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 need, 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. Students are encouraged to make school their top priority. However, with proper time management, students can enjoy sufficient time to prepare for their classes, socialize, participate in extracurricular activities, and work.

To learn more about part-time student jobs, contact the Michigan State University Student Employment Office, 113 Student Services or 110 Nisbet Building, (517) 353-9510, or visit their website at career network.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
—August 25-28

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 2013 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 the East Lansing community. For new students residing on campus, Fall Welcome begins on Sunday, August 25. 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. If you are a new commuter student at MSU, please make plans to attend the Commuter/Transfer Student Meeting at 2pm on Tuesday, August 27 in B115 Wells Hall.

All new students can view and print their individualized Fall Welcome schedule at fallwelcome.msu.edu and can pick up a copy of the Fall Welcome Handbook as early as Friday, August 23 in the Department of Student Life, located at 556 E. Circle Drive, Room 101.

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 most of the over 660 organizations. Interested in meeting some of the organizations’ members in-person? Then plan to attend Fall Welcome Spartan Spectacular at Munn Field from 4-10pm on Tuesday, August 27 to be a part of Sparticipation ‘13. 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/events/fill-the-bus.

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 107. The regular hours of operation are M-F 8am-5pm; however, the office will be open on Sunday, August 25 from 9am-5pm for opening weekend. You will be required to show a government issued photo ID such as a driver’s license, State ID or passport to obtain your ID. Your first University ID card is issued to you at no cost. Replacement cards are $20.00.

Health Insurance Policy at MSU

The only students required by MSU to have health insurance are international, medical, and veterinary students.

You can view the policy as well as information about the MSU Student Insurance Plan at www.hr.msu.edu/benefits/studenthealth/

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 2013 Study Abroad Fair on Thursday, September 26 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 300 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.

Staff from the Office of Study Abroad will be on-hand to answer questions and help you understand what you need to know before studying abroad. Representatives from other support units will also be available to help with questions about travel logistics, funding opportunities, health issues and more. Academic advisers can offer assistance about individual degree requirements.

Watch your email for updates or check the web at studyabroad.msu.edu/safair for more details.

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 confirm attendance on-line regardless of the amount due (credit balance, balance 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 processed, except for College Work Study awards, which must be earned by part-time work during the academic year. Private scholarship 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 18, 2013, a refund will be processed for you the week of August 19. 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 19, refunds are produced nightly starting on August 20 and mailed the following workday through August 30, 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, Room 140 Administration Building, (517) 355-3343, www.ctlr.msu.edu.

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

Tips to Prevent Acquaintance Rape

• Be aware that acquaintance rape is the most common form of sexual assault.
• Decide what your own sexual limits are and clearly communicate them.
• Respect the limits of others.
• Do not have sex unless your partner has clearly consented.
• Limit alcohol intake; alcohol impairs judgement and clear communication.
• Do not let peers influence you to do something you’ll regret.
• Trust your instincts. If the situation doesn’t seem right to you, it probably isn’t!

Contact the Sexual Assault Program www.endrape.msu.edu to learn more!

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.

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 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.

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 26, 2013. 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 cata.org or email us at info@cata.org.

Relationships

Dating offers opportunities to create satisfying relationships, foster understanding, and enhance awareness of preferences and needs. It also presents possibilities for disappointment, rejection, and in some cases, abuse.

Students should concentrate on building friendships in dating — get to know other people, develop new interests, and establish open and honest communication instead of focusing solely on romantic attachment or physical attraction. Remember, dating provides you with the opportunity to discover positive qualities and to identify means for personal growth.

Confidentiality of Student Records

Many students and parents assume information (such as grades and disciplinary process involvement) is treated the same way as it was in high school. This is not the case.

Once a student enters the University, all privacy rights transfer from the parents to the student. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, otherwise known as FERPA, (www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/index.html) governs the release of a student’s educational information. FERPA holds that, except for “directory information”, the information contained in a college student’s educational record is protected and may be released only under certain circumstances. “Directory information” includes:

• Student name
• Dates of attendance at institution
• Degrees granted and the dates they were conferred
• Major
• School
• Level
• Permanent address
• Local address
• Telephone number

Students also have the right to request that “directory information” not be released.

Campus Sustainability – Be Spartan Green

Every day, MSU Spartans work to create life-changing solutions for a better world. 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.

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. The impact? Clean and affordable energy. Access to education and to safe food and water supplies. Improved health. Less work. More efficiency. And a more hopeful and sustainable future for all.

There are plenty of opportunities for students to get involved in sustainability at MSU; visit www.bespartangreen.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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<td>On-Campus Housing Options</td>
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<td>Parking</td>
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<td>355-5250</td>
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<td>Rental Housing - Legal Questions</td>
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<td>336-8088</td>
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<td>353-3716</td>
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**Did You Know…**

All MSU undergrads are required to submit an Immunization Self-Report form.

**Failure to complete this requirement will affect a student’s ability to register and enroll.**

- Go to [immunize.msu.edu](http://immunize.msu.edu)
- Contact [uphys@msu.edu](mailto:uphys@msu.edu) or call (517) 353-9101 with questions.

If you have already completed this form and have recently gotten a hepatitis B, chickenpox, meningococcal or tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis, hepatitis A or measles/mumps/rubella vaccination, please visit the site to update your record.

**Thank you** for attending to this important health matter!

Visit [fallwelcome.msu.edu](http://fallwelcome.msu.edu) for information on all Fall Welcome Activities.