Congratulations on choosing to be a part of one of the finest institutions of higher education in the nation! Your time at MSU will produce some of the most memorable moments of your life. Whether it is taking a class that captivates your mind, exploring your interests by getting involved in a student organization, sampling the ice cream at the MSU Dairy Store, cheering the Spartans to victory, or meeting new friends, your time at MSU will indeed be special. The intent of the short articles contained in this newsletter is to provide some information about what you (and your parents) can expect when you arrive on campus. Also, check out fallwelcome.msu.edu for information on your first few days at MSU!

$spartan Money $marts

Tuition, books, recreation, food…it all costs money. There is no single answer to questions about money and how much it costs to be a student at MSU, but there are some general guidelines that may help you in making financial decisions.

1. **Make a list of anticipated expenses.** From this list, families should decide which are covered by the student, which by the parent/guardian, etc. There is no one right answer to who should pay for which part of college, but knowing ahead of time may alleviate a lot of tension later.

2. **Credit Cards.** Students will receive countless offers to get a credit card. Some students find credit cards a safe and convenient means of payment. Others, however, (if not careful) find themselves owing significant money to the credit card companies. As such, students and parents are encouraged to discuss credit card use prior to arrival on campus. In cases where a student obtains credit cards for “emergencies,” everyone should agree what constitutes an emergency.

3. **Working while enrolled in school.** The decision to work depends on a variety of factors such as class load, job demands, financial needs, and the individual student. Students who are good at time management and take no more than 15 credit hours per semester may be able to work between ten to twenty hours per week. In fact, research indicates that working less than twenty hours per week in an on-campus job helps students become better acquainted with the institution and complements their academic learning.

To learn more about part-time student jobs, contact Career Services, 113 Student Services, (517) 353-9510, or visit their website at CareerNetwork.msu.edu.

**Dear New Spartan,**

MSU is looking forward to your arrival to campus, and we are ready to offer you an experience that can be one of the best of your life! Our world-class academic programs, our many services and resources, our beautiful campus, the quality of our advisors and professors, the exposure to other community members from diverse cultures and backgrounds, and the excitement of Big Ten Conference Athletics, all combine to create an unequaled pride in the hearts of MSU students.

MSU cares about your success as a student. We hope you will immerse yourself in your academic program, get involved in student organizations, and attend special events and activities to make the most of your undergraduate experience at MSU.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

–MSU Faculty and Staff

Visit fallwelcome.msu.edu for information on all Fall Welcome Activities.
Fall Welcome — Aug 30 - Sept 2

Fall Welcome is a continuation of your orientation to Michigan State University. Throughout the three days of Fall Welcome, many exciting (and fun) events will occur across campus. By attending these events, you will become better acquainted with the campus, meet other students, and begin forming connections to MSU’s faculty and staff members who are here to help you succeed.

For new students who will be living in residence halls, a copy of the 2015 Fall Welcome Handbook will be given to you once you move in. The handbook will provide specific information regarding Fall Welcome activities as well as resources on-campus and in the East Lansing community. For new students residing on campus, Fall Welcome begins on Sunday, August 30. You may begin moving into your new on-campus home at 8am. The first official Fall Welcome activity for on-campus students will take place at 7pm when you will meet the other new students on your residence hall floor for dinner. Following this, hall and floor meetings will be scheduled as a way of providing you with some basic information about your new living community. All new students can view and print their individualized Fall Welcome schedule at fallwelcome.msu.edu.

If you are interested in getting involved, check out the list of Registered Student Organizations that is available on the Department of Student Life’s website at studentlife.msu.edu. The list has contact information for all of the 660+ organizations. Interested in meeting some of the organizations’ members in-person? Then plan to attend Fall Welcome Spartan Spectacular at Cherry Lane Field from 4-10pm on Tuesday, September 1 to be a part of Participation ’15. For more information visit fallwelcome.msu.edu.

Fill the Bus!
Spartans are generous to others and their community. Be a part of a campus-wide service effort to support organizations in the greater Lansing community. When buying your supplies, buy extra to Fill the Bus!

For more information visit www.servicelearning.msu.edu.

Student ID Cards
Students who did not receive their ID card at AOP or need a replacement can go to the ID Office located in the International Center, 427 N. Shaw Lane, Rm 170. A government issued photo ID such as a driver’s license, State ID or passport is needed to obtain your ID. Hours of operation are M-F, 8am-4:45pm. For more information, you can call (517) 355-4500 or send an email to idoffice@msu.edu. Your first ID card is issued to you at no cost. Replacement cards are $20.

Health Insurance Policy at MSU
All individuals should be covered by some form of health insurance. Michigan State University is pleased to offer a student health insurance plan through Aetna Student Health, that provides reasonable protection against sickness and accidents at an affordable cost.

More information about the MSU Student Insurance Plan can be found at www.hr.msu.edu/benefits/studenthealth/studentplan.htm

Study Abroad Fair
Are you thinking about studying abroad? Now’s your chance to come and browse virtually all of MSU’s programs at the 2015 Study Abroad Fair on Thursday, October 15th from noon to 6pm at the Breslin Center.

Sponsored by the Office of Study Abroad, the fair offers you the opportunity to explore your options among the more than 275 study abroad programs offered at MSU and begin planning ahead for your own experience abroad. It will feature programs representing a variety of academic fields and locations. You can talk with program leaders, representatives from partner institutions, former participants, and academic advisers. The fair provides a “one-stop shopping” experience for everything you need to know about choosing a study abroad program.

Billing/Financial Aid Information
(517) 355-3343 • (800) 775-4323

The first bill for the fall semester is produced in mid-July. Your attendance confirmation and payment (if any) is due in the first part of August. The specific due date will appear on the billing statement. You must pay at least the minimum amount due, or confirm attendance if no payment is required (credit balance, zero minimum amount due, or zero balance) to become registered. If you have a balance due, you must submit the minimum payment amount, either by mail or on-line using the ePay system, or a late fee will be assessed. You may pay an electronic bill on-line by credit card or ACH funds transfer and confirm attendance at stuinfo.msu.edu.

Students Receiving Financial Aid at www.finaid.msu.edu — Your bill will reflect any actual or pending financial aid awarded at the time the bill was created, except for College Work Study awards, which must be earned by part-time work during the academic year. Private scholarship checks should be endorsed and sent to the Office of Financial Aid at 556 E. Circle Dr, Room 252, East Lansing, MI 48824. These checks are disbursed according to instructions received from the donor. Stafford or Parent Loans are paid directly to your student account once you have completed your promissory note and no sooner than 10 days before the start of classes (temporary credits are issued if loans are ready to disburse but there are more than 10 days remaining before class starts).

Refunds of Financial Aid — If you have completed registration and have excess financial aid, which has been finalized as of August 21, 2015, a refund will be processed for you the week of August 24. If you have signed up for direct deposit, the funds will be transferred to your bank account. Otherwise, a check will be mailed to your local address, if one is available. If you have no local address on file, checks are mailed to your permanent address. For students who complete registration after August 21, refunds are produced nightly starting on August 26 and mailed the following workday through September 4, and then weekly thereafter. Students may enroll in direct deposit on-line at stuinfo.msu.edu.

Questions about your bill or payment? Students with questions about their bill or payment may contact the Student Accounts Office, which is a part of the Controller’s Office, 426 Auditorium Rd, Room 140, (517) 355 3343, www.cotr.msu.edu.

Visit fallwelcome.msu.edu for information on all Fall Welcome Activities.
Campus Bus Service

The Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA) provides bus service to all of the greater Lansing area and to MSU. Campus service operates 24/7 during fall and spring semesters with service beginning Monday, August 31, 2015. MSU students may ride the bus for $.60 a ride when they show their valid MSU ID. Students wanting to purchase a bus pass instead of paying for each ride have several bus pass options. Passes exist for all of CATA’s routes, on- and off-campus, and exclusively for Route 32 that travels between the commuter lot, located at the corner of Mt. Hope Road, Farm Lane, and the parking ramp on Shaw Lane across from Shaw Hall. For specific information regarding CATA’s routes and bus pass information, please call (517) 432-2282, visit CATA’s website at cata.org or email us at info@cata.org.

Parking On Campus

New students with freshman academic standing who are residing in residence halls generally are not permitted to have vehicles on campus. Commuter students who plan to drive to and park on campus must register their vehicles with the MSU Police. Questions related to parking should be directed to the MSU Police, (517) 355-8440. The MSU Police website, police.msu.edu, also contains useful parking-related information.

Personal Problems

No matter how experienced, mature, and emotionally stable students are, there will be times when feelings and thoughts associated with life issues may become uncomfortable for students to handle alone. If students don’t feel they are making progress toward resolving it in a few weeks, they may want to talk to someone about it.

The Counseling Center offers MSU students services for a variety of personal challenges including depression, stress, substance abuse, family relationships, career decision making, cultural identity, lesbian/bi/gay/transgender issues, interpersonal conflicts, relationship violence and sexual assault. Students can call for a consultation with one of the staff members. Contact the Counseling Center at (517) 355-8270 or check out their website at www.counseling.msu.edu/.

Acquaintance Rape

Acquaintance rape is sexual assault without consent involving a friend, a date or an acquaintance. Educational programs about acquaintance rape and sexual assault are offered on campus during the year. If a friend confides in you after a sexual assault, it is important that you believe that person and help them get appropriate resources by calling the 24-Hour Sexual Assault Crisis Hotline at (517) 372-6666.

Confidentiality of Student Records

Many students and parents assume that parents have the same access to their children’s education records, such as grades and disciplinary records, in the same way as they did in high school. This is not the case.

Once a student reaches the age of 18 or attends a postsecondary educational institution, a parent’s rights with respect to their children’s education records transfer to the student. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, a federal law otherwise known as FERPA (www.reg.msu.edu/ROInfo/Notices/PrivacyGuidelines.aspx), protects the privacy of a student’s education records. FERPA requires that the University, with certain exceptions, obtain the student’s written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from the student’s education records. However, the University may disclose appropriately designated “directory information” without written consent, unless the student has advised the University otherwise. The University has designated the following information as directory information:

- Student’s name;
- Student’s local address (if listed);
- Student’s local phone number (if listed);
- Student’s permanent address (if listed);
- Student’s permanent telephone number (if listed);
- MSU NetID email address (if listed);
- Current enrollment status or dates of attendance;
- Program level (undergraduate, graduate, professional);
- Class (freshman, sophomore, junior, senior, etc.);
- Major field of study;
- Current term candidacy for degree and/or teacher certification;
- Employment status as a graduate teaching or research assistant, office address and office phone number;
- Information pertaining to awards and honors achievements;
- Degree(s) earned from MSU and effective date(s);
- Participation in officially recognized University activities and sports, including weight and height of athletic team members;
- The most recent educational agency or institution attended;
- The registration documents of student organizations which contain the names and addresses of the officers and the statement of purpose of the organization.

Students also have the option to request that the University not disclose directory information without their prior written consent. Students must notify the Office of the Registrar in writing or online at www.reg.msu.edu/StuForms/DirRestrict/DirRestrict.asp if they desire to opt-out of disclosure of directory information.

Questions about the release or disclosure of a student’s education records under FERPA should be directed to the Office of the Registrar at www.reg.msu.edu.

MSU Sustainability — Be Spartan Green

At Michigan State University, green is more than a color. It’s an attitude of personal responsibility and hard work that is shared by students, faculty, and staff who, through both small steps and big collective actions, show how daily intentional actions can make a big impact – and a better world.

Today, MSU is one of the world’s top research universities and one of the nation’s top sustainable campuses. And every day—through teaching, research, outreach, and campus innovation—Spartans are working to improve the quality of life at MSU and in communities around the globe.

Our actions are powered by more than a century-and-a-half commitment to empowering ordinary people to do extraordinary things. Working together, we can move mountains—or preserve them for future generations.

There are plenty of opportunities for students to get involved in sustainability at MSU; visit www.bespargreen.msu.edu to see how you can Be Spartan Green!

Visit fallwelcome.msu.edu for information on all Fall Welcome Activities.
Quick Phone Contacts
(all numbers in area code 517 unless specified)

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Report your immunization history

The University requires all new undergraduate students to complete the Immunization Self-Report form at immunize.msu.edu. Failure to complete this requirement will affect your ability to register and enroll. This information is helpful to the University in the delivery of routine healthcare and in the unlikely event of a disease outbreak.

Visit fallwelcome.msu.edu for information on all Fall Welcome Activities.