

Southwest Minnesota State University
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The 2008-2010 Academic Catalog reports the status of curriculum at the end of Spring Semester 2008. It is our intention to provide resources relevant to the academic, extracurricular, and social lives of students.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the material contained within this catalog as of the date posted. However, all policies, procedures, academic schedules, program information, and fees are subject to change at any time by appropriate action of the faculty, the University administration, the Minnesota State College and Universities Board of Trustees or the Minnesota State Legislature without prior notification. The provisions of this catalog do not constitute a legally binding contract between the student and the University. The information in this catalog is for use as an academic planning tool and is subject to change at any time.

Upon posting, all previous editions of the academic catalog are revoked.

In keeping with the University's philosophy that students must assume the responsibility for their education, students must acquaint themselves with the rules, regulations and academic requirements detailed in this as well as the complete online version of the academic catalog, the Student Handbook and other official publications.

Our last audit by the Office of the Legislative Auditor is available on the OLA website www.auditor.leg.state.mn.us. The MnSCU financial statements are available on MnSCU's website, www.budget.mnscu.edu.

SMSU IN PERSPECTIVE

Founded in 1963, Southwest Minnesota State University is a public university located in Marshall, Minnesota, with a population of 13,400. Currently, SMSU has approximately 3700 students and 236 teaching faculty. Its academic, social, and cultural programs are flourishing, as the campus continues to grow. The University offers over 45 baccalaureate majors, 4 associate degree majors, 20 minors, and 16 pre-professional programs. In addition, it offers master's degrees in business, education and special education. Highlights of Southwest Minnesota State University are:

- A new residence hall opening in fall 2009;
- Regional Event Center opened in fall 2008;

- New Residence Apartments opened in fall 2006;
 - \$17 million Student Center Complex opened in spring 2005;
 - SMSU Library renovation project equaling \$9 million;
 - Situated on 216 acres of land with 24 interconnected and accessible buildings;
 - Average class size of 23 students;
 - Division II Athletics and member of the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference ;
 - Student to faculty ratio of 18:1; and
 - Strong placement rates for graduates.
- Southwest Minnesota State University is a member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system.

Mission

Mission Southwest Minnesota State University prepares students to meet the complex challenges of this century as engaged citizens in their local and global communities. Our comprehensive degree programs, taught in the liberal arts tradition, are dedicated to connecting students' academic and practical professional development experiences in southwestern Minnesota to the wider world.

Vision

Southwest Minnesota State University is a university of choice.

Goals

1. The primary focus of all activities is to facilitate the learning experience of our enrolled students. All faculty activities, both within and away from the classroom, are designed to enhance the learning environment.
2. It is essential for SMSU to remain current with technological advancements in delivering classroom and laboratory knowledge to assure maximum interest, impact, and retention by our students.
3. Our faculty recognize the evolving environment in which we all live and the need to insure involving students with current information and developments from the world stage.
4. Student involvement in the learning experience is critical for retention, leading to our dedication to pedagogical improvements that have been shown to enhance the learning experience.
5. We are committed to being good stewards of our resources through demonstrating environmental and fiscal responsibility. Moreover, as responsible citizens and good stewards of our resources, we foster actions, programs, and scholarship that will lead to a sustainable future.
6. We maintain and consistently seek to improve a comprehensive system of support services designed to assist our students in any way possible during their tenure at SMSU and on into the next stages of their lives.
7. We believe in the integration of campus and community. We are committed to being responsive to the needs of southwestern Minnesota and recognize that partnerships with community entities provide us with valuable talents and expertise.
8. We value a safe environment for intellectual expression and encourage open and civil communication.
9. We value a campus safe for all members of the university community.
10. We value maintaining and enhancing a physical design to provide access to all members of the university community.

11. We embrace diversity by developing a quality, comprehensive educational environment that fosters interaction among people of all religions, races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, physical abilities, and ages.
12. We foster cultural understanding on campus through social, educational, and administrative interaction with our diverse population of international students. We offer the opportunity to learn about different cultures through participation in our Global Studies programs.
13. We believe that the southwestern Minnesota region provides rich opportunities for learning that goes beyond the traditional classroom and lab settings—community-based learning experiences. Therefore, we are committed to creating a variety of applied learning experiences that enhance students' practical problem solving skills and strengthen their commitment to civic engagement.

Accreditations

Southwest Minnesota State University is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music, the Minnesota Board of Teaching, the American Chemical Society, the Council on Social Work Education, and The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, 30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2400, Chicago IL 60602; 800-621-7440.

Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Statement

Southwest Minnesota State University is committed to providing equal education and employment opportunities to all persons and does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, creed, religion, age, national origin, disability, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, or membership or activity in a local commission as defined by law, or any other group or class against which discrimination is prohibited by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 363, and other applicable state or federal laws. Furthermore, Southwest Minnesota State University will continue to develop and implement timely and comprehensive affirmative action procedures aimed at removing barriers to equal educational and employment opportunity. Inquiries regarding compliance should be referred to the Affirmative Action Officer, (507) 537-6243.

Student Records and Directory Information

The University allows former students, current students, and parents of students under 18 access to their academic records. While the primary record is located in the Registration and Records Office, other records may be located in Admission, Financial Aid, the Business Office, Career Services, Counseling and Testing, the Health Center, Student Development, and academic departments.

The following items have been designated as directory information and may be disclosed without the student's prior consent: name, class standing, field of study, attendance dates, degrees received, local and home address, local and home phone number, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, awards received, and most recent previous educational agency or institution attended.

Copies of the University's privacy policy may be obtained from the Registration and Records Office or from the Office of Academic Affairs.

Financial Information

The University makes available upon request information that accurately describes its financial condition. A copy of the latest MnSCU financial statement, the most recent audit, as well as SMSU's current budget documents are on reserve in the SMSU Library. Audit information may be viewed online at www.auditor.leg.state.mn.us. The MnSCU financial statements are available at www.budget.mnscu.edu. Further information may be obtained by contacting the Office of Business Services at (507) 537-6219.

University Promotional Photographs

Southwest Minnesota State University and its representatives, on occasion, take photographs for the University's use in print and electronic publications. This serves as public notice of the University's intent to do so and as a release to the University giving permission to use such images as it deems fit. If you prefer that your photograph(s) not be used for such purposes, you have the right to withhold its release by contacting the University Relations Office at (507) 537-6255 or (800) 642-0684, ext. 6255.