



# FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

## BULLDOG FAMILY AND FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2019

### THANK YOU

Thank you for allowing us to assist you in your student's education and development. We offer many services and programs that are designed to assist in your student's success at Ferris, such as free tutoring, personal counseling, an on-campus health center, and many activities for them to attend. Please encourage your student to get involved on campus and seek assistance when needed, we are here to help.

### Bulldog Family & Friends Weekend – October 25-26, 2019

Registration is now open for Bulldog Family & Friends Weekend. We are excited for this fun-filled weekend of events. We encourage all participants to arrive early for the events as seating will be first come. A schedule of events, as well as a registration tab, is located on the Parents Page at:

<https://www.ferris.edu/parents/friendsandfamilyweekend.htm>. Please email any questions to [parents@ferris.edu](mailto:parents@ferris.edu).

### Emergency Preparedness

The FSU Department of Public Safety Emergency Preparedness Division has three primary responsibilities. First, they design and conduct an annual Tabletop Exercise for critical parts of the University to test existing preparedness plans in the event of an emergency on campus. Second, they support and assist with the coordination of first responders during emergency situations. Finally, they provide training and information on preparedness, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation issues to the main and satellite campuses. This includes assisting the Ferris Community with the development and maintenance of emergency plans.

#### Reminders:

BULLDOG FAMILY & FRIENDS WEEKEND

OCTOBER 25 & 26, 2019 REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN AT

<https://www.ferris.edu/parents/friendsandfamilyweekend.htm>



### IMPORTANT DATES

SEPT. 2	NO CLASSES
SEPT. 4	BULLDOG BONANZA
SEPT. 28	HOMECOMING
OCT. 1	FAFSA SUBMISSION
OCT. 25-26	BFF WEEKEND
OCT. 21	MID TERM GRADES
OCT. 30	SPRING REGISTRATION
NOV. 27-30	THANKSGIVING BREAK (CLASSES END AT NOON ON THE 27TH)
DEC. 2	CLASSES RESUME
DEC. 9-13	EXAMINATION WEEK
DEC. 14	COMMENCEMENT
DEC. 14	HOLIDAY BREAK
JAN. 9	LATE REGISTRATION
JAN. 13	FIRST DAY OF SPRING CLASSES

Parents, family and friends of Ferris students can receive Ferris State University emergency messaging. Completing the following action will register a cell phone to receive FSU text alerts sent by the Rave system. All FSU location messages will be received when registering a cell number.

Text the word FerrisAlerts to the number 67283 on the cell phone you wish to register with the system. The Rave System will respond with a confirmation message.

Opt out of ALL messages by texting STOP to the number 67283. (This stops all text messages from being sent to the cell number.)

## Observing Religious Holidays

Ferris State University seeks to be an inclusive community respecting, supporting, and celebrating diversity. Ferris' Academic Affairs' Religious Holidays Policy (see below) details expectations of reasonable accommodations for students observing religious holy days.

A listing of many religious and faith observances with general practices, date details, and recommended accommodations can be viewed on the website at: [https://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/academicaffairs/Forms\\_Policies/holidays.htm](https://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/academicaffairs/Forms_Policies/holidays.htm). This is not a definitive list. Contact the Office of the Provost to include other practices.

## Encourage Your Student to Get Involved

Encourage your son/daughter to get involved on campus. There are more than 220 Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) on campus; with more being created every month. There are academic, faith based, club sports, special interest, Greek and more. By joining an RSO, your student will meet new people, learn how to work with a team, apply classroom experiences to a real-world environment, gain leadership skills, give back to the community, as well as ease the transition from high school to college.

The Greek organizations are governed by three bodies: Panhellenic Council, Interfraternity Council, and Black Greek Council. These three councils consist of several unique organizations that involve approximately 550 students. All offer many opportunities to get involved and develop friendships that will last a lifetime.

Have your student check out Bulldog Connect to find a complete listing of all our student organizations with contact information to find out how to join.

## CONNECT WITH US!

In addition to the Bulldog Family and Friends Newsletter, there are a number of ways for parents to stay connected with Ferris and be updated on what's happening on campus.



@FerrisState  
@FerrisStateFinancialAid



@Ferris State



parents@ferris.edu

## Planning for FAFSA

Starting October 1, the FAFSA for the 2020/2021 school year will be ready to be filled out. Ferris students are not required to have a FAFSA on file, but filling it out is a pretty good idea. Here's why:

**Get Help Paying for School** - Over 98% of Ferris Statewide and Online students qualify for some type of federal aid, whether it's loans, grants or scholarships. But you'll never know what your student is eligible for if the FAFSA isn't filled out. Don't count yourself out.

**Increase Your Scholarship Eligibility** - There are plenty of scholarship opportunities for Ferris Statewide and Online students to take advantage of, and your student could qualify for even more if their FAFSA is on file. Some scholarships are awarded based on financial need, others are based on merit, and some are based on both. Don't take your student out of the running just because the FAFSA wasn't filled out. Explore the scholarship opportunities that Ferris has to offer by visiting our scholarship page website.

**Find Out if Your Student is Pell Eligible** - Nearly 800 Statewide and Online students received the Pell Grant for Fall 2018! The only way to find out if they are eligible to receive the Pell Grant or any other federal grant is—you guessed it—to fill out the FAFSA!

**Accept or Decline Aid at Any Time** - Filling out the FAFSA does not mean that they are

required to accept the loans or any other form of federal aid. It just gives them some options in case they need them. If they accept or decline the aid and end up changing their mind, all they need to do is email [loans@ferris.edu](mailto:loans@ferris.edu) during the semester to change their decision. Head to our Financial Aid page, email [cnsrtfinaid@ferris.edu](mailto:cnsrtfinaid@ferris.edu) or schedule an appointment with a Financial Aid Officer if there are questions or if assistance is needed. The FAFSA can be filed as soon as possible after October 1.

## Planning for Breaks

The residence halls close during break periods and at the end of each semester. Students are expected to make plans in advance for other accommodations during the break periods. The dates of closure are published more than a year in advance and are outlined in the Housing and Dining Contract. Need for housing between semesters or other breaks are not means by which the university would cancel the Housing and Dining Contract.

Residents of Bond hall may elect to remain in their rooms during the various breaks in the academic calendar when the remainder of the residence halls are closed. Residents must live in Bond to take advantage of this opportunity. Bond residents wishing to remain in their rooms during break must sign up in advance through the hall director. Please note that Bond Hall break housing carries an additional charge to room and board payments. Any questions can be directed to [housing@ferris.edu](mailto:housing@ferris.edu).

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