

April 2018 ODA Newsletter: Ending your Semester Right!

End of Semester To-Do List

✓ **Schedule your Finals**

If you have ODA test accommodations and would like to take your Finals at our offices, please schedule your finals with us by **Wednesday, May 2nd**. Read past this To-Do List section on tips for preparing for final exams, papers and presentations.

You can schedule with us today...

At our Front Desk **or by**

Calling us at 601.266.5024 **or by**

Online at [MyODA](https://cascade.accessiblelearning.com/usm/default.aspx) (<https://cascade.accessiblelearning.com/usm/default.aspx>)

[Spring 2018 Hattiesburg Final Exam Schedule](https://www.usm.edu/registrar/spring-2018-exam-schedule) (<https://www.usm.edu/registrar/spring-2018-exam-schedule>)

[Spring 2018 Gulf Coast Exam Schedule](https://www.usm.edu/gulfcoast/students/exam-schedules) (<https://www.usm.edu/gulfcoast/students/exam-schedules>)

✓ **ODA's Awareness Survey**

Please consider taking our end of the year [survey](https://usmuw.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3IS69O7gE5176Cx) for students (https://usmuw.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3IS69O7gE5176Cx).



✓ **Summer & Fall Advisement**

Be sure you are completely advised for your upcoming semesters at USM before you start making summer plans. Open enrollment started April 7th, so all you need to do is make an appointment with your academic advisor through your major/minor departments.

✓ **Be productive this summer!**

Whether you plan on taking summer classes or not, consider volunteering or getting a job this summer.

• Volunteer Opportunities

- **USM's Center for Community Engagement:** They post local and regional opportunities year-round on their social media. Follow them on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) @usmce.
- [Givegab.com](#): find volunteer opportunities for anywhere in the world

• Job Opportunities

- **Career Services:** Work with them to polish your resume or practice your interview skills before you start your summer job search. You can [schedule an appointment online](https://www.usm.edu/career-services/schedule-appointment) (<https://www.usm.edu/career-services/schedule-appointment>) or attend one of their Wednesday Resume Tables in the lobby of Cook Library (April 25th or May 2nd).
- **Jobs for Eagles:** Find job postings made specifically for USM students. <https://usm.joinhandshake.com/login>

✓ **Check in with ODA**

Please remember that if you have an issue with a class, come to us immediately. If you have had an issue with an accommodation or would like to change your accommodations before your next semester at USM – **We want to hear from you!**

Preparing for Final Exams

1. Create your own study guide

Whether your professor has provided a study guide or not, consider creating your own to help you better understand the material and organize your notes. Outlining the important information will help frame it in your mind and refresh the material as you build the guide.

2. Ask questions

Your instructors are there to help! Ask them questions regarding the material or exam. If you are uncomfortable asking questions in front of your class consider staying after, emailing them or visiting them during their office hours.

3. Attend review sessions

If your instructor offers a review session, be sure to be there, if possible. Often review sessions offer an insight to the exam format and what is important to study.

4. Start early

Start reviewing and organizing for your final exams as soon as possible. If you avoid cramming and manage to review the information a little at a time each day prior to an exam, you will feel more prepared which will lessen any test anxiety you may have.

5. Organize a group study session

Sometimes it can be helpful to study in a group. If you feel a study group may be beneficial, please consider asking a friend in your class or posting a message on your class's Canvas discussion board.

6. Take care of yourself

In the weeks leading up to finals, be sure to get a full night's rest every night and eat healthy. Taking care of yourself will help you feel more relaxed.

7. Take breaks

To avoid feeling overwhelmed from a long study session, try to break it up into manageable sessions with rewards at the end to help keep you motivated and less stressed.

Preparing for Final Papers and Presentations

Make an appointment today with the campus Writing Center and Speaking Center for assistance with any finals, term papers or presentations. Both centers offer services in Hattiesburg and the Gulf Park campuses, but appointments fill up for finals very quickly. **So, if you would like their assistance, please book an appointment today.**

[Hattiesburg Writing Center](#): Cook Library 112 | 601.266.4821

[Hattiesburg Speaking Center](#): Cook Library 117 | 601.266.4965

[Gulf Park Writing Center](#): Gulf Park Library, Academic Success Center | 228.214.3346

[Gulf Park Speaking Center](#): Gulf Park Library, Academic Success Center | 228.214.3346

Important Dates

April 19 | Glow Run at 8:00 pm starting at Pride Field

Southern Miss Recreational Sports will be hosting a FREE glow in the dark 5K run on campus for students! Race Day Check-In opens at 5:30 pm and closes at 7:45 pm inside the Payne Center. Arrive early to receive free glow bracelets and paint that will be available at check-in, while supplies last. The first 100 students to register online will receive a free t-shirt.

Important Dates Continued

April 20 | Visiting Writers Series: Nick White, author of How to Survive a Summer at 7:30 pm in LAB 108
A native of Mississippi, Nick White is an Assistant Professor of English at The Ohio State University. His writing has appeared in a variety of places, including Kenyon Review, Guernica, The Hopkins Review, Indiana Review, Lit Hub, and elsewhere. His short story collection, Sweet & Low, is forthcoming in 2018.

April 21 | Community Day at GCRL's Marine Education Center from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at 101 Sweetbay Drive, Ocean Springs, Mississippi
USM's Gulf Coast Research Lab (GCRL) is hosting a community day open to the public that includes tours of the new Marine Education Center, interactions with local scientists, and hands on activities for all ages.

April 23-27 | Stress Free Week from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

- Monday & Wednesday at Cook Library with DIY crafting of stress balls and other de-stressing activities
- Tuesday & Thursday at the Luckyday Day Dorm Breezeway with DIY crafting of stress balls and other de-stressing activities
- Friday at Shoemaker Square with petting puppies from the Southern Pines Animal Shelter

April 26 | Immigration: Advocacy and Personal Accounts Forum at 6:00 pm in LAB 108
Come hear from different people (MIRA, EL Pueblo, SPLC) who are currently working in the immigration system in Mississippi and hear different personal accounts from people who have experienced immigration first-hand. Sponsored by the [Center for Human Rights and Civil Liberties and the School of Social Work](https://www.usm.edu/human-rights) (<https://www.usm.edu/human-rights>).

April 27 | Crawfish Fest from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Centennial Green
All you can eat crawfish and other food items will be available with a meal plan swipe or for a \$10 wristband that can be purchased at Eagle Dining POD locations the week of the event. Live music, carnival games, caricature artist and more will be on hand.

May 11 | Hattiesburg Spring 2018 Commencement (<https://www.usm.edu/commencement>)
Bernard Reed Green Coliseum – Hattiesburg, MS

9:00 am Ceremony: College of Business, College of Education/Psychology, College of Science/Technology

3:00 pm Ceremony: College of Arts/Letters, College of Nursing, College of Health

Watch a live stream of the Hattiesburg commencement at <https://www.usm.edu/live>.

May 12 | Residence Halls Close at noon

[Gulf Coast Commencement](https://www.usm.edu/commencement) (<https://www.usm.edu/commencement>) at the Mississippi Coliseum at 10:00 am | Watch a live stream of the Gulf Park commencement at <https://www.usm.edu/live>.

May 14 – June 1 | Summer Intersession Classes (Students may enroll for a maximum of 4 intersession hours)

May 16 | Grades available to view in SOAR for students who have completed their course evaluations

June 14 | Full term and Summer Session 1 classes begin (\$50 late registration fee)

July 1 | Last day to file application for degree for Fall 2018 Commencement without a fee

July 2 | Summer Session 2 classes begin