

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY | CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO

TRIO FUNDING

- SEMO is in the first year of a \$1.9 million five-year student support services grant. The focus of this grant is on increasing retention, academic performance, and graduation rates for first-generation, limited-income students, and students with disabilities
- SEMO is in the fourth year of a \$1.3 million five-year McNair Scholars Program grant. The focus of this grant is to prepare first-generation and limited-income students for graduate and doctoral study through faculty led research and mentorship, professional development, and other student support services.
- Student support services and McNair support a total of 225 students at SEMO. Funding these TRIO programs is a high priority for SEMO because they are effective in helping first-generation and limited-income students enter college, persist, and graduate.

PELL GRANTS

- Pell Grants are used by over 1/3 of SEMO students. In academic year 2024-25, SEMO awarded just over \$16 million in Pell Grants to 2,869 students. The average award was \$5,476 per student; full Pell is \$7,395.
- Recent changes have been positive, including the year-round Pell Grants and changes in the FAFSA that have helped more people become eligible.
- Continue to incrementally increase Pell; maintain funding for the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, a need-based grant that SEMO awards over \$250,000 each year; and limit reduction in Federal Work Study funding.

INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

- SEMO supports federal legislation that prohibits college athletes from being considered employees of the university.
- SEMO also supports limited antitrust exemptions, a national standard from name, image, and likeness, and providing reasonable liability protection for schools and conferences that follow the law.

AVIATION

- SEMO offers three aviation-related degrees - Professional Pilot, Unmanned Aircraft Systems, and Aviation Management. These programs serve a total of 172 students.
- SEMO's Letter of Authorization for its Professional Pilot program became effective December 3, 2024. It was not retroactive to cover the nearly 170 students that had completed their training prior to issuance of the LOA. On December 12, 2024, SEMO petitioned the FFA for an exemption from 14 CFR Part 61.169(b). Public comment on SEMO's petition closed October 15, 2025. The FAA has not yet ruled on SEMO's petition.
- Contacting the FFA and advocating for approval of SEMO's exemption petition is greatly appreciated and encouraged by SEMO.
- SEMO is exploring the creation of a FAA-approved Air Traffic Control (ATC) program and is seeking federal support of initiatives and funding to establish the program, and for renovations and equipment for aviation facilities at SEMO and the Cape Girardeau Regional Airport.

**HAVE
QUESTIONS?
ASK US!**



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