



Graduate Calendar–Fall 2026

All deadlines are at 11:59 PM unless otherwise stated.

Date	Description
August 1	Fall 2026 Application deadline for domestic applicants applying for degree programs on the Starkville and Meridian campuses; domestic applicants applying for online degree programs; and international applicants applying for online degree programs.
August 1	Deadline for payment in full or enrollment in payment plan. Class schedules subject to cancellation if full payment not made or not enrolled in payment plan.
August 10 – 13	<u>Graduate Teaching Assistant Workshop and Classroom Certification.</u>
August 12	Graduate student orientation.
August 19	Classes begin.
August 25	Fall Convocation.
August 25	Last day to drop a course without a grade (5th class day) – 11:59 p.m.
August 26	Last day to register or add a course (6th class day) – 5:00 p.m.
August 31 – September 5	<u>Graduate Student Welcome Week.</u>
September 2 – October 23	Apply online via MyState for December 2026 degree – \$50 Early Bird Fee. Graduate students must be currently enrolled to apply for graduation.
September 7	Labor Day Holiday – No classes scheduled.
September 30	First progress grade reporting deadline (30th class day).
October 8 – October 9	Fall Break – No classes scheduled.
October 12	Last day to drop a course with a “W” grade (36th class day) – 5:00 p.m. Please note that the tuition charges will still apply.
October 16	<u>Graduate Student Research Symposium.</u>
October 16	Last day for thesis/dissertation defense for December graduation.
October 19 – October 30	Faculty advising for pre-registration.
October 23	Last day to apply for December 2026 degree via MyState – \$50 Early Bird Fee. Graduate students must be currently enrolled to apply for graduation.
October 23	Second progress grade reporting deadline (end of week 10).
October 24 – November 23	December 2026 degree application via MyState – \$150 Degree Application Fee. Graduate students must be currently enrolled to apply for graduation.



Date	Description
October 30	"The Graduate Ghoul House" Halloween Open House – Magruder Hall.
October 30	Last day for initial submission of thesis/dissertation to the Library for December graduation.
November 2 – November 13	Pre-registration period for spring semester.
November 3 – 4	<u>Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition.</u>
November 11	Last day to withdraw from the semester (ten days of classes remaining).
November 25 – November 27	Thanksgiving Holiday – No classes scheduled.
November 30	Classes resume.
December 1	Last regularly scheduled class day.
December 2	Deadline for graduate students receiving incomplete grades in a previous semester to submit coursework.
December 2	Reading Day (No mandatory class assignments, requirements, meetings).
December 3 – December 10	Final examinations (December 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10).
December 4	Last day to submit Library-approved thesis/dissertation to the Library for December graduation.
December 4	Last day for non-thesis comprehensive exam for December graduation.
December 4	Last day to pass thesis/dissertation defense and enroll in GRD 9011 for Spring 2027 toward May 2027 graduation – 10:00 a.m.
December 5	Make-up day (if needed).
December 9	MSU–Meridian Commencement – 11:00 a.m. (MSU Riley Center, Meridian, MS).
December 10	Doctoral Graduation and Hooding Ceremony (Ph.D. & Ed.D.) – 4:00 p.m. (Bettersworth Auditorium, Lee Hall).
December 11	Starkville Campus Commencement – 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. (Humphrey Coliseum). Colleges TBD. Last day for December 2026 degree applicants to pay account balance – 3:00 p.m.
December 14	Final grades due – 10:00 a.m.
December 14	Deadline for departments to submit all degree audit paperwork required for December 2026 graduate student degree clearance.
December 23 – January 1	Winter Holidays – no classes scheduled; university offices closed.

These events are subject to change at the University's discretion.