

# MSU College of Business Parents' Guide



# Welcome to the College of Business at Montana State University!



We are delighted that your son or daughter has chosen to join our community and we are eager to work with you to help your student achieve her dreams.

While most of the focus of this transition is on your son or daughter, we realize that you, as a parent, may also be experiencing some stress and anxiety. So, this guide is for you, the parent, to help you understand the changes your student will experience upon entering college and to offer suggestions for how you can partner with us to support her as she embraces her newfound independence.

Your student has already learned the most important skills in life, such as the value of hard work, independence and integrity. Together, we can now help her apply these skills to the new and exciting challenges ahead.

– Susan W. Dana

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and

Director of the Bracken Center for Excellence in Undergraduate Education

The College of Business at Montana State University is a vibrant and exciting place where the academic and professional success of students comes first. An extraordinary faculty offers both an innovative, nationally recognized curriculum and a unique learning environment for undergraduate students. Distinguishing features of the College include small classes, exceptional faculty members in every classroom, rigorous course work, an interactive, personalized learning environment, and high-performing students.

***“MSU College of Business students should feel very fortunate to have such a great program. It is not every undergraduate business program that offers its students the chance to present their ideas and think on their feet.”***

***~Joe Long, College of Business instructor***

# Student PRIDE Code of Excellence

We at the College of Business are proud of our programs, our culture and our students. Maintaining high professional standards is an important part of the College's mission, and we strive to help students better understand the fundamental meanings of professionalism through the Student PRIDE Code of Excellence.

This Code – a joint effort among students, faculty and administrators – serves as a guide to the College's standards for student conduct and was created to help current and future students develop the successful skills and attitudes so highly sought after by today's employers.

## Student PRIDE Code of Excellence

We, the students of the MSU College of Business, understand that in choosing to enroll at MSU, we are investing in our professional futures. Therefore, we proudly commit to the following Code of Excellence:

**Performance** – I am accountable for and take pride in my own learning and conduct.

**Respect** – I treat with respect all members of my community, including peers, staff and faculty.

**Integrity** – I am ethical in all that I do.

**Diligence** – I do my best work at all times.

**Engagement** – I challenge myself to invest proactively in my academic, professional and personal development.



## What Your Son or Daughter Can Expect From the College Experience

Perhaps the most dramatic shift your son or daughter will experience throughout college is a shift in responsibility and freedom. In high school, your child experienced a teacher-directed environment in which teachers helped to manage his workload, reminded him when assignments were due, and provided daily feedback on his performance. And while your child lived at home, you provided financial, emotional, and physical support on a daily basis in a myriad of ways.

At the College of Business, your student will experience a student-directed environment in which she is responsible for her attendance, study habits and ultimate success in the classroom. She will determine what to learn and how to study, when to seek additional information or resources, how to manage her finances, and how to balance school, work and social interactions.



Your son or daughter will also manage the transition from home life to becoming fully integrated into a new community with exciting opportunities. This integration may include participation in out-of-class enrichment through arts, sports, clubs, and service activities on the MSU campus. He may discover a previously unknown passion for an academic discipline, might decide to study abroad, and will certainly broaden his horizons in unexpected ways. He will be excited, energized and, at times, even confused and overwhelmed. But, by the end, your student will have developed into a professional adult of whom we will all be proud.

## Academic Privacy

As an adult, your student now owns all information about her educational performance at MSU, and all such information is protected by law under the 1974 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Information such as her grades, GPA, current academic status and credits completed may not be disclosed to parents or the general public without written permission by the student. Information about your student's academic status is readily available directly from him or her.

## How You Can Help Your Son or Daughter Succeed

The most dramatic shift you will experience as your son or daughter enters college is also likely to be the shift in responsibility and control. You probably experienced direct involvement with your child's education while she was in high school. This included information freely shared with you regarding your child's high school academic performance, direct involvement with high school teachers, direct observation of her study habits, and direct participation in resolving any conduct issues arising from her behavior.

Now, your role will shift to one of indirect involvement. Your son will interact directly with his instructors, academic advisor, and other MSU personnel who are available to help and advise him. Your role becomes one of "coach," celebrating his successes and helping him identify ways to

manage new challenges while respecting his and others' personal and professional boundaries. He will make you proud of his abilities to make decisions, learn from his mistakes and strike out on his own.



# Parent Tips for Success

## Communicate

As much as your daughter will probably love her independence, she will also still seek out your advice and counsel. Help her develop problem-solving skills, but also give her responsibility for managing her own life. Encourage her to get to know the people at the College of Business and MSU. Lots of people are here to help; all she has to do is ask.

## Let Him Make Mistakes

This is difficult, but we often learn more from our mistakes than from our successes. Encourage your son to own his mistakes, and help him to figure out how to find the help he needs. Counsel him to face his problems head-on and not ignore them in the hopes they will go away.

## Celebrate Her Successes

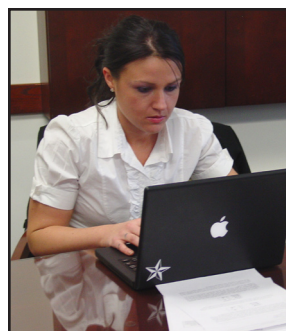
Your student will achieve much at college, from earning that well-deserved “A” on a difficult assignment to being chosen for a competitive scholarship to landing her dream job. Help her to make school her first priority, and encourage her to take advantage of all the College of Business has to offer.

## Planning and Problem Solving

Your student is responsible for his academic, personal and professional choices. Help him develop goals for his education and strategies on how to accomplish them. Remind him to plan for his academic requirements and use his problem-solving skills to meet challenges. If he needs help, encourage him to seek assistance from someone in the College of Business or to use one of the references furnished in this Guide.

## Reinforce the PRIDE Code

Help us help your student to develop academic, personal and professional pride. Remind her to be proud of her work and herself, serve others with respect and integrity, and try something new. Share your wisdom and life experience with your student as you coach her on what it means to behave in ways that fulfill this Code.



## References for Success

The College of Business maintains a comprehensive website at [www.montana.edu/cob/](http://www.montana.edu/cob/) which contains information about everything from academic requirements to extracurricular opportunities. If you can not obtain answers to your questions about the College of Business from your son or daughter or from the College's website, please contact Dr. Susan Dana, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, at (406) 994-1776 or [sdana@montana.edu](mailto:sdana@montana.edu).

Montana State University also provides a variety of resources to assist students and parents with this critical transition into young adulthood. If you need further assistance to identify or locate information, please call the MSU Freshman Initiative office, (406) 994-7359.



- MSU Website: [www.montana.edu](http://www.montana.edu)
- MSU Parents' Guide: [www.montana.edu/parents/](http://www.montana.edu/parents/)
  - o **Parents' Resource** (406) 994-7359, [www.montana.edu/fyiparents/](http://www.montana.edu/fyiparents/)

This resource includes frequently asked questions, recommended readings, links for additional information, and a fabulous MSU resource guide (printable pdf file) with every web address and phone number imaginable.
  - o **Freshman Resource** (406) 994-7359, [www.montana.edu/freshmen/](http://www.montana.edu/freshmen/)

This resource includes great information on how to succeed in college, study, take exams, get along with roommates, and serves as a one-stop shop for a variety of information your student might need.
- MSU First Year Initiative: <http://www.montana.edu/freshmen/>
- MSU Financial Aid (406) 994-2845, [www.montana.edu/wwwfa/](http://www.montana.edu/wwwfa/)
- MSU On-campus Housing (406) 994-2661, [www.montana.edu/reslife/](http://www.montana.edu/reslife/)
- MSU College of Business (406) 994-4421, [www.montana.edu/cob/](http://www.montana.edu/cob/)

## Fast Facts

- The College of Business at MSU is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). Only 15 percent of all business programs worldwide have earned AACSB accreditation, including Stanford, Michigan, MIT, UCLA and other high reputation programs. It is the most rigorous accreditation a business college can earn.
- Since the summer of 2005, when all graduating College of Business seniors were required to take the Major Field Test-Business, the average scores of our graduating business students have consistently ranked in the 90 to 95 percentile when compared to more than 140,000 other graduating business students from 553 different institutions across the nation.
- The Freshman Seminar program has won two national awards for its innovative curriculum. New students join with no more than 15 other students, a faculty member, and an upper-division business student per section to discover issues and challenges facing today's business professionals.
- Graduates of the College have taken jobs with a wide range of national, multi-national and Montana-based organizations. College graduates hold president, partner, CEO and CFO positions through all organizational levels. More than 70 firms—including businesses like Boeing, top accounting firms, Eli Lilly and RightNow Technologies—come to MSU to specifically recruit business students each year.

