



Xander Mellott

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

OOS POST-ADMISSION ASSESSMENT

Mississippi State University Success Roadmap



Student: Xander Mellott
Huntsville High School Graduate
Intended Path: Business / Sports
Management (or related field)



Preparing for Success
Academics • Support Systems •
Financial Strategy • Career
Development



MSU Admissions:
<https://www.admissions.msstate.edu>

Why Mississippi State

Mississippi State is known for:

- Strong SEC alumni network
- Hands-on learning opportunities
- Career focused programs
- Supportive academic culture
- Student leadership opportunities

Mississippi State students succeed when they:

- Show up consistently
- Build relationships with professors
- Use academic support resources early
- Get involved on campus

MSU Admissions Overview:

<https://www.admissions.msstate.edu>

First Year Academic Strategy

The **most important goal freshman year:**

Build a strong GPA foundation.

Focus Areas

- General education courses
- Major prerequisites
- Study routines
- Academic support resources

Key Advice

College success is about **consistency, not perfection.**

MSU Academic Resources:

<https://www.admissions.msstate.edu/student-experience/campus-resources>

Academic Support Systems

Mississippi State offers extensive academic support.

Key Resources

- ▶ Academic Success Center
- ▶ Writing Center
- ▶ Math tutoring
- ▶ Supplemental Instruction sessions
- ▶ Professor office hours

Successful students use these **before they fall behind**.

MSU Academic Success Center:
<https://www.asc.msstate.edu>

Disability Resource Center (ADHD Support)

Because of ADHD and concussion-related focus issues, registering with MSU's **Disability Resource Center (DRC)** will be extremely helpful.

DRC Website:

<https://www.drc.msstate.edu>

Services may include:

- Extended test time
- Reduced distraction testing environment
- Note-taking support
- Lecture recording permission
- Priority scheduling
- Academic coaching

These accommodations level the playing field and support success.

How to Register with the DRC

Step 1:

Log into **myState portal**

Step 2:

Complete the **Disability Resource Center application**

Step 3:

Upload documentation (ADHD diagnosis, medical documentation)

Step 4:

Schedule intake meeting with DRC advisor

Step 5:

Send accommodation letters to professors each semester

DRC Application Instructions:

<https://www.drc.msstate.edu/students/apply-for-accommodations>

Register **before classes begin if possible.**

Personal Challenges & Resilience

Academic journeys are not always linear.

Key Challenges Faced

- Concussion freshman year resulted in temporary focus and memory challenges
- ITP (Immune Thrombocytopenia) chronic immune disorder requiring ongoing monitoring and treatment
- ADHD diagnosis impacted focus and test performance until diagnosed and treated
- Knee injury ended football participation
- Managing medical care alongside school

These experiences required resilience, discipline, and adaptability.

Evidence of Resilience



Despite challenges, Xander demonstrated strong leadership and work ethic.



Examples



Football Video Operations

- Managed drones and sideline video equipment



Social Media Management

- Created digital media content



Work Experience

- Event operations and support roles



Community Service

- Food pantry volunteer



Athletic involvement

- Continued supporting team after injury



These experiences demonstrate **responsibility, persistence, and leadership.**

Academic Context

ACT Score: 21

GPA: 2.9

Important Context

Early academic performance was impacted by:

- Diagnosed ADHD
- Concussion recovery
- Ongoing medical treatment

Once diagnosed and treated, academic performance improved.

College offers the opportunity to:

- Apply new study strategies
- Use disability support services
- Establish consistent academic routines

Scholarship Strategy

Scholarships at Mississippi State fall into several categories:

- 1 Automatic Merit Scholarships
- 2 Departmental Scholarships
- 3 University Foundation Scholarships
- 4 External Scholarships

Students must complete the **General Scholarship Application (GSA)**.

MSU Scholarship Portal
<https://msstate.academicworks.com>

Important Mississippi State Dates

- ▶ **October 1**
General Scholarship Application opens
- ▶ **December 1**
Priority scholarship deadline
- ▶ **April 1**
FAFSA priority deadline
- ▶ **April 1**
Freshman housing priority deadline
- ▶ **Mississippi State Priority Dates**
<https://www.admissions.msstate.edu/faq/when-are-priority-dates>

FAFSA and Financial Aid

Families should complete the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**.

FAFSA determines eligibility for:

- Federal grants
- Student loans
- Work-study programs
- Need-based aid

FAFSA Information

<https://www.sfa.msstate.edu>

Priority FAFSA deadline: **April 1**

Scholarships Relevant to Medical Challenges

Some scholarships specifically support students who have overcome medical challenges.

Potential opportunities include:

- ▶ Platelet Disorder Support Association Scholarship (for individuals with platelet disorders like ITP)
▶ <https://pdsa.org/scholarship>
- ▶ Patient Advocate Foundation Scholarship
(for students managing chronic illness)
▶ <https://www.patientadvocate.org/connect-with-services/apply-for-a-scholarship>
- ▶ EveryLife Foundation Rare Disease Scholarship
▶ <https://everylifefoundation.org/rare-scholarship>

Scholarship Opportunities Related to Learning Differences

Students with ADHD or learning differences may also qualify for scholarships.

- ▶ Anne Ford Scholarship (National Center for Learning Disabilities)
- ▶ <https://ncld.org/scholarships-awards/anne-ford-scholarship>
- ▶ Additional scholarship search tools
- ▶ <https://www.scholarships.com>

Students should apply broadly to increase chances of funding.

Scholarship Tracking System

Use a simple scholarship tracker.

Columns to include:

- ▶ Scholarship name
- ▶ Deadline
- ▶ Application requirements
- ▶ Essay required
- ▶ Submission status
- ▶ Outcome

Applying to **10–20 scholarships per year** significantly improves chances of receiving awards.



College success is not just grades.



Students should build experience through:



Campus jobs
Internships
Student organizations
Volunteer leadership roles



For students interested in sports management or business:



- Athletic department student jobs
- Event operations
- Marketing or media roles



These experiences build career momentum.

Career Development Strategy

Resume Development

Update your “working” resume (master copy) **every semester**.

Include:

- ▶ Work experience
- ▶ Leadership roles
- ▶ Volunteer activities
- ▶ Technical skills
- ▶ Athletic involvement

A strong resume leads to:

- ▶ Internships
- ▶ Campus leadership positions
- ▶ Scholarships

Executive Function Strategy (ADHD Friendly)

Successful students build structure.

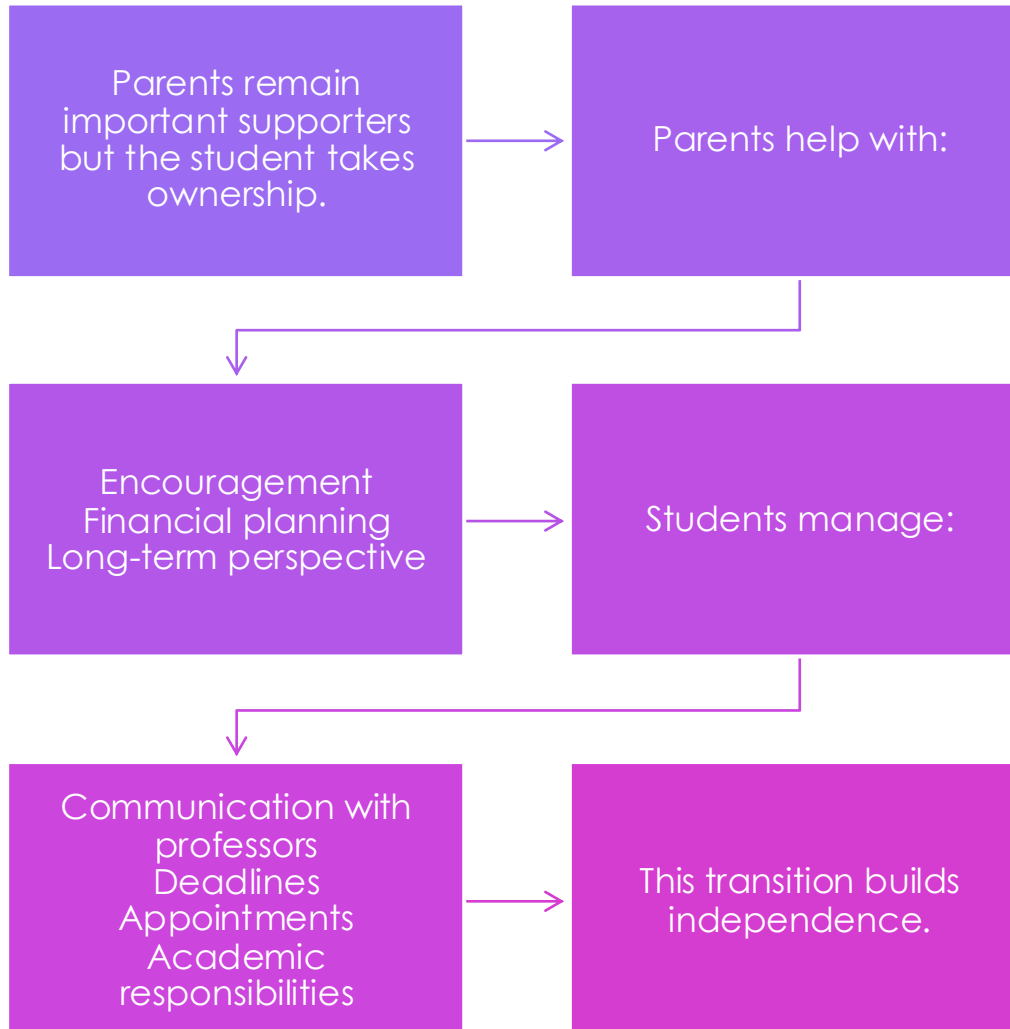
Recommended system:

One digital calendar
One task manager
Weekly planning session
Daily routine

Helpful tools:

Google Calendar
Notion
Todoist

Consistency reduces stress and improves academic performance.



Parent Role in College

Scholarship Essay Framework

Strong scholarship essays follow this structure:

Challenge
Concussion, ITP, ADHD diagnosis

Response
Learning to manage health and academics

Growth
Leadership, work, and continued commitment

Future
Using college education to build a meaningful career

This narrative highlights resilience and determination.

Additional Information Statement (Scholarship Applications)

- ▶ Example statement:
- ▶ My academic record reflects challenges I faced during high school including recovery from a concussion, management of a chronic immune condition (ITP), and an ADHD diagnosis that initially affected my focus and test performance. Once these challenges were identified and treated, I developed strategies that helped me improve my organization, time management, and study habits. Through these experiences I learned resilience and perseverance while continuing to work, volunteer, and support my athletic program. These lessons have prepared me to succeed in college and beyond.

Next Steps

- ✓ Complete FAFSA
- ✓ Register with Disability Resource Center
- ✓ Submit MSU General Scholarship Application
- ✓ Build scholarship tracker
- ✓ Create study and organization system
- ✓ Continue building work and leadership experience

Final Thoughts

Success at Mississippi State is built through:

Consistency
Resilience
Hard work
Support systems

With the right structure and determination, students can thrive academically and personally.

Hail State.

Bonus Content: **Freshman Year Survival Plan**

Goal: Start college strong and avoid falling behind early.

First Semester Priorities

- Attend **every class** during the first 6 weeks
- Introduce yourself to each professor during office hours
- Use tutoring resources **before exams**
- Establish consistent sleep and study routines
- Limit distractions during study time
- Meet regularly with your academic advisor

Remember:

College success is built through **daily habits**, not last-minute effort.

MSU Academic Success Center:

<https://www.asc.msstate.edu>

Bonus Content: Week 1 Action Plan

The first week sets the tone for the semester.

Week 1 Checklist

- Locate every classroom before the first day
- Review all course syllabi carefully
- Enter all assignment deadlines into your calendar
- Visit the Disability Resource Center to confirm accommodations
- Identify tutoring resources for challenging courses
- Introduce yourself to professors

Disability Resource Center

<https://www.drc.msstate.edu>

Academic Calendar

<https://www.registrar.msstate.edu>

Bonus Content: **ADHD- Friendly Study System**

Students with ADHD succeed best with **structure and routine**.

Recommended System

Daily Routine

- Attend classes
- Review notes within 24 hours
- Work on assignments in short focused sessions

Weekly Routine

- Sunday planning session
- Review upcoming deadlines
- Schedule study blocks for the week

Helpful Tools

Google Calendar
Todoist
Notion
Pomodoro timers

Bonus Content: **First Semester Course Strategy**

Start with a **balanced course load**.

Recommended Mix

- 2 General Education Courses
- 1 Major Introduction Course
- 1 Structured Course (lab or discussion section)
- 1 Interest-based course

Why this works

- Prevents overload
- Builds early GPA success
- Allows time to adjust to college expectations

Academic Advising:

<https://www.advising.msstate.edu>

Bonus Content: Offices to Visit During the First Month

Successful students build relationships with support offices early.

Important Campus Offices

Academic Success Center
<https://www.asc.msstate.edu>

Disability Resource Center
<https://www.drc.msstate.edu>

Financial Aid Office
<https://www.sfa.msstate.edu>

Career Center
<https://www.career.msstate.edu>

These offices exist to help students succeed — **use them.**

Bonus Content: **How to Recover if You Start Falling Behind**

Every student struggles at some point. What matters is **responding quickly**.

If a class becomes difficult

Step 1:

Talk to the professor

Step 2:

Use tutoring services

Step 3:

Adjust study schedule

Step 4:

Meet with advisor

Step 5:

Consider academic coaching through the DRC

Acting early prevents small problems from becoming big ones.

Bonus Content: Building Momentum in College

Successful students develop **three pillars** during freshman year:

Academics
Strong study habits and GPA foundation

Experience
Work, internships, or leadership roles

Community
Friends, mentors, and involvement on campus

Progress in these areas creates long-term success.

Questions?

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