

Welcome to Southern

Your university experience here at Southern will present you with many decisions, choices and opportunities; it will offer you many new and exciting areas in which you can expand and grow. The next few years you spend as an undergraduate student occur at a very special time in your life. In order to take advantage of this opportunity, you should always keep in mind that while professors may profess and teachers may teach, only the student can learn. Learning is up to you. Today a university degree is as common as a high school diploma once was. By itself it will not guarantee success. What will count in the future will be how much you know rather than what pieces of parchment you happen to possess.

“College is what you make it” is more than a cliché; it is an accurate statement. It is our hope that you have a rich and rewarding experience at Southern, one which will tip the opportunities of the future in your direction.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doug Carnahan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'D'.

Doug Carnahan
Dean of Students

Statement of Principles

Missouri Southern State University-Joplin has an obligation to its students and to the larger society of which it is a part to provide the fullest opportunity for a free exchange and critical evaluation of diverse viewpoints. This means freedom to teach, freedom to learn, freedom to discuss and freedom to expose ideas to the critical analysis appropriate to the University setting. In order to accomplish this objective, the administration, faculty and students have a continuing responsibility for preserving the use of the institution's freedom to teach, to discuss and to explore.

The University's dedication to the spirit of free inquiry requires the examination and evaluation of controversial viewpoints, but obviously does not require the endorsement of such viewpoints. Divergent points of view must be recognized, but at the same time kept within a framework of orderly conduct in accordance with human dignity, respect for the individual and the responsibilities of the University.