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 80 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.
AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps is a network of local, state, and national service programs that connects more than 70,000 Americans each year in intensive service to meet America’s critical needs in education, public safety, health and the environment. AmeriCorps volunteers serve for ten months, and, depending on their placements, earn a living allowance that enables them to live comfortably regardless of their placement site. In an effort to assure that qualified candidates of all economic situations are able to participate in the corps, Teach For America offers need-based transitional grants and no-interest loans to help corps members make it to their first paychecks. Packages vary in amounts based on demonstrated need. Teach For America alumni—most of whom are still in their 20s and 30s—run AmeriCorps programs in cities across the country. They are dedicated to the mission to 1950, when then President Harry S. Truman issued Executive Order 10450, which established the United States Peace Corps and required its volunteers to follow the values of the American Creed:

- Liberty for all people
- Freedom for all people
- Prosperity for all people
- Opportunity for all people
- Equality for all people
- Justice for all people

There are about 7,000 AmeriCorps members serving around the world. The Peace Corps is an independent agency of the U.S. government.

Teach for America is a cohort of college students who have chosen to serve our country in the cause of peace by living and working in developing countries. Today’s Peace Corps members work in many of the same areas as AmeriCorps volunteers, but in foreign countries, in areas such as education, youth outreach, health, and HIV/AIDS, agriculture, and the environment. They are also working in emerging and essential areas such as information technology and business development. During their service, volunteers receive a living allowance that enables them to meet their basic needs while living and working in a foreign country.

A Goal Accomplished

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 any 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 organizations 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 class-mates. Because I have not made mistakes such as choosing the wrong classes, filing late for federal 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 classroom’s past mistakes and moving forward, thus 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 such factors 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 told 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 Alpha Alpha Delta Fraternity Incorporated; becoming Mr. Senior; being enrolled in the Dean’s 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 Spokesman, being the host of Caribbean Rhiddims 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 and the reason for my success and it will be the core to the success of any student who attends Morgan State University as well.

2. A Freshmen orientation course
3. A core of general education courses tailored to majors
4. Speech Proficiency, Writing Proficiency, and Senior-level Comprehensive Examinations

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

THINK! THINK! THINK CHOICE!

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 regarding 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
Dissertation Bindings
February 1
Deadline to file the RFMSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) RFMSA forms may be filed online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Students who file FAFSA forms after March 1st may not be eligible to receive all types of financial aid.
March 12-17
Mid-Semester Exams
March 19-24
Spring Break
March 26 - April 14
ADVISEMENT DOPS (Students must meet with academic advisors to review progress and prepare FALL 2007 schedules)
May 14
Last Day to Drop Undergraduate Classes
April 30 - May 5
Final Exams for Prospective May 2007 Graduates
April 3 -14
Rolling Registration for FALL 2007 semester
May 27
Final Exams for Non graduates
MAT 20
Comprehensive Test
May 27
SPRING SEMESTER ENDS

STRAIGHT FROM THE STUDENTS

BY Emmaus Ferdinand
2006-2007 Mr. Senior, MSU

MISU Ms. Senior and Mr. Senior
Class of 2007

Domingue Jarquin and Emmaus Ferdinand

The World Awaits…Your Daughter…Your Son

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 such areas as education, medicine, business, or fashion.

Below are a few possibilities for you to consider and, perhaps, discuss with your college senior:

• Building affordable housing
• Improving health services
• Fighting illiteracy
• Improving educational opportunities for all.

For further information, go to www.teachforamerica.org

Teach for America alumni – most of whom are still in their 20s and 30s – are some of the leaders of the effort to assure that qualified candidates of all economic situations are able to participate in the corps, Teach For America offers need-based transitional grants and no-interest loans to help corps members make it to their first paychecks. Packages vary in amounts based on demonstrated need. Teach For America alumni – most of whom are still in their 20s and 30s – are some of the leaders of the effort to assure that qualified candidates of all economic situations are able to participate in the corps, Teach For America offers need-based transitional grants and no-interest loans to help corps members make it to their first paychecks. Packages vary in amounts based on demonstrated need.

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