Finals week and summer courses: helpful hints to help your student finish strong

Finals week is the most trying time of the semester for most students. What looks like endless assignments, projects and tests are all collected in one week, on the summit of every student's normal routine. K-State knows that finals week, along with the week prior — “dead week” — can be highly stressful, and thus offers many ways to help students cope within this timeframe.

Finals week is Monday, May 9 to Friday, May 13, 2016. On the Sunday before finals, complimentary snacks are available in the Fiedler Learning Commons in the evening, as well as nightly snacks in Hale Library during dead week and finals week. If your student lives in the residence hall, you can send them a surprise care package as a little extra pick-me-up during finals week by visiting this website: https://apps2.housing.k-state.edu/bakery/home.php.

Another concern for many students is finding the exact time and place of their final exams. You can help your student find his or her Spring 2016 Finals Schedule at https://courses.k-state.edu/spring2016/information/xam.html. Most general courses will have group examinations due to multiple meeting times of that course. Finding those final times is fairly straightforward forward in section “I” on the webpage. For other courses, standard, non-standard and night, see sections II, III and IV. There are step-by-step instructions, as well as an example for finding the correct day and time of the examinations. Professors announce final exam times in class and on the syllabus for the course.

In addition to finals, summer is just around the corner. If your student does not already have plans, encourage taking summer courses to make faster progress toward degree completion. For courses from other institutions, check to ensure the course will transfer back to K-State for credit by visiting https://www.k-state.edu/undergradadmit/transferequivalency.html. This resource is very helpful when deciding what classes to take to get a jump start on the coming semester or retaking a course that did not go well the previous year.

Care must be taken with retakes. For example, if a student gets a “D” in Calculus 1 at K-State, the student is advised to take advantage of “replacement retakes.” Retaking a course at K-State will replace the old grade with the most recent grade when calculating GPA. Retaking the course elsewhere will not replace the original grade, because the GPA is not transferred. Another important rule to remember is that once the student has finished a course from another institution, he or she must have the transcript sent from the outside institution to K-State’s registrar’s office to ensure proper credit. If there are any questions about transfer equivalencies, your student can contact the Office of Student Services in 1093 Fiedler Hall before the semester is over.
The ideal engineer is a composite ... He is not a scientist, he is not a mathematician, he is not a sociologist or a writer; but he may use the knowledge and techniques of any or all of these disciplines in solving engineering problems. -N.W. Doughtry

Next time you’re in town: Pillsbury Crossing

You can’t pass up visiting Pillsbury Crossing, one of the Eight Wonders of Kansas, while here in Manhattan. It features an amazing wildlife area with a five-foot-high, 60-foot-long waterfall, and a natural low-water crossing of limestone rock you can drive your vehicle across. This is a popular area for dipping your feet in the water, canoeing, hiking, fishing, or just a great place to hang out and enjoy the sites.

When you visit, wear good shoes with a grip on the bottom as the rocks are slippery. So load up your family, bring your hiking shoes and some fishing gear, or just bring yourself, and enjoy the beauty of this natural landmark that has been here for generations.

If traveling to Manhattan on I-70, take exit 316 north onto Deep Creek Road for about five miles, then turn east onto Pillsbury Crossing Road. Turn onto Pillsbury Crossing Lane after about two miles.

If you are driving from Manhattan, drive south on Highway 177 two miles to Deep Creek Road, take Deep Creek Road to Pillsbury Crossing Road. Follow Pillsbury Crossing Road to Pillsbury Crossing Lane.

What you need to know about residence halls and the end of the semester...

Residence halls close on Saturday, May 14, and students will need to be packed and moved out by 1 p.m. Residents must make prior arrangements with their residence life coordinator to remain on campus during the summer. Breakfast on Saturday, May 14, is the last meal served in the dining centers. Students can check at their hall or dining center for Saturday breakfast meal hours.
Get to know mechanical and nuclear engineering

The mechanical and nuclear engineering (MNE) program at K-State offers undergraduate degrees in mechanical engineering and mechanical engineering with a nuclear option. Graduate degrees are offered in mechanical engineering as well as nuclear engineering. The MNE department mission is to push students to their full potential; prepare them for national and international repute to generate new knowledge and technology; and provide service through outreach programs to the mechanical engineering profession, the state, and the nation. Mechanical and nuclear engineering facilities are located in the engineering complex in Rathbone, Seaton and Ward halls. A major part of the course work of mechanical engineering is lab experience. The following well-equipped laboratories are available to students:

- Subsonic wind tunnel
- Internal combustion engines
- Composite materials
- Automatic controls
- Experimentation and design
- Materials testing

A strong advantage to this program is access to the K-State nuclear reactor, which provides education, research, training and outreach in the nuclear engineering field. It is licensed to operate at up to 1250 kWth.

For more information about the mechanical and nuclear engineering program, visit its website at http://www.mne.ksu.edu/.

Student organization spotlight:

Engineering Ambassadors

Kansas State University Engineering Ambassadors focus their efforts on informing prospective students about the great career and educational opportunities available in the College of Engineering.

Ambassadors are current students with the mission to promote the engineering profession and serve as hosts for the college. Each ambassador is required to visit at least two high school class rooms each year to encourage current high school students to pursue their college degrees in engineering, and give preliminary information about the different fields offered by K-State. Ambassadors also help with events the College of Engineering puts on, including organizing Engineering Day for prospective students and their parents.

Ambassadors are selected each spring semester. Applicants must have strong academic and leadership track records. They are interviewed by current executive members to ensure the tradition of professionalism, enthusiasm, and initiative is upheld.

Your student can learn more about the program by contacting the Recruitment and Leadership Development office in the College of Engineering at 1141 Engineering Hall; phone: 785-532-5455; or on the Web at http://www.engg.ksu.edu/

Student recognition

- Syeda Rubaiyat Aziz, CE graduate student, is a recipient of a 2016 International Leadership Award from the K-State Alumni Association in recognition of her contributions to K-State. Her faculty adviser is Sunanda Dissanayake, CE. Aziz’ work with K-DOT to develop a crash prediction model for rural multilane highways was also the subject of a recent news story.

- Kevin Bultongez, MNE graduate student, took first place out of 400 entrants in the poster competition at the National Society of Black Engineers annual convention March 23-27, in Boston, Massachusetts. His major professor is Melanie Derby, MNE.
Upcoming events

- May 6 – Last day of spring term
- May 9-13 – Finals week
- May 14 – Engineering graduation
- May 14 – Residence halls close for spring term
- May 16 – Intersession begins
- May 18 – Term final grades available on KSIS
- May 30 – University holiday
- May 23 – Summer 2016 term begins
- June 3 – May 2016 intersession ends
- June 6 – Summer DCE evening college eight-week courses begin
- June 7-24 – New freshman orientation and enrollment

For more information about the College of Engineering, visit www.engg.ksu.edu

For more information about the Academic Success Center, visit www.engg.ksu.edu/asc/

Through its collaborative focus and student-centered approach, the Academic Success Center (ASC) advocates for students, and supports them in developing their individual strengths and negotiating the challenges they encounter in realizing their potential as educated members of society. The ASC fulfills this mission by offering dynamic services including tutoring, mentoring, learning centers, first-year instruction, academic advising and career awareness.

Feel free to contact us with any comments or questions.

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KSU Connect
Family Connections Program