



NOVEMBER 2019 BULLDOG FAMILY & FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

BULLDOG FAMILY & FRIENDS WEEKEND

A total of 2,568 students and guests participated in the Bulldog Family and Friends festivities on October 25 and 26. Attendance was up significantly from 1,678 total attendees last year. From eating at the Rock Café, to decorating pumpkins, to seeing where students' classes are, to watching the magician with a full house, to the tailgate and the athletic events, everyone enjoyed all the activities.

The students and guests were encouraged to also participate in the Fall Festival which took place in downtown Big Rapids. If you did not attend this year, we look forward to seeing you next year.

FAFSA

Should you fill out the FAFSA even though you think you make too much money to qualify? YES – The FAFSA is what colleges use to determine the EFC (Expected Family Contribution), which is used to determine the financial aid package. This package is not just federal aid. It's composed of grants, scholarships and loans – much of which is merit-aid directly from the colleges themselves. If you don't fill it out, your son/daughter can't get any of that money, including student and parent federal loans.

THANKSGIVING BREAK

Just a reminder that classes end at noon on November 27, 2019, and the residence halls will close at 2:00 pm. The residence halls will reopen at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 1.



SEMESTER BREAK

The residence halls will close at noon on Saturday, December 14, 2019, and open at 8 a.m. on Friday, January 10, 2020. All offices will be closed from December 24, 2019 - January 2, 2020.

STUDY ABROAD

The mission of the Office of International Education is to provide students with study abroad opportunities that foster their academic, social, and personal growth.

By studying abroad, students will be immersed into a different culture through many types of programs ranging from semester experience to short-term faculty programs.

While studying abroad a student will:

- Earn academic credit at Ferris State University
- Apply most forms of financial aid to program expenses
- Study a variety of subjects in English
- Explore, discover, and broaden their cultural horizons

Contact the Office of International Education for more information at (231) 591-2450.

TIP

The TIP Scholars Program mission is to support the recruitment, retention, and graduation of Ferris students who receive the Tuition Incentive Program (TIP) Scholarship from the State of Michigan.

Ferris State University's TIP Scholars Program was created by the office of Retention and Student Success in 2007 in order to provide programming that will help TIP students be informed about scholarship requirements, remain eligible to receive TIP awards, learn about ways to succeed as university students, and to network with other TIP Scholars, faculty, and staff. The TIP program is designed to help TIP eligible students become successful college students at Ferris State University and to guide them in taking the right steps to take advantage of the TIP scholarship.



BIRKAM HEALTH CENTER QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The Birkam Health Center is the on campus resource to keep your student healthy while achieving their academic success. They offer primary care services as well as acute care for all Ferris students and their dependents. Below are some frequently asked questions:

1. Do you have real doctors on staff?
Yes, one M.D. and one Nurse Practitioner.



Dr. Peter VanDeMark Christy Bourdlais, NP

2. **Can your office write prescriptions?**

Yes, the providers can write prescriptions if they feel the student needs medication.

3. **Do you take x-rays in your office?**

No, we do not have an x-ray machine but the providers can write an order for your student to take to the local hospital to have x-rays taken. The benefit of them going to Birkam Health Center instead of going to the ER is that it eliminates the ER copay plus there will not be a bill from the ER doctors. It saves money to go to Birkam rather than the ER.

4. **Do you bill insurance?**

Yes, we bill the majority of insurance companies as a courtesy but please check with your insurance company to see if they are in or out of network with us. If you are out of network, check to see if they will still pay a percentage of your claim?

5. **Can my student get a note for missing class?**

The only way to get a note for missing class is to be seen by one of our providers. However, the note will only say that they were seen at the Health Center. It is up to the professor whether or not they accept the note. We do not tell them that they have to excuse your student.



HOUSING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. **Do students have to remove all belongings from their room during breaks?**

During Thanksgiving Break, Winter Break and during Spring Break, students are required to leave the residence halls, but do not need to remove their belongings. If a student is checking out and not returning for the spring semester, then they must remove all belongings and do a proper check out with their building's student staff members. At the end of spring (May) and summer semesters (August), the residence halls close and students must remove everything from their rooms. Students in Bond Hall may pre-arrange to stay in their room during break periods. The process requires notifying the Office of Housing and Residence Life prior to the break period. Students in the East Campus Suites and the Apartments may remain in their room assignments for the entire academic school year fall-spring with no interruption.

2. **Who can help students with roommate concerns?**

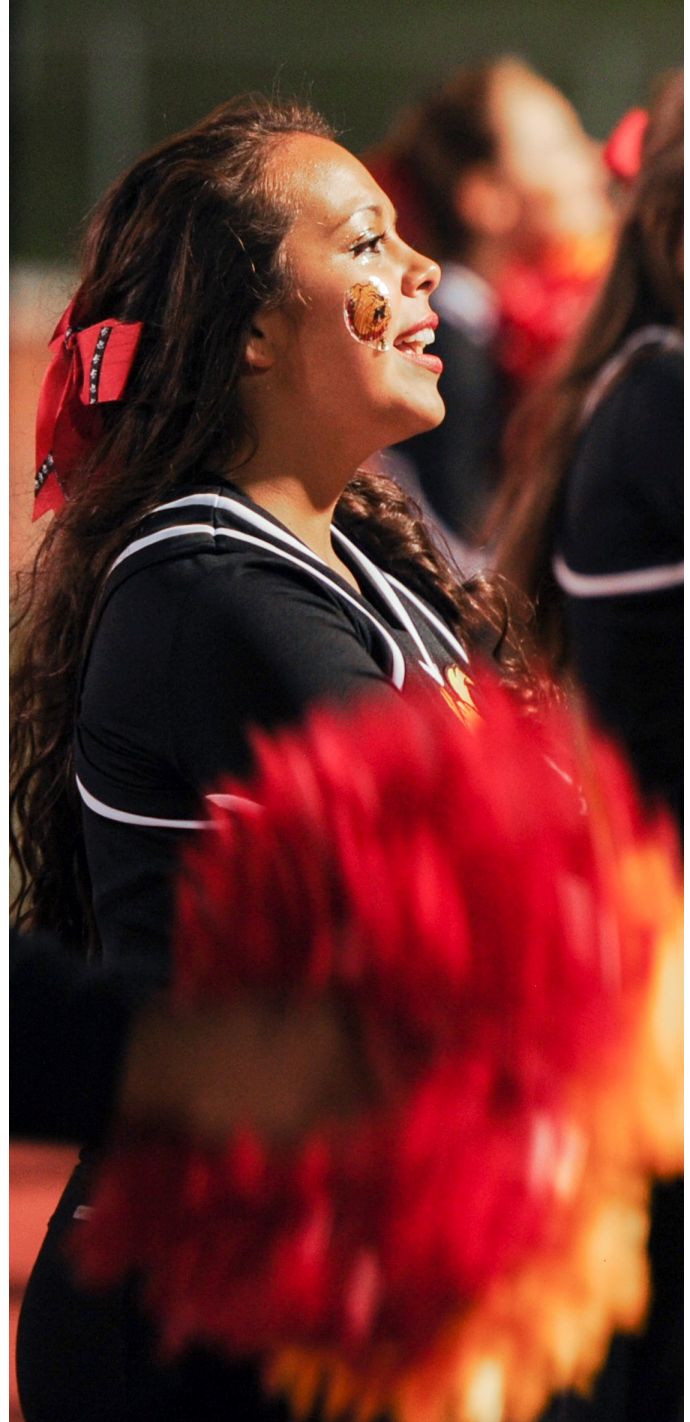
Roommates and suitemates are strongly encouraged to complete a room/suitemate agreement within the first few days of the academic year. Doing so encourages dialogue about room expectations that can ward off the vast majority of roommate conflicts.

FIRST GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENT CELEBRATION

First, what is a first generation college student? Being first generation means neither parents have earned a bachelor's degree, regardless of siblings and other relatives. With that being said, there will be a National First Generation College Student Celebration on November 7th from 1:30-4:00 p.m. in the University Center. Faculty and staff have been encouraged to attend and mingle with first gen students. Students who attend will be entered into a textbook giveaway. Encourage your student to attend this celebration.

INTRAMURAL SPORTS

Intramural sports offers Ferris State students, faculty, and staff the opportunity to play organized sports in a recreational and competitive atmosphere, learn new sports skills, recreate in a social environment and have fun with fellow friends and students. Ferris State Intramural Sports uses IMLeagues for scheduling and registrations for leagues, tournaments, and events. Every student who wishes to play intramurals must create an account in order to participate by logging into MyFSU, click the Life@FSU tab, click the Recreation tab and click the IMLeague login.



Ferris State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion or creed, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, veteran or military status, height, weight, protected disability, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected by applicable State or federal laws or regulations in education, employment, housing, public services, or other University operations, including, but not limited to, admissions, programs, activities, hiring, promotion, discharge, compensation, fringe benefits, job training, classification, referral, or retention. Retaliation against any person making a charge, filing a legitimate complaint, testifying, or participating in any discrimination investigation or proceeding is prohibited.

Inquiries and complaints of disability discrimination may be addressed to the 504 Coordinator/Educational Counselor, 901 S. State St., Starr 313, Big Rapids, MI 49307 or by telephone at (231) 591-3057. Other inquiries or complaints of discrimination may be addressed to the Director of Equal Opportunity, 120 East Cedar St., Big Rapids, MI 49307 or by telephone at (231) 591-2152; or Title IX Coordinator, 805 Campus Dr., Big Rapids, MI 49307, or by telephone at (231) 591-2088. See ferris.edu/non-discrimination.