

THE UNIVERSITY OF  
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# Gettin Starte



GRADUATE SCHOOL



# NEXT STEPS

**ACCEPT YOUR OFFER OF ADMISSION.** If you have not already done so, please register your intent to enroll by clicking the "Register" link located in your application center (<https://www.usm.edu/admission>).

**LOG IN AND START CHECKING YOUR OFFICIAL SOUTHERN MISS EMAIL.** You should receive an email from iTech informing you of your new Southern Miss email address and temporary password within two to three days of being admitted. Once you receive the email, log into your new email account immediately. The first email in your new account will contain important information regarding your CampusID credentials for your SOAR account (Southern's Online Accessible Records).

**LOG INTO SOAR.** SOAR is the system of record for all Southern Miss students. You will use SOAR to register for classes, review and accept your financial aid, check your grades, track your progress to degree, and even apply for graduation ([info.usm.edu/soar](http://info.usm.edu/soar)).

**CONTACT THE SCHOOL OF YOUR MAJOR.** While the Graduate School is always here to support and assist all graduate students, your school should be your main point of contact now that you have been accepted. Your school will assist you with advisement, help you enroll in classes, help you find funding opportunities, and assist you in staying on track for graduation. (International students will be assisted with enrollment once they arrive on campus.)

**THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AND SCHOLAR SERVICES (ISSS) OFFICE COORDINATES SERVICES AND PROGRAMMING FOR ALL INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS.** While the ISSS office is here to assist all international students, your school should be your main point of contact for all international students.

# GRADUATE STUDENT ORIENTATION

## The Graduate School wants you to be successful!

To help you get started here at Southern Miss, you'll be enrolled in an online orientation hosted through Canvas. In this module, you'll learn more about support services and resources available at Southern Miss, as well as valuable information about progressing to your degree. Please check your email regularly as the start of the semester approaches for additional information.

In addition to the Graduate School online orientation, most academic programs have separate orientations. Please check with your academic program for more information.

### MOFFITT HEALTH CENTER

Moffitt Health Center is conveniently located on the Hattiesburg campus. The staff treats a wide range of health problems, including acute minor illnesses, such as colds, sinus problems and allergies; and chronic medical problems, such as asthma, diabetes and hypertension. Additionally, they offer preventive health services, including women's health exams, cholesterol screening, smoking cessation and a men's health program.

[usm.edu/student-health-services](http://usm.edu/student-health-services)

### SOUTHERN MISS HEALTH CENTER

The Health Center, located on the Gulf Park campus in Long Beach, Miss., provides basic medical care, including first aid, treatment of acute minor illnesses and preventative screenings. Additionally, students on the Gulf Park campus can also receive telemedicine consultations from Student Health Services physicians at the Hattiesburg campus.

[usm.edu/gulfcoast/health-center](http://usm.edu/gulfcoast/health-center)

### STUDENT COUNSELING SERVICES

Student Counseling Services provides individual, group and couples counseling. Additionally, staff are able to provide referrals to community resources, should the need arise.

[usm.edu/student-counseling-services](http://usm.edu/student-counseling-services)

### CENTER FOR MILITARY VETERANS, SERVICE MEMBERS AND FAMILIES

The Center provides essential support for (student veterans, active-duty service members and their families while they pursue their educational opportunities.

[usm.edu/military-veterans](http://usm.edu/military-veterans)

### RECREATIONAL SPORTS

The Department of Recreational Sports' primary fitness



# ASSISTANTSHIPS

Currently, the university has approximately 900 assistantships in all areas. Stipend amounts for assistantships vary by school, and interested applicants should contact their academic units for information regarding available assistantships. Graduate assistantships are available in other areas, such as the Alumni Association, Athletics, Career Services, Center for Community and Civic Engagement, Financial Aid, Human Resources, Institutional Effectiveness, McNair Scholars Program, Moffitt Health Center, Recreational Sports and the USM Foundation.

1. Initial Hiring Paperwork: Students who are awarded an assistantship should contact the awarding office or school to begin the hiring process. That school or office will begin the process by submitting initial hiring paperwork and a background check request to Human Resources.
2. Background Check: All graduate assistants are required to complete and pass a university background check. Once the initial request has been received and processed by HR, you will receive an email from Red Tail Security Screening with instructions on authorizing a background check. Since the background check



# FINANCES

## BILLING

Students are able to review all account information, including tuition, fees, credits, and all other awards and charges, through their SOAR portal ([info.usm.edu/soar](http://info.usm.edu/soar)). For questions about your bill or information about paying your bill, contact Business Services at [business.services@usm.edu](mailto:business.services@usm.edu) or at 601.266.4137.

## LOANS

Graduate students interested in applying for student loans should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Use Federal Student Code 002441. For additional information about federal financial aid, contact the Office of Financial Aid at [financial.aid@usm.edu](mailto:financial.aid@usm.edu) or at 601.266.4774.

## STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

If you're looking for work, Career Services is the

