September 2018 ODA Newsletter:
Back to School!

New Semester To-Do List

✓ Explore Campus
  • If you are new to campus be sure to take a walk around our lovely campus and get acclimated. There’s a lot to take in!
  • Campus Bus Route - new this semester!
    Hattiesburg City has added a bus route to our campus. With your USM ID card, students can now ride the campus bus route and transfer to any other city bus route to go downtown or to the mall for FREE. Buses run 6:00 am until 6:00 pm Monday through Friday. There are 14 stops on campus. Find the bus route map at https://www.usm.edu/parking/transit-services.
  • Get Fit! With RecSports & the Payne Center
    Check out the Challenge Course at Lake Sehoy (through Recreational Sports) and our gym (the Payne Center), which includes an indoor track, indoor pool, climbing wall, and exercise classes – All included in the cost of your tuition.
  • Know your Academic Resources
    Check out the campus library – for the writing center and speaking center – for help with classes. Sign-up for tutoring through one of these great resources: https://www.usm.edu/oda/academic-help-tutoring.

✓ Communicate Effectively

• Check your Campus Email
  Most official USM communications are sent directly to you through your campus email account – get in the habit of checking there often! Shortcut Link: www.portal.office.com.

• Meet with your Professors
  Make the time to talk with all your professors before/after class or during their office hours. Having a relationship your professors can vastly improve your academic experience at Southern Miss.

• Ask for Help
  If you need help – don’t be afraid to ask for it. There are tons of resources on campus. Check with your academic advisor, RA, or the Office of Student Affairs for assistance.

✓ Plan Ahead

• Keep Backups of your Class Materials
  Keep electronic copies of your syllabus and class notes as backups to easily look up information when needed.

• Keep an Updated Calendar
  Whether you prefer a paper planner or using your e-calendar, be sure to put all assignments, tests, and campus events in one place to help you stay on top of all of your classes.
Be Safe

- **Setup Campus Alerts**
  Campus Alerts is how any emergency situation on campus is reported to students. You cannot opt out of this service, but you can setup how you want to be alerted (campus email, text, or phone call) at [https://www.usm.edu/safety/eagle-alert](https://www.usm.edu/safety/eagle-alert).

- **Keep Track of your Personal Items**
  - Be aware of where your personal items are while in public spaces on campus, including the library, eateries, and outside green areas.
  - Be sure to lock your car and bicycle while on campus. Most thefts dealing with cars and bicycles occur when they are left unlocked.
  - Make a list of all serial numbers, MAC addresses, and IP address of your personal belongings, such as your bicycle, laptop, computer tablet, or cellphone.

- **Download the iSouthern Miss App**
  The recently updated iSouthern Miss app has easy access to police and health resources. This app is available for Android and Apple devices.

- **Check in with ODA**
  Please remember that if you have an issue with a class, please come to us immediately. If you have had an issue with an accommodation or would like to change your accommodations – We need to hear from you!

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Register with the Office for Disability Accommodations (ODA) for disability accommodations by contacting us
by phone at 601.266.5024 (Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm) or through email at oda@usm.edu.
Additionally, check us online at [www.usm.edu/oda](http://www.usm.edu/oda).

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**Upcoming Events & Important Dates**

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

**August 28 | (HBG) GEWW Involvement Fair for New Students** from 8:30 to 10:30 am in TCC and Union Lobbies

**August 28 | (HBG) Mindset Matters: Preparing for Better Grades** from 3:30 to 5:30 pm in the Lucky Day Multi-Purpose Room (Student Success Series)

**August 29 | First day of Classes**

If you need an accommodation to attend or participate in any of the programs or events listed above, please contact our office for assistance at oda@usm.edu or 601-266-5024.
CONTINUED Upcoming Events & Important Dates

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

August 29 | (HBG) Annual “Friday Night at the Fountain” event hosted by Southern Miss Activities Council. Meet at the campus fountain adjacent to Centennial Field where the Pride of Mississippi Marching Band will kick off the festivities at 7:00 pm with Pride Preview followed by a Pep Rally with our Southern Miss cheerleading team and mascot Seymour.

September 3 | Labor Day Holiday
USM Campus closed for classes and all academic and student service offices, including our office – the Office for Disability Accommodations (ODA).

September 4-5 | (GP) Blue and YOU! from 9:00 to 11:00 am at the Gulf Park North Academic Building Lawn | Get to know members of our University Police, Parking Management and Title IX staff. Complimentary snacks.

September 4 | (GP) Student Employment and Resource Fair from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Gulf Coast Library 3rd Floor | Meet with representatives and apply for various positions on campus. Positions will be posted on Handshake, Southern Miss' online job database. Students who apply early may be scheduled for an on-site interview during the fair. Complimentary lunch and academic planner. First 25 students receive a t-shirt! Presented by the Office of the Vice Provost and Career Services.

September 4 | (GP) Stress Less Day from 1:00 to 4:00 pm in the FEC Rotunda
Join in for a chair yoga session and complimentary chair messages. Learn valuable stress management techniques and how stress impacts your overall health. Complimentary snacks and door prizes. Presented by College of Education and Human Sciences, College of Nursing and Health Professions, and Southern Miss Fitness Center.

September 5 | (GP) Trivia Challenge and Scavenger Hunt from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm in the North Academic Building Lobby
Test your Southern Miss knowledge! Complimentary refreshments and prizes! Presented by College of Business and Economic Development and Student Government Association.

September 5 | (HBG) James McBride University Forum at 6:30 pm in the Bennet Auditorium

September 6 | Last day to drop classes without Academic or Financial Penalty

September 6 | (HBG) Student Organizations Involvement Fair from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm in the TCC Ballrooms

September 6 | (GP) The One Community Cookout from 5:00 to 6:00 pm at Gulf Park Lloyd Lawn
Enjoy a FREE event – fun for the whole family! Complimentary food, music, photo booth and t-shirts!

September 12 | (HBG) Part-Time Job Fair from 10:00 am to 2 pm in the TCC Ballrooms

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CONTINUED Upcoming Events & Important Dates

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September 12 | (HBG) Money Talks: Manage your College Funds Responsibly from 3:30 to 5:30 pm in the Cook Library Art Gallery (Student Success Series)

September 20 | (HBG) Community Service Involvement Fair from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Union Lobby (hosted by the Center for Community Engagement) <www.usm.edu/center-community-engagement>

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Important Contact Information

- Office for Disability Accommodations (ODA): 601.266.5024 or oda@usm.edu
- University Police (UPD) EMERGENCY: 911
- University Police (UPD) Non-Emergency: 601.266.4986
- Title IX (Sexual Misconduct): 601.266.6804 or titleix@usm.edu
- Student Ombudsman Services (Verifies & Documents Class Absences): 601.266.4025 or osos@usm.edu
- iTech (IT Assistance): 601.266.4357 or helpdesk@usm.edu
- Office of Online Learning: 601.266.5518 or online@usm.edu
- Department of Housing and Residence Life: 601.266.4783
- Health Clinics: (HBG) 601.266.5390 or (GP) 228-214-3300
- Student Counseling Services: (HBG) 601.266.4829 or (GP) 228-214-3300
- Financial Aid: 601.266.4774
- Parking Management: 601.266.4943
- Campus Libraries: (HBG) 601.266.4249 or (GP) 228.214.3451 or (All Campuses) askalib@usm.edu
- Writing Center: (HBG) 601.266.4821 or (GP) 228.214.3346
- Speaking Center: (HBG) 601.266.4965 or (GP) 228.214.3346
- Center for Community Engagement (CCE): 601.266.6886 or cce@usm.edu
- Career Services: 601.266.4153
- Campus Book Store: 601.266.4381
- Eagle Dining: 601.266.5376 or eagledining@gmail.com
- Gulf Park Academic Success Center: (GP) 228.214.3346

Office for Disability Accommodations
The University of Southern Mississippi
Office Location: Bond Hall Room 114

Find us online @ WWW.USM.EDU/ODA.