

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

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Tuition and Fees*

Tuition, fees, and board and room rates are established by the MnSCU Board of Trustees and are subject to revision.

The tuition rates effective with Fall Semester 2004 were as follows:

	Per Credit Hour
Undergraduate on-campus	\$151.25
Undergraduate off-campus	\$183.45
Graduate on-campus	\$233.20
Graduate off-campus	\$267.00

Students enrolling in courses on campus are assessed per-credit-hour fees for student activities, Student Center bond debt service, Student Center operations, health services, maintenance fee, and use of campus computer facilities. Full-time students, on average, are assessed \$375 (estimated) per semester. The exact dollar amount per credit hour and any limits are determined annually and are published in the semester course schedules. Special course fees may also be assessed for certain courses.

- Student Account information, charges, payments, and balances are available on the online registration system found at www.SouthwestMSU.edu
- Students should be aware that books and supplies are estimated at \$450 per semester and plan accordingly.
- Rates, tuition and fees are subject to change by action of the MnSCU Board of Trustees. Tuition rates are expected to increase in the 2004-2005 academic year and possibly in the 2005-2006 academic year.
- SMSU reserves the right to correct any clerical errors or inaccuracies.

Tuition Rates for SD, ND, WI and MSEP reciprocity students are based on negotiated reciprocity rates and may be different than the rates listed here. Tuition rates for classes held off-campus may also be different from the rates listed here. If you have questions, call 507-537-7157.

Reciprocity Benefits

Reciprocity: Residents from South Dakota and North Dakota who are transferring to SMSU must complete the Application for Reciprocity Form. All Wisconsin residents must complete the Application for Reciprocity Form. The application form can be obtained from the State Board of Regents in the state in which you are a resident or from the SMSU Office of Admission. Students from other states may be eligible for reciprocity benefits and should contact the Office of Admission for further information. Eligible reciprocity students who attended and earned credit(s) in 2003-2004 at SMSU will have their reciprocity benefits automatically renewed for 2004-2005 academic year.

Late Fee

All tuition and fees must be paid by the tenth class day

during regular academic terms and by the second class day during summer sessions. Unless prior arrangements have been made, students who have not paid their tuition and fees by these dates will be assessed a \$30 late fee. Dates may be subject to change. Payment due dates are published each semester in the registration course schedules.

Withdrawal

If you wish to withdraw entirely from the University during the academic semester, you must complete a withdrawal form, which can be obtained at the Advising Center located in Bellows Academic 156, phone 537-6245. Withdrawing students are encouraged to discuss their withdrawal plans with the Director of the Advising Center.

The date of an official withdrawal from the University is the earlier of the date that you began the University's withdrawal process or the date that you provided official notice to the Director of the Advising Center.

The University refund policy is published in the Registration Semester Course schedule. No refunds are given for courses dropped after the fifth (5) instructional day of the semester during the academic semesters or after the second instructional day of the summer sessions. A 100% refund is given on classes dropped up to and including the fifth (5) instructional day during the academic semesters and the first two days of the summer sessions. A full refund of tuition is given for courses cancelled by the University.

After the forty-fifth (45) instructional day of the fall or spring semester or the tenth (10) instructional day of the summer session, you cannot drop a course and receive a grade of "W" (Withdrawn). This includes those students withdrawing from the University. Students who withdraw entirely from the University may receive exception to this policy with approval from the Provost/VP for Academic and Student Affairs.

If a student withdraws entirely from the University, refunds of tuition and fees are made according to the following schedule:

(a) Regular Academic Year On-Campus Courses	
Date of withdrawal	Refund allowed
Up to and including 5th instructional day.....	100%
6th through 10th instructional day	75%
11th through 15th instructional day	50%
16th through 20th instructional day	25%
After the 20th instructional day.....	NONE
(b) Regular Academic Year Off-Campus Courses	
Date of withdrawal	Refund allowed
1st course meeting but before 2nd	100%
2nd course meeting but before 3rd.....	75%
3rd course meeting but before 4th	50%
4th course meeting but before 5th.....	25%
5th course meeting and after	NONE

(c) *Summer Session*

Date of withdrawal	Refund allowed
1st through 5th instructional day.....	100%
6th through 10th instructional day	50%
After 10th instructional day	NONE

The above refund schedule is set by the MnSCU Board and is subject to change.

Refunds of room and board are pro-rated on the unused portion of the room and board previously paid. Students withdrawing from the residence halls must withdraw at the appropriate Commons Building. The withdrawal will follow the terms of the Housing Contract.

Financial Aid

Financial aid is awarded on the principle that the basic financial responsibility rests with the student and his/her parents. When family resources are insufficient to meet the anticipated expenses of the school year, financial aid may be offered. Financial need means the difference between expenses and resources. The deadline for top consideration is approximately March 15 of each year.

Scholarships

Numerous scholarship opportunities are available through the Southwest Minnesota State University Foundation, thanks to the generosity of private donors. These scholarships are awarded according to criteria unique to each scholarship. Examples of these criteria include academic merit, financial need, the student's chosen major, athletic talent, and the student's potential for success.

Federal Perkins Loans

Long-term loans are available at 5% simple interest per annum. Interest and repayment are deferred as long as the student carries at least a half-time credit load. When the student graduates or ceases to be enrolled half-time, a six-month grace period follows before interest and repayment begin. The maximum allowable repayment period is 10 years. Cancellation of all or part of the loan is available for certain types of teaching and for some military service.

College Work-Study

A work-study award is an offer of potential earnings through on-campus employment. Students work a certain number of hours each week, are paid at a set hourly rate, and receive checks on the bi-monthly University payroll until they have earned the amount of the original award. Work study recipients hold the primary responsibility of locating a job.

Federal Supplementary Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG)

These grants are for a limited number of students with exceptional financial need as determined by federal income guidelines. Grants may range from \$200 to \$1,000.

Federal PELL Grants

The Federal PELL Grant Program stipulates that every student is entitled to a certain amount of funds minus what the student's parents can contribute. These funds do not have to be repaid.

Minnesota State Scholarship and Grant-in-Aid Program

Awards ranging from \$100 to \$5,670 (maximum amounts change annually) are made each year by the Minnesota Higher Education Services Office to Minnesota residents who qualify.

Federal Stafford Student Loans

Long-term loans are available at a low variable rate of interest. Repayment and/or interest are deferred as long as the student carries at least a half-time credit load. When the student graduates or ceases to be enrolled half-time, a six-month grace period follows before interest and repayment begin.

Athletic Awards

Interested athletes should check with the appropriate coach regarding Men's Athletic Talent Grants and Women's Athletic Talent Grants.

Employment Opportunities

In addition to work-study, the Financial Aid Office maintains a listing of on-campus, non-work-study employers who may have part-time openings for students. No special application is required. For additional information, students may call or write:

Office of Student Financial Aid
 Southwest Minnesota State University
 Marshall, MN 56258
 Phone: (507) 537-6281

Information regarding off-campus employment opportunities may be obtained by writing or calling:

Career Services
 Southwest Minnesota State University
 Marshall, MN 56258
 Phone: (507) 537-6221

Application Procedure for Financial Aid

The student must first apply for admission to the University. Students and the parents of dependent students should apply for a PIN (Personal Identification Number) at www.pin.ed.gov. This PIN will serve as an electronic signature for financial aid purposes. The student and

parents must then complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA form is available online at www.fafsa.ed.gov, a paper version may be obtained from high school counselors or from the Financial Aid Office. Students must also complete the SMSU Application for Financial Aid application, available on the SMSU website at www.SouthwestMSU.edu or from the Financial Aid and Admission Offices.

Important: To receive priority consideration, students should submit applications by March 15. Applications will be processed after this date, and awards will be announced in May (pending Federal and/or State appropriations).

Regional and area financial aid seminars for students, parents, and guidance counselors are given by Southwest State Minnesota University staff members to acquaint participants with the types of aid available and to instruct them in completing applications. Orientation programs for new students (entering freshmen and transfer students) are scheduled prior to the opening of the fall semester to

acquaint students with University policies and procedures. Program requirements may be changed by state and federal statute.

Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress

To be eligible for Federal or State Financial Aid, you must maintain certain academic progress standards. To receive aid in any given year, you must have met specific standards in the previous year *even if you did not receive Financial Aid in the previous year*. Copies of the written policy are sent to all aid recipients with the award letter and are available from the Financial Aid Office or on the SMSU Web site at www.SouthwestMSU.edu.