

MUSTANGS CONNECT

Discover. Engage. Lead.

Important Dates

Feb 12

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 16

Presidents' Day (No Classes)



Greetings from SMSU:

Hello, Mustang Family!

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

Students planning ahead for summer can also register for summer courses at SMSU. With over 200 courses offered from May through July, this is a great opportunity to complete Liberal Education Program (LEP) credits and Minnesota Transfer Curriculum (MnTC) goals, helping students stay focused and start strong in Fall 2026.

This month's newsletter highlights information about SMSU Career Services, along with best practices for completing 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!



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Individualized Learning 224

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Success Spotlight: Career Services

Many first-year students begin college unsure of what career path they want to pursue or what steps to take to reach their goals. Fortunately, SMSU Career Services is here to support them every step of the way from exploring potential majors to landing their first job after graduation.

SMSU takes pride in the success of its students. Graduates enjoy a 97.6% employment rate, and through the Mustang Promise, any student who does not find employment within 6 months of graduating can enroll in an SMSU graduate program with the first semester's tuition completely free!

Career Services offers multiple assessments to help students discover academic and career paths that align with their interests and strengths. They also host valuable professional development opportunities throughout the year, including career fairs, resume workshops, coffee networking events, and etiquette dinners.

Students can visit the Career Services office for guidance on choosing a major, building resumes and cover letters, locating internship opportunities, connecting with a Mustang Mentor, preparing for mock interviews, and many other services. These resources are also available to SMSU alumni, reflecting the university's long-term commitment to student success.

Another wonderful resource is the 'Professional Dress Clothing Closet', which allows students to borrow professional clothing for interviews, presentations, and other important events for free! This closet is located in the SMSU Costume Shop (FA 104).

From start to finish, SMSU Career Services strives to equip students with the tools and confidence needed to successfully navigate their career development, during their academic journey and into their future careers.

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



Success Strategy: Filling Out the FAFSA

College can be a major investment, which is why many students and families utilize the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) to access financial aid. Below are some helpful tips and reminders to guide students and families through the FAFSA application process:

Prepare Ahead of Time: Before starting the FAFSA, students should gather the necessary documents and information required to complete the form. These documents include Social Security numbers, tax returns from the previous year, records of assets (such as savings and checking account information), and the federal school code for their institution.

Apply Online: Completing the FAFSA online is typically the easiest and most accurate option. The online system customizes questions based on each applicant's responses, helping to reduce confusion and prevent mistakes. This ensures greater accuracy and can help students maximize their financial aid eligibility.

Take Advantage of Time Savers: One way to speed up the FAFSA process is to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool, which automatically populates answers to certain questions based on the student's or parent's federal income tax return, reducing errors and saving time.

Avoid Common Errors: Carefully reading each question can prevent many common mistakes that delay processing or reduce aid eligibility. Frequent errors include leaving fields blank, entering incorrect Social Security numbers, forgetting to include the student as a household member, failing to reapply each year, or not reviewing the application before submitting.

Helpful Information:

*SMSU's FAFSA School Code: 002375

Contact SMSU Financial Aid: (507) 537-6281 | financialaid@smsu.edu



Source: McCormack, 2025

In addition to federal and state aid, SMSU offers a wide range of scholarships designed to help students manage college expenses. Encourage your student to apply for SMSU scholarships today!

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

