**Drug and Alcohol Prevention Program**

Pursuant to the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989, Missouri Southern State University has established a drug and alcohol prevention program for its students. The University’s program is described below.

**Smoking and Tobacco Use Policy:** The Board of Governors of Missouri Southern State University prohibits smoking and tobacco use of any kind. Tobacco products are not permitted in any campus buildings. Smoking and other tobacco usage is permitted only in designated areas outside of buildings.

**Substance Abuse Policy:** Students are prohibited from using alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs on University-owned or controlled property and at University-sponsored or supervised activities. Irresponsible alcohol or other drug use off campus resulting in disorderly conduct on campus also is not acceptable. Any student of Missouri Southern State University found to have manufactured, dispensed, possessed or used a controlled substance in violation of the Substance Abuse Policy of this University will be subject to discipline in accordance with University policy and reported to local, state or federal law enforcement authorities for criminal prosecution. Criminal prosecution for these acts could lead to a conviction and such a conviction could result in a sentence imposing a monetary fine, imprisonment in a state or federal penitentiary or both.

**Health Risks:** Specific serious health risks are associated with the use of illicit drugs and alcohol. Some of the major risks:

- **Alcohol and other depressants (barbiturates, sedatives and tranquilizers):** addiction, accidents as a result of impaired ability and judgment, overdose when used with other depressants, damage to a developing fetus, heart and liver damage.
- **Marijuana:** addiction, panic reaction; impaired short-term memory; increased risk of lung cancer and emphysema, particularly in cigarette smokers; impairment of driving ability.
- **Cocaine:** addiction, heart attack, seizures, lung damage, severe depression, paranoia, psychosis. Similar risks are associated with other stimulants, such as speed and uppers.
- **Hallucinogens (acid, LSD, PCP, MDMA, etc.):** unpredictable behavior, emotional instability, violent behavior organic brain damage in heavy users, convulsions, coma.
- **Narcotics (heroin, Demerol, morphine, Codeine, etc.):** addiction, accidental overdose, risk of hepatitis and AIDS from contaminated needles.
- **Inhalants (gas, aerosols, glue, nitrites, etc.):** loss of consciousness, suffocation, damage to brain and central nervous system, sudden death, nausea and vomiting, nosebleeds, impaired judgment.

**Methamphetamine:** addiction, irritability, sleeplessness, nervousness, sudden weight loss, pungent body odor, protrusion of eyes.

**Resources:** A variety of resources exist for drug or alcohol counseling, treatment or rehabilitation programs. A few are listed inside the front of the Student Handbook. For more detailed information concerning these resources and others available from the University and/or community agencies, students may contact the ACTS-Advising, Counseling and Testing Services (417.625.9595) or the Student Services Office (417.625.9392). Such referrals will respect individual confidentiality.

A main objective of the drug and alcohol prevention program is to encourage healthy attitudes and behaviors on the part of all students and responsible decisions about alcohol/drug use. Another objective is to provide students in certain high risk groups (freshmen, Greeks, athletes, residence hall students, etc.) with specific and up-to-date information regarding the long-and-short-term effects of alcohol/drug use. A final objective is to provide students with the necessary skills to help them carry out the decisions they have made in regard to their use or nonuse of alcohol/drugs and how to effectively handle certain “high pressure” situations.

To meet the above objectives, information and assistance is provided to students in several ways. First, alcohol and drug films are shown and programs conducted in all orientation classes, which are required for all new students. Additional alcohol and drug information is presented in other academic classes, including KINE 103, Lifetime Wellness. Pamphlets about alcohol and drug use are distributed each semester. Special alcohol and drug training is provided annually for residence hall staff and orientation leaders.

The athletic department provides a program for varsity athletes. Special alcohol and drug programs are presented throughout the year. Active drug testing is done. A committee of counselors, teachers and clergy are available to assist varsity athletes.

The Student Services Office, Advising, Counseling and Testing Services, Campus Activities Board and the Residence Hall Association provide alcohol and drug programs throughout the year for all students.

**Equal Opportunity**

In accordance with federal law and applicable Missouri statutes, it is the University’s policy not to discriminate in the recruitment and admission of students, the recruitment and employment of faculty and staff and the operation of any of its educational programs and activities on the basis of age, gender, color, race, religion, disability, veteran’s status, national origin, ancestry or any other protected characteristic as established by law.

**Anti-Harassment Policy:** Missouri Southern State University is committed to fostering a working and learning environment where all individuals are treated with respect and dignity. It is and continues to be, University policy that harassment of employees, applicants or students in unacceptable conduct will not be tolerated.

Harassment is written, verbal or physical conduct that degrades or shows hostility or aversion toward an individual because of his/her race, color, ancestry, religion, gender, age national origin or disability that (i) has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive work or learning environment; (ii) has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual’s work or academic performance; or (iii) otherwise adversely affects an individual’s employment or academic opportunities.

Harassment could also be sexual in nature. Sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when any one of the following occurs: (i) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual’s employment or education; or (ii) submission to or
rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment or academic decisions affecting such individual; or (iii) such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive working or learning environment.

Any employee, student or applicant for employment or admission who feels that he or she has experienced or observed harassment by an employee of the University should report such incidents to his or her supervisor or to the Director of Human Resources without fear of intimidation or reprisal. Harassment complaints against students should be reported to the Dean of Students. The University will promptly investigate all allegations of harassment in as confidential a manner as possible. The University will also take appropriate action to ensure that neither inappropriate language, nor conduct, nor sexual harassment persists.

Student Success Center

Stephanie Hopkins, Director
Hearnes Hall, 417.659.3725

Mission
The Student Success Center endeavors to provide a campus academic environment conducive to student success. The Center offers a wide range of academic support programs to students.

Classes
Basic Composition – Prepares students for college writing courses. Students write at least six major papers with special attention given to organization, syntax, grammar and mechanics.

College Academic Skills – A course designed to develop and strengthen an understanding of student responsibility, goals and attitudes necessary for the successful transition to college. Active learning through critical thinking, reading and writing to support academic success at the University level will be practiced. Students will identify learning styles and strengths and weaknesses associated with their learning processes.

Speed Reading – A course designed specifically to increase reading speed. Students must be capable college level readers to benefit from this computerized format. In addition students will become aware of factors influencing reading speed and efficiency. This one hour class presents a non-threatening environment for students to practice increasing speed while maintaining an acceptable level of comprehension.

Tutor Training – Provides tutors with an educational foundation of the methods and techniques needed to tutor students in a higher education setting.

Services – All services are free to MSSU students.

Tutoring in Content Areas – Peer and faculty tutors are available. Some drop-in tutoring is offered, although an appointment is recommended. Both short- and long-term assistance is provided.

Writing Lab Services – Trained peer tutors instruct and coach students in all aspects of writing, such as writing process strategies, research paper documentation and correct mechanics.

Computer Lab – The Student Success Center offers a networked computer lab with Microsoft Office programs and Internet access.

Services for Students with Disabilities
The Student Success Center is the designated office on campus for the provision of academic accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Students who wish to request accommodations should begin the process by contacting the Student Success Center. Students are responsible for providing appropriate documentation and initiating the request for accommodations.

Trio Programs

Talent Search
Jim Kimbrough, Director
417.659.5440
www.mssu.edu/talentsearch

Mission
To encourage students in grades 6 through 12 and those who have never completed high school to graduate from a secondary program and enter a postsecondary program of study.

Talent Search is a federally funded program designed to identify qualified students with potential for success at the postsecondary level and encourages them to complete secondary school and enroll in a program of study after high school. Services provided through the program include: group and one-on-one tutoring, travel to area cultural events, visits to area college and university campuses, information on and assistance with college admissions applications and financial aid information, academic advising and assistance with choosing courses to prepare you for education after high school, information and assistance with college entrance exams including the ACT and SAT. The project serves 550 students. To qualify for services, students must be U.S. citizens, between the ages of 11 and 27 and completed the fifth grade. A veteran, regardless of age, may participate if otherwise eligible. Services provided by Talent Search are free to students and parents/guardians. For more information or an application, call the Talent Search office at 417-659-5440.

Project STAY
Dory Quinn, Director
Hearnes Hall 308, 417.625.9830

Mission
“To identify and provide comprehensive resources to ease student transitions into and through college and on to graduate education and professional life.”

Project Stay is a federally funded Student Support Services grant program designed to identify and provide comprehensive resources to ease student transitions into and through college and on to graduate education and professional life. Services provided by the Project include: academic advising, priority enrollment (for freshmen and sophomores), career and personal counseling, tutoring, laptop and calculator loan program, assistance with applying to graduate school and travel to area cultural sites. The Project serves 170 students. To qualify, students must be either first-generation college students.