



The CFD Monthly

Workshops, Events, Resources, and More

September 2025

Kicking Off the Academic Year: Highlights from Our Preseason



Just like our Golden Eagles gearing up for a winning season with Coach Huff, we kicked off the fall semester with purpose and momentum. At the Center for Faculty Development, the start of a new academic year is our season opener—and this year's kickoff was a resounding success!

We welcomed nearly 70 new faculty members on August 1st, giving them a head start to learn our campus playbook. Three half-days of New Faculty Orientation, organized by the Office of the Provost, provided a strong foundation for their journey at USM to explore key campus resources, understand essential policies, and begin building their USM community.

To support all faculty and staff in launching the semester with confidence, we hosted two professional development series. Our summer series, *Plan, Prepare, and Engage*, featured 12 sessions packed with practical tips, new technologies, Canvas tutorials, and campus resource refreshers—drawing a record attendance of 96 participants. During *Fall*

First Week, our *Educators' Retreat* offered 13 engaging sessions, with 99 attendees joining us for a morning of learning, collaboration, and setting the tone for a successful academic season.

We also celebrated the achievements of our ACUE course-takers from the past academic year who crossed the goal line. Eighteen faculty members earned their Certificate in the Effective Teaching Practices Framework, and eleven earned the Advanced Certificate—an incredible accomplishment!

Finally, we wrapped up the summer with a campus-wide social at the Touchdown Club, bringing together colleagues to reconnect and recharge before the semester began. We're incredibly grateful to all the presenters who shared their expertise and to every attendee who brought energy and curiosity to our events. Your participation makes our work meaningful and our campus stronger. As we head into the academic year, we wish you a season full of wins—in the classroom, in your scholarship, and in your community. Let's make this year a championship run. Southern Miss To The Top!

Upcoming Events and Announcements

coursera

If faculty are interested in signing up or integrating **Coursera** into their classes, curriculum, or other work, they can request to sign up here:

<https://www.usm.edu/provost/coursera.php>

Coursera provides access to a wide range of high-quality online courses, certificates, and learning tools that can enhance teaching and enrich student learning experiences. Faculty can use it to supplement existing curriculum, introduce new perspectives, or support professional development.

Find additional resources and information here: <https://tinyurl.com/52sfztrp>



September 4, 11, 18, and 25 | **Show up and Write!** | [Register Here](#)

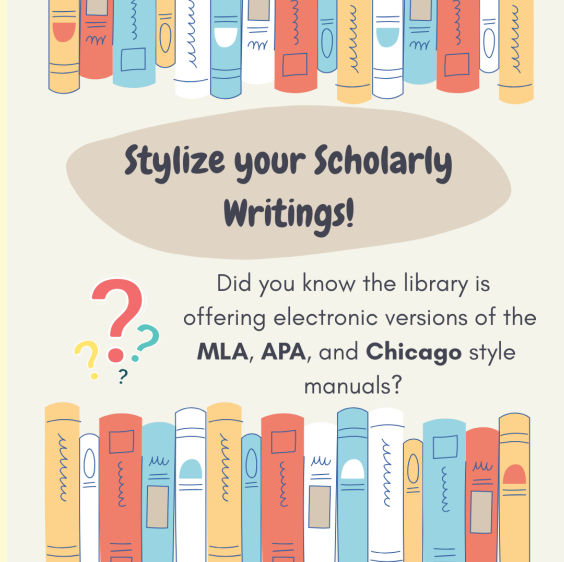
September 10 | **IRB Submissions and Review: Using InfoEd** | 12-1 p.m. | IC 319 and Teams | [Register Here](#)

September 12 | **Eagle SPUR Grant Information Session for Mentors** | 1 - 1:45 p.m. | IC 319 & Teams | [Register Here](#)

September 15 | **Developing Discipline-Specific First-Year Experience Success Courses** | 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. | IC 319 & Teams | [Register Here](#)

September 16 | **Tips for Writing Effective Letters of Recommendation for Students** | 12:15 - 1:30 p.m. | [Register Here](#)

September 17 | **Graduate Mentorship Training Series: Maintaining Effective**



Click here to access the manuals!

Communication and Aligning

Expectations | 12:00-1:30p.m. | IC 319 &

Teams | [Register Here](#)

September 30 | **Developing Discipline-Specific First-Year Experience Success Courses** | 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. | IC 319 & Teams | [Register Here](#)



Learning Assistant Program Open House!

The LA Program is excited to share our new tutoring and study space! Stop by our open house in EHH 122 to check it out and chat with us about all things LA Program!

- ☐ **September 19, 2025**
- ☐ **9:00 - 10:00 a.m.**
- ☐ **Elizabeth Harkins Hall (EHH) 122**

Register Here!

Tiny Teaching Tip

New Turnitin is here!

A new Turnitin integration in Canvas is here. [Here are instructions for the new way to add Turnitin assignments](#) or watch the video below of Dr. Ashley Allen, CFD Associate Director, demonstrating this change. We expect you will still have access to your previous Turnitin assignments and submissions. We recommend you double check your imported Turnitin assignments to ensure these work correctly and if not, add new. [Use these instructions when wanting to use the Canvas Assignment instructions and 'Assign To' dates.](#)

If you have any questions on setting up Turnitin in Canvas, email instructional designer, Susan Rayborn (susan.rayborn@usm.edu).



New Life Skills Workshop Series for Students

Consider sharing the Ready for Life Workshop series with your students this fall. This workshop series is designed to help student's master life skills learned outside of the classroom - from building financial literacy and effective communication skills to leveraging AI tools for their personal life and prioritizing self-care. Sessions are held most Friday afternoons during the fall semester and are open to any Southern Miss student. For more information, visit here: <https://www.usm.edu/student-affairs/ready-for-life-workshop-series.php>

**READY FOR LIFE
WORKSHOP
SERIES**

For questions, email Emily.Holmes@usm.edu.



Dr. Melanie Leuty, Director of the Center for Faculty Development, shares Open AI's

suggestions for a creating good prompts for ChatGPT as well as how to personalize your ChatGPT account. Check out [Open AI Academy](#) for a wealth of resources and training events on how to maximize your use of ChatGPT, including useful content for those working in [higher education](#). Also check out our [USM AI webpage](#) for more resources on AI.



Instructors' Use of Artificial Intelligence

As part of USM's efforts to facilitate a culture of responsible use of AI, the Office of the Provost continues to gather feedback from instructors on which AI option they embed in courses and how you share the relevance of this choice with your students. Your input as instructors will help inform future professional development for faculty, staff, and students. Please [complete this short form to help](#) with our efforts on AI.

[Complete the Instructor AI Survey](#)

SOUTHERN MISS
**CAREER
SERVICES**

Fall Career Fairs

Let your students know of the many fall career fairs coming up hosted by [Career Services](#).

For the Graduate School Fair on Oct. 7th, Career Services has comped one table for Southern Miss Graduate Schools. Any USM graduate program interested in assisting with this tabling can reach out to Shaadi Shoubaki (Shaadi.Shoubaki@usm.edu), Assistant Director

for Professional Development and Outreach in the Graduate School, who can provide support free of charge. Should your program/school prefer to have its own table, you must register individually, with a cost of \$300 per table. All registrations are managed through Handshake.

- **Part-Time Job Fair** September 3rd, 10 am - 1 pm, Thad Cochran Center & Union Lobby
- **Career and Graduate Schools Fair** October 7th, 10:30 am - 1:30 pm, Thad Cochran Center, 3rd Floor
- **Business Career Fair** October 8th, 10:30 am - 1:30 pm, Scianna Hall, Lock Commons
- **Education Career Fair** October 24th, 9:30 am - 12:00 pm, Payne Center



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