SOUTHWEST
MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY
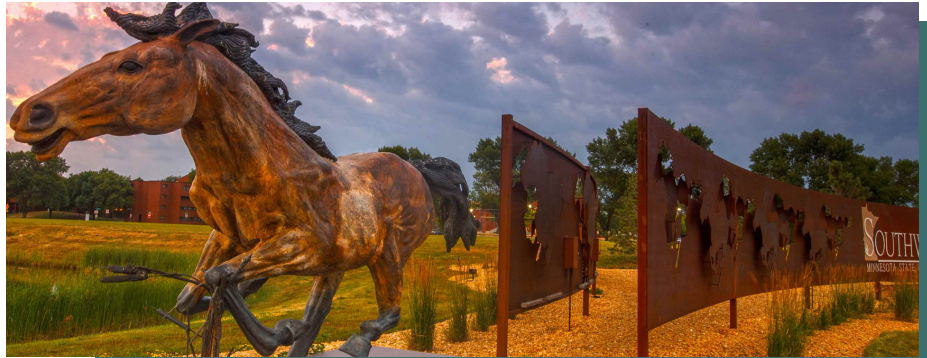
MUSTANGS CONNECT

Discover. Engage. Lead.

Important Dates

Jan 9
Classes Begin

Jan 12
Must Have Parking Permit
Displayed

Jan 13
Last Day to Add Classes
Last Day to Drop w/ Refund
Must Meet Minimum Payment
Criteria

Jan 16
MLK Day (No Classes)

Jan 17
Registration Cancellation for
Non-Payment

Jan 18
Financial Aid Applied to Bill

Jan 20
Financial Aid Overages Sent

Deeann Griebel Student Success Center

Individualized Learning 224

(507) 537-6484

success@smsu.edu

www.smsu.edu/go/success

Greetings from SMSU:

Happy New Year, Mustang Family!

This month our students are returning to campus for their spring semester courses and activities. We are so excited to have our Mustangs back after a nice (and mild-weathered) winter break, as well as to welcome new students that are joining us this semester!

The first day of classes for our Mustangs is January 9th, but there is still time for students to add courses to their schedule for this semester. Registration windows will be open for students until January 13th. Here at SMSU, we encourage students to pursue '15 to Finish', as taking 15 credits each semester helps them save money, improve grades, and keep them on track for graduating in four years.

In this month's newsletter, we have included information about our Technology Resource Center, along with best practices for starting the semester out organized. 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: Technology Resources

In the new 'norm' of digital learning, it is critical for students to have access to the software and technology needed to complete their work. SMSU is proud to provide our students with the technology needed to be successful in their courses. Our Technology Resource Center (TRC) is fully staffed to help students with all of their technology questions and needs.
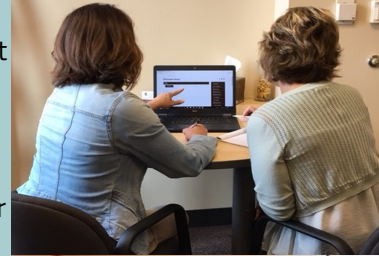
On campus, SMSU has multiple computer labs supplied with both Windows and Mac PCs, along with printers and scanners for students to use. Our computer labs are spread out throughout campus within the academic buildings, the McFarland Library, and in commons buildings near the residence halls so students have access to technology without interruptions.

All of the computers on campus have updated software for your student to use including Microsoft Office applications and Adobe Creative Cloud. Students are also provided 1 GB of storage on their student drive so they can keep track of all of their projects and assignments.

Our students also have printing available to them at no additional cost. Included in their semester tuition, students can print up to $25 of material, which is 500 black & white pages or 100 full-color pages. Wireless printing is available throughout campus as well, so students can print from their personal devices too!

We also provide students with resources for collaboration. SMSU offers students AirTame streaming for screen sharing and a free student Zoom account so they can collaborate with their peers any time. There are also webcams and headsets available for students to use as needed for those virtual group meetings.

Contact SMSU TRC by calling (507) 537-6111 or emailing TRChelpdesk@smsu.edu

Success Strategy: Starting the Semester Strong

With the new semester on the horizon, it can be easy for students to rush right into classes. However, it is important for students to keep organization in mind to begin the semester strong to ensure habits stick with them all the way through to finals. Below are tips for students to consider:

Clean Up Their Area: Whether its organizing their desk or doing that load of laundry left from before winter break-having a clean space helps to boost productivity.

Get a Planner/Wall Calendar: Planners are a great resource for keeping track of assignments and quizzes. Students can use their course syllabi from professors to outline their to-do list for the semester with important dates and deadlines. A wall calendar can also help visually remind students of upcoming due dates.

*Pro Tip: Students can download the Pulse App to link their phone calendars to D2L for assignment reminders too. 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 Needed Supplies: Making sure students are ready for the semester with textbooks, pens, pencils, notebooks, and sticky notes is important for staying on top of homework early on. Some students also find color-coordinating their supplies helps them remember to bring everything for class.