Important Dates

December 4: Last Day of Classes
December 7-11: Finals Week
December 11: Semester Ends
December 12: Residence Halls Close at Noon
December 15: Online Grades Due by 4pm
December 16: Grades Available Online

For more information, visit the Registrar's Office
Office Spotlight: Student Disability Resource Center

Florida State University is committed to providing a quality education to all qualified students and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, gender, age, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability. The Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC) was established to serve as an advocate for FLORIDA STATE students with disabilities and ensure that reasonable accommodations are provided.

As a resource for students with disabilities, the SDRC works with faculty and staff to provide accommodations for the unique needs of students both in and out of the classroom. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, individuals with learning disabilities are guaranteed certain protections and rights to equal access to programs and services. In order to access these rights, an individual must present documentation indicating that the disability substantially limits some major life activity, including learning.

By providing support services at no cost to students with disabilities, the Student Disability Resource Center offers an opportunity for students to achieve their academic and personal goals. Our mission is to collaborate with and empower Florida State University students to create an accessible and inclusive environment by identifying, minimizing, and where possible, eliminating barriers to equal access while encouraging equal participation for students with disabilities.

Students with disabilities at Florida State University can find a variety of services within Student Disability Resource Center designed to coordinate academic accommodations, enhance academic success, and ensure access to all phases of university life.

Personnel in the SDRC oversee and coordinate services to ensure academic accessibility to all students with documented disabilities on an individual basis. Academic accommodations are determined based on documentation submitted by the student; these are monitored by disability specialists in the program. The office also provides some assistive technology equipment and services. All services through the main office are free of charge.

Some of the specific resources available to students include an Exam Lab, Assistive Technology Lab-where students can rent various devices as well as have access to different software programs, Note-Taking Services, Common/Study Spaces, and Transportation Services.

The application procedure for the SDRC is as follows:
1. Apply and be accepted to Florida State University. Students with disabilities must go through the standard admissions procedure.

2. Complete the application (form below) for services from the Student Disability Resource Center and return it along with the documentation for the disability.

3. The application deadline for academic accommodations is 7 days prior to the date needed. You may apply for services at any time during the semester, but the SDRC will require 7 days to process your application and schedule the intake meeting. Accommodations are not retroactive, meaning they only apply from the point of completing the intake meeting and submitting the letter of accommodation to your faculty member. Applications received within the last 10 class days of the semester will be processed for the following semester in which you are enrolled.

4. Mail, Email, hand deliver or fax completed applications, along with documentation to:

   Student Disability Resource Center  
   Florida State University  
   874 Traditions Way  
   108 Student Services Building  
   Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167  
   (850) 645-1852 (Fax)  
   sdrc@fsu.edu

Once approved, the student will meet with a Disability specialists in the SDRC for an intake interview, during which approved academic accommodations will be reviewed.

   Student Disability Resource Center  
   874 Traditions Way,  
   108 Student Services Building  
   Tallahassee, FL 32306  
   Open Monday-Friday: 8:00am-5:00pm  

   https://dos.fsu.edu/sdrc/  
   (VOICE) (850) 644-9566  
   (TDD for the D/deaf) (850) 644-8504

FSU Starting To "Think 15"

Written by: Provost Sally McRorie

Send Your Student Some Fall Love!

Wanting to send something to your student, but not sure what?

PiecesofThere offers a variety of different care packages you can choose from and send! Be sure to check them out for all of your care package needs. A portion of your purchase benefits the FSU Family Fund!

FSU News:
FSU Introduces "Gap Year" Scholarships

On Facebook, you can “Like” the FSU Family Connection Fan Page to see photos, receive news and participate in discussion commentary to stay connected with other FSU families and the FSU community. Just create your own Facebook account at www.facebook.com.
When asked about the recommended number of credit hours freshman students should take in their first semester, most of us find it logical to suggest a light load to help with the transition to college. It seems like an obvious strategy to make sure students don't get overwhelmed and risk getting bad grades that could affect scholarship eligibility or access to their desired major. However, research at numerous institutions, including FSU, suggests this is not the best strategy for most students.

Earlier this fall, I commissioned a workgroup to determine the facts. The workgroup continues to conduct research on the topic, but its initial findings contradict some common assumptions. Here are some of the key myths and realities they have offered:

**Myth:** If I take 12 hours as a freshman it will allow me to get a higher GPA and get off to a good start.

**Reality:** Students who took 12 hours in their first Fall and Spring had a 2.87 GPA, while those who took 15 or more both semesters had a 3.24 and were more likely to keep scholarships.

**Myth:** Because I came in with AP, IB or dual enrollment credit I can take 12 hours and still graduate in four years.

**Reality:** Students who take 12 hours in their first Fall are 12% less likely to graduate in four years, and 60% of the students who dropped out did not take a 15 hour load during their freshman year.

**Myth:** A 15 hour load means I will spend too much time in the classroom and studying.

**Reality:** Most FSU students spent around 48 hours a week in class or studying in high school, but those taking 15 hours average less than 30 hours per week (14 in class/lab and 15 studying, on average).

**Myth:** Only Einsteins take 15 or more hours per semester.

**Reality:** The FSU freshmen with the lowest test scores and GPAs in high school who took 15 hours graduate before the "smartest" 10% who took 12 hours in their first Fall semester.

**Myth:** If I take 15 hours I'll graduate too early, wasting my Bright Futures or Florida Prepaid.

**Reality:** You can take 15 and still use up your Bright Futures and Florida Prepaid by taking graduate classes. You also may complete a semester or year-long internship to improve your job prospects.

A workgroup member remarked that the only thing taking twelve credit hours does is establish a pattern of taking twelve hours, as opposed to the regular full-time load of fifteen. My question was, "How do you break the pattern?" We do that by encouraging our students to take 15 hours in the Spring semester. We have evidence that these students improve their on-time graduation rate by 45% compared to students who didn't take 15 hours during their freshman year. I find this research and the referenced behavior fascinating.
We are investigating whether these results are universal for all student groups based on academic preparation, socioeconomic status, place of origin and other variables and we will keep you updated with our results. We have compelling evidence that taking 15 hours increases student academic engagement. We want our students to graduate in four years and we have several projects that have improved that rate by almost 40% in the past ten years. There is a real cost associated with taking longer to graduate. It delays our students’ entry into graduate school or the job market as they incur additional costs to remain a student.

We are proud that our students value their FSU education and experience, but we don’t want them to enjoy it for too long. That is why we have begun to “Think 15” and we hope you and your student will as well.

Observing Religious Holidays

As we approach fall semester, we encourage students and families to be aware of Florida State’s policy regarding absences to observe one’s religious holidays. The full policy can be found at this link:

http://fda.fsu.edu/content/download/25650/164546/file/ReligiousHolyDaysFall14.pdf

Specifically, the Florida State University policy on student observance of religious holy days provides:

Each student shall, upon notifying his or her instructor within the first two weeks of the semester, be excused from class to observe a religious work-restricted holy day of his or her faith.

While the student will be held responsible for the material covered in his or her absence, each student shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up the work missed. Instructors and University administrators shall in no way arbitrarily penalize students who are absent from academic or social activities because of religious work-restricted holy day observance.

Please encourage your student communicate with instructors about his/her plans at the beginning of every semester.

Donate to the FSU Family Fund

Please donate to the Family Fund within the Division of Student Affairs by clicking the box above. Your gift helps fund student support services throughout the academic year to meet the needs of FSU students!

We Love Feedback!

In order to give you the best experience possible, we need your feedback! Please click the Suggestion Box above and let us know what you like, what you do not like, and what you would like to see included in future editions of "What's Going 'Round!"
AT THE GAME OR ON THE ROAD
SUPPORT YOUR SEMINOLES

fsu.edu/mytag

AN EASY WAY TO SUPPORT STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Display your pride in Florida State University with the purchase of an FSU license plate. Proceeds from plate sales are applied to the university's general scholarship fund to support need- and merit-based scholarships for Florida State students. Rebates for first-time buyers, as well as gift certificates and information on purchasing your FSU license plate is available online at fsu.edu/mytag.

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