

# MUSTANGS CONNECT

Discover. Engage. Lead.

## Important Dates

Mar 4–Mar 8  
Spring Break (No Classes)

Mar 12  
Final Payment Due Date for  
SMSU Payment Plan

Mar 21  
All Student Advising (Classes  
held 5:00 p.m. on)

Mar 22  
Fall 2024 Registration Begins

## Deeann Griebel Student Success Center

Individualized Learning 224

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## Greetings from SMSU:

Hello, Mustang Family!

We are nearing the halfway point of spring semester here at SMSU, and students are getting eager to enjoy their spring break this month. Spring break is a great way for students to relax and refocus their energy to power through the rest of the semester. During this time, many students are also looking forward to registering for fall semester classes after they return from break. As a reminder, we encourage students to aim for 15 credits a semester to stay on track for graduation with our '15 to Finish' campaign. Students will want to have a plan for fall semester courses when they meet with their advisor on All Student Advising Day. Students can begin registering for fall semester beginning on March 22nd depending on their registration window (accessed through E-services).

This point of the semester is also when many students see an increase in projects and midterm exams within their courses. Here at SMSU, we care about your student's success which is why this month's newsletter highlights information about SMSU's testing accommodations through Accessibility Services, along with how students can make the most of midterms. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact our office by calling (507) 537-6484 or emailing [SUCCESS@SMSU.edu](mailto:SUCCESS@SMSU.edu)

Go Mustangs!



*Deeann Griebel*

Director of Student Success

# Success Spotlight: Testing Accommodations

Testing can be difficult for students for a variety of reasons including anxiety, trouble focusing, and time constraints. Here at SMSU, we recognize that there are different styles of learners- which is why we offer services to ensure academic success of our students.

SMSU Accessibility Services has processes in place that allow students who struggle with tests an opportunity to seek out strategies and/or accommodations to help improve their learning experience. When having difficulty in class, students are always encouraged to reach out to their professors and set-up a plan for their academic excellence within class. If a student feels they would benefit from a testing accommodation and have proper documentation in place, they should contact SMSU Accessibility Services either by phone at (507) 537-7318 or email [Vickie.Abel@SMSU.edu](mailto:Vickie.Abel@SMSU.edu) to receive more information.

Students will want to know the testing accommodations that have been approved for them and make sure they inform faculty members of those accommodations. Students will also want to fill out a test proctoring form four (4) days in advance of their exam and arrange with their professor to get the exam to Accessibility Services for completion. For students needing extended testing time, Accessibility Services offers testing up to 1.5 times the normal in-class test period.



# Success Strategy: Making the Most of Midterms

Aside from final exams, one of the most critical points in a semester for student's academic performance in a course is midterms. It is important for students to focus and prepare for these exams in advance and make sure they understand course content so that they can reach their full potential in class. Other than utilizing SMSU's tutoring resources and Tutor.com, below are some great tips for your Mustang to make the most of their midterm exams:

**Speak Up:** Faculty members are the best first step for students to get information on preparing for midterms. Course syllabi and midterm study guides can offer critical testing information for students when planning their studying for an exam. These resources may also include whether the midterm will include information from the entire semester or only a few chapters of material; whether it will be T/F, multiple choice, or essay format; how many points it is worth; and if students are able to have any books or study guides with them during the exam.

**Make a Midterm Study Schedule:** Once students have an idea of what to expect on their midterm, they should make a plan on how they are going to study for the exam. If a student knows they struggle on a particular area, they will want to allot more study time to that content and possibly seek out additional resources for help (like a tutor).

**Start with Notes and Tests:** When a student is ready to start on their studying, they will want to gather up any worksheets, handouts, notes, and textbooks needed to review information. Going between notes and the textbook can help students solidify information.

**Form a Study Group:** Some students retain information better in a social setting, so connecting with other students from class either for inperson or virtual study sessions can be beneficial. Students can also be a resource for making sense of content through hearing it from another perspective.

**Study Smarter:** SMSU offers students free tutoring on campus in a variety of subject areas, as well as 24/7 tutoring online at Tutor.com, accessed through D2L Brightspace. This allows students to be able to study on their own schedule and get clarification on any content areas they need to hit their midterm out of the park!

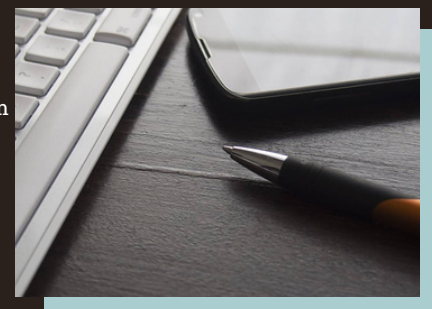
**Understand Each Subject is Different:** Students may have multiple midterm exams, so it is important for them to study in a way that makes sense for that subject. A history exam may be best to study with notecards and reading the textbook, whereas a math midterm may be better with practice problems and looking back at class examples.

**Mix It Up:** To retain the most information when studying, students should take periodic short breaks and switch between study materials to help keep things fresh in their mind and maintain focus.

**Change the Scenery:** Just like switching study materials periodically helps students remember more, so can changing the location where they are studying. Switching between the library and their dorm room can help them re-center for study sessions.

**Don't Skimp on Sleep:** Just with doing well in class, students needs to be well-rested leading up to their exams. All-night study sessions are not recommended.

**Stay Positive:** Test anxiety is real. Through making a smart plan and maintaining focus when studying, students can give themselves the best chance for being successful.



Source: Princeton Review (2023)