

Middle Tennessee State University

# Freshmen Connection

## Final Exam Survival Tips

Follow these simple guidelines to make your first college finals week successful!

**Mark Your Deadlines.** First, mark deadlines like paper due dates and test times. Next, check for conflicts if you have two tests that overlap, or if you're scheduled for work during a test time, you need to resolve that as quickly as possible.

**Set a Study Schedule.** While you have your calendar out, mark out your study plan for the days ahead - you don't want to be studying for a history test on Friday if you have a Math test tomorrow. Schedule time for the nearest deadlines first, and break your time into hours and subjects. Don't try to spend all day studying one thing or you will burn out. Also, remember that it will probably take you longer than you think to write a paper.

**Take Care of Your Body.** If you don't take care of your body, you could hit a slump right when you need the most energy. Take time to eat healthy meals (that means fruits and veggies, carbs and proteins, not just a Snickers bar and a Gatorade) and schedule time for sleep. If you are having trouble sleeping, check out these tips about [how to fall asleep even when you're stressed](#).

**Gather Your Supplies.** Get your supplies: Blue Books, Scantrons,

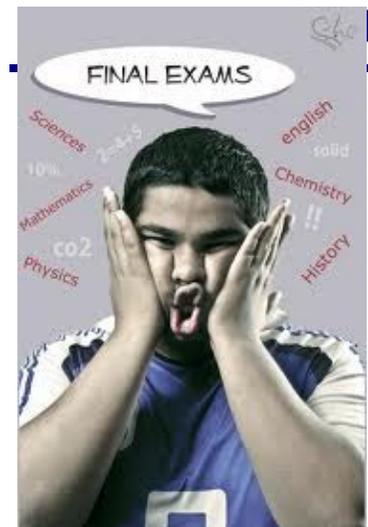
pens, pencils—well before the test starts. You don't want to have to ask your professor if he or she has a spare Scantron.

**Make Outlines.** One of the best ways to keep focused on what you're studying is to make an outline (I've even made outlines of outlines for really hard classes). It helps if you pick out the key points which can serve as a study tool for later. Sydney at That College Kid has a great post about [the basics of creating a successful outline](#).

**Rewrite Notes.** Having a hard time making your lecture notes stick? Rewriting your notes takes longer than skimming them. The extra time you spend rewriting can help engrain the information in your mind.

**Get Creative.** Everyone has a different studying style - some people are visual learners, others are better at listening. Find out what works for you, and do it. This can be anything from putting sticky notes with hard-to-remember facts on your computer monitor, to listening to podcasts of lectures while you eat breakfast.

**Be Honest.** With all the stress and tension that goes on during this time, some students are tempted to get someone else to write their paper, to sneak an answer from the person next to them, or to plagiarize. It definitely isn't worth it. Professors check for plagiarism, and the consequences of cheating on just



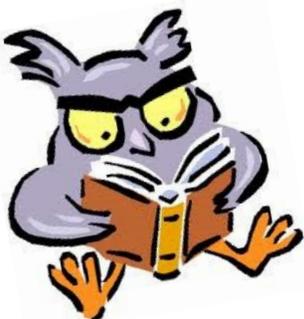
one test could cost you your GPA.

**Take Breaks.** Your mind needs time to rest and refresh, so taking breaks can help you feel more alert (as I mentioned when I wrote about [how to stay awake when you're studying](#)). Make time to go for a walk, hit the gym, call a friend, or even watch some TV - it will help you refresh your mind.

**Finesse.** For final papers, get someone to proof read! This is especially critical if you've done the whole paper all in one sitting. I did a lot of writing in college, and I can tell you from experience that you will almost definitely make some mistakes, especially during finals week. Also, make sure you staple your paper. You'd be surprised how many people turn in paper clipped or dog-eared final papers - it makes you look unprepared, and that could affect your grade. ([www.survivingcollegelife.com](http://www.survivingcollegelife.com))

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## MTSU to Play in Bowl Game

The Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders will take on the Miami (OH) Redhawks in the Go-Daddy.com Bowl on Thursday, January 6th at 7:00pm central standard time. The Student Government Association will be taking a Road

Rally to Mobile, Alabama January 5th-7th. For only \$125, you can get round trip transportation, a two night hotel stay, a game ticket, and a t-shirt! For more information check out the SGA website at [www.mtsu.edu/sga](http://www.mtsu.edu/sga).

Come support your Blue Raiders as they play their third bowl game in the past five years!



## Love Living On-Campus? Make it Your Job!



Get ready for a recruitment whirlwind! Housing and Residential Life will begin accepting applications on

**January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011 for the RESIDENT ASSISTANT and LEARNING COMMUNITY ADVISOR positions!!!** These life-changing experiences are some of the most coveted leadership posi-

tions on campus, so make sure you ask an Area Coordinator about how you can apply to become part of the MTSU Housing Family!

## Fee Payment Deadlines

As the semester comes to a close and all of your classes are wrapping up, we encourage everyone to take a well needed break! However, don't forget about your commitments in the upcoming semester while you're relaxing!

Students can begin paying or confirming (if your financial aid covers tuition and fees in their entirety) via RaiderNet on December 1, 2010. The deadline for Spring 2011 fee payment is January 6, 2011 at 4:30 pm in person at

the Business Office, OR 6:00pm via RaiderNet. Don't wait around until the last minute to take care of your fees for next semester!



## “Workout” all the Finals Stress-A Word from Campus Rec

As every college student has come to find, finals are a stressful time of the year. Remember Campus Rec is here to help you de-stress and take a moment away from the crazy time that comes every semester.

Campus Rec will be open Dec. 10 from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m., Dec. 11 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Dec. 12 from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m., and Dec. 13 from 7

a.m. to 7 p.m. We will be closed Dec. 18-Jan. 2 but will re-open with limited hours Jan. 3. From Jan. 3-12, the hours Monday-Friday are 7 a.m. until 7 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-7 p.m. and Sunday 2 p.m.-10 p.m. We open with our regular spring hours Jan. 13. Look for that schedule to be posted after the holidays. Don't forget if you're ever feeling stressed, Campus Rec might have just the right so-

lution. In the spring try our fitness programs such as Couch to 5K, Half-Marathon Training Program, or Boot Camp. Also, there will be many new and exciting intramural sports, MTOP Outdoor trips, aquatics and fitness classes. All of these fun programs can help calm your nerves and keep you right on track!



**Happy Holidays from the Parent & Family Association**

## Career Corner

The Career Development Center will continue its Workshop Series in 2011, including topics such as *FOCUS Interpretation Q&A*, *Resumes and Cover Letters*, and *Interviewing*. Log in to Lightning JobSource for Spring dates and to RSVP. Don't have an LJS account? It's FREE, and registering is easy. Just visit [www.mtsu.edu/career/](http://www.mtsu.edu/career/whatisljs.shtml)

[whatisljs.shtml](http://www.mtsu.edu/career/whatisljs.shtml) to learn more and sign up.

Planning on working next summer? Start your search early! The 2011 Summer Jobs Fair will be February 23<sup>rd</sup> on the Murphy Center Track Level. And if you're ready for your first internship, what luck! The Internships Fair will be the same day and location from 11 a.m. to 2

p.m. A list of participating employers will be updated daily in Lightning JobSource.



# Top Ten Financial Aid Facts

## 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](http://www.mtsu.edu/financialaid) or [www.mtsu.edu/scholarships](http://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 mid-February for the 2010-2011 year and will probably run out by mid-January 2011 for the upcoming 2011-2012 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 through the whole semester!

If you stop attending even one class during the semester, your aid may be affected and you may have to repay thousands of dollars in financial aid. 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 probation 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 in your VIP (Very Important Paperwork) folder, 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 re-

source, 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](http://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](http://www.mtsu.edu/financialaid) and [www.mtsu.edu/scholarships](http://www.mtsu.edu/scholarships)) provide an extensive amount of information about financial aid and scholarships—how to find them, how to receive them, how to maintain eligibility for renewable awards, etc. 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.



# Final Exam Schedule

## Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Class time:	Exam day:	Exam time:
6:50 - 7:45 a.m.	Friday, December 10	7:00 - 9:00 a.m.
8:00 - 8:55 a.m.	Wednesday, December 15	7:30 - 9:30 a.m.
9:10 - 10:05 a.m.	Wednesday, December 15	10:00 -12:00 p.m.
10:20 - 11:15 a.m.	Monday, December 13	9:30 -11:30 a.m.
11:30 -12:25 p.m.	Friday, December 10	10:00 -12:00 p.m.
12:40 -1:35 p.m.	Monday, December 13	12:30 - 2:30 p.m.
1:50 - 2:45 p.m.	Friday, December 10	12:30 - 2:30 p.m.
3:00 - 3:55 p.m.	Wednesday, December 15	3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
4:10 - 5:05 p.m.	Friday, December 10	3:30 - 5:30 p.m.
5:20 - 6:15 p.m.	Monday, December 13	4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

## Monday, Wednesday

Class time:	Exam day:	Exam time:
12:40 - 2:05 p.m.	Monday, December 13	12:30 - 2:30 p.m.
2:20 - 3:45 p.m.	Wednesday, December 15	12:30 - 2:30 p.m.
4:10 - 5:35 p.m.	Monday, December 13	3:30 - 5:30 p.m.
6:00 - 7:25 p.m.	Monday, December 13	6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
7:40 - 9:05 p.m.	Wednesday, December 15	8:30 - 10:30 p.m.

## Tuesday, Thursday

Class time:	Exam day:	Exam time:
6:20 - 7:45 a.m.	Thursday, December 16	7:30 -9:30 a.m.
8:00 - 9:25 a.m.	Tuesday, December 14	8:00 -10:00 a.m.
9:40 -11:05 a.m.	Thursday, December 16	10:00 -12:00 p.m.
11:20 -12:45 p.m.	Tuesday, December 14	10:30 -12:30 p.m.
1:00 - 2:25 p.m.	Thursday, December 16	1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
2:40 - 4:05 p.m.	Tuesday, December 14	3:30 - 5:30 p.m.
4:20 - 5:45 p.m.	Thursday, December 16	3:30 - 5:30 p.m.
6:00 - 7:25 p.m.	Tuesday, December 14	6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
7:40 - 9:05 p.m.	Thursday, December 16	8:30 - 10:30 p.m.

## Classes Meeting One Day a Week

Class Meeting Time	Exam Time
2:40 - 5:40 p.m.	3:30 - 5:30 p.m.
4:30 - 7:30 p.m.	6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.	6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
7:45 - 10:45 p.m.	8:30 - 10:30 p.m.