

# SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY



## QUICK FACTS

- Accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and more than 30 individual, program-specific accreditations
- State-wide mission in computer science, cybersecurity, and visual and performing arts
- More than 200 areas of study, with nearly 1,600 courses offered each semester, and more than 380 courses offered online
- 1,750 students live on campus
- Redhawk Athletics competes at the NCAA Division I level and is a member of the Ohio Valley Conference

## ENROLLMENT

**7,682**

UNDERGRADUATE  
STUDENTS

**1,200**

GRADUATE  
STUDENTS

**8,882**

TOTAL  
HEADCOUNT

- 76% of students are from Missouri
- Students come from 43 states and 61 countries
- Four-year and six-year graduation rates are the highest they've been in a decade
- In fall 2025, SEMO saw positive enrollment growth in Cape Girardeau county, the wider Southeast Missouri region, online learners, early college students, domestic graduate students, and transfer students

## TOP ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

- Nursing - 513 students
- Psychology - 457 students
- Business Administration - 430 students
- Biology - 382 students
- Agribusiness - 217 students

## ECONOMIC IMPACT

**1,000+**

EMPLOYEES ACROSS ALL CATEGORIES

**\$1.4 BILLION**

ANNUAL ECONOMIC IMPACT TO THE  
STATE OF MISSOURI

**\$2.50**

FOR EVERY \$1 INVESTED IN SEMO,  
TAXPAYERS GAIN \$2.50 IN RETURN

## ALUMNI

**80,000+**

TOTAL LIVING ALUMNI

**56,000+**

LIVING ALUMNI IN MISSOURI

**22,500+**

DEGREES AWARDED OVER THE LAST  
10 YEARS

## COST

**\$10,194**

ANNUAL IN-STATE COST FOR 30  
CREDIT HOURS  
(4TH LOWEST IN THE STATE)



**SOUTHEAST MISSOURI**  
STATE UNIVERSITY · 1873®

# 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!**



**DR. BRAD HODSON**  
UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT  
bhodson@semo.edu  
(573) 651-2222



**CHRIS MARTIN**  
CHIEF OF STAFF  
cmartin@semo.edu  
(573) 651-2322