



BEAR POWER

FAQ for Parents

If my student is accepted, will I have the opportunity to ask more detailed questions and obtain further information before they start classes at Missouri State?

Yes! Parents of students accepted to the Bear POWER program will have the opportunity to attend a Parent Orientation before the semester start date. Bear POWER students will also attend a SOAR orientation experience at Missouri State before they start classes. For more information about the SOAR process, you can check the [Orientation and Transition Programs website](#).

When will I know if my student is accepted to the Bear POWER program?

Following the Leadership Retreat, all students will be notified whether they are accepted to the program or not via a formal acceptance letter mailed and addressed to the student. The letters will be sent out 1-2 weeks following the retreat. Students who are accepted will then receive further information, dates, etc. before starting at Missouri State.

What is FERPA?

FERPA is the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and is a federal law that was enacted in 1974. FERPA protects the privacy of student education records. All educational institutions that receive federal funding must comply with FERPA.

If you're a student, it's important for you to understand your rights under FERPA. If you're a parent, you'll need to understand how the law changes once your student enters a post-secondary institution. If you're a University employee, you'll need to understand what information can and cannot be released, and the appropriate procedures for release of student information.

What is FERPA and how does it apply to future Bear POWER students?

FERPA applies to Bear POWER students the same as it applies to all other Missouri State students. There is a FERPA release option which we will be covering in more detail for students accepted to the program.

For more information please visit the [MSU FERPA website](#) and [FAQ page](#).

What will parent communication with the Bear POWER program look like once students start classes?

Parent communication with the Bear POWER program will be very limited – communication will go directly through your student. Our program will be busy ensuring that students have proper supports in place within the four pillars of the program (academic, social, independent living, job readiness), coordinating volunteers and faculty (also making sure they have been trained/prepared) and checking in with Bear POWER students across campus. Parents are not to have any contact with Bear POWER Ambassadors or student mentors.

How will I know what Financial Aid options my student has?

Please visit this page on our website for more information regarding financial aid. We also have a list of scholarship opportunities that your student may have interest in applying for listed on the [Bear POWER financial aid webpage](#). For more general MSU financial aid information, you can visit their page [here](#).

For more information regarding student rights and responsibilities, residence life, safety, and transportation, please see the Bear POWER Student Handbook, [Student Code of Rights and Responsibilities](#), [Guide to Residence Hall Living](#), and the [University Safety website](#).