

MUSTANGS CONNECT

Discover. Engage. Lead.

Important Dates

Feb 13

Due Date For Spring

If on a SMSU Payment Plan, a \$30 charge will apply and 1/2 of total account balance must be paid

Feb 17

Presidents' Day (No Classes)



Greetings from SMSU:

Hello, Mustang Family!

As we make our way through spring semester, campus is buzzing with excitement around classes, activities, and next month's spring break! Our students are working hard as we near the halfway point of the semester. As projects and exams begin to pick up, we want to encourage students to take advantage of our support services on campus including tutoring support, the McFarland Library, Writing Center, and the Math Learning Center. For more information, check out our [Resource Guide for Mustang Success](#).

Students looking ahead to summer can also register for summer courses here at SMSU. SMSU offers over 200 summer courses that take place May-July. This is a great opportunity for students to complete some of their Liberal Education Program (LEP) credits and Minnesota Transfer Curriculum (MnTC) goals to keep them focused to start out strong in Fall 2025!

This month's newsletter highlights information about SMSU Career Services along with best practices for filling out the FAFSA. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact our office by calling (507) 537-6484 or emailing Success@SMSU.edu.

Go Mustangs!



Brittany Hroll

Director of Student Success

Deeann Griebel Student Success Center

Individualized Learning 224

(507) 537-6484

success@smsu.edu

www.smsu.edu/go/success



Success Spotlight: Career Services

Many first-year students aren't sure what path they want to take in life, or the steps they need to take to reach their goals. SMSU Career Services has resources for students all throughout their journey, from choosing a major to securing employment after graduation. In fact, SMSU graduates have a 98.7% employment rate after graduation. SMSU also offers its students the 'Mustang Promise', where students that don't find employment within 6 months of graduating can attend graduate school at SMSU with the first semester's tuition FREE!

Our Career Services office provides students with multiple assessments to help gauge what fields of study may be of most interest to them. They also host a variety of events to build students' professional development including hosting career fairs, resume workshops, coffee networking events, and etiquette dinners.

Students can utilize the office for help with choosing a major, building their resume and cover letter for job applications, locating internship opportunities, finding a Mustang Mentor, experiencing mock interviews, and so much more. SMSU Career Services is dedicated to helping your student reach their full potential, which is why they also allow SMSU alumni to utilize their resources.

Students can also take advantage of the office's 'Professional Dress Clothing Closet', which allows students to borrow professional-looking clothing items for interviews, class presentations, and other important events. The closet is completely free for students and is located in the SMSU Costume Shop (FA104).

From start to finish, SMSU Career Services strives to equip students with resources to successfully manage their career development during their academic experience and beyond their graduation.

Contact SMSU Career Services by calling (507) 537-6221 or emailing Careers@smsu.edu



Success Strategy: Filling Out the FAFSA

College can be expensive, which is why many students and families work hard to utilize their resources for financial aid. One of the most commonly used resources for financial aid is the FAFSA application. Below are some tips and tricks to help students and families through navigating the FAFSA:

Complete the Checklist: For the FAFSA application, students will need their Social Security Number, driver's license (if applicable), and records from two years prior of W-2 forms, untaxed income, grants and scholarships. Current bank statements and business and investment information will also be needed.

Apply Online: Online applications are easier to fill out than paper applications because the system only asks questions relevant to the applicant's individual situation. This also helps the application maintain accuracy and avoid errors, so students can maximize their financial aid potential.

Success Spotlight: Career Services

Avoid Common Errors: It's important to read all FAFSA questions carefully to avoid errors. Some common errors include leaving too many blank fields, which cause miscalculations; not rounding to the nearest dollar in numeric fields; listing incorrect SSN or driver's license numbers; not using your legal name; entering the wrong address; not listing both guardians if they live together; not counting the applicant as a student; forgetting to list the college; and forgetting to sign and date the application.

*SMSU's School Code for the FAFSA is #002375

Contact SMSU Financial Aid at (507) 537-6281 or email financialaid@smsu.edu

SMSU also offers a variety of scholarships that can serve as valuable resources to assist with your college expenses. [Apply for SMSU scholarships](#) today!



Source: Doan S, 2017

Find us on Instagram
[@smsusuccess](https://www.instagram.com/smsusuccess)

