



# GAMECOCK PARENT & FAMILY CONNECTION

The transition to college can be exciting, stressful, unknown, and transformative for your student and your family. The transition into adulthood and independence is not an overnight process. Your student will need your encouragement and support to be successful while at JSU. We have compiled a list of helpful reminders and updates to consider for your student's success at JSU.

## Parents of Future Gamecocks

This is a great time of the year for potential students to apply for scholarships and review important next steps and deadlines. Below are several pieces of information to assist you, Future Gamecocks!

### Scholarship Information:

[First-Time Freshman Merit Scholarships](#)

[First-Time Transfer Scholarships](#)

[JSU Competitive Scholarships](#) - Deadlines Vary

### Important Links and Upcoming Events:

December 31, 2023 - [The 2024-2025 FAFSA will be available](#)

January 26, 30, and February 19, 2024 - [Admitted Student Days](#)

February 1, 2024 - Competitive scholarship deadline

February 1, 2024 - [Gamecock orientation registration opens](#)

April 1, 2024 - The priority deadline for [2024-2025 Housing Application](#)

May 1, 2024 - Deadline for test score submissions for freshman merit scholarships

May 1, 2024 - Priority deadline for orientation registration

## Orientation Information

- Students can visit <https://www.jsu.edu/go/register.html> to register for Spring or Fall Orientation.
- Once registered, make sure students check their "checklist" items to complete before their scheduled orientation date.

- Orientation is required for all first-year students under the age of 25 before beginning their first semester at JSU and is recommended for first-time transfer students.

## Academic Support and Success

Academic Support/Tutoring Services is located on the 2nd floor of the Houston Cole Library. Their hours of operation are Monday - Thursday 10am - 8pm, and Friday 10am - 2pm. Appointments can be scheduled using JSU Navigate, found in your MyJaxState account, or by using the Navigate Student app. (Please check in at the front desk with your student ID when you arrive.)

Tutor.com is also available to all JSU students and can be accessed through your Canvas courses. Tutor.com is available 24/7 and is completely free!

Success Coaching is available by appointment. If you are interested in meeting with your success coach, you can schedule an appointment using JSU Navigate.

### In preparation for Finals Week, here are some study tips to share with your student!

- Use your notes to create flashcards, outlines, study guides, and to predict exam questions.
- Review your notes, PowerPoints, study guides, etc. each day.
- Recite and restate information to enhance your memory skills.
- Get a tutor if you need one or utilize Tutor.com.
- Create a study group or use the Study Buddies feature in the Navigate Student app.
- Organize your time and take breaks as needed.
- Meet with your success coach.
- Create a comfortable and distraction-free study environment.
- Know your final exam schedule so that you can study in advance.
- Utilize the Student Success Center if you need a place to study.

## Financial Aid/Scholarships

- The 2024-2025 FAFSA will open by December 31st. JSU will begin receiving completed FAFSAs at the end of January. The new FAFSA application has been reduced from 108 to just 36 questions, and more students will be eligible for more funding! For updates, visit our [website!](#)
- Complete the JAXAPP through your myJaxState by February 1, 2024, to apply for 250+ institutional scholarships!
- Reminder: Your student must maintain an institutional GPA of at least a 2.0 and earn 2/3rds of all credits attempted in order to keep their financial aid!

## Housing Operations and Residence Life



Winter break is upon us! Residents must submit a Break Housing Request through THD Self Service if they are unable to vacate their assignment during the break. The deadline to complete this is December 15th.

Students leaving for the winter break are required to do the following:

- Remove all belongings you will need for the break. Please make sure you have any valuables, electronics, medication, and clothing that you need for the entirety of the break. You are not required to completely remove all items from your room.
- Unplug all electrical appliances, microwaves, computers, alarm clocks, irons, stereos, etc. Defrost your refrigerator and remove all items.
- Set your AC/Heat unit to low.
- Do not leave electrical appliances on the floor.
- Do not leave dirty dishes, dirty clothes, and open food containers.
- Do not leave perishable foods.
- Make sure all food containers are sealed and that no food is left out during the break.
- If you have a fish tank, please take the tank with you. Staff members will not be able to feed your fish in your absence. All emotional support animals/pets must be taken home with you as well.
- Lock all windows.
- Residents should lower and close all blinds.
- Clean the room (i.e., mop, dust, sweep, and properly dispose of all trash at the dumpsters outside).
- Contact an RA at the front desk or the RA on call and tell them you are prepared to check out. An RA will accompany the resident to their room

- to perform a check-out inspection. RAs are available to check out residents during 10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. daily.
- Sign the winter break closing roster and give the room key and key tag to the assigned RA.
  - Failure to complete winter break closing procedures will result in charges of \$105.00 (i.e., \$50.00 fine for an improper check out and a \$55 fee for a lock change).
  - Halls close for nongraduating residents on December 9, 12:00 p.m.
  - Halls close for graduating residents on December 16, 12:00 p.m.
  - Spring 2024 – Halls open on January 5, 2:00 p.m.

Current residents will begin the reapplication process on February 1. More information will be available soon!

The Resident Assistant application for Fall 2024 - Spring 2025 is now available! Be sure to follow us on our social media platforms, @JSUHousing to learn more!

### **New Resident Info**

- Spring 2024 applications are available online through [THD Self Service](#) with a December 1 priority deadline. Assignments will be emailed to the Jax State email address in mid-December.
- Fall 2024-Spring 2025 applications are available online through [THD Self Service](#). Students will use their MyJaxState username and password to log on.
  - First-year students will self-select their assignments in April. More information can be found at [here](#). Upper-class students who do not currently live on campus will be assigned by the Housing Office beginning May 15.
  - Living and Learning Community Applications are also available [online](#). Deadline to apply is February 1, 2024.

### **Student Life**

We are excited to be working on an initiative to become a first-generation serving college campus!

- Is your student First-Gen?
  - A first-generation college student is defined as a student whose parent(s)/legal guardians have not completed a bachelor's degree.
- If your student is First-Gen, they can become a member of the First-Gen Society. Email Madison Wisner [mwisner@stu.jsu.edu](mailto:mwisner@stu.jsu.edu) for further information.
- You stay up to date with our First-Gen programs and support by visiting [jsu.edu/first-gen](http://jsu.edu/first-gen)

To view all upcoming campus events, visit the [JSU Event Calendar](#).

## University Police Department - Campus Safety

### COCKY WATCH APP

The Jacksonville State University Police Department (UPD) is proud to announce a new and exciting emergency notification phone application for the campus community. The Cocky Watch App is now available. Please encourage your student to download! Instructions can be found [here](#).

### JSU ALERT

Although college campuses are usually safe places, emergencies and disasters do occur. JSU is committed to keeping the campus community as safe as possible through effective communication prior to, during and following emergencies. JSU's Emergency Alert System, the University's primary emergency notification system, allows students, parents, faculty and staff to receive emergency messages via phone, text message, e-mail, and social media. Both voice and text messages may be sent to cell phones. Sign up for JSU Alert [here](#).

## Student Employment

Your student can view employment opportunities [online](#).

## Parent Giving



During time spent at Jacksonville State University, your students will discover dreams, develop ideas, and strive towards goals for the future. They will interact daily with JSU's outstanding faculty and staff and form lifelong friendships with other students from the region and around the world while becoming tomorrow's leaders, creators, and problem-solvers.

Each year, the generous support of JSU parents helps the university ensure an exceptional experience for all students. Through the JSU Annual Fund, parents can help support the colleges, departments, programs, and scholarships that have helped shape the lives of JSU students just like your own for generations.

Help JSU students in need this holiday season! The Gamecock Market provides free resources to students in need. Whether the need is food, hygiene items, clothes, or school supplies, our JSU students rely on assistance from the Gamecock Market. Please consider partnering with JSU to ensure the next generation of Gamecocks have the resources needed to be successful in college by providing a financial gift to the Gamecock Market. All donations are

used directly for student needs. Text GIVEJSU to 91999 or visit [www.jsu.edu/givejsu](http://www.jsu.edu/givejsu) to make a donation.

Annual Fund gifts can be designated to support your student's college or department, favorite program or initiative, or scholarships that will allow future students to experience the same quality higher educational experience. Giving is easy! Text GIVEJSU to 91999 or visit [jsu.edu/givejsu](http://jsu.edu/givejsu) to make a donation to the JSU Foundation, a 501(c)(3) corporation. By supporting the JSU Annual Fund, you are truly making a difference in the lives of JSU students.

### In Need of More Assistance?

Housing and Residence Life – 256-782-5122

Financial Aid – 256-782-5006

Student Accounts – 256-782-5458

Registrar's Office – 256-782-5400

Military Student Services – 256-782-8838

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