view
for parents of students in
Campus Living Services
and Residence Life

Campus Living Services
and Residence Life

MSU Residential and Hospitality Services

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
Congratulations on becoming the parent of a Spartan! An education from Michigan State University is truly an investment in your student’s future. What’s more, by living on campus your student can focus on getting their world-class education. The resources students get when they live on are not only for freshmen, a major reason why so many students choose to continue to live on campus during their sophomore year. Being surrounded by academic resources and live-in staff and services, students who live on campus save time, eat well, get rest, study and have what they need to make the most of their experience at MSU.

U View provides much of the information your family will need as you begin your relationship with MSU’s Campus Living Services and Residence Life. Printed copies of U View are periodically sent to parents and are supplemented by a monthly online edition throughout the school year. To subscribe to the free electronic version of U View, go to www.liveon.msu.edu/uview.

Parent Club
At Parent Orientation, you will have the opportunity to register for our Parent Club. We encourage you to sign up for this free program that gives you access to important information and resources related to campus life at MSU. Through the club, you can also follow campus events, connect with other Spartan parents and ask questions through our Facebook group, “Spartan Parents.”

DID YOU KNOW?
Students who live on campus earn better grades and graduate in less time than those who live off.
HELPING STUDENTS TRANSITION

Whether or not this is the first time you have sent a student off to college, we guarantee that things have changed. Your student will soon be packing up to begin a new chapter in their academic and personal growth. No matter the distance between your home and campus, you as the parent, guardian or friend of a new Spartan will continue to play an important role in that growth as a source of support and advice.

There are several things you can do to help your student make the transition to college:

• Consider easing up on curfews or eliminating them altogether; after all, in just a few months when they move into the residence halls they won’t have to be in by a certain time. While our residence halls do close at midnight, residents can still come in by showing their ID to the night receptionist who monitors the front doors from midnight until 7 a.m.

• If your student is stressed about paying for college or needing a source of income during the school year, please encourage them to apply for one of the many jobs available on campus. They can do so online at www.liveon.msu.edu by clicking on the “Employment” link.

• If they are not already, have your student start doing their own laundry. A Laundry 101 lesson now will save a whole lot of grief later!

• Set up a checking account or credit card for your student, either through one of your hometown financial institutions, the MSU Federal Credit Union or a Lansing-area bank. Students have an opportunity to open an account with the MSU Federal Credit Union when they are here for academic orientation.

QUICK ACCESS TO INFORMATION

The Campus Living Services and Residence Life website www.liveon.msu.edu provides information for both parents and students. You can stay informed about campus happenings by reading the “News and Events” section, get questions answered by accessing our FAQs (linked from the lower left corner of the site), or learn more about the halls by checking out our floor plans, blogs, videos and “Rules for Living in the Residence Halls” document. There are also links to the Construction Log with photos of our current renovation projects and a link to the MyHousing site where students can access their personal housing account, sign their housing contract, get information about early arrival/late stay requests and request room changes.

MSU Car Sharing

MSU has partnered with Zipcar to promote carpooling and the use of mass transit. Zipcar is a private company which has vehicles on campus that students can rent for an hour, a few hours or up to a day and is a perfect option for those times when they have an appointment back home. Current rates are $8 per hour or $66 for the day, which includes gas and up to 180 miles. For more information visit www.zipcar.com.
HELPING YOUR STUDENT ADJUST

We’re glad your student is living with us! While living on campus, your student will have the opportunity to:

Get involved with the residence hall community. You can help by:

- Urging your student to be an active member of their hall community, by attending floor programs, floor meeting and hall events.
- Suggesting that your student meet people by attending hall-based government and caucus meetings.
- Discussing your expectations for your student’s academic and social conduct.
- Encouraging your student to lock their door and not leave personal belongings unattended while on campus. The safety of students is largely a product of their own behaviors.
- Reminding your student to get to know their mentor and intercultural aide. These undergraduate staff members receive extensive training in order to help your student successfully transition to college!

Achieve academic success. You can help by:

- Emphasizing the importance of creating study groups with those who live nearby.
- Encouraging your student to explore new ways of thinking and potential career options.
- Asking your student what they are learning. Encourage them to talk about classroom experiences with their friends.
- Helping your student select a housing option that meets their needs (things like quiet floors or Honors College options).
- Reminding your student to seek out MSU’s many academic resources. Resident mentors and intercultural aides can be very helpful in connecting your student with those resources.

Learn about themselves and others. You can help by:

- Encouraging your student to get to know others on the floor and in the hall, extending their social circle to include individuals with different identities and interests.
- Asking your student what makes each of their new friends unique and interesting.
- Helping your student strategize how to candidly discuss their expectations for living together with their roommates and suitemates.
- Expecting your student to take initiative to solve their own problems.
- Sharing your hope that your student will reflect on decisions made and learn from these important college experiences.

In-hall Staff are Here for Your Student

Campus Living Services and Residence Life has a multitude of staff available to assist your student as they settle into their campus home and onto a path of academic excellence. We are here to provide you and your student with information, support, problem-solving, and referrals to campus and community resources. Each residence hall has a variety of full-time and student staff in: Guest Services, Facilities and Residence Life. Someone is available to help your student 24/7. Staff can assist them in checking out a loaner key to their room, handle maintenance issues, provide a listening ear when homesickness sets in, or give them time management tips.

The most visible staff member your student will encounter will likely be their floor mentor, an upper-level undergraduate student who receives extensive training on community development, study skills, intercultural communication and conflict resolution. Mentors are supervised by graduate-level staff and hall directors, most of whom are master’s level professionals in fields related to student development. Each residence hall has one of these full-time live-in staff members.

DID YOU KNOW?

80% of freshmen students who room with someone they don’t know report that they have a good experience living on campus.
WHAT TO EXPECT IN THE COMING WEEKS

In early June, your student will receive a publication called “Go Green.” This information is similar to U View, but contains more specific information for students. A copy of the publication will be posted online at www.liveon.msu.edu in the “Document Library” section.

Also in early June, your student will receive an email to their msu.edu email account with instructions on how to view their housing assignment and sign the housing contract.

Please note that students under the age of 18 will need a parent or legal guardian to co-sign the contract.

In early August, students will receive a second email on how to find out their room number and roommate information.

Academic Orientation

You and your student should have signed up to attend orientation programs via the MSU Admissions website. Academic Orientation Program (AOP) is for students and Parent Orientation Program (POP) is for parents. You and your student will have a chance to tour the neighborhood in which they will live during summer orientation.

Spartan Neighborhoods at MSU

Neighborhoods at MSU are more than a cluster of residence halls; they are student communities that provide innovative, integrated support services. Neighborhoods at MSU are designed to foster academic success, civic and social engagement, health and wellness, and intercultural development, and bring the campus resources to students where they live. Neighborhood Engagement Centers offer tutoring, advising, health services and more. Engagement Centers are currently located in Hubbard, Brody and Holden halls; every neighborhood will eventually have one.

IMPORTANT DATES

August 28: First-year students move in
August 29: Returning students move in
August 31: Fall semester classes begin
Enter to Win a Student Bookstore Gift Card

When you attend the summer Parent Orientation Program, be sure to stop at the Campus Living Services and Residence Life table in the registration area. Those who sign up to subscribe to the online edition of the U View will be entered in a drawing to win a $150 Spartan Bookstore. We greatly appreciate the Spartan Bookstore’s donation of this during each of the 24 POP sessions this summer.

Spartan Cash

Spartan Cash is a safe and convenient way for students to use their MSU ID cards to access a wide variety of services and products at more than 100 locations across campus and the local community. Instead of having to scrounge for cash, carry credit cards or write checks, students can pay with Spartan Cash. Some meal plans come with Spartan Cash automatically. Students and their families can pre-load Spartan Cash dollars onto their MSU ID cards. Spartan Cash vendors do not sell alcohol or tobacco products. For a complete list of vendors, go to www.spartancash.com.

Safety and Security Come First

The safety and security of students is something MSU takes very seriously. Green emergency phones are installed around the campus grounds and within the sightline of student room doors in the residence halls (excluding Owen). The emergency phone allows anyone with a safety concern to quickly get to a phone with push-button capability, which greatly increases response time in the event of an emergency.

We are finishing a project to increase security by installing electronic card access on the exterior doors of all residence halls by fall 2012. This will allow only those residents who live in a certain building to gain access by swiping their MSU ID.

Great Campus Events by the University Activities Board (UAB)

UAB hosts more than 250 events annually on campus, and most are free to MSU students. More than 150,000 students attended UAB events last year. Visit www.uabevents.com for more information. Many of these events are funded through the following fundraising programs:

Residence Hall Linen Program

Our residence halls provide white bed linens and towels, laundered weekly, at no additional charge. Many students wish to further personalize their space, and the Residence Hall Linen Program can help by offering savings on specialty bed linens designed especially for college students. Call 1-800-957-4338, or visit www.rhl.org/mst to place an order now as popular colors go fast. Watch the mail for information sent to your student regarding these programs.

Residence Hall Carpet Program

The Residence Hall Carpet Program allows students to pre-order a sized, brand new, top-quality, plush carpet and have it waiting on campus at move-in at four convenient locations on campus — all at a special student rate! Call 1-800-892-8729, or visit www.rhcarpets.com/mst for more information.

Bedloft.com

Students can pre-order microfridges, futons and personal safes at www.bedloft.com for easy pick-up on move-in day. Pick-up will be the same as carpet locations in four centrally located areas on campus. More information and prices can be found at www.bedloft.com.

DID YOU KNOW?

Parents and students can reserve textbooks online. Check out all the MSU apparel and other items at www.spartanbook.com. Gift cards are also available through the Spartan Bookstore.
EATING AT STATE

With made-to-order, healthy fresh dining in our 12 residential dining halls including the award-winning The Gallery at Snyder/Phillips, and the new Brody Square, your student is sure to eat well on campus, no matter what they crave. MSU’s flexible meal plans feature Combo-X-Change, pre-determined combo options for use at any culinary services retail location. The Platinum, Gold and Silver meal plans include anytime access in any residential dining hall, guest meals, Spartan Cash and one Combo-X-Change to be used at our culinary services retail locations, Monday – Friday. Employment opportunities are also available at all our Culinary Services locations. More information and applications will be available at your student’s AOP.

New Dining Options for 2011 – 2012

Case Dining
The first floor of Case will be closed for renovations from May to December 2011. The new dining hall will feature pizza and sandwiches, grilled items, salad and sushi, regional items and desserts. The first floor will also feature a Sparty’s Café with made-to-order pizza. During the renovation, students can dine at Holden, Wilson and Wonders nearby, or at any other dining hall on campus.

Sparty’s Café at Brody
A Sparty’s Café is opening this fall at Brody and will offer hot and cold specialty drinks, convenience items and made-to-order pizza.

Holden Dining
Holding Dining Hall is also undergoing a renovation this summer. When it reopens for the fall, the new dining hall will include stations for homestyle cooking, Asian cuisine, vegetarian dishes and specialty salads.

Sweet Treats from the MSU Bakers
You can send delicious baked goods as gifts to your student during the year from MSU’s own on-campus bakery. Visit www.msubakers.com for more information, to view products and monthly specials and to place an order.

Accommodating Your Student’s Dietary Restrictions
If your student has dietary restrictions due to health concerns, food allergies or religious observances, the dining managers in each hall are available to meet with them. All of our residential dining hall menus will be marked with food labels for easy identification card access. Kosher meals are available at Wilson Dining and Halal is featured at Riverwalk Market at Owen Hall. For more information on menus and nutritional information, visit www.eatatstate.com.

Have Another Student Off Campus?
If you are a veteran Spartan parent and have an older student who is living off campus next year, they can still take advantage of our flexible off-campus meal plans. With multiple accesses to any of our residential dining halls, our off-campus meal plans also feature Combo-X-Change and Flex Option, and rollover meals available until the end of summer. Visit www.eatatstate.com for more information.
VISIT US ONLINE:

www.liveon.msu.edu

Campus Living Services and Residence Life is a department of the Division of Residential and Hospitality Services at Michigan State University.

Printed U Views are sent to parents four times per year. Additional monthly updates are available through the U View e-newsletter. Visit www.liveon.msu.edu/uview to subscribe.

This free newsletter will give you timely information throughout the academic year.