Tickets will be available for pick-up beginning Wednesday, November 18th, in the Student Affairs Office, Seton Room 132 (Seton Center) on Monday through Friday between 8:30am – 4:30 pm.

For questions or more information please contact the Student Affairs Office at 513-244-4239.

GIFT IDEAS

With Christmas and December graduation, now is a great time to think about purchasing a gift for your student from our Mount bookstore. The bookstore has all the latest apparel for **MOUNT ST. JOSEPH UNIVERSITY** as well as Mount alumni apparel and an assortment of beautiful wooden diploma frames. For easy shopping visit www.msj.bkstr.com

FAFSA RENEWAL REMINDER

FAFSA renewal time starts January 1, 2016! If your student filed a FAFSA for this school year, he or she will need to complete the **2016-2017 FAFSA RENEWAL** online at www.fafsa.gov as soon as possible. They will need information from your 2015 tax return. Estimates can be used if you are completing the FAFSA prior to filing your taxes. The student will get a reminder from the U.S. Education Department to review any data that was estimated after the April 15th tax-filing deadline and to make any necessary corrections. We strongly encourage students to file the FAFSA by our priority deadline of **March 1**. Our federal school code is **003033**.



FSA ID REPLACES FEDERAL STUDENT AID PIN

The U.S. Department of Education made a change in the way borrowers, parents and students access their information on financial aid websites such as Fafsa.gov, Studentloans.gov and the National Student Loan Data System. In the past, students and parents used a Personal Identification Number (PIN) along with their social security number, to log into federal financial aid sites including the FAFSA and other important information. In order to decrease the risk of personal information being stolen, students and parents will now create an FSA ID username and password that gives a unique way of logging into federal financial aid systems without using personal information.

- **Prior to filing your 2016-17 FAFSA, parents and students will need to create an FSA ID USERNAME and PASSWORD. You can do this by going to the FAFSA website:**

www.fafsa.gov

There is a toolbar located at the top of the page; click on the icon 'FSA ID'; Select the link 'create FSA ID now.'

SCHOLARSHIP Renewal

For our first-time freshmen who have academic scholarships, please note that grades are not reviewed until the end of the school year. Once final grades are available in May, if the **cumulative** GPA is 3.0 or higher, the scholarship will be renewed automatically for next year. If a student has not earned a 3.0 cumulative GPA, **please don't panic**. He or she will still receive the scholarship, but on a

probationary basis, for fall 2016. If the student earns at least a 3.0 in his or her full-time fall coursework, then he or she will receive the scholarship for the spring semester as well. (The probationary period allows the student an additional semester to demonstrate his/her ability to perform college coursework at the 3.0 level.) Please encourage your student to talk to a staff member in the Conlan Center if there are any questions or concerns regarding scholarships or other financial aid.

EDUCATION AT WORK

Through our partnership with Education at Work, a local non-profit organization, jobs are available for our students here on our campus. EAW operates call centers for large businesses staffed by local college students and they are dedicated to helping college students get the foundational job skills and education needed to compete for 21st century jobs as they earn both a paycheck and tuition assistance funds. Student employees must be enrolled in at least one college class. Based on their GPA and course load, they can earn up to an additional \$6,000 annually toward their college tuition costs. Further details can be found at www.education-at-work.org.

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THE MOUNT'S TOP PROGRAM?

The Talent Opportunity Program (TOP) is an innovative and comprehensive career readiness program. Students who enroll - for free- can expect to gain superior skills important to today's workplace: critical thinking, complex problem-solving, written and oral communications, and applied knowledge in real-world settings. Check out our website for details: <http://www.msj.edu/academics/talent-opportunity-program-top/>

THE MOUNT HAS A WEB PAGE DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY FOR PARENTS:

We have a parent page on our website with information we think parents may want and/or need. Please browse it, bookmark it, and watch for new content: www.msj.edu/parents.

DATES TO REMEMBER

November 9-20	Spring Registration
November 25-29	Thanksgiving Recess – College Closed
November 30	Classes Resume
December 7-10	Exam Week
December 10	Semester Ends
December 10	Commencement for December Graduates
December 11	Spring Semester Payment Due
January 11	Spring Semester Classes Begin
January 18	Martin Luther King Holiday
February 19	Mid-Semester Break

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions or need assistance with filing the FAFSA, one of our representatives may be able to help with a quick answer by phone at 513-244-4418; toll free at 800-654-9314; or via e-mail (contacts listed below). If you prefer, individual appointments can be made by calling our office. We look forward to working with you and your student.

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