



Debate Like A Bear

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Holt V. Spicer Debate Forum
Missouri State University
2015

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Dear Prospective Debating Bear,

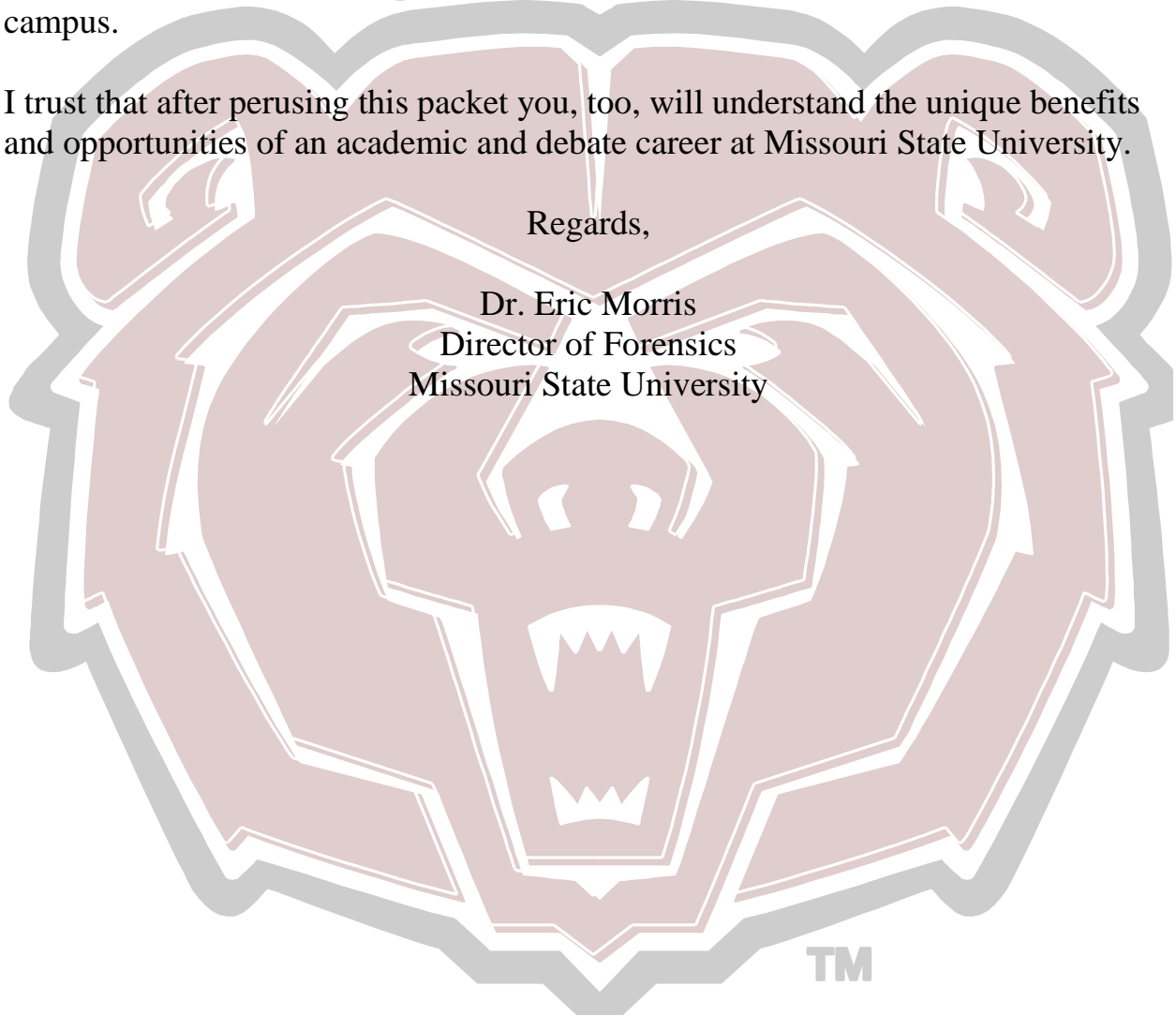
Academic excellence paired with a long, strong, and competitive debate tradition make Missouri State University the perfect place to grow as both a student and debater.

Enclosed is information regarding the history of our program, our current debaters and coaches, and what to expect as a freshman debater on the Missouri State campus.

I trust that after perusing this packet you, too, will understand the unique benefits and opportunities of an academic and debate career at Missouri State University.

Regards,

Dr. Eric Morris
Director of Forensics
Missouri State University



2014-2015 DEBATERS

Pouya Parsian

Peyton Andrews

Brenden Brower-Freeman

Dylan Hollister-Graham

Clayton Russo

Riley Cole

Emma Hackett

Joe Hamaker

David Rabbitt

Kathryn Eutsler

Evan Grosch

Donghee Han

Allyson Ralls

Cindy Umana TM

Caitlyn Wicks

Coaching Staff

Eric Morris

Heather Walters

Corey Stone

Andrew Hart



The Holt V. Spicer Debate Forum

Missouri State has appeared in the elimination rounds of the National Debate Tournament in seven of the last 10 years (2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012), including a semifinal appearance and the 1st place speaker in 2008. This complements our streak of 19 straight NDT qualifying seasons (1996-2014). In 2012 we qualified a third team to the NDT (Jeff Bess and Joel Reed), as one of only six universities in the nation to do so, a milestone for Missouri State Debate.

Perhaps most notably, none of the debaters referenced above were in the elimination rounds of the high school Tournament of Champions. There is NO other program, nationwide, where debaters with comparable high school experiences have had so much NDT success. There are only a handful of public universities consistently in NDT elimination rounds; most of the schools at this level are private schools, such as Harvard, Wake Forest, Northwestern, Emory & Dartmouth.

These recent accomplishments have only added to a strong legacy of success at Missouri State. Our debate program is one of the oldest and most storied in the country having been established in 1908, just three years after the institution was founded. Since that time we have had over 50 teams in the out-rounds of CEDA nationals. This includes a CEDA championship in 1992, a finals appearance in 1990, semi-finals appearances in 1988, 1991, and 2008, and multiple quarterfinal appearances including two teams in 2012.

Our legacy of success in NDT debate includes semi-finals appearances in 1973 and in 2008. We have received three NDT 1st Round at-large bids in the last decade in 2006, 2008, 2010. In 2008 Missouri State debater Martin Osborn became the second debater in history to be named Top Speaker at both CEDA and the NDT.

In 2014, Missouri State expanded formats to include the National Forensic Association (NFA-LD). Senior Jeff Bess qualified to nationals, and reached the final round. The NFA-LD alternative in future years will increase participation by offering a format with a lower commitment demand and lower entry barrier than NDT debate.

These are just a few of the many successes Missouri State has accomplished over the last century. With strong support from our alumni, the Communication Department, and the University as a whole, we are on track to continue these levels of success for another century. We are constantly looking for driven individuals who are passionate about research, argument, and policy debate.

Notable Alumni



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Tom Black



- NDT Semi-Finalist 1973
- Founder and CEO; Tom Black Center for Excellence
- Chairman of the Board; BancSource Inc.
- Author of “The Boxcar Millionaire”

About Tom:

After graduating from Missouri State, Tom went on to become an innovative leader in the banking industry. He started Private Business, Inc., a company that pioneers accounts receivable lending for banks. Under his six-year leadership as CEO, Private Business, Inc. grew into the country’s leading provider of accounts receivable programs for community banks and their commercial customers. He grew the sales force from non-existent to over a hundred salespeople strong. The company went public in May 1999.

In 1999, he and a partner purchased Tecniflex, Inc. and formed Imagic Corporation as a sister company. Tecniflex, sells mission-critical equipment and ATMs and provides hardware maintenance to banks nationwide. He created Imagic Corporation to develop check-imaging systems.

As CEO of both Tecniflex and Imagic, he dramatically expanded both companies from small regional providers to national sales and service organizations. Under his leadership, Tecniflex went

Find out more about Tom:
TomBlack.com

Watch his Spring 2010 speech at
Missouri State:

<http://tinyurl.com/tomblackvideo>

Tom Strong



- **NDT Quarter Finalist 1952**
- **Strong represented the state of Missouri in its case against the tobacco industry, culminating in a settlement totaling billions of dollars.**
- **Strong Hall on the Missouri State Campus is named in his honor**
- **Author of “Strong Advocate”**

About Tom:

Tom has served as president of the Missouri Association of Trial Attorneys, the Missouri Board of Law Examiners, and the Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association. He has been a Governor of the American Trial Lawyers Association, a member of the Missouri Appellate Judicial Commission, and has served as chairman and committee member of many Missouri Bar Association committees.

Tom is a member of The Inner Circle of Advocates, an exclusive organization consisting of 100 of the leading trial lawyers in the nation. It is common for members to have several multi-million dollar verdicts.

Tom has been board certified as a Civil Trial Advocate by The National Board of Trial Advocacy and is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates. He is a recipient of “The Order of Barristers” award from the University of Missouri which is presented to attorneys exhibiting excellence in the art of courtroom advocacy, the W. Oliver Rasch Award by the Journal of The Missouri Bar for the best article appearing in the Journal during 1991 and the Outstanding Alumnus Award by Southwest Missouri State University.

Tom has been listed in all editions of The Best Lawyers in America and Who’s Who in American Law. He also has been listed in Who’s Who in the Midwest, Personalities of the West and Midwest, and Outstanding Young Men in America.

**Find Out More About Tom:
StrongLaw.com**

Alumni Spotlight

Jim Anderson



Jim Anderson recently retired as the president of the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, which presently represents nearly 2,000 member businesses and organizations.

Jessica Holbrook

Jessica graduated with a Masters in Public Administration from Missouri State in 2009. After the prestigious Presidential Management Fellows program, she is now an HR Specialist at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.



Dr. Russell Keeling



Dr. Keeling is a Professor Emeritus in the Department of Communication at Missouri State. He served as Acting-President of SMS from 1992 to 1993. He subsequently served as Assistant to President Gordon, Acting-Dean of the College of Arts and Letters and Acting-Vice President of Academic Affairs.

Recent Graduates



After graduating from Missouri State in 2008, Martin Osborn received a Master's Degree from Wake Forest University. He has taught at Kansas State U & U North Texas, and is currently launching his first business.

Katie Frederick graduated from MSU in 2012. She is just completed a Master's Degree at the University of Indiana School of Public and Environmental Affairs.



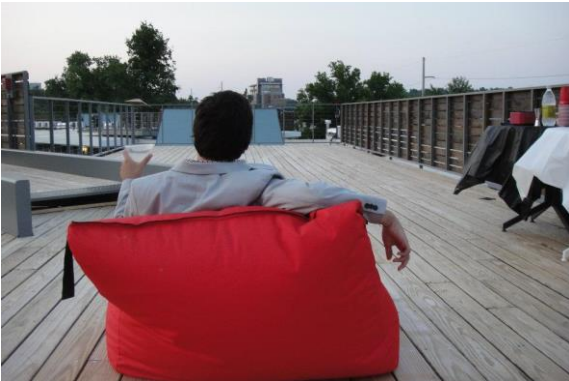
Anneli Hoggard graduated Summa Cum Laude from Missouri State in 2012. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Chemistry at Rice University



Michael Mapes graduated from Missouri State in 2008. He has gone on to create a very successful small business with clients around the world.



Recent Graduates



Jarid Kinder graduated from Missouri State in 2011 with a BA in Sociopolitical Communication. He just completed his law degree from the University of Arkansas.



Becca Steiner graduated from Missouri State in 2012. She is now a Graduate Teaching Assistant studying COM at Wake Forest University.



Clay Webb graduated in 2009 and is now pursuing a PhD in Political Science from The Texas A&M University. He begins a tenure track assignment at the University of Kansas in fall. Gig 'em Aggies!

Jordan "The Jumbles" Foley graduated in 2012. He spent one year as an assistant debate coach at the University of Michigan before starting graduate work at Wake Forest University.



Springfield, Missouri

The Queen City of the Ozarks has a population of just over 150,000 with a Metropolitan Statistical Area population of 463,712. Regardless of your interests, we are confident that you will find many things to like about Springfield. Here are some of our favorites:

1. The Chinese Food



No, seriously. Springfield is the birthplace of cashew chicken (and the double diamond interstate exchange) and has more Chinese restaurants per capita than any other city in the United States. Canton Inn, Triple Eights, and Dragon Inn II are some of the favorites of our debaters.

2. Bears Basketball



3. Springfield Cardinals



4. The Zoo

Springfield is full of sporting entertainment. We are home to the St. Louis Double-A affiliate Springfield Cardinals in addition to the Bears Basketball, Baseball, Hockey, and Football. Springfield is also home to the professional tennis team the Springfield Lasers which includes tennis superstar Andy Roddick.

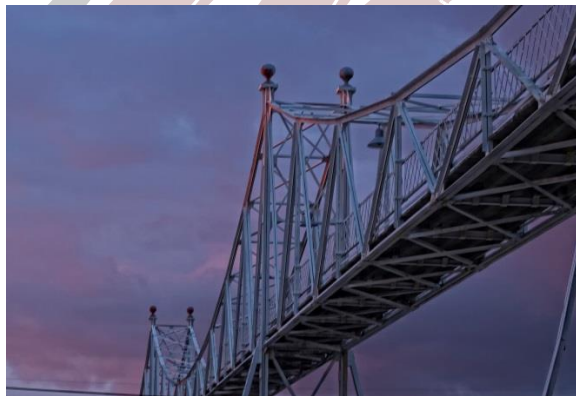


5. Bass Pro Shops



Springfield is home to the first and largest Bass Pro Shop in the country. Fellows and Table Rock Lake are just a short drive from Springfield and are a great way to unwind during the summer or on an off weekend.

6. C-Street



Historic downtown Commercial Street features eclectic art galleries, flea markets, and coffee houses. It is also home to some popular debate hangouts including a bar frequented by our grad students called Lindbergs, world renowned Askinosie Chocolate, and of course Pizza House. You can always find some Missouri State students relaxing outside of Big Momma's Coffee House.

7. Festivals



Springfield is home to some pretty cool events. Some of our favorites include Mother's Oktoberfest, Rock N' Ribs, Arts Fest, Fist Night, Cider Days, the Sertoma Chili Cook-off and Fireworks at the Field just to name a few. For those who are 21+ there are a slew of Pub Crawls and weekly trivia nights to attend. While our football team currently isn't much to write home about there is plenty of fun to be had tailgating at BearFest Village.

Springfield has so much more to offer from concerts and live theater to other great eats. Look up some more of our favorite places: Pappy's, The Lander's Theater, Arris' Pizza, Mother's Brewing Company, Fun Acre, 160 Grand Prix, Casper's, Concerts at The Shrine Mosque and JQH Arena, check out a movie at one of Springfield's 3 movie theaters including the brand new IMAX. If that's not enough we are within 3 hours of Kansas City, St. Louis, Oklahoma City, and Tulsa.

Downtown

Downtown Springfield is just a couple blocks from campus with lots of dining and entertainment.

Bistro Market



The downtown grocery store, bar, and eatery.

The Mudhouse



Springfield's most popular coffee shop.

1984



A classic 1980s themed arcade in the heart of Springfield.

Finnegan's Wake



A popular debate hangout on off weekends for the 21+ crowd. A great place to show off your useless knowledge on trivia night.

Gailey's Breakfast Cafe



Gailey's is a great place to grab some breakfast and if you're lucky you might find Jeff Bess's Uncle playing the harp.

Look up some other popular downtown venues: The Gillioz Theater, The Aviary, Springfield Brewing Company, Maria's Mexican Restaurant, Nonna's, Bruno's, The Aviary, The Albatross, Ernie Bigg's Dueling Piano Bar, Pappo's Pizza, Stick it in Your Ear, and so much more!

NDT Travel Schedule

Missouri State endeavors to take teams to as many tournaments as feasible. Not all debaters travel to every tournament. Some tournaments will only allow a specific number of teams from each program. Others are restricted due to travel costs. We always strive to ensure that our hardest working debaters are given the opportunity to travel to as any major nationals as they wish. A typical travel schedule for an incoming freshman usually includes 3-5 tournaments a semester. Below is a sample travel schedule. The dates listed include travel to and from the tournament.

Tournament	City	Travel Dates	Transit	Whom
UMKC	Kansas City, MO	Sept 12-15	Van	All
GSU (Georgia State U.)	Atlanta, GA	Sept. 19-22	Van	Limited
Kentucky	Lexington, KY	Oct 3-6	Van	Limited
KCKCC	Kansas City, KS	Oct 9-12	Van	All
Emporia	Emporia, KS	Oct. 16-19	Van	All
Harvard	Cambridge, MA	Oct. 24-27	Plane	Limited
UCO	Edmond, OK	Oct 30-Nov 2	Van	All
Wake Forest	Winston-Salem NC	Nov. 13-18	Van	Limited
Cal Swing (USC + CSU-F)	LA Metro Area	Jan 01 - Jan 10	Plane	Limited
Texas Swing (UNT + UTD)	Dallas Metro Area	Jan 2-11	Van	All
Bear Shock	Springfield, MO	Jan 16-19	Van	All
Northwestern	Chicago, IL	Feb 6-10	Van	Limited
Kansas State	Manhattan, KS	Feb 12-15	Van	All
District III NDT Qualifier	Edmond, OK	TBA	Van	1-2
NJDDT (JCCC)	Overland Park, KS	March 13-16	Van	Young
CEDA Nationals	Wichita, KS	March 19-24	Van	Limited
National Debate Tournament	Iowa City, IA	Mar 25-31	Van	Limited

University Scholarships

Many Missouri State debaters have managed to complete their undergraduate programs completely debt free. Missouri State offers a number of scholarship opportunities specifically for entering freshmen. Incoming students are also encouraged to apply for scholarships privately-funded through the Missouri State University Foundation. We recommend that you begin the scholarship application process by completing your FAFSA.

Past debaters have applied for and received the Presidential Scholarship (\$12,500 per year), The Board of Governor's Scholarship (\$5,000 per year), the Multi-Cultural Leadership Scholarship (\$5,000 per year), and a whole litany of private and foundation scholarships. To qualify for scholarships, you must first apply and be admitted. Application forms are available online and from the MSU Office of Admissions. Your application must be received by the deadline specified for each scholarship for consideration.

The deadlines vary over the course of several months with the first one occurring in December of your senior year. Our recommendation is that you apply early. Even if you have missed the first deadline there are still plenty of opportunities to apply for university and foundation scholarships.

All of the information and applications that you need are available on the Missouri State website. (<http://www.missouristate.edu/FinancialAid/scholarships/Freshman.htm>). If you have a question or would like some pointers on applying for university scholarships feel free to contact Dr. Morris (EricMorris@Missouristate.edu) and he can put you in contact with a debater or coach that has experience with the scholarship(s) for which you are applying.



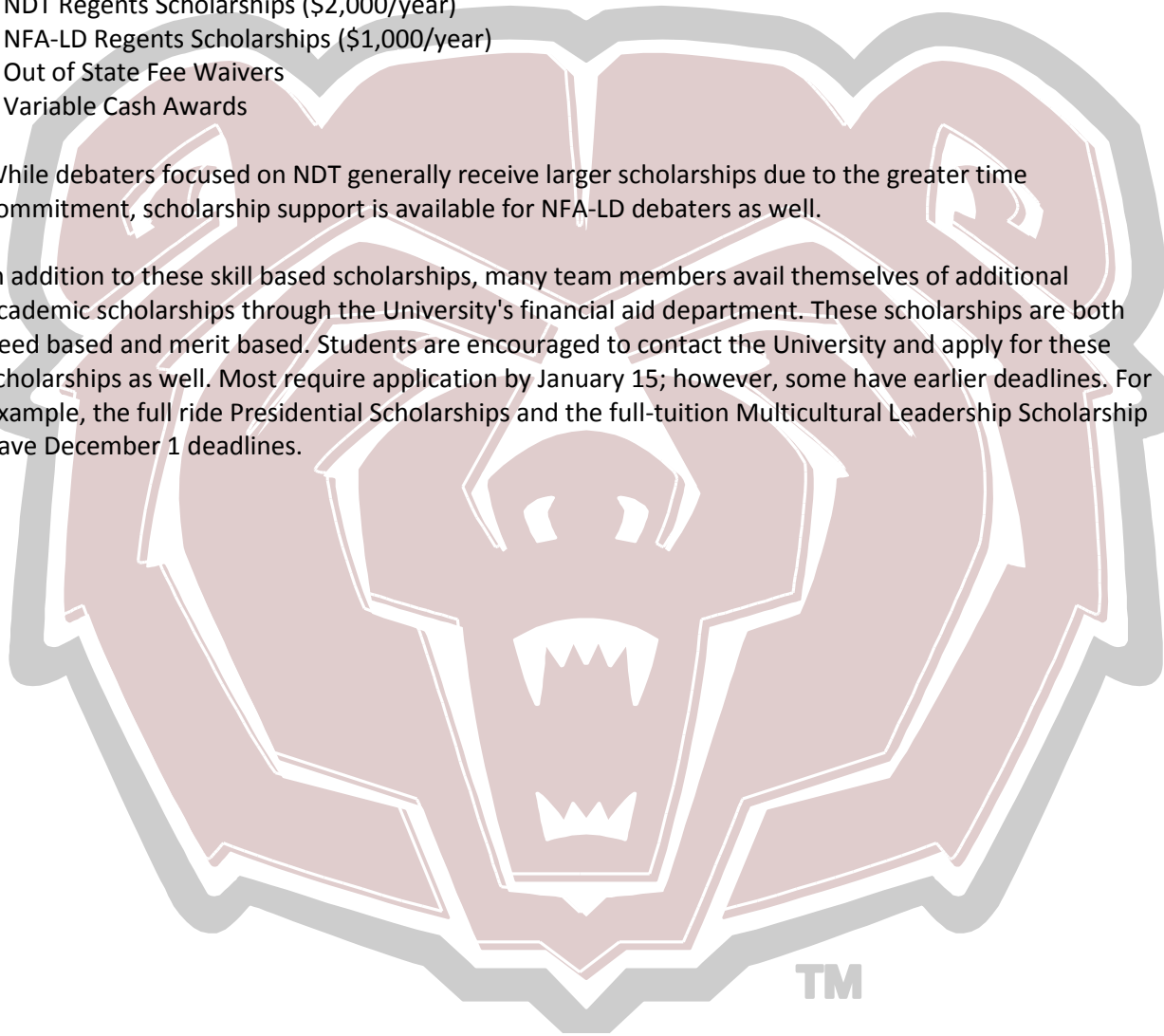
Debate Scholarships

The Missouri State debate program offers numerous scholarship opportunities, almost every member of the team has some form of scholarship. These are awarded either by semester or yearly and are up to the coaches' discretion. Scholarships are awarded based upon expected success on the Missouri State program. Particular concerns include research skills, work ethic, reliability, collegiality, and scholastic ability. Types of scholarships include:

- * NDT Regents Scholarships (\$2,000/year)
- * NFA-LD Regents Scholarships (\$1,000/year)
- * Out of State Fee Waivers
- * Variable Cash Awards

While debaters focused on NDT generally receive larger scholarships due to the greater time commitment, scholarship support is available for NFA-LD debaters as well.

In addition to these skill based scholarships, many team members avail themselves of additional academic scholarships through the University's financial aid department. These scholarships are both need based and merit based. Students are encouraged to contact the University and apply for these scholarships as well. Most require application by January 15; however, some have earlier deadlines. For example, the full ride Presidential Scholarships and the full-tuition Multicultural Leadership Scholarship have December 1 deadlines.



Scholarship Application

There are two forms of the Missouri State Debate Scholarship Application.

Online Version: We would prefer that students use this form, which is available online at Debate.MissouriState.edu. In addition to completing the online form, you are encouraged to send other supporting materials to help us assess the probability that you will thrive in our program. Such useful materials include:

1. Letters of Recommendation - from high school coach(es) or summer lab instructor(s).
2. Completed files - examples of files that you have assembled, in whole or in large part. If others helped assemble the file, please tell us your role.
3. Video of you debating - whether in a camp round, practice round, or tournament round. Any format is fine (youtube, DVD, VHS) - just help us make sure we can look at it.

We are willing to consider applications without these materials, but applicants - particularly those who haven't worked with us at a summer camp are encouraged to support material to make us more familiar with you.

There is a backup option available on the debate website. It should be downloaded, printed, filled out and mailed back to:

Dr. Eric Morris (Director of Forensics)
Debate, Department of Communication Craig 375
Missouri State University
901 S. National
Springfield, MO 65897

Students are still eligible for debate scholarships no matter how many other scholarships they have received from the University or other outside sources. Although the university does have a 'cap' on scholarships/financial aid, the cap is well above tuition & housing costs.

We begin reviewing scholarships around April 1 for the following fall semester, so submitting your application by that date is important to assure full consideration. We make offers *in writing*, and those offers are intended to be renewable if you comply with scholarship expectations.

Visit Missouri State

Campus Visits:

We encourage you to come check out Springfield and get to know the Missouri State debate team. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Missouri State debate team, please contact Dr. Eric Morris in the Communication Department at Missouri State via his email address: EricMorris@Missouristate.edu.

MSDI:

The Missouri State Debate Institute is our annual debate camp for high school debaters. It spans four weeks from Mid-June to Mid-July. In addition to being an excellent educational experience it offers a great opportunity to get to know our campus, our debaters, and our coaching staff. For more information about MSDI check out our website at Debate.Missouristate.edu/Camp



Frequently Asked Questions

In which formats does the Spicer Debate Forum compete?

Historically, the program has competed in NDT or CEDA debate. These organizations merged with a single topic in 1996. In 2014, the Spicer Forum began to compete in NFA-LD, which also uses evidence and a year-long policy topic.

Which format would I prefer, NDTCEDA or NFA-LD?

NDTCEDA requires a rigorous commitment, with workweek, work weekends, and longer weekly practice sessions. It is a 2-person format with a yearlong topic. It is a wide open format, where traditional plan-based teams interact with each other as well as kritik & performative style opponents. The judging is highly specialized, and the speeches are much faster than typical conversation. A typical NDTCEDA debater will attend 4-5 tournaments a semester, and could miss significant class time unless they take most classes on a T/Th schedule. Given the time commitment, the typical scholarship amounts for this format are higher than for NFA-LD.

The NFA-LD format uses a policy topic but LD speech times, and is designed for a more general audience. It has far lower entry barriers, and would thus be more accessible to students without CX Policy high school experience (and particularly camp experience) than NDTCEDA debate. It is also a great option for students who love debate but don't want to devote themselves as much as NDT requires. Some students might use NFA-LD as a springboard into NDTCEDA debate, but students who aspire to qualify to the NDT are encouraged to begin in that format as well. Some NDTCEDA debaters will also choose to compete in NFA-LD. Our commitment to NFA-LD is roughly 2 tournaments per semester.

Is there a debate class?

COM 321 is the debate class. It is offered each fall and spring for all students seeking to participate in debate. Students traveling with Missouri State are expected to take this class during their first two semesters of travel, and may choose to take in up to 4 times. After completing it twice, a student is eligible to travel in future semester as well. Students taking COM 321 may choose NDTCEDA, NFA-LD debate, both, or may select a track with high school judging in order to complete the course. Changing one's mind about college debate is not a barrier to a successful experience in COM 321.

How Much Attention Does Each Debater Receive?

With a student to coach ratio of 4 to 1, each debater receives ample attention from the coaching staff. At tournaments, each team is coached before and after every round. Coaches are also available on campus for individual coaching, and happy to host students in their homes as well.

What experience is required to join the team?

None. While most team members have 3-4 years of policy debate experience in high school, we will also train and travel novices. Some Missouri debaters with exclusively LD or Public Forum experience have made the transition to college debate with considerable success.

How Long is the Debate Season?

Debaters are expected to return to campus one week before classes begin in August to prepare for the season. Tournaments begin in mid-September and continue through the National Debate Tournament (NDT), which usually occurs in the first weekend of April. Debaters are encouraged to attend tournaments over the semester break and Spring break, but it is not always required.

How Many Tournaments are there?

There are tournaments nearly every weekend from September to March (with a gap from mid-November to late December), but not every team attends every tournament. Teams may choose the tournaments that best fit their needs (in consultation with the coaching staff), and are encouraged to attend between 5 and 7 tournaments a semester. Missouri State debaters usually attend a mixture of national and regional tournaments. For a list of tournaments Missouri State students are preparing for this travel season, can look at the Travel Opportunities page. You can also browse the debate results website to see entries & results for basically all college policy tournaments.

I've heard high school debate is different from high school, and I'm a bit concerned. How is it different?

There are several differences, and high school debate itself is different based upon which tournaments you attend, your coach's philosophy, and your geographic location. Among the differences: the judges are extensively trained flow judges, the tournaments are all overnight (we cover expenses), the debaters are quite committed, the coaches become very familiar with the topic, and the tournaments are longer (typically 3 days with 7-8 prelims). We recommend that you contact us to discuss the possibilities; you can learn a lot from an email exchange or a phone call.

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How do I know if college policy debate is a good choice for me?

Given the time involved, college debate is a more specialized activity than high school debate. Those who do well are not always the debaters with the most wins in high school, or the ones most inclined toward "progressive" debate, but often those who enjoy researching, reading, and thinking about a wide range of arguments. Most college debate judges have a minimalist attitude toward regulating content, so you'll be exposed to a wide range of policy, critical, and performative arguments. Your coaches and other debaters will help you navigate the waters. Contact us - we'll talk to you about what you enjoy about debate and try to help you make a good decision.

How Much Research Will I Need to Do?

Each debater usually takes between 1 and 3 assignments a week depending upon the argument's urgency, past research on the argument, and other things occurring in the debater's life that week. Each assignment should be well researched on both sides of the issue, including cites obtained from other squads, and be taped, blocked and ready for copying by late Thursday evening. More than one debater is usually assigned to each assignment so that newer students may work with older students on the proper method to complete assignments. Missouri State tries to have one assignment that a debater keeps all year as an area of expertise such as Politics or Inflation and rotates the other assignments.

How Much Access Will I Have to Research Facilities?

Missouri State debaters are fortunate to have spacious research facilities available to them on campus. The debate offices have numerous computers that are all hooked up to the school's LAN and provide access to Lexis/Nexis and the Internet. The squad room work area is also equipped with a wireless router so that students with their own laptops may access the internet as well. The Missouri State library has extensive collections of both books and periodicals, and the library staff is happy to inter-library loan any materials that are not available on campus. It is usually not necessary to travel to other libraries, however, debaters sometimes research at UMKC and KU's law libraries as well as Missouri State's Meyer Library.

How Much Will it Cost to be on the Team?

Missouri State debate is fortunate to be funded by the University. Students do not have to pay for any debate expenses. There are also numerous scholarship opportunities available for students to help in funding their college careers (see scholarships page).

How close are the Members of the Team?

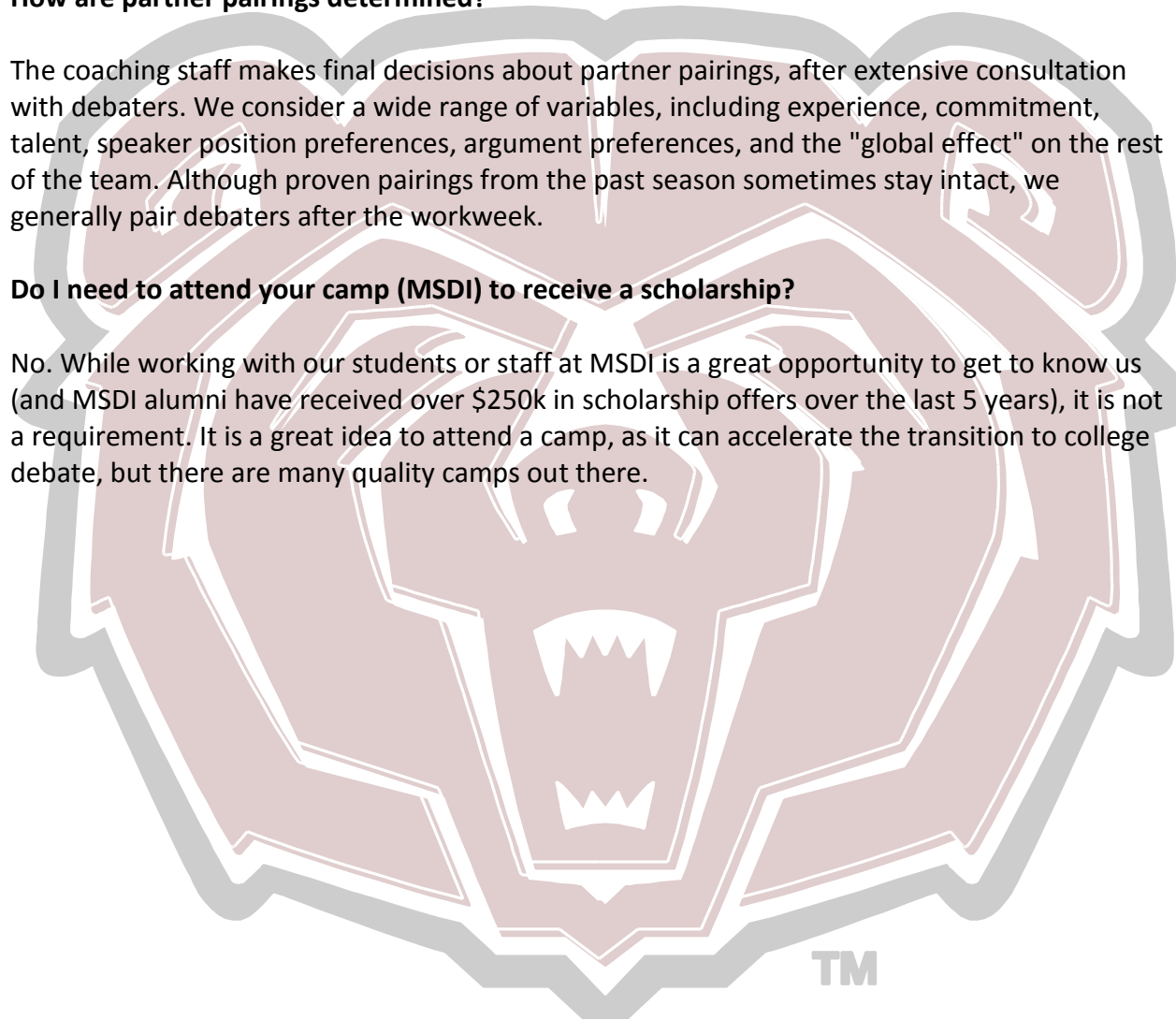
The Missouri State debate team is typically a close knit group that spends time together both inside and outside the debate arena. The team usually consists of about 14-20 people, so everyone is able to get to know one another well. There are many activities that students participate in with other members of the team including intramural sports, ice cream socials, card games, concerts and parties.

How are partner pairings determined?

The coaching staff makes final decisions about partner pairings, after extensive consultation with debaters. We consider a wide range of variables, including experience, commitment, talent, speaker position preferences, argument preferences, and the "global effect" on the rest of the team. Although proven pairings from the past season sometimes stay intact, we generally pair debaters after the workweek.

Do I need to attend your camp (MSDI) to receive a scholarship?

No. While working with our students or staff at MSDI is a great opportunity to get to know us (and MSDI alumni have received over \$250k in scholarship offers over the last 5 years), it is not a requirement. It is a great idea to attend a camp, as it can accelerate the transition to college debate, but there are many quality camps out there.



Graduate Assistantships

There are graduate assistantships offered through the Communication Department for the debate program. These positions offer a full tuition waiver plus a stipend for individuals who are pursuing a Master's Degree in Communication from Missouri State. Students are interviewed and chosen by the department and the coaching staff. Assistants are asked to coach the team at tournaments and occasionally during the week. All assistants are given free travel and accommodations on trips.

Missouri State is proud of the hard work and dedication that past graduate assistants have shown to the squad. The team is honored by the accomplishments of our past graduate assistants. Here are just a few of our past assistants:

- Jeffrey Jarman: PhD University of Kansas, Director of Debate at Wichita State University
- Beth Skinner: Director of Debate at Towson University
- Heather Walters: JD from University of Maryland, Assistant Director of Debate at Missouri State University
- Louie Petit: Director of Debate University of North Texas
- Kelly Winfrey: PhD University of Kansas, Lecturer and Assistant Debate Coach University of Kansas
- Spencer Harris: PhD University of Kansas, Visiting Professor of Communication Missouri State University
- Spencer Johnson: Risk Manager for INTL FCStone in New York
- Doowon Chung: JD Student at the University of Minnesota and former visiting Instructor at Trinity University

If you are interested in pursuing your MA in Communication at Missouri State please contact Dr. Eric Morris: EricMorris@Missouristate.edu



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