

Student Services

PURPOSE STATEMENT

As an integral part of the University's educational process, the Division of Student Services is committed to the belief that education extends outside the formal classroom setting. The Division implements programs and services designed to complement classroom experience, preparing students to be educated and productive members of society. Student Services seeks to do this by offering opportunities for social, intellectual, physical, spiritual, and emotional growth, by encouraging students to become actively involved in campus life, by serving as an advocate for student concerns to the University community, and by creating an environment responsive to individual differences and representative of the University's diverse population. Through these services and programs, students will develop a mature sense of value and responsibility, as well as a sound intellectual competence.

COMMUNITY LIVING

Research conducted nationally indicates that on-campus residence is one of the strongest influences on the student's successful completion of an undergraduate degree. Those who live on campus are at the center of University life and are thus able to make the most of academic and co-curricular opportunities. They become part of a vital living-learning community, making friendships that last a lifetime.

Nearly 600 students make their homes in MUW's six residence halls. While each facility is unique, all of them offer a community supportive of academic excellence. Staff and student leaders live and work in the halls, coordinating services and programs that facilitate student success both in and out of the classroom. Availability of academic support and computing services, opportunities for student leadership training, participation in recreational activities, and availability of a sympathetic ear are just a few of the services available to students living in the residence halls. Because a living-learning environment is so conducive to student success, we strongly encourage all students to live in university residence halls.

General Information

When a student is admitted to the University, he/she does not receive a room automatically. Rooms may be reserved only by filing an application with the Department of Community Living. Moreover, those who elect to live in residence halls are required to participate in a meal plan. Charges for living expenses, which are payable during registration, can be found in the Tuition and Expenses section of this *Bulletin*.

Facilities/Furnishings

A variety of living spaces are available to students residing in the residence halls, and students can choose based upon their personal preference and availability. These facilities include suites, deluxe suites (with kitchenettes), apartment styled, and individual rooms. Each of the residence halls has a study room with computers and a lounge equipped with televisions, and other recreational materials. Laundry rooms are located in each facility with free laundry for residents. Room furnishings include desks, chairs, single beds, microfridge, and dressers. Students are expected to furnish their own bed linens, blankets, pillows, curtains, towels, and any other articles for personal use or room decoration.

High speed internet access is available in each room; however, if residents wish to benefit from this convenience, they must provide their own computer. For those who do not have a personal computer, there are computer labs located in the study rooms of each residence hall.

Custodial and facilities staff are responsible for routine repair and cleaning in common areas of the halls, including bathrooms, corridors, and walkways.

Procedures and Policies Governing Student Housing

As a condition of residence, students who live in university facilities are required to obey the laws of Mississippi, the policies of Mississippi University for Women, and the regulations of the current *MUW Student Handbook*.

Students are responsible for the physical condition of their rooms and for their conduct and that of those who visit them. Individuals who occupy rooms in the University's residential facilities will be held responsible for any damage to the room itself or to the furniture and equipment in the room. No firearms, fireworks, extension cords (except multi-outlets with circuit breakers), alcoholic beverages, or pets (other than guide dogs supporting sight impaired persons or fish in an aquarium) are allowed in residence halls. All MUW residence halls are smoke-free environments.

The University is not responsible for loss of or damage to personal property. Large sums of money or items of substantial value should not be left unsecured in the rooms. Students are encouraged to carry appropriate insurance for their personal property.

The administration reserves the right to refuse admission, to relocate, or to evict any student in any hall at any time.

Residence halls will be closed between fall and spring semesters, between spring and summer semesters, and between summer and fall semesters. Halls may close during other university holidays. On-campus accommodations for residence hall students may be available at additional cost during these periods. Between semesters, students are expected to check out of their residence halls immediately following their last examination or class. Those who find it necessary to remain on campus after the completion of their academic work must notify the Department of Community Living.

Students are expected to be economical in the use of water, light, and heat and to keep their rooms in good condition.

Application for Housing

To apply for campus housing, students must send a completed housing application to the Office of Community Living, 1100 College Street MUW-1626, Columbus, MS 39701-5800. Signed applications indicate the student's acceptance of the terms and conditions outlined therein including a \$100 deposit. \$75.00 of this deposit will be credited towards the student's room and is refundable prior to June 1, in writing to Community Living, 1100 College Street MUW-1626, Columbus, MS 39701-5800, requesting such a refund. **Please be aware that the agreement is for the full academic year, including both fall and spring semesters.**

Room Assignments

Housing assignments are based on the date of application. Students can request specific roommates in accordance with the housing policy; however, those who do not indicate a preference will be assigned a roommate. Should the designated co-habitant request a change in assignment or fail to enroll, the remaining student has three options: (1) secure a new roommate, (2) move to another room where there is a vacancy, or (3) pay the established rate for a private room (if available as deemed by the Department of Community Living). Further information on this policy may be obtained from the hall staff, the Department of Community Living, or the *Student Handbook*.

Commuting Students

Limited overnight and weekend accommodations are available in the residence halls for commuting students. The conference housing policy outlines the stipulations for temporary accommodations. Contact the Department of Community Living for further information by calling (662) 329-7127.

STUDENT SERVICES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Campus Health Services:

Ambulatory care and health education are goals of the Campus Health Center. All students are eligible to use the Health Center. No fee is charged for routine visits though there is a nominal charge for medications, supplies, and complete physical exams.

The Health Center is administered by the Dean of the College of Nursing and Speech Language Pathology, and it is staffed by nurse practitioners, registered nurses with Master's degrees, who, in their expanded role, are licensed to diagnose and treat many common conditions. The protocols for treatment are developed in conjunction with the Mississippi Board of Nursing and a collaborating physician, who is available at all times for consultation and/or referral.

The Health Center is open from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday during the academic year. The Center is closed on Saturday and Sunday and during regularly scheduled student holidays.

Student health insurance may be obtained through a commercial carrier.

Campus Recreation

MUW Campus Recreation strives to provide quality recreation opportunities for the MUW Community and to create a safe environment that fosters development of the mind, body, and soul. Program offerings such as RecAerobics, Outdoor Adventure, Personal Training, Intramural Sports, Open Recreation, and Special Events activate your mind, exercise your body, and enhance your soul.

The main focus of Campus Recreation is the advancement of the MUW student body in the area of exercise and recreational sports, and with the addition of the Pohl/Stark Recreation Complex it is easy to see we are serious about our mission. The Pohl/Stark Recreation Complex is the newest identity of recreation on the MUW campus. It houses a 5,000 sq. ft. weight room, three multipurpose basketball courts, a three lane walking track that is suspended over two of the basketball courts, two racquetball courts, aerobic studios, a six-lane swimming pool, and locker rooms. The office of Campus Recreation and the Department of Health and Kinesiology are located within the Pohl/Stark Recreation Complex. Its main purpose is to serve the recreational and educational needs of the MUW student body.

The services provided by the Office of Campus Recreation are free for any registered MUW student. For information concerning Campus Recreation, contact 662-241-7494, recreation@muw.edu, or www.muw.edu/recreation.

Career Services

The Office of Career Services, located in Cochran Hall Room 405, provides students and alumni with resources to facilitate career planning and job hunting, as well as opportunities to assess their interests, skills, and abilities. The Career Services library provides a variety of professional development publications, along with internship and job announcements. Students can also benefit from computerized assessments that assist them in selecting a major and/or minor and researching career opportunities.

The Office of Career Services hosts local job fairs for specific majors and/or for the entire student body. MUW also participates in regional career fairs, and informs students of similar opportunities at the national level. The Office of Career Services offers a variety of free workshops each semester. These include, but are not limited to, seminars on self-assessment, selection of a major, employment correspondence, interview strategies, business etiquette, dining etiquette, and portfolio development. Students can also benefit from many other resources, including videos and/or flyers that provide information about majors, careers, jobs, internships, portfolio development, and self-presentation.

Counseling

Community Living provides free and confidential counseling to students on an individual, group, or couple basis. The department also provides campus programming on various mental health issues such as stress management, test anxiety, self-esteem, alcohol awareness, depression, and eating disorders. Students who wish to engage any of these services are urged to contact the Department of Community Living.

Diversity Education and Programs

The Office of Diversity Education and Programs provides a welcoming and supportive environment for minority and international students and serves as a link between culturally diverse students and the University community. The mission of Diversity Education and Programs is to provide support services for students, to assist in the achievement of their personal goals, and to facilitate their academic, social, cultural, moral, and physical development. In addition, the director of Diversity Education and Programs is an advocate for the needs of the culturally diverse student population. More information may be obtained by contacting the Office of Diversity Education and Programs in Cochran Hall or visiting our website www.muw.edu/student/diversity.

Food Services

Sodexo-Marriott Services, Inc. provides food services for the University. A student must participate in a meal plan if the student resides in university housing. Computer programmed, picture I.D.'s are used by residential students to gain entrance to the Dining Center. Non-residents and guests may purchase meals with cash. Students requiring special diets must have a physician's dietary prescription sent to the Health Center, which will in turn contact the Food Service provider. The MUW Food Service Advisory Board, composed of students and food service staff, meet regularly to evaluate and recommend changes to food service programs. The MUW Food Services are located in the following areas:

Nancy Hogarth Dining Center: Cafeteria-style service is provided seven days a week while school is in session. The cafeteria-style service offers unlimited servings of a wide selection of salads, entrees, vegetables, desserts, and beverages. The facility also includes a grill.

Catering: The Dining Center provides a full range of catering services for the University community.

The Goose: This snack bar which offers short order foods, beverages, and snack foods is located in the Hogarth Student Center.

Hearin Leadership Program

The mission of the Hearin Leadership Program is to teach students basic leadership skills and, thereby, to facilitate their meaningful participation in contemporary society. Students learn to collaborate and cooperate with others as well as to think critically and creatively.

The Hearin Leadership Program creates experiential educational opportunities for student leaders. Students have the opportunity to direct various campus groups and thus gain firsthand leadership experience. The Hearin Program also sponsors a variety of educational opportunities open to all students, including exciting and interactive speakers, leadership workshops, and leadership activities on and off campus. Located in Cochran Hall, the Hearin library houses valuable resources, including contemporary books on leadership theory and thought.

Recipients of Hearin Scholarships must fulfill annual requirements for renewal of their award. Additional information is available from the Office of Student Life, <http://www.muw.edu/hearin>.

Orientation

MUW's student orientation program familiarizes new students with academic requirements, campus activities, services, traditions, and fellow students. In addition, **orientation** offers new students academic advising and opportunities to register for courses. All new freshmen are required to attend prior to registration. Sessions for transfer students and freshmen are held each summer and a brief session for students starting in the spring, summer and fall semesters is held on registration day of that term. For more information concerning orientation, contact the Office of Student Life at (662) 241-6974 or visit www.muw.edu/orientation.

Student Activities

A wide and varied program of experiences is necessary to develop the many facets of the well-rounded personality; therefore, MUW sponsors organizational, social, recreational, cultural, and leisure activities.

Participation in campus organizations helps students develop interpersonal, organizational, problem solving, and leadership skills and familiarizes them with their personal capabilities and limitations.

The Office of Student Life, in conjunction with other offices and organizations, coordinates a variety of events throughout the year. From comedians and concerts, to fine art shows and theatre productions, there is always something to do on campus.

Student Government Association

The Student Government Association (SGA) at MUW represents the mechanism through which students are able to participate in University governance, ensuring an exchange of ideas and opinions between the student body and the administration. The Student Government was created in 1910 with the adoption of the SGA Constitution. It is patterned on our national government, including executive, legislative, and judicial branches. SGA acts as the official voice of the student body and as mediator between that body and the local, state, and federal governments. The association strives to promote the welfare and to maximize the personal, social, and political development of all students at Mississippi University for Women. Students are encouraged to become involved in SGA activities and to contact the SGA Office with any concerns arising from their enrollment at MUW.

Student Organizations

Involvement in organizations helps students develop leadership skills, meet people with similar interests, gain professional contacts, and become well-rounded individuals. The Office of Student Life registers over 75 student organizations each year, and the Student Life staff can assist those interested in either forming new organizations or joining current ones. A complete list of registered student clubs, societies, and associations follows. The list is subject to change.

Departmental Organizations are associated with academic colleges and departments or with specific majors. Departmental Organizations include Art Students League, Health and Kinesiology Club, Institute of Management Accountants, Minority Student Nurses Association, Mississippi Organization of Associate Degree Student Nurses, Mississippi Association of Student Nurses, National Student Speech Language Hearing Association, Phi Beta Lambda, Professional Association of Family and Consumer Science, Psychology Club, Society of Professional Journalists, Spanish Club, Mississippi Association of Educators, and Student Nurses Association.

Honorary Organizations select members on the basis of academic achievement, leadership, and/or service. Students should contact the organization's current president or advisor to obtain criteria for membership. Honorary organizations include Accounting Honorary, Alpha Epsilon Delta, Beta Beta Beta, Hottentots Leadership Honorary, Kappa Delta Epsilon, Kappa Mu Epsilon, Lambda Tau: Chi Chapter, Lantern Honor Society, Mortar Board, Phi Alpha Theta, Phi Epsilon Kappa, Phi Theta Kappa: Epsilon of MS, Phi Upsilon Omicron, Psi Chi, Sigma Tau Delta, Sigma Theta Tau, and Aristos.

Religious Organizations meet the needs of students with similar spiritual values. They are open to all students regardless of denomination. Religious organizations include Baptist Student Union, Catholic Student Association, Ecumenical Council, United Harmony Ministries, and Wesley Foundation.

Service Organizations provide a specific service to the entire campus community. The mission of these organizations includes the improvement of campus life. This category includes all governing bodies. Service organizations include Class Council, Student Government Association, Residence Hall Association, Interclub, International Student Association, National PanHellenic Council, Student Alumni Ambassadors, Student Government Association, Orientation Leaders , Student Programming Board, and W-Reps.

Social Organizations offer social support, leadership development, and community service. Please contact the Office of Student Life for information. Social organizations include Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Beta Kappa Tau Fraternity, Blacklist Honorary Social Club, Coretta Social Club, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, D'Belle Social Club, Highlander Social Club, Jester Honorary Social Club, Lockheart Social Club, Mam'selle Social Club, Masker Honorary Social Club, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Reveler Social Club, Rogue Social Club, Silhouette Social Club, Troubadour Social Club, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, and Xi Delta Omega Fraternity.

Special Interest Organizations serve students with similar extracurricular interests. Special interest organizations include College Republicans, College Democrats, Hearin Leadership Society, Modeling Squad, Older Wiser Learning Students (O.W.L.S.), Society of Professional Journalists, Student Culinary Association, TVA Investment Club, Buk Worms, and Midnight Writers.

Performing Groups

Various performing groups are coordinated through the Department of Music and Theatre. Please contact the department office at (662) 329-7341 for audition schedules and other requirements. Performing groups include Chorale, Jazz Ensemble, Madrigals, New Horizons, and United Harmony Gospel Choir.

Student Programming Board

Each semester the Student Programming Board (SPB) recruits new members who are committed to providing valuable educational experiences outside the classroom and who strive to serve the cultural, educational, recreational, and social interests of many students. Students directly involved in planning and production of these events have a unique opportunity to develop valuable skills in leadership, management, public relations decision making, and creative thinking.

All students are invited to participate in the Student Programming Board. The Student Life staff will be glad to discuss membership and answer any questions about programming. For more information visit the Office of Student Life on the 2nd floor of Cochran Hall or call (662) 329-7416.

Student Publications

The University publishes the *Spectator* (the campus newspaper) and *Dilettanti* (the annual literary magazine). These publications are staffed by students who get valuable experience in writing, editing, design, photography, advertising, and public relations. All students are encouraged to join the staffs.

The *Spectator* is distributed free on campus once weekly during the fall and spring semesters. A new editor is chosen each spring for the following year.

The Dilettanti cultivates creativity of various types. Published yearly, the magazine includes poetry, fiction, and non-fiction, as well as student produced original art and photography. Literary and art editors are chosen in the spring and serve for one year. Staff members may receive a small stipend or academic credit for their work on the publications.

Testing Services

The Residual ACT, and Praxis exams are administered on campus by a representative from the Office of Student Life. Testing times, locations, and schedules are regularly posted in the Office of Student Life. Call 662-241-7619 for further information.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Students at Mississippi University for Women are members of an academic community that encourages honesty, integrity, and excellence. The same students are also citizens within the state, local, and national communities and are expected to observe the acceptable standards of conduct for each. In most instances, students are adults, having reached the legal age of majority, and are thus expected to take personal responsibility for their conduct. The University does not assume responsibility for the actions of students.

Notwithstanding the above, enrollment in an institution of higher education carries with it special privileges and imposes special responsibilities. The University reserves the right to take such action as may be necessary to maintain campus conditions and preserve the integrity of the institution and its educational mission and environment.

MUW has developed a student judicial system that emphasizes personal accountability for misconduct, but is also fair and respectful of the student's right to due process. More detailed information with regard to student conduct may be found in the *MUW Student Handbook*, which may be found online at <http://www.muw.edu>.