

MUSTANGS CONNECT

Discover. Engage. Lead.

Important Dates

Dec 3
Undergraduate Research
Conference

Dec 12
Last Day of Classes

Dec 15-18
Finals Week

Dec 19-Jan 9
Winter Break

Dec 23
Grades Due by 5:00pm

Jan 12
Classes Begin

Deeann Griebel Student Success Center

Individualized Learning 224

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www.smsu.edu/go/success



Greetings from SMSU:

Happy Holidays, Mustang Family!

This month our students are hard at work finishing the semester strong! Finals week is just two weeks away, and campus is buzzing with excitement for winter break.

Students living on campus received information from their Resident Assistant on November 10 about the checkout process for leaving their rooms over break. If your student is returning home for the holidays, we encourage you to check in with them about their spring course schedule. Registration windows are still open for students who want to add a class or begin planning for summer courses.

In this month's newsletter, you'll find information about the McFarland Library as well as helpful best practices for Navigating finals week. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact our office at (507) 537-6484 or success@SMSU.edu.



Deeann Griebel

Director of Student Success

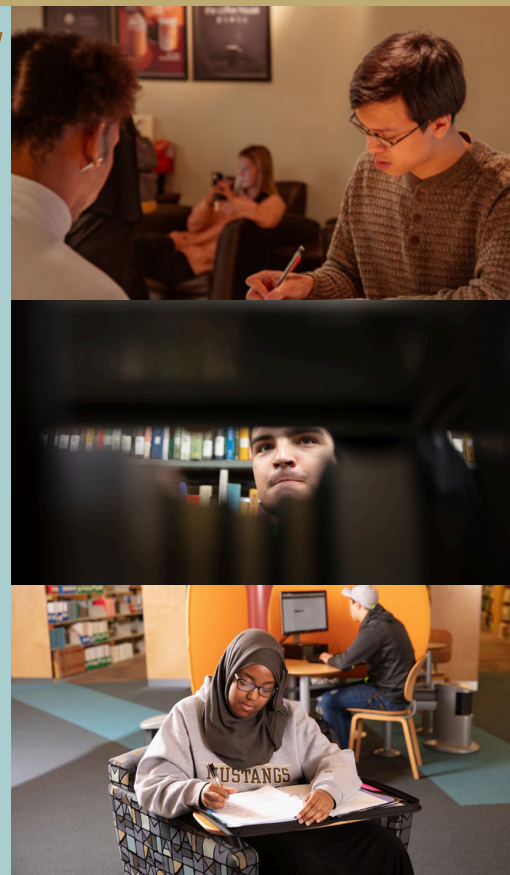
Success Spotlight: McFarland Library

The McFarland Library promotes the success of the SMSU community by providing access to quality resources, instruction, services, and spaces that support research, teaching, and learning in an inviting and inclusive environment. Located on the second level of the BA building, the McFarland Library houses our Technology Resource Center, Writing Center, and research consultation services for students.

Each floor of the McFarland Library offers unique resources for students to utilize. Computer stations are available on every level, along with printers and scanners for student use. The library also features a variety of individual and group study rooms equipped with television monitors for screen sharing and collaboration. The fourth floor of the library is designated as the quiet floor, offering a calm environment for students who need space to focus. On the fifth floor, the SMSU Writing Center offers feedback and assistance for written assignments such as essays and research papers.

The McFarland Library offers access to countless articles, journals, books, and other materials to support students as they finish the semester. Knowledgeable staff are available to assist with research guidance and technology needs. The library's goal is to ensure every student has the tools they need to succeed.

For more information:
www.smsu.edu/library



Success Strategy: Finals Week Best Practices

Prioritize Study Time: Not all exams require the same amount of preparation. Students should review their exam schedules, evaluate what subjects will need more time, and create a study plan to allocate time effectively.

Rotate Focus: Switching between subjects can help students stay engaged and prevent burnout. Alternating study topics keeps the brain active and supports long-term retention. Be sure to take short breaks between sessions to maintain focus and recharge.

Study for the Style of Exam: Different exam formats call for different study strategies. Multiple-choice exams often test definitions and key concepts, while essay exams require a deeper understanding of ideas and the ability to apply them with examples. Students should tailor their preparation to the format of each exam.

Review Items NOT on the Study Guide: Some professors may provide a study guide for the final exam. While they can be helpful, study guides may not include every topic covered in the semester. Students should also review class notes, presentations, and textbook materials to ensure a full understanding of all course content. Combining these resources will lead to a more thorough review.

Ask Questions: If something isn't clear, students shouldn't hesitate to seek help. Tutoring sessions, professor office hours, and study groups are all excellent ways to clarify concepts and reinforce understanding through discussion.



Source: US Career Institute, 2021

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