

10 TIPS TO START YOUR SEMESTER STRONG



GET ORGANIZED

Locate the syllabi for all your classes and keep them accessible. **Add due dates to your calendar.** Create a weekly schedule that includes study time. Establish a daily routine and stick to it!



REFLECT ON YOUR SEMESTER

Identify successes and areas for improvement and use those to guide your current semester. Sign up to be paired with a **CSS Success Coach** for one-on-one academic support here!



GET TO KNOW YOUR PROFESSORS

Your professors are one of your greatest resources for success. Identify each of your professor's office hours and try to go to each of their office hours during the first few weeks of classes.



FIND YOUR IDEAL STUDY ZONE

Find a quiet place with limited distractions to complete study sessions and class assignments. Be sure to check out the **Cook Library**, R.C Cook Union, or the Courtyard!



CONNECT WITH CLASSMATES

Study groups can be a great way to explore challenging course concepts in a supportive environment. Try to build relationships with your classmates by arriving to class a few minutes early or staying after class to meet your peers.



GET YOUR TEXTBOOKS ASAP!

Not having your textbooks during the first week can put you behind. If you opt into the **Eagle Direct Textbooks** program, verify your order 30 days before **classes start** and pick up your books prior to the first day of class.



EXPLORE CAMPUS RESOURCES

There are offices all over campus dedicated to helping students succeed at college. You can check out a list of frequent campus resources and ways to connect with them by visiting usm.edu/help.



FIND HEALTHY STRESS RELIEF

College can be stressful. Identify outlets such as group activities, exercise, or hobbies that you can lean on to relax. Visit the **Payne Center**, try a **fitness class** or **intramural sport**, or explore all that **Hattiesburg** has to offer.



ASK QUESTIONS!

Get ahead of potential problems by asking questions right away and seeking help as soon as possible. Reach out to your professors sooner rather than later regarding course content or assignments.



CREATE A FINANCIAL PLAN

Manage your money. Accept scholarships or financial aid through **SOAR** before classes start. If you have a balance on your account, enroll in a **payment plan** and make payments on time. Questions? Reach out to the **Office of Financial Aid**.