



After a long, cold winter it's nice to know Spring is around the corner! Our students have returned from their Spring break, and are mid-way through this semester. They are probably already looking forward to Easter break, Friday, April 3 through Monday, April 6!

GRADUATION

Graduation is approaching. Commencement ceremonies for graduating students will be held on May 9th. In preparation, students were invited to attend Grad Finale held in February. Grad Finale offered a one-stop source for information, including confirmation of participation in the graduation ceremony, verification of diploma information, placement of orders for cap and gown, class rings, announcements and much more.

Graduating students will receive information in the mail the first week in April related to commencement events including a request to confirm their participation. We want to make sure parents are aware of this schedule:

- Baccalaureate Liturgy: Friday, May 8, at 6:00 p.m. in Mater Dei Chapel
- Commencement Ceremony: Saturday, May 9, at 2:30 p.m. in the Harrington Center (Doors open for guests at 1:30pm)
- Brunch Buffet for Graduates & Guests: Saturday, May 9, from 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. in the Fifth Third Bank Dining Hall. For questions or more information please contact our Student Affairs office at 513-244-4239.

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY.....A NEW WAY TO WATCH IT LIVE

Boxcast: For family and friends who are not able to attend the ceremony, you have the opportunity to view the May 2015 Commencement Ceremonies **LIVE!** Mark your calendar now to watch the ceremony on **Saturday, May 9, at 2:20 PM** through the following website <https://www.boxcast.com/show/#/mount-st-joseph-traditional-student-graduation-ceremony>

Now is a great time to think about purchasing a gift for your graduate from our Mount bookstore. The bookstore has everything from Mount alumni apparel to an assortment of beautiful wooden diploma frames. For easy shopping visit www.msj.bkstr.com

REGISTRATION

- Registration for Summer Session 2015 opened on February 18. Financial aid for summer cannot be awarded until all required forms and applications including the 2015-2016 FAFSA are received by our office. Students receiving financial aid for the Summer Sessions must be enrolled for a total of 6 hours over all the Summer Sessions (ex. 3 hours Session 1 and 3 hours Session 2 = 6 hours). Students can download the 2015-2016 summer application for financial aid at www.msj.edu/aid-forms.
- Students will register for fall semester beginning in April. They received an e-mail with specific dates for advising and registration. Students must meet with their advisors prior to registration. Advising begins March 23.
Note: Students who have a balance on their student account will receive an e-mail indicating there is a '**registration hold**', and that they should contact Student Administrative Services.

Following is the registration schedule:

- Honors Program Students from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. – April 13
- Opens for Seniors at 6:00 a.m. – April 14
- Opens for Juniors at 6:00 a.m. – April 16
- Opens for Sophomores at 6:00 a.m. and 6:30 a.m. – April 21
- Opens for Freshmen at 6:00 a.m. and 6:30 a.m. – April 23

ONLINE BILLING REMINDER

Make sure your student has registered and has invited you to register to access his or her student bill!

Our online system for student billing, provides convenience and easy access for our students and parents to manage their student account. Together with Tuition Management Systems (TMS), we integrated the newest technology with our student billing system. This electronic system has replaced the hard copy billing statements and confirmation mailings that were used. Some of the features include:

Account Summary Data - available 24/7

Account Activity – also available 24/7

Statements – view student account statement and options to pay: including enrolling in a payment plan, or making payment by check, EFT, or credit card

Ability to Share Account Access – students can give access to their parent(s) to view and help manage their account

Direct Access – through mjs.afford.com for authorized participants

Students have received e-mails from msj.@afford.com with important information on how to electronically register and set up profile information. If your student does not have their password, they can go to www.msjafford.com and click on the ‘**reset password**’ link and type in their Mount e-mail address. A temporary password will be sent to their e-mail within 24 hours. This process will only need to be done once. For additional information or if you have questions, please contact an Education Payment Counselor at TMS at 800-264-6017 (M-F 8am – 10pm ET, Saturday 9am -3pm

SEMESTER EXAMS

- Second semester exam week is May 4 - 8. Students can check their exam schedule at: https://mymount.msj.edu/ICS/Mount_Community/Mount_Groups/Registrars_Office/Public_Page.jnz?portlet=Handouts click on Exam Schedule S215.

SEMESTER GRADES

Students can access second semester grades online at:

<https://mymount.msj.edu/ICS/MSJAcademics> > click on ‘**my courses**’ > click on ‘**view final grade report**’.

SCHOLARSHIPS

For our first-time freshmen who have academic scholarships, please note that grades are not reviewed until the end of the school year. Once final grades are available in May, if the **cumulative** GPA is 3.0 or higher, the scholarship will be renewed automatically for next year. If a student has not earned a 3.0 cumulative GPA, **don’t** panic. He or she will still receive the scholarship, but on a **probationary** basis, for fall 2016. If the student earns at least a 3.0 in his or her full-time fall coursework, then he or she will receive the scholarship for the spring semester as well. (The probationary period allows the student an additional semester to demonstrate his/her ability to perform college coursework at the 3.0 level) Please encourage your student to talk to a staff member in the Conlan Center, if there are any questions or concerns regarding scholarships or other financial aid.

FAFSA RENEWAL REMINDER

It’s FAFSA renewal time! If your student filed a FAFSA for this school year, he or she will need to complete the **2015-2016 FAFSA RENEWAL** online at www.fafsa.ed.gov as soon as possible. They will need for you to provide information from your 2014 tax return. Estimates can be used if you are helping them complete the FAFSA prior to completing your taxes. The student will get a reminder from the U.S. Education Department to review any estimated data after the April 15th tax-filing deadline and to make any necessary corrections. We strongly encourage students to file the FAFSA now and no later than May 1st.

If you have any questions or need assistance with filing the FAFSA, one of our representatives may be able to help with a quick answer by phone at 513-244-4418 or via e-mail (contacts listed below). If you prefer, individual appointments can be made by calling our office.

We are packaging and awarding financial aid for next year. The sooner we receive the FAFSA, the better. Once your student receives his or her financial aid award letter for next year, we will be happy to help you with reviewing his or her financial aid, out-of-pocket estimates, and payment options.

TALENT OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM (TOP)

TOP is an innovative program designed to add elevated career service opportunities throughout their college years for full-time students who enroll—for free—in the program. Students will gain superior skills important to today's workplace: critical thinking, complex problem-solving, written and oral communications, and applied knowledge in real-world settings. Check out our website for details: <http://www.msj.edu/academics/talent-opportunity-program-top/>

EDUCATION AT WORK.... LOCATION ON OUR CAMPUS!

Through our partnership with Education at Work, a local non-profit organization, jobs are available for our students right here on our Delhi campus. EAW operates call centers for large businesses staffed by local college students and they are dedicated to helping college students get the foundational job skills and education needed to compete for 21st century jobs as they earn both a paycheck and tuition assistance funds. Student employees must be enrolled in at least one college class. Based on their GPA and course load, they can earn up to an additional \$6,000 annually toward their college tuition costs. Further details can be found at www.education-at-work.org.

THE MOUNT HAS A NEW WEB PAGE DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY FOR PARENTS:

We have launched a new page on our website with information we think parents may want and/or need. Please browse it, bookmark it, and watch for new content: www.msj.edu/parents.

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 3-6	Easter Break
May 4-7	Second Semester Exams
May 7	End of second semester
May 9	Commencement

As always, we look forward to working with you and your student. Please feel free to contact us in the Student Administrative Services Office directly at 513-244-4418; toll free at 800-654-9314; or via e-mail:

Jennifer.Gross@msj.edu

Stephanie.Carrothers@msj.edu

Joyce.Sprague@msj.edu