




MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

The Academic Advisor Newsletter

Fall 2018 Course Registration

Fall 2018 registration is just a few weeks away! Advisors should encourage their advisees to schedule advising appointments now and not wait until it's too late. As a rule of thumb, after the advising appointment and once priority registration has begun for your students, the first year academic advising hold (FY) should be lifted for 48 hours (2 days) for students to register for their fall 2018 classes. In addition, all advising notes must be entered in Starfish.

Fall 2018 Priority Registration Groupings

Date/Time:	Eligible Students:
Monday, April 2 nd	<i>Seniors - (90+ earned credits), Graduate Students, Honors, Athletes, Veterans</i>
Friday, April 6 th	<i>Juniors - (56 - 89 earned credits)</i>
Monday, April 9 th	<i>Sophomores - (25 - 55 earned credits)</i>
Thursday, April 12 th	<i>Freshmen - (0 - 24 earned credits)</i>
Sunday, April 15 th - Saturday, September 1 st	<i>General Registration for All Currently Enrolled Students</i>

Priority registration groupings set by the Office of Records and Registration

March 2018

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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Student Services Spotlight:

School of Engineering Ideation Space

The Morgan State University's School of Engineering has just opened their brand new Ideation Space. It is essentially the first phase of the "Makerspace Design and Development" project. For those who do not know, a makerspace is a space where like-minded students can gather to think, design, create, and innovate on different projects (personal or school/work related) and experiments. "Makerspaces go beyond the traditional machine shop environment familiar to the undergraduate curriculum offering access to rapid prototyping equipment and conceptual design spaces coupled with a unique culture that can be transformative to its users" (Bareett et al., 2015). We would like this space to be a collaborative space for students, faculty and community (but largely driven by students) to share ideas, work on projects, and tinker.

The idea for this space was initially brought forth by the University Innovation Fellows (UIF) along with Dr. Monique Head. The Ideation Space is equipped with a 3D printer, multiple power outlets, work benches, portable white boards on wheels, and much more! Phase two of this project is currently underway and will be a separate space which



will house numerous resources such as advanced workshop equipment, computer programs, electronics, manufacturing production machinery, and textile/handcraft equipment. This makerspace will hopefully offer a reliable and safe space for students to enhance their understanding of what was already taught in the classroom.

Every week we try to hold information sessions, "meet-ups", or interactive workshops to inspire students to create, tinker, and innovate. The space is open to all Morgan students of all majors and all backgrounds.

Location: Clarence M. Mitchell, School of Engineering room 121

Email: morganmaker17@gmail.com (for more info. & to gain access to the space)

*Source: Shaakirah Lee - Senior, Industrial Engineering Major
Estimator/Operations Manager, Ideation Space*

IMPORTANT DATES

March 2018

March 8th

Women's History
Month Convocation

March 12th—17th

Midterm Exams

March 19th—23rd

Spring Break

March 19th

Registration Opens
for Summer Session
I & II

March 30th

Last Day to Drop A
Class with a "W"

Featured Academic Advising Excerpt:

Advisors' Perceptions, Attitudes, and Suggestions for Working with Parents

With all the talk about helicopter parents and overparenting, it is clear there is a new era in academia that includes parents. Advisors observed an increase in parental involvement in college students' academics (Merriman, 2007). While this participation can be useful at times, it is common to hear of parent horror stories and worst-case scenarios. It can be easy to forget that many parents have an incredible investment of time, love, money, and energy in their child's education. A college degree represents an enormous financial investment for many students' parents. The impact of a college education is not just financial; a college degree is associated with many quality of life indicators, including overall job satisfaction and more stable employment (Pew Research Center, 2014). It is no wonder, then, that parents invest emotionally in their child's participation in college. There is also evidence that a certain amount of parental involvement is beneficial for students (Harper, Sax, & Wolf, 2012), but parental involvement is not always helpful.

Given the increase in parental involvement and mixed findings on its impact, we, the authors of this article, gathered data from advisors on their perceptions of their interactions with parents. Additionally, we asked for examples of effective strategies for working with parents. We surveyed 54 academic advisors at the University of Arizona from ten different colleges. Most respondents were female (89%), white/European American (80%), and had a master's degree or higher level of education (72%).

Additionally, the survey included open-ended questions regarding strategies that advisors found most helpful when working with students' parents. Five themes emerged from the responses.

Let Parents Have Their Say. Often when people are angry, they simply want to be heard. By listening to frustrations and validating experiences, advisors can defuse tense situations and move to conversations that are more productive. It may be tempting to shut an unpleasant conversation down by invoking FERPA, but by simply listening and acknowledging, advisors can calm parents down without saying anything specific about the situation or student.

Include the Student. The most productive parent interactions involve advisor, parent, and student. By involving the student, any misperceptions or miscommunications can be cleared up. These three-way interactions can help promote student autonomy and responsibility by addressing the student directly and allowing the student's voice to enter the conversation. The advisor is also able to model good listening skills and see the student as an adult.

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Develop a Game Plan for Parental Involvement. Advisors should collaborate with their advising team or departmental personnel to make a game plan and develop policy. Advisors can be more confident in their interactions with parents by knowing they have the law (FERPA) and their department behind them. Clear department policies based on FERPA regulations and outlining expectations for parental contact give advisors a safety net. Outline these expectations on the departmental web page so that parents can understand what information advisors can and cannot share.

Share General Information in Multiple Ways. Advisors know what questions parents often ask about academic programs and what information is the most essential for ensuring their children's success. There are a number of ways of keeping parents informed without direct contact or specific student information, including parent newsletters and departmental website.

Be Positive. While many advisors have a parent horror story, according to the respondents in the present study, interactions with parents are generally positive or neutral. Most advisors also reported that interactions with parents were generally helpful. This finding is consistent with a separate study's results that students perceive these interactions as generally helpful (Ewing-Cooper & Merrifield, 2016). Thus, parental involvement may be an opportunity to leverage parental energy into positive student outcomes. Entering situations with a positive frame of mind and being open to parental contributions can take a potentially bad situation to good.

Source: Ewing-Cooper, A. & Merrifield, K. (2018, March). Advisors' perceptions, attitudes, and suggestions for working with parents. *Academic Advising Today*, 41(1). Retrieved from <http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Resources/Academic-Advising-Today/View-Articles/Advisors-Perceptions-Attitudes-and-Suggestions-for-Working-with-Parents.aspx>

Get to Know the Team

Currently 20 staff members (CASA Advisors and Retention Advisors/Coordinators) provide academic advising services to the first year student population at MSU. February's staff highlight is:



Lafaun Davis

Retention Advisor, School of Engineering

Lafaun Davis, born and raised in Baltimore, MD. He is a Retention Advisor for the School of Engineering and have been working at MSU for 5 months. Morgan State University is his Alma Mater, Mr. Davis attended Morgan State University and graduated with a Bachelors of Science degree in Electrical Engineer. He is a musician and loves to play the piano. While in school his love for music introduced and led him to join and become an active member of the Pi Eta Chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity of America Inc. He is also an active member of Grace Restoration Life Fellowship where he does teaches, does music and a host of other things. Currently his hobbies include music, movies, swimming and EATING .