

# MUSTANGS CONNECT

Discover. Engage. Lead.

## Important Dates

Dec 9  
Last Day of Classes

Dec 12 - Dec 15  
Finals Week

Dec 16  
Grading Day

Dec 19 - Jan 6  
Winter Break

Dec 20  
Grades Due

## Deeann Griebel Student Success Center

Individualized Learning 224

(507) 537-6484

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## Greetings from SMSU:

Happy Holidays, Mustang Family!

This month our students are hard at work to finish out the semester strong! Finals week is only one week away, and our campus is buzzing with excitement for winter break.

Students living on campus will have information distributed to them by their RA about what to do to 'check out' of their room if they are leaving for break. If your student is returning home for break, We encourage you to ask them about what classes they are taking this spring. Registration windows are still open for students that want to squeeze in some more credits for spring semester.

In this month's newsletter, we have included information about the McFarland Library here on campus and best practices for finals week. 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!



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 to support research, teaching, and learning in an inviting, inclusive environment. Located on the second level of BA, McFarland Library houses our Technology Resource Center, Writing Center, and research consultation services for students.

Each floor of the McFarland Library has different resources for students to utilize. Computer stations are available on every floor for students to use, along with printers and scanners. Students also have access to a variety of individual and group study rooms equipped with television monitors for screen-sharing to promote collaboration. The fourth floor of the library is known as the 'quiet floor' for students that need calm and quiet spaces to focus on their work.

On the 5th floor of the library is the SMSU Writing Center for students to get feedback and assistance on their written assignments, such as research papers.

The McFarland Library has many articles, journals, books, and other resources to help assist your student as they finish up the semester. Staff are available for research guidance and technology needs as well. We want to provide your student with all of the tools they need to be successful.

**For more information:**  
visit [www.smsu.edu/go/success](http://www.smsu.edu/go/success)



## Success Strategy: Finals Week Best Practices

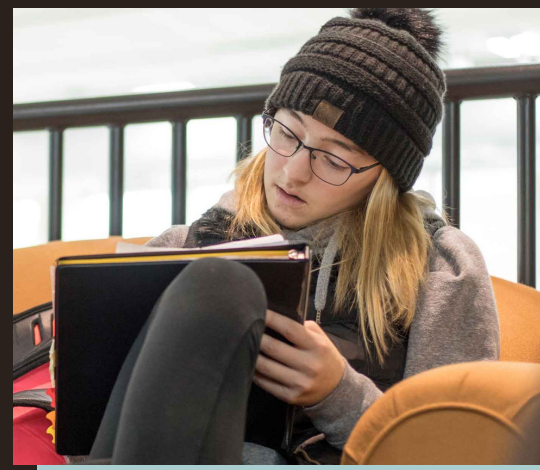
**Prioritize Study Time:** Some exams will require more study time than others. Students should evaluate all of their exams and determine how best to allocate study time.

**Revolve Focus:** Switching up subjects is a helpful way to learn everything for the exam, while preventing burnout on the topic. Students should also take breaks between sessions to re-energize and make sure to allow themselves to rest.

**Study for the Style of Exam:** Different types of exams require different approaches. Multiple choice exams tend to focus more on definitions and concepts of ideas, whereas essay exams will require overall understanding of concepts presented along with examples. Students should prepare accordingly for the type of exam they will be taking.

**Review Items NOT on the Study Guide:** Some professors may provide a study guide for the final exam. It's important to know the information on that guide, but students should also review material that was covered in class, but not listed on the guide in order to have a comprehensive understanding of the material. Combining study guides, class notes and presentations, along with reading from the textbook will give a full review of information.

**Ask Questions:** If a concept is fuzzy, ask for help understanding the information. Tutoring sessions, office hours for professors, or group studying are all great resources to collaborate on ideas and help retain information with clarity.



*Source: US Career Institute, 2021*