November 2018 ODA Newsletter:
End of Semester | Finals and More!

End of Semester To-Do List

- ✓ **Schedule your Finals**
  If you have ODA test accommodations and would like to take your Finals in our office, please schedule your exams by **Tuesday, November 20th** which is before the Thanksgiving Break.

  You may schedule your Final exams today by visiting the link below:

  Online at MyODA (https://cascade.accessiblelearning.com/usm/default.aspx) **OR**
  By calling 601.266.5024, Monday through Friday 8:00am to 5:00 pm **OR**
  By visiting our Front Desk in Bond Hall 114, Monday through Friday 8:00am to 5:00 pm
  Fall 2018 Final Exam Schedule (https://www.usm.edu/registrar/fall-2018-exam-schedule)

- ✓ **Spring Advisement**
  Be sure you are completely advised for your upcoming semester at USM before you go home for Winter Break. The sooner you are advised the better your schedule will be.

- ✓ **Check in with ODA**
  Please remember, if you have an issue with a class, to let us know immediately. If you have had an issue with an accommodation or would like to change your accommodations before your next semester at USM – **We need to hear from you!**

Find the best Study Spot on Campus for you!

- **Hattiesburg Campus**
  - **Cook Library**
    - Normal Hours
      - Open Monday-Thursday 7am to 2am, Friday 7 am to 6 pm, Saturday from 9am to 6pm, and Sunday from 12pm to 2am
    - End of Term Hours
      - Open 24/7 starting at noon on Sunday, November 25th through Friday, November 30th
      - Open Saturday, December 1st 9am to 6pm
      - Open 24/7 starting at noon on Sunday, December 2nd through midnight Thursday, December 6th
      - Open Friday, December 7th 7 am to 5 pm
  - **Career Services Study Rooms**
    - Reserved by Request ONLY | Starting Monday, November 26th, Career Services has space available to students by request during weekdays. Call 601.266.4153 to reserve a space in their McLemore Hall location.

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- **Residence Halls**
  If you live in one of the following residence halls on campus, there are study spaces specifically set aside for students. **If you need assistance finding any of these locations, please contact your RA.**
  - **Century Park North 1-4** has a lounge area on each floor available for studying
  - **Century Park North Learning Center** is available to any students that live at a Century Park North dormitory
  - **Century Park South** has a study space at the end of each hall
  - **Wilber Panhellenic Hall** has a study space on the 6th floor
  - **McCarty Hall** has a classroom available in the middle of the building

- **Gulf Park Campus**
  - **24/7 Study Room**: Swipe your USM ID in the entryway of the Gulf Park Library for Access
  - **Gulf Park Library**
    - Normal Hours
      - Open Monday-Thursday 7:30am to 11pm, Friday 7:30am to 5pm, Saturday and Sunday 12pm to 9pm
    - End of Term Hours
      - Monday, December 3rd through Wednesday, December 5th open 7:30am - midnight
      - Thursday, December 6th through Friday, December 7th open 9am-4pm
  - **Academic Success Center at the Gulf Park Library**
    - Tutoring services, free coffee and tea every day, group study spaces, Gulf Park campus Writing and Speaking Centers
    - Normal Hours
      - Open Monday-Thursday 10am to 7pm, Friday 10am to 3pm, and Saturday 12pm to 5pm

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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. If needed, ask them specific questions regarding the class material. If you are uncomfortable asking questions in front 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 attend, if possible. Often, review sessions offer an insight into the exam format and what class material 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 on the 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

Upcoming Events & Important Dates

PLEASE NOTE THAT EVENTS ARE MARKED AS HBG (HATTIESBURG) & GP (GULF PARK) IF THEY ARE OCCURRING ON A SPECIFIC CAMPUS.

November 1 | Last day to withdraw from full term classes with a grade of W

November 1 | Last day to file undergraduate degree application for Spring 2019 Commencement at no cost

November 5 | (GP) APA Style Workshop at 10 am at the Gulf Coast Library 204

November 7 | (HBG) GEWW Review: Making the Grade from 6 to 7 pm at the Cook Library
Developing skills for academic success so you can finish in four.

November 8 | (GP) MLA Style Workshop at 2 pm at the Gulf Coast Library 204

November 9 | Last day to withdraw from Session II (8W2) courses with grade of W

If you need an accommodation to attend or participate in any of the events listed above, please contact our office for assistance at oda@usm.edu or 601.266.5024.

CONTINUED Upcoming Events & Important Dates

November 13 | (GP) Resume Writing Workshop from 10:45 to 11:30 am at the Gulf Coast Library 204

November 13 | (GP) Citation Management Tools Workshop from 2 to 3pm at the Gulf Coast Library 213
Looking for a more effective way to manage citations for your next research project or paper? Drop in for a workshop about 2 free citation management tools: Zotero and Mendeley. Register in advance to attend this workshop at http://www.lib.usm.edu/services/instruction_and_workshops/citation_registration.html.

November 14 | (GP) Be Your Best Workshop from 10:45 to 11:30 am at the Gulf Coast Library 204

November 15 | (GP) Affirmations Workshop from 10:45 to 11:30 am at the Gulf Coast Library 204

November 17 | (HBG) Pastries and Perspective: How Sweet is the Real World? from 7 to 8:30 pm in Union Room B
Come enjoy a variety of desserts while hearing from professionals as they share about their real world experience and what to expect once you graduate.

November 21 | Thanksgiving Holiday
Classes off, but campus is open including the Office for Disability Accommodations (ODA) from 8 am to 5 pm

November 22-23 | Thanksgiving Holiday
Classes off and campus offices are closed including the Office for Disability Accommodations (ODA)

November 29 | (HBG) Study a Latte! from 7 to 9 pm at the Cook Library
When prepping for finals week, you might be in need of a caffeine break and some moral support – come enjoy some good coffee and company while preparing to ace your finals.

November 30 | Last day of full term classes

December 3-6 | Full-term final exams

December 7 | (HBG) Commencement 9 am session & 3 pm session at the Reed Green Coliseum

December 8 | Residence Halls Close

December 12 | Grades available in SOAR for students who completed their course evaluations

December 21 – January 1 | Campus Closed, including the Office for Disability Accommodations (ODA)
Please leave a voicemail message for ODA at 601.266.5014 or an email message at oda@usm.edu. All messages received while campus is closed will be answer on January 2nd.

If you need an accommodation to attend or participate in any of the events listed above, please contact our office for assistance at oda@usm.edu or 601.266.5024.

Register with the Office for Disability Accommodation (ODA) for disability accommodations

Phone: 601.266.5024 (Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm)
Email at oda@usm.edu
Check us out online at www.usm.edu/oda