Come out and join MTSU in one of our most exciting celebrations of the year-HOMECOMING! The following events will take place to prepare us for our Homecoming Football Game against Memphis in the Johnny “Red” Floyd Football Stadium on October 1st at 6:00pm:

NPHC Annual Step Show - September 30, 7:00pm, Murphy Center
Parade - October 1st, 12 noon, Middle Tennessee Boulevard.
Raider Walk - 3:45pm, Walnut Grove
Kick-Off - 6:00pm, Floyd Stadium
“Song of Silk” - A Chinese Concert of Songs, 7:30pm, Hinton Music Hall, Wright Music Building

For more information regarding any of these homecoming activities, please contact Donald Abels, Homecoming Director for SGA, at sgahome@mtsu.edu

MTSU’s Centennial Homecoming

Mark Your Calendar...

Oct. 15-18 - Fall Break- no classes
Nov. 2 - Last day to drop or withdraw with a grade of “W”.
Nov. 3 - If you enrolled Fall 2011 and were granted a waiver for Varicella (Chicken Pox) or MMR immunizations, in order to register for the fall semester, be sure to turn in the required documentation before November 3, 2011. Otherwise, a hold will be placed on your account preventing any registration for Spring 2012 until the documentation is received.
Nov. 3 - Beginning today, students withdrawing from ALL CLASSES should complete online withdrawal form via RaiderNet. Instructors will award grade of "W" or "F" at end of term. Individual course drops processed in Scheduling Center (JUB 123) with signed drop form beginning today thru Dec. 8th.
Nov. 14-23 - Priority Registration for Spring 2012. Students should schedule an appointment with their assigned advisor, prior to Priority Registration, to discuss academic process for the semester as well as courses to take during Spring 2012.
Dec. 2 - Last day to withdraw from all classes and receive a “W” or “F.”
MTSU Family Weekend 2011

Family Weekend 2011 will take place on Oct. 28 & 29. There is a wide variety of events that will be taking place. Encourage your parents and families to come and participate in the weekend’s activities!

Family Weekend will be in collaboration with the MTSU vs. Louisiana Lafayette football game on Sat., Oct. 29. You can purchase discounted tickets for your parents and family members through the Athletic Ticket Office located on the Southwest corner of Floyd Stadium.

Beat WKU Blood Drive Competition

In preparation of our football game with Sun Belt rival Western Kentucky, MTSU and WKU are continuing the tradition which consists of a blood drive competition to be held on both campuses the week leading up to our annual football game (this year’s game is held on Thursday, October 6 at MTSU). MTSU’s drives will be held at the Student Health, Wellness and Recreation Center in the gym. The dates and times are as follows:

- Monday, October 3rd 12pm-6pm
- Tuesday, October 4th 10am-4pm
- Wednesday, October 5th 9am-7pm

Schedule your appointment by calling 1-800-RED CROSS or online at www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code MTSU19.

This event is open to the community and reserved parking is available on days of the blood drive for donors!

Fall Courses offered by Campus Recreation

For Freshmen who would like to learn to teach swimming lessons, MTSU Campus Recreation is offering an American Red Cross Certification Course for Water Safety instructors. MTSU Campus Recreation pays its WSIs $11.25 per teaching hour. For more information call 615-898-2104.

If you enjoy fitness swimming to stay in shape or want to compete in swimming, check out the MTSU Master’s Swim Club. Call President Cheryl Richardson (615-898-2799).

Forget to get your Flu Vaccination while at home? NO WORRIES!

Flu Shots are available at Health Services for $15. FluMist is available for $27 (student rates).
Campus Recreation has events and programs throughout the semester for you to enjoy. From intramurals, MTOP trips, and aquatic swim lessons and clinics, Campus Rec offers students a variety of activities for little to no cost.

Your membership at Campus Recreation is included in your tuition. Being a member comes with many benefits including: unlimited use of the fitness and aerobics rooms, the indoor pool, racquetball courts, gyms, and much more. Fitness classes (a full schedule is available on our web site) are $1 each or you can buy a 30-class punch pass for $20.

Campus Recreation, in conjunction with Student Programming and Student Health Services, is now holding After Dark weekend and night events. There will be putt-putt golf at Go USA Oct. 20, bowling and arcade games at Lanes, Trains, and Automobiles Nov. 17. These events are a great way to get out there and meet new friends and get involved on campus. Intramurals has a variety of fun and exciting sports competitions for any level athlete. This semester there will be flag football, racquetball, baseball, volleyball, and many more. Intramurals is a chance to make great friends, have a blast, and to show your competitive side.

MTOP, Middle Tennessee Outdoor Pursuits, will be offering exciting trips over the semester. In October, they will be heading to the Appalachian Trail for an exhilarating backpacking trip. In December, they will be heading to Steamboat Springs, CO, for skiing and snowboarding. Throughout the semester there will also be kayaking, canoeing, backpacking, and climbing trips. Throughout the semester Campus Rec Aquatics offers Learn to Swim classes, Moves and Grooves water exercise and a variety of skills classes if you are interested in being a lifeguard or water safety instructor.

Signing up for these activities and programs allows you to meet a variety of people while learning the importance of healthy lifestyles.

For more information about any of our activities and events, call our office at 615-898-2104 or check our web site at www.mtsu.edu/camprec. The office is open Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. if you want to sign up for any of these programs. We accept cash, checks, Visa, MasterCard and American Express.

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**Thanksgiving Dinner for Students**

For students not able to go home for the beginning of the holiday season, don’t worry, you are not alone! Many students simply cannot make it back until the fall semester ends, and we have you taken care of! Any student living on-campus is invited to the Scarlett Commons Clubhouse for a scrumptious Thanksgiving Dinner. Sponsored by the Parent & Family Association, this dinner is provided free on November 24 from 2:00pm-5:00pm to promote our students coming together and celebrating the holiday with the other members of the campus community! Happy Turkey Day!

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**Career Corner**

It’s never too early to start networking—plan to attend the Fall Career Fair on October 12 to meet recruiters from a wide variety of industries, including healthcare, communications, aviation, education, government, transportation, and many more! The Fair will be open to students from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. on the Murphy Center Track, and professional dress and student ID are required. For more information, visit www.mtsu.edu/career.

Log in to Lightning JobSource to upload a resume, see a calendar of upcoming events, complete your career profile, and network with real recruiters in the Raider Professional Network!

Need a letter or resume’ critique? Use Career Services “Document Drop!” For more information, visit www.mtsu.edu/career/services.shtml
WHAT IS PRIORITY REGISTRATION??!

Beginning November 14th through November 23rd all currently enrolled students will register for Spring 2012 classes. We call this priority registration because you get priority over any new students who comes to MTSU for the first time during spring. Below are some tips to help you get registered:

1) Meet with Academic Advisor - Many students are required to meet with an advisor before they can register for classes. After returning from Fall Break you should be setting up that appointment. If you wait until your registration date, your advisor may not have any appointment available for several days. Meeting with an advisor is crucial to the success of all students. Advisors like to check in with students to see how they are progressing in their current courses and help students plan out which courses to take for the upcoming semester. If you are unsure who your advisor is, you can log on to your RaiderNet account to get the name and contact information for your advisor. In the event that no one is listed you can call the University College Advising Center (898-2339) for assistance in getting an appointment for advising.

2) Account Holds - You may have a hold on your account preventing you from registering. These holds are placed for various reasons and it is important that you know what these holds are and how to get them cleared before your registration date. You can check your holds via your RaiderNet account and it will prompt you to call a specific office for each hold that is placed. An advisor may place a hold on a student’s accounts that requires them to come in for advising before they can register. You may even have an account balance hold for parking tickets or charges from health services. Waiting until the last minute to get these holds cleared will delay your registration.

3) Registration Date & Time - Though Priority Registration is two weeks long, students have a specific date and time that they can begin registering for classes. This date and time is based on how many earned hours a student had prior to this semester. Students can log on to their RaiderNet account and it will prompt you to call a specific office for each hold that is placed. An advisor may place a hold on a student’s accounts that requires them to come in for advising before they can register. You may even have an account balance hold for parking tickets or charges from health services. Waiting until the last minute to get these holds cleared will delay your registration.

Students often feel stress related to registering for classes and it comes at a time in the semester where they may be feeling pressure and stress from their current courses. Please know that your advisor is always available to help. We want all students to be successful, but as with any relationship, the advisor-student relationship requires both parties to be actively involved in the process. You can contact the University College Advising Center by calling (615) 898-2339 or by visiting www.mtsu.edu/advising.

Academic Success Series: How To Be A Successful MTSU Student

The following sessions are designed for any student who needs help or wants to learn more about the topic area. All sessions will begin at 4:30pm.

Oct. 4 (Library Room 272): How to Use the MTSU Library

Oct. 11 (Library Room 272): How to Maintain Academic Integrity

Oct. 25 (Library Room 248): How to Think Critically

Nov. 1 (Library Room 248): How to Give a Winning Presentation

Nov. 8 (Library Room 248): How to Use Your Academic Advisor

Nov. 15 (Library Room 248): How to Unwind, Relax, Chill and Still be a Successful Student

Nov. 23 (Library Room 248): How to Choose the Right Career for You

Nov. 29 & Dec. 6 (Library Room 248): How to Prepare for Final Exams
10. Have a question? Go straight to the source!
If you have questions about your bill, the confirmation process, or your refund, you will generally need to speak with the Bursar’s Office. For questions about academic matters, you should speak with your academic advisor. If you have a question about a specific area of financial aid (such as a lottery scholarship) talk to someone who works in that area; you can find our areas of expertise in the Office Staff section of our website. We are experts in our own areas, but can’t know everything about everything!

9. Lost your financial aid or scholarships? You might be able to get them back!
If you were unable to meet federal, state, or institutional requirements because of extenuating personal or medical circumstances, you may be able to file an appeal to regain eligibility. Visit our websites (www.mtsu.edu/financialaid or www.mtsu.edu/scholarships) for FAQs about the financial aid, lottery, and scholarship appeal processes and deadlines to appeal.

8. File your FAFSA as early as possible, if you expect to receive need-based aid!
If your EFC (Expected Family Contribution) on the FAFSA is 2100 or less and you are a Tennessee resident, you may qualify for a $2000 grant from the state. However, they ran out of funds in early February for the 2011-2012 year and will possibly run out by mid-January 2012 for the upcoming 2012-2013 year. If you want to have a chance at that $2000, you need to file your FAFSA as early as possible—January 2, if you can! You can use estimated income information to get your FAFSA filed quickly, then just go back and correct the numbers once your parents file their actual tax returns.

7. Stay enrolled in your classes, and keep attending class throughout the whole semester!
If you drop a class after the second week of the semester and drop below 12 hours, you will lose your lottery scholarship forever. If you are on financial aid warning and don’t pass at least 75% of your attempted hours for the semester, you will lose all of your financial aid and scholarships for one or more semesters. Be careful about dropping classes or stopping attendance, since both actions can have very serious financial consequences!

6. Read what you sign, and keep a copy!
When you fill out and sign a financial aid form, be sure to read it carefully. If you don’t understand any information on the form, please ask us so that we can help you understand. Keep a copy of each form by printing it or saving it on your computer, and review forms such as the Lottery Statement of Understanding again periodically to make sure you remember the rules. It is important for you to know and understand the rules, so that you don’t lose eligibility for your financial aid and scholarships!

5. Don’t wait until the last minute and expect immediate results!
Most financial aid processes take at least 2 weeks to complete, and some take 2-3 months. We are here to help you, but we generally can’t provide an immediate response. Be sure to allow plenty of time for the various financial aid processes to be completed. Complete your Enrichment and Diversity Scholarship applications early (in November). File your FAFSA early (in January). If we ask for paperwork, submit it quickly (by the stated deadline if we provide one, or no later than July 1). If you have a concern about an upcoming event or situation, contact us as soon as possible (at least two weeks ahead of time, and up to three months for some types of processes) so that we have time to help. Your financial aid process will run much more smoothly if you allow sufficient time for everything to be completed.

4. Keep copies of your tax paperwork!
We must verify the accuracy of the FAFSA for 30-40% of students, according to federal laws. It is therefore very likely that we will ask for copies of tax returns and W-2s for you and your parents. Be sure to keep copies of these forms, so that you can submit them as quickly as possible if you are selected for verification. You won’t be able to receive financial aid or certain types of scholarships until we complete the verification process, so it’s best to get through the process as quickly as you can!

3. Short on funds? Look for private scholarships!
Private scholarships can be a great resource, but it can sometimes be a challenge to find awards that match your profile. We have a helpful website on private scholarships, including links to scholarship search websites, links to specific scholarships, tips on how to win scholarships, and information on what to do once you have received a scholarship. Visit www.mtsu.edu/scholarships and click on Current Student then on Private Scholarships for more information.

2. Check our website, your MTSU email account, and your RaiderNet regularly!
Our websites (www.mtsu.edu/financialaid and www.mtsu.edu/scholarships) provide an extensive amount of information about financial aid and scholarships. If you have a question about financial aid or scholarships, please visit the website first to see if the information is available there. You should also check the website periodically to read about any changes to financial aid and scholarship rules, since federal and state policies change on a regular basis. We will send important information to your MTSU email account; be sure to check it at least once a week throughout the year. The Financial Aid tab in your RaiderNet can provide helpful information about your outstanding requirements, eligibility for financial aid and scholarships, and messages about your status.

1. Be kind to your friendly local financial aid staff!
We love to help students! One of the best parts of working in the Financial Aid and Scholarship Office is seeing a student’s joy when we are able to help them solve their financial problems. However, please keep in mind that there are thousands of you and only a few of us. Please be kind and patient, and allow sufficient time for us to work on your issue.
The Housing and Residential Life Office is now accepting housing reapplication forms from currently assigned students wishing to return to on-campus housing for the Fall 2012/Spring 2013 academic year. Students are encouraged to reapply for housing as early as possible so they may enjoy priority assignment. The deadline for priority assignment is **Friday, February 10th, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.** Currently assigned students requesting to remain on campus for the Fall 2012/Spring 2013 academic year will be given first priority to do so as long as their reapplication and $300 prepayment are received by the **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2012 at 4:00 P.M.** deadline. Students wishing to receive priority assignment need to complete a reapplication form and pay the $300 prepaid rent at the Housing and Residential Life Office located in the Keathley University Center, Room 300, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Students also have the option of reapplying for housing with priority online at [www.mtsu.edu/housing](http://www.mtsu.edu/housing). The $300 prepaid rent is paid by using a credit card or by completing an online check. Remember there is an additional $18 nonrefundable service fee charged by the third party provider for processing the online payment.

**I'M NOT RETURNING TO MTSU FOR THE SPRING!**

The Housing and Residential Life Office is currently accepting housing cancellations for the Spring 2012 semester from students who are graduating from MTSU and will be taking no additional classes and from students who are not returning to school at MTSU after the Fall 2011 semester. The deadline for submitting cancellations for prepayment refund is Saturday, October 15, 2011. Requests for cancellations must be submitted in writing to the Housing Office in the Keathley University Center, Room 300 or mailed to Box 6, MTSU, faxed to the Housing Office (615-898-5459) or emailed to housing@mtsu.edu by the deadline. Students living on-campus for the Fall 2011 semester who will be taking classes for the Spring 2012 semester have signed the agreement to live on-campus for the full academic year to include both Fall 2011 and Spring 2012 semesters and are not eligible for cancellation. For more information contact the Housing Office from this location: [www.mtsu.edu/~housing](http://www.mtsu.edu/~housing).

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**BLACK OUT GAME**

**MTSU vs. WKU**

**October 6th, 6:30pm**

Come support your Blue Raiders for our annual Black Out Game. At this year’s Black Out game, MTSU will take on Western Kentucky University! Make sure to wear your favorite black MTSU shirt so we can blackout Johnny “Red” Floyd Stadium!!!