Earning a college degree is indeed a prize! It represents years of hard work (sometimes 3 years, sometimes 4 years, sometimes 5 or more) and commitment. That hard work and commitment, however, will change your daughter’s or son’s life forever. It is well documented that individuals with a bachelor’s degree earn more than high school graduates. In March 2005, the U.S. Census Bureau released statistics which reinforced the value of a college education: “…workers 18 and over with a bachelor’s degree earn an average of $51,206 a year, while those with a high school diploma earn $27,915.” Multiply those earnings over one’s lifetime and the results are quite dramatic.

According to U.S. Census data, college graduates earn $500,000 more than non-graduates over their lifetimes, have more career options, and are less likely to be unemployed. Not only will a bachelor’s degree contribute to increasing your son or daughter’s career earnings and improving his/her quality of life, it will help prepare him/her to be a better parent and citizen of our global community. The rewards from earning the prize are well worth the hard work and challenges. So, what is the path that your student must take to assure that the destination of graduation is reached?

The journey begins during the first year. Students should find out what the University graduation requirements are as early in their college program as possible. They are expected to know and satisfy all relevant degree requirements published in the Morgan State University Catalog, including General Education requirements that all students must complete successfully regardless of their majors. (See “Can’t Graduate without It”), college/school requirements, and requirements in their major. Your son or daughter has been assigned an academic advisor to assist and guide them as they make course selections, decide on a major, and familiarize themselves with the University’s academic policies. The advisor may be a faculty member, a chairperson and/or a retention specialist. Ultimately, however, he/she will be held accountable for knowing and meeting all requirements necessary to be graduated.

The journey continues through the sophomore and junior years as students complete their general education courses, pass the Speech and Writing Proficiency Examinations, and move forward with the course work for their chosen majors. By the time students have earned 60 or more credits, they should be assessing where they are on the road to graduation. They should be asking questions such as: How can I improve my GPA (grade point average) if it is less than a “B”? The higher the GPA, the greater likelihood that finances will not be an issue as students move toward graduation. Good grades are a must – not an option! (See “No Finances! No Degree!”) What requirements still must be completed in order to graduate? Will I meet the family target date for graduation? Have I forgotten anything? It is extremely important as the journey nears an end that students continue to consult with their professors and advisors. It is a highly stressful and challenging time, and important deadlines can be missed.

So, now your son or daughter is a senior. It is time to take the Senior-Level Comprehensive Examination, a
MISU Ms. Senior and Mr. Senior: Class of 2007

STRAIGHT FROM THE STUDENTS

Dominiique Johsipn and Emmanuel Ferdinand

A GOAL ACHIEVED

Morgan State University is and has been the core of my success in my academic, my career, and my life goals. Here I have developed excellent time management skills which set me on a path that for most would be difficult to accomplish at an University. My goal since my freshman year at Morgan State University has been to graduate within 3 years. For any student this goal would be intricate to accomplish, but Morgan State University makes it possible for any student who has the drive. During my freshman year, I made it an obligation to join as many organizing as possible. This developed a strong network for me which made it possible for me to get significant advice from the upper class students. This put me ahead of my peers and fellow classmates. Because I am not making mistakes such as choosing the wrong classes, filing late for financial aid, etc. These are mistakes that incoming freshmen often make which put them behind on graduation. Instead with the network I developed, I was learning from the upper classmate’s past mistakes and making sure I did not do the same. In my second year, I was accepted into the University’s prestigious Honors Program, one of my greatest accomplishments. It gave me the confidence and motivation to continue to work hard and reach my goals. My network expanded because now I was surrounded with people who are goal oriented, motivated, and on the right track for graduation. Having a good support base is a key factor for any student in any University and Morgan State University is full of high quality students who make our University superior to others. Being surrounded with people with the same goals as you makes it easier for you to remain focused because the moment you begin to give up you have someone to motivate you instead of bringing you down.

The most important reason for my success at Morgan State University and in life has been one guiding principle, “If it is in writing, it shall be done.” This is something my late father always reminded me. If you just write down your goals on paper, you are going to accomplish them. Since my freshman year I have written down everything I want to do in my years at Morgan such as being accepted into Morgan’s Honors program; becoming a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated; becoming Mr. Senior; being enrolled in the Deans List of 2004-2005; becoming a member of both Alpha Lambda Delta and Phi Eta Sigma Honor Societies; becoming a staff writer for Morgan State Speaker, being the host of Caribbean Riddims of WMUR Cable Radio and a member of the Marketing Society. My most ambitious, overarching goal was to graduate in 3 years which I will accomplish in May 2007. Morgan State University has been the core of my success and the reason for my success and I will be the core to the success of any student who attends Morgan State University as well.

6. A Freshmen orientation course
3. A core of general education courses totaling 30 credits
2. Speech Proficiency, Writing Proficiency, and Senior-level Comprehensive Examinations

Students must also complete all requirements for their major chosen as well as specific requirements for their individual colleges/schools.

THINK! THINK! THEN CHOOSE!

Students should have accurate information about the type of course work required by a given major, know if their personal interests and abilities are a good match, and understand the career implications related to that major before choosing. Declaring a major is a critical decision which generally should be made no later than the end of the student’s sophomore year. If a student has questions about selecting a major or wishes to change their major, they should consult with their academic advisor. Changing a major and/or declaring a major after your sophomore year can result in delaying graduation.

IMPORTANT 2007 SPRING SEMESTER DATES!!!

January 23
Sunday, January

Class of 2007

STRAIGHT FROM THE STUDENTS

Dominiique Johsipn and Emmanuel Ferdinand

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importance in their major field of study. Finally, they have satisfied all degree requirements and it is time to formally apply for graduation. The Application for Graduation is filed with the Dean of the college/school, e.g. School of Business and Management, in which the student’s major is located. Students who wish to participate in the May commencement must file an application in October of the year prior to graduation. Students who wish to receive their diploma in December must file an Application in May of the year of graduation. (Note: Also there are various fees associated with the graduation ceremony.)

It’s Done!!! You have seen your son or daughter receive the coveted bachelor’s degree… the prize. Now, it is time to formally apply for graduation. The Application for Graduation is filed with the Dean of the college/school, e.g. School of Business and Management, in which the student’s major is located. Students who wish to participate in the May commencement must file an application in October of the year prior to graduation. Students who wish to receive their diploma in December must file an Application in May of the year of graduation. (Note: Also there are various fees associated with the graduation ceremony.)

Graduating from college is one of the greatest achievements your daughter or son will accomplish in their lifetime. Life after college will present new challenges and new opportunities. Your student should carefully consider the many possible choices. Many students know that they are going to graduate school, or that they are going to teach, or join a major corporation or government agency, or start their own business. Many more are still searching and considering. Encourage them to think beyond the traditional after college employment. Encourage them to think about experiences that will broaden them intellectually and socially, experiences which will contribute to their understanding of the global community, and how their skills and knowledge can best be used in education, medicine, business, or fashion.

Below are a few possibilities for your college senior.

1. Developmental courses if required by the student's sophomore year.
2. A Freshmen orientation course
3. A core of general education courses totaling 30 credits
4. Speech Proficiency, Writing Proficiency, and Senior-level Comprehensive Examinations

Students must also complete all requirements for their major chosen as well as specific requirements for their individual colleges/schools.

THINK! THINK! THEN CHOOSE!

Students should have accurate information about the type of course work required by a given major, know if their personal interests and abilities are a good match, and understand the career implications related to that major before choosing. Declaring a major is a critical decision which generally should be made no later than the end of the student’s sophomore year. If a student has questions about selecting a major or wishes to change their major, they should consult with their academic advisor. Changing a major and/or declaring a major after your sophomore year can result in delaying graduation.

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