SOUTHWEST
MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

MUSTANGS CONNECT

Discover. Engage. Lead.

Important Dates

Jan 12
Classes Begin

Jan 16
Last Day to Add Classes
Last Day to Drop with
Refund
Must Meet Minimum
Payment Criteria

Jan 19
MLK Day (No Classes)

Jan 21
Financial Aid Applied to Bill

Jan 23
Financial Aid Overages
Disbursed

Deeann Griebel Student Success Center

Individualized Learning 224

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Greetings from SMSU:

Happy New Year, Mustang Family!

We're excited to kick off another great semester at SMSU! This month, students are returning to campus for spring semester classes and activities. We're thrilled to welcome our Mustangs back after a well-deserved winter break, and welcome new students who are joining us this semester.

The first day of classes for our Mustangs is January 12th, but there's still time to make schedule adjustments. Registration will remain open until January 16th, allowing students to add or drop courses during the first week. We encourage all students to participate in our '15 to Finish' initiative, as taking 15 credits each semester helps students save money, improve grades, and stay on track to graduate in four years.

In this month's newsletter, you'll find helpful information about our Technology Resource Center, along with tips for starting the semester organized and confident. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact our office at (507) 537-6484 or email us at Success@SMSU.edu.

Go Mustangs!

Brittany Kimell

Director of Student Success

Success Spotlight: Technology Resources

In today's digital learning environment, it is essential for students to have access to the software and technology they need to succeed. At Southwest Minnesota State University, we're proud to provide our students with the tools and support necessary for academic success. Our Technology Resource Center (TRC) is fully staffed and ready to assist students with any technology related questions or needs.

On campus, SMSU offers multiple computer labs equipped with both Windows and Mac PCs, as well as printers and scanners for students to use. Our computer labs are conveniently located throughout campus within the academic buildings, the McFarland Library, and in common buildings near the residence halls so students have access to technology without interruption.

All campus computers have up-to-date software, including Microsoft Office applications and Adobe Creative Cloud. Each student also receives 1 GB of personal storage space on their student drive to help organize and store projects and assignments.

Printing is available to all students at no additional cost. Included in their semester tuition, students can print up to $25 worth of material, equivalent to 500 black and white pages or 100 color pages. Wireless printing is also available throughout campus, allowing students to print directly from their personal devices.

To support collaboration, SMSU offers students AirTame for screen sharing and a free Zoom account for virtual meetings. Webcams and headsets are also available for use as needed.

For questions or assistance, please contact SMSU TRC at
(507) 537-6111 or email TRChelpdesk@smsu.edu.

Success Strategy: Starting the Semester Strong

With the start of a new semester, it's easy for students to rush straight into classes. However, it's important for students to stay organized from the start to build strong habits that last all the way through finals. Below are a few tips to help students begin the semester on the right foot:

Clean Up Their Area: Whether it's organizing their desk or finishing that load of laundry left from before winter break, having a clean space can boost focus and productivity.

Get a Planner/Wall Calendar: Planners are a great tool for keeping track of assignments, quizzes, and deadlines. Students can use their course syllabi from professors to plan out their semester and stay on top of important dates. A wall calendar can also serve as a visual reminder of upcoming due dates.

*Pro Tip: Students can download the Pulse App to link their phone calendar with D2L for assignment reminders. Students can download this app on the App Store.

Get Motivated: Just like New Year's resolutions, students can set personal goals for the semester to keep them on track and motivated.

Source: Doan S, 2017

Have Supplies on Hand: Being prepared with textbooks, pens, pencils, notebooks, and sticky notes helps students stay organized from the start. Some students find that color-coordinating their supplies helps them remember what to bring for each class.

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