

Q& A about PFA Weekend

Who should attend Parent/Family Fall Weekend and why?

Historically, parents of freshman are our biggest group of attendees. However, we would encourage ALL families to consider joining the fun. One of the biggest goals at MSU is to increase retention and there is a lot of evidence that family support is crucial. By visiting campus annually (or more), having a personal recognition of the buildings where your student takes classes and the places that he/she eats and hangs out, meeting his/her friends and faculty, spending time in the community—really feeling what it is like to be an MSU student, we are confident that you will have the tools to advocate to and for your student should something happen that shakes their resolve. The weekend is a great way to meet the families of your student's friends and to make new friends yourself. And if you still need convincing, you should attend because it's a whole lot of fun!

I live in Montana and already know the campus so why should I come?

Even though many resident students and their families are familiar with the campus, the transition to MSU can be very large. Going to classes, making new friends and finding his/her way can be a bit daunting. By October, students have been here long enough to have a good sense of what they're in for, and it's a great time to reconnect and reassess what kind of support they might need. It's a chance to meet the roommate and other people who have become very important in their lives, and to find out if there is some undetected homesickness or need. You can get a sense for how your student is "really" doing, and you can do it without "imposing" or being the nosy family! Even though students may not ask you to come, they are almost always very glad that you did!

Why do you charge a registration fee?

The Parent/Family weekend is designed to "break even". We work very hard to keep the costs down as much as possible and haven't raised costs in four years. The registration fee pays for the costs of printing, web design, renting venues for activities, food for the breakfast and registration tables, parking, etc. If there is a cash balance once all the bills are paid, the entire amount is given directly to the university's general scholarship fund.

Do I have to register if I'm only going to the football game?

No. You can order tickets by calling 1.406.994.CATS or visiting <http://www.msubobcats.com/tickets.php?action=spo>

Do I have to buy a football ticket for my student?

Full time students can pick up a ticket for the Student Section for no charge by going to the Ask-Us Desk on the Monday morning before a home game, requesting a ticket and showing their student ID. However, only students are allowed to sit in the student section. If you wish to attend the game WITH your student, you will need to buy them a ticket when you purchase your other tickets.

Do I have to pay for a dinner for young children?

No, if you have children age 6 & under or so, don't worry about buying a dinner ticket. I will add this on the brochure for next year!

Can I buy extra football/museum/comedy tickets for my student's friends or a grandparent, etc?

Yes, we encourage you to include your student's friends, especially if their families aren't able to attend. Adding a grandparent or family friend to your registration is absolutely fine.

However, individual families should register independently so that the cost is distributed fairly.

Is it really a good idea to raft in Montana in October?

In 18 years of hosting the PFA weekend, the rafting has only been cancelled for weather a couple times. Scenery along the rivers is amazing this time of year and the trip tends to be a gentle float. People who have participated in the past often rate this the best part of the weekend. Please contact Outdoor Recreation at 406.994.3621 or Cavaness@montana.edu for more details or to ask questions. An information sheet and registration form can be found [here](#).

How should we dress for the weekend activities?

Everything on the schedule is casual so no formal attire is needed. As always in Montana, layers are a good idea!

I'd like to attend a class with my student, what should I do?

Ask your student to check with his/her professor to make sure there is enough space for you and no specific reason why shouldn't attend. In most cases, you will be able to observe with your student. If your student would rather not have you tag along, or maybe doesn't have class at a time that is convenient for you, check back at the end of the month for a list of classes selected by the Provost's Office that will be open for you to observe. We will also be posting, at the end of the month, a list of contact people for each college in the event that you would like to make a specific appointment to see someone in the college.

What do we do about parking?

If you register for the weekend, you will be able to print a parking pass from the registration confirmation page. You will receive the link again the week before the weekend. You will need to place the pass in the dash of your car and can then park in any of the listed lots while you are on campus. Parking is free on the weekends.