Dear Student,

If you’re entering the university for the first time or even coming back after several years’ absence, you’ll need information in this catalog. It’s not the most exciting bedtime reading, but it does pack a lot of information about our academic programs into your university experience.

This catalog and our helpful staff can answer your questions, but here are answers to questions students frequently ask:

1. **Can I get financial help with university costs?**
   
   Yes, a full range of financial aid programs are available to qualified students. Becca Diskin, Director of Student Financial Aid and her staff can provide you with information and applications in Hearnes Hall, 417.625.9325, diskin-b@mssu.edu. (Financial Aid, page 28)

2. **I haven’t decided on a major yet. What do I do?**
   
   Southern has trained academic advisers to help you discover what your best interests and attributes might be. Visit with Kelly Wilson, Director of Advising, Counseling and Testing Services (ACTS), Hearnes Hall, 417.625.9324, wilson-k@mssu.edu. (ACTS, page 22)

3. **I’m concerned about the transition from high school to college. Is there someone to help?**
   
   Yes, the Advising, Counseling and Testing Services (ACTS) department can help here too, as well as your First-Year Experience class. Visit with Faustina Abrahams, First-Year Advising Coordinator, Hearnes Hall, 417.625.9521, abrahams-f@mssu.edu, or Susan Craig, Director, First-Year Experience Program, Hearnes Hall, 417.625.9732, craig-s@mssu.edu. (ACTS, page 22 and/or First-Year Experience Program, page 51, 232)

4. **Do you have an Honors Program?**
   
   Southern has an excellent and challenging Honors Program which includes opportunities for international travel. Talk to Michael Howarth, Director of Honors Program, Webster Hall 118, 417.625.3005, howarth-m@mssu.edu. (Honors Program, page 51, 233)

5. **What activities and organizations are available?**
   
   A host of special events, student activities and departmental organizations are available throughout the year. Drop by the Student Activities Office, Billingsly Student Center, 210, 417.625.9346, cashel-m@mssu.edu (Student Activities, page 35. See also individual departments.)

Additional information is available at the Southern website:  
www.mssu.edu