

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

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Tuition and Fees

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

SMSU bands undergraduate on-campus tuition and fees. For students who are enrolled in 12 to 18 credits, tuition and fees will be charged at a flat rate. On-campus undergraduate students enrolled in fewer than 12 credits will be charged on a per credit basis. Undergraduate students taking more than 18 credits will pay the banded rate for the first 18 credits plus the per credit rate for each additional credit taken over 18.

The tuition rates effective with Fall Semester 2008 and Spring Semester 2009 are :

On Campus Undergraduate:

Credits	Tuition Only
1-11 credits	\$186.60 per credit
12-18 credits	\$2890.00
19+ credits	\$2890.00 plus \$186.60 per credit over 18 credits

Undergraduate off-campus: (off-campus refers to course location) \$226.40 per credit, tuition amounts may differ, please contact appropriate department.

Graduate on-campus: \$287.60 per credit

Graduate Business off-campus: \$335.50 per credit

Off Campus Graduate Education: students should contact the department for rates.

Students enrolling in courses on campus are assessed the following fees: student activities fee, student center facility fee, health services fee, athletic fee, maintenance fee, commencement fee, MSUSA fee and a technology fee. Full-time students (12-18 credits), on average, are assessed \$457.76 per semester for Fall 2008 and Spring 2009 semesters. The exact dollar amount per credit hour and any limits are determined annually and are available online at www.SMSU.edu/administration/BusinessServices/. Off campus student fees include the maintenance fee, MSUSA fee, technology fee, and commencement fee.

Programmatic tuition may be assessed for certain courses such as science lab courses, art studio courses, and culinology and hospitality lab courses

- Student Account information, charges, payments, and balances are available on the online registration system found at www.SMSU.edu/Administration/BusinessServices/
- Students should be aware that books and supplies are estimated at \$500 per semester and plan accordingly.
- Rates for tuition and fees are subject to change by action of the MnSCU Board of Trustees. Tuition rates may increase in the 2009-2010 academic year and in the 2010-2011 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 North Dakota who are transferring to SMSU must complete the Application for Reciprocity Form. South Dakota residents should check their state rules for reciprocity. 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 2008-2009 at SMSU will have their reciprocity benefits automatically renewed for 2009-2010 academic year.

Late Fee

Students are expected to pay the amount owed to the University by the payment due date as published each semester on the SMSU Business Services website. All students who have not paid their accounts in full or who do not have an approved deferment without late fees will be assessed up to \$50.00 in late fees per semester. The maximum amount of the late fee is subject to change. Per MnSCU Board Policy, a late fee of up to \$50 per semester may be charged.

Registration Cancellation for Nonpayment

Minimum payment criteria must be met by the specified due dates as published on the SMSU Business Services website for each term to avoid cancellation of course registrations. If the minimum criterion is not met, course registrations will be cancelled after the 5th class day of the semester. Minimum payment criteria can be viewed at www.SMSU.edu/PaymentPolicy.

Withdrawal

WITHDRAWAL FROM A COURSE

Students may withdraw from a course by using the online registration system. Students withdrawing from (dropping) a course after the drop/add period ends (see above), will not receive a refund for the course. The course will remain on your transcript with a grade of "W," but it will not affect your grade point average. Students may withdraw from (drop) a class and receive a grade of "W" between the 5th and 50th instructional days of the fall and spring semester or between the 3rd and 10th instructional days of the summer session. After the 50th instructional day of the fall or spring semester or the 10th 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. If you withdraw from (drop) a course after the drop/add period and after having financial aid applied, the “W” grade may affect your financial aid satisfactory academic progress. Please check with the Financial Aid Office (IL 145) before withdrawing from (dropping) a course if you are receiving financial aid.

**REFUND: Refunds for on-campus daytime courses dropped will be allowed only through the fifth (5th) instructional day of the semester.*

- First five instructional days . . . 100% refund
- After fifth instructional day 0% refund

**REFUND: Refunds for off-campus and evening courses dropped:*

- 1st class meeting but before second . . 100%
- 2nd class meeting and later 0%

Students enrolled in courses who are no longer attending SMSU must officially withdraw from the University by notifying the Advising Office, 148 Individualized Learning Building, 507-537-6245.

During Fall and Spring semesters from the 5th through the 50th instructional days you can withdraw from a course and receive a “W” grade. Contact the Office of Registration for summer withdrawal time periods.

COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL FROM THE UNIVERSITY

If you wish to withdraw entirely from the University during the academic semester, you must complete a University Withdrawal Form, that can be obtained at the Advising Center located in IL 148 phone 507-537-6245. Withdrawing students are encouraged to discuss their withdrawal plans with the Director of the Advising Office. The date of an official Withdrawal from the University is the earliest of the dates students began their Withdrawal process or date students otherwise provided official notice.

If you withdraw entirely from the University, refunds of tuition and fees will be made according to the following schedule:

Regular Academic Year On-Campus Courses

Date of Withdrawal Refund Allowed:

- 1st through 5th business day 100%
- 6th through 10th business day 75%
- 11th through 15th business day 50%
- 16th through 20th business day 25%
- After 20th business day none

Summer Session

Date of Withdrawal Refund Allowed:

- 1st through 5th business day 100%
- 6th through 10th business day 50%
- After 10th business day none

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

Refunds of room and meals are pro-rated on the unused portion of the room and meals previously paid. Students withdrawing from the residence halls must withdraw at the appropriate Commons Building.

Students who are dismissed or expelled from the University because of conduct violations will be responsible for payment of all tuition, fees, and appropriate room and meal charges.

IF YOU RECEIVED FINANCIAL AID, YOUR WITHDRAWAL MAY INCUR REPAYMENT OBLIGATIONS.

Return of Title IV Federal Financial Aid

The Federal formula requires a return of Title IV aid if you received Federal assistance in the form of a Pell Grant, ACG Grant, SMART Grant, Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (SEOG), Federal Perkins Loan, Federal Stafford Loan or a PLUS Loan and withdrew on or before completing 60 percent of the semester. The Federal government mandates that if you withdraw from all classes, you may only keep the financial aid you have "earned" up to the time of withdrawal.

The Title IV funds that were disbursed in excess of the earned amount will be returned to the Federal government by the University. The amount to be returned to the University will be calculated from the date on which you officially withdrew.

If any funds are remaining after the return of Title IV aid, they will be used for repayment obligations for the University's funds, State funds and other private sources. If an unpaid balance(s) exists, all aid sources will be repaid before any funds are returned to you.

Determining Title IV Federal Aid Earned

To determine the amount of aid you earned up to the time of withdrawal, the University will divide the number of calendar days you attended classes by the total number of calendar days in the semester (less any scheduled break of 5 days or more). The resulting percentage is then multiplied by the total Federal funds that were disbursed for the semester. This calculation determines the amount of aid that you are allowed to keep. The unearned amount of aid will be returned to the Federal government by the University. You will receive notification and a bill if there is a balance due.

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 1 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 nine-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 are normally around \$600.

Federal PELL Grants

The Federal PELL Grant Program stipulates that every eligible 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.

Academic Competitiveness Grants

The Academic Competitiveness Grant program provides up to \$750 for the first year of undergraduate study and up to \$1,300 for the second year of undergraduate study. The program became available for the first time for the 2006-07 school year for first year students who graduated from high school after January 1, 2006 and for second year students who graduated from high school after January 1, 2005. The eligible student must also be a U.S. Citizen, be eligible for a Federal Pell Grant, be enrolled Full-Time and have completed a rigorous secondary school program of study.

National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant or National SMART Grants

The National SMART Grant program provides up to \$4,000 for each of the third and fourth years of undergraduate study. To be eligible to receive a National SMART Grant, you must: be a US citizen, be eligible to receive a Pell Grant, be enrolled as a full-time third or fourth year student in a baccalaureate degree program, have a 3.0 cumulative grade point average, and be enrolled in an eligible major in one of the following categories: Computer Science, Engineering, Critical Foreign Languages, Life Sciences, Mathematics, Physical Sciences, Technology, or Multidisciplinary Studies.

TEACH Grant

To be eligible for the TEACH Grant, students must be completing coursework to begin a career in teaching. Current, former, or retired teachers must be either in a Master's degree program or pursuing an alternative certification in a Master's program. New students must obtain an admission test score above the 75th percentile. Current students must maintain at least a 3.25 cumulative grade point average. Students are eligible for up to \$4,000 per year. The grant funds could be reverted to loan funds if the student does not teach for 4 years within 8 years of program completion and is not a full-time teacher in a high need field in a low-income school.

Minnesota State Scholarship and Grant-in-Aid Program

Awards ranging from \$100 to \$5,870 (maximum amounts change annually) are made each year by the Minnesota Office of Higher Education Minnesota residents who qualify.

Minnesota Achieve Scholarship

The Minnesota Achieve Scholarship provides financial assistance to eligible Minnesota students who complete a qualifying secondary school program and are attending a Minnesota institution. To be eligible the student must: graduate from high school after January 1, 2008; and be a student from a family with an adjusted gross income of less than \$75,000 for the previous tax year (this limit applies to dependent and independent students.) and be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen; and meet the definition of Minnesota resident used for state financial aid programs; and apply no later than 30 days after the term starts; and use the \$1,200 scholarship within four years after high school graduation; and take and receive at least a grade of C for courses that comprise one of the rigorous secondary school programs of study in a high school or in a home-school setting.

Federal Stafford Student Loans

Long term loans are available at an interest rate of 6.0% for Subsidized Stafford Loans and 6.8% for Unsubsidized Stafford Loans. The Unsubsidized Stafford Loan will have interest accruing

while the student is in school. Repayment of principal is deferred as long as the student carries at least a half-time credit load. When the student graduates or ceases to be enrolled at least half-time, a six month grace period follows before repayment of principal and interest 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
1501 State Street
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
1501 State Street
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.SMSU.edu or from the Financial Aid and Admission Offices.

Important: To receive priority consideration, students should submit applications by March 1. 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, students must maintain certain academic progress standards. To receive aid in any given year, students must have met specific standards in the previous year *even if they did not receive Financial Aid in the previous year*. The policy is available from the Financial Aid Office or on the SMSU Web site at www.SMSU.edu.