

TO: EXCEL/SSS Students
FROM: Elaine Belovich, Director
Matt Sopko, Assistant Director
SUBJECT: Fall Semester 2009 Highlights
DATE: August 17th, 2009

Welcome to the Fall Semester 2009! **Read on** to find out what EXCEL has in store for you!

Tutoring: Tutoring Coordinator Bernie Ratliff and Academic Specialist Rachel Neumeier will be joined this semester by veteran tutors Heather Farris (math and science) Samatha Dougherty (all business courses, English, social studies), and Andy Vollertsen (math through trigonometry, chemistry, and social studies). Andy began tutoring for us this summer, so he will be new to many of you. The EXCEL tutoring staff is prepared to offer tutoring in all general education courses, advanced math and science courses, and many electives. Most tutoring is individual tutoring by appointment. Group tutoring is also an option and, when necessary/feasible, **email and phone tutoring may be provided.**

Fall Activities Schedule (attached): Attending at least one workshop is a requirement for SSS Grant Aid unless you have a work or class conflict. The first field trip is to the Repertory Theatre in St. Louis, so be sure to sign up early. Trips are also scheduled for Southeast Missouri State University and the University of Missouri-St. Louis. See the attached schedule for details.

EXCEL Passes are available to some MAC-sponsored cultural events where there is an admittance fee. The passes will admit you at no charge! These events, as well as EXCEL field trips, may satisfy "outside-class" events required by some instructors.

EXCEL/SSS Computer Lab: Seven student computers are available for student use in the EXCEL Office, including one with study skills programs. One computer (in the back tutoring office) is equipped with assistive technology for students with special needs. Please feel free to use our computers for research, homework, etc.

Email: We frequently send emails to update you on scholarships, deadlines, workshops, events, and trips. Check your email frequently in the EXCEL Office. **Email is sent to your MAC email address, not your personal email address.**

FaceBook: Can you believe it? **EXCEL is now on FaceBook!** Be patient with us – Student Assistant Julie Wade is still trying to teach us the ropes!

Laptop, Tape Recorder, Calculator, & Video Loaner Program: Seven laptops are available for short-term loans, including one new laptop! Students may also borrow tape recorders, scientific calculators, and study and personal development skills videos.

December GRADS: If you plan to graduate in December, 2009, your graduation application and completed degree plan must be submitted to the Registrar no later than **Monday, September 14th**. Matt or Elaine will be happy to help you complete your degree plan.

SSS Grant Aid: The minimum SSS Grant Aid award this year is \$976. SSS Grant Aid will be disbursed in the Spring Semester to a maximum of 34 students. An information letter and the application are available in the EXCEL/SSS Office or on the EXCEL/SSS web site:

<http://www.mineralarea.edu/students/studentResources/TRIOProgram/excel/default.aspx>

EXCEL/SSS Scholarship: One \$500 EXCEL/SSS Scholarship will be awarded this fall. Eligibility requirements and an application are available in the EXCEL Office or on the web site above. **Deadline is Monday, September 28th.**








Minimum EXCEL/SSS Participation Requirements: EXCEL/SSS students are required to meet with Matt or Elaine three times each semester – at the beginning, middle, and end. Student Action Plans (SAP) will be developed at the beginning of each semester and reviewed at the end of the semester. The purpose of the mid-semester meeting is to review progress, develop intervention strategies, if necessary, to ensure a successful semester, and plan course schedules for the next semester. ***Minimum participation requirements*** must be met in order to be eligible for tutoring and field trips and to check-out laptops and other equipment.

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EXCEL succeeds if you succeed! Improve your chance of success by seeking help sooner rather than later! Use our resources, schedule appointments with us, and let us know how we can help you succeed at MAC.

If you have special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act and need this publication in an alternative format, notify us at (573) 518-2131. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate your special needs.

EXCEL/SSS FALL 2009 ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

What	When	Time	Where	Presenter	Topic
 EXCEL/SSS Open House	Monday Aug. 17	9:00 AM to 1:00 PM	EXCEL/SSS Office, A & S Bldg., Rm. C7	EXCEL/SSS Staff	Cookies, lemonade, and conversation! Join us!
 Workshop -- Building Self-Confidence	Wednesday Sept. 2	10:00 AM to 10:50 AM	A & S Bldg., Rm. C9	Matt Sopko, EXCEL/SSS Assistant Director	What can you do to recognize and build on your own capabilities, and how can you avoid attitudes and habits that sabotage your own success?
 Field Trip -- Amadeus at the Repertory Theatre	Sunday Sept. 13	9:00 AM to 5:00 PM	Meet at the EXCEL/SSS Office, Rm. C7	Rachel Neumeier, EXCEL/SSS Academic Specialist	Join EXCEL for a "towering story of diabolical greed and soul-shattering guilt, outrageous genius and glorious music." Winner of the Tony Award for Best Play.
 Workshop -- Learning Styles	Wednesday Sept. 16	10:00 AM to 10:50 AM	A & S Bldg., Rm. C9	Rachel Neumeier, EXCEL/SSS Academic Specialist	What are "Learning Styles"? What does it mean if you have an "auditory" or "visual" learning style, and what does it NOT mean, and how can you use this concept to maximize your academic success?
 Workshop -- Long Distance Learning	Wednesday Sept. 30	10:00 AM to 10:50 AM	A & S Bldg., Rm. C9	Rachel Neumeier, EXCEL/SSS Academic Specialist	Are you enrolled in a Learning Center class or an Online course or Telecourse? Then you'll be learning without the structure of a classroom and lecture. Come find out how to make sure you succeed in these types of courses.
 SEMO Show-Me Day	Saturday Oct. 3	8:15 AM to 5:00 PM	Meet at the EXCEL/SSS Office, Rm. C7	Elaine Belovich, EXCEL/SSS Director	Thinking of transferring to SEMO? Join EXCEL/SSS staff and students to visit the campus; then you can decide if SEMO would be right for you.
 Workshop -- Financial Literacy	Wednesday Oct. 14	10:00 AM to 10:50 AM	A & S Bldg., Rm. C9	Denise Sebastian, Financial Aid Director	Don't give up on college because of limited financial resources! Become savvy about the many small scholarships, grants, and loans available to students that could provide a financial boost for your college career.

EXCEL/SSS FALL 2009 ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

continued



Workshop -- Test Taking Tips

Wednesday
Oct. 21

10:00 AM to
10:50 AM

A & S Bldg.,
Rm. C9

Rachel Neumeier,
EXCEL/SSS Academic
Specialist

What are some good strategies to handle multiple-choice, true/false, or other objective tests? How can you do as well as possible on short-answer or other subjective tests? Make sure you maximize your potential score with these proven techniques.



Workshop -- Writing Well

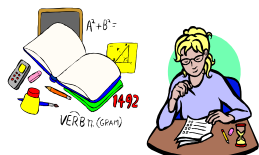
Wednesday
Oct. 28

10:00 AM to
10:50 AM

A & S Bldg.,
Rm. C9

Bernie Ratliff,
EXCEL/SSS Tutor
Coordinator and
Rachel Neumeier,
EXCEL/SSS Academic
Specialist

What makes a "quality" paper? Improve your writing grades for all your classes by editing your own paper to make it as good as it can be BEFORE you bring it to a tutor or hand it in to your instructor.



**Workshop -- Preparing for
Finals Week**

Wednesday
Nov. 11

10:00 AM to
10:50 AM

A & S Bldg.,
Rm. C9

Bernie Ratliff,
EXCEL/SSS Tutor
Coordinator

The time to start preparing for Finals Week is NOW -- not in December. How can you most effectively deal with finals with the least amount of stress?



Workshop -- Career Choices

Wednesday
Nov. 18

10:00 AM to
10:50 AM

A & S Bldg.,
Rm. C9

TBA

What are the up-and-coming jobs and careers? Given today's economy, is it even possible to guess? What can you do to help ensure you have a pleasant, prosperous future?



UMSL Open House

TBA

8:15 AM to
5:00 PM

Meet at the
EXCEL/SSS
Office, Rm. C7

Matt Sopko, EXCEL/SSS
Assistant Director

Considering going to the University of Missouri? Not sure you'd really like a really big university? Join EXCEL/SSS staff and fellow students on a visit to the UMSL campus.



**Workshop -- Success in the
Work World: What does it
really take?**

Wednesday
Dec. 2

10:00 AM to
10:50 AM

A & S Bldg.,
Rm. C9

Elaine Belovich,
EXCEL/SSS Director

Your degree is your first step toward career success. But what qualities are employers most looking for in people they hire? How can you best develop and demonstrate those qualities yourself?

EXCEL/SSS FALL 2009 ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

continued



What	When	Time	Where	Presenter	Topic
Finals Breather	Monday Dec. 7	9:00 AM to 1:00 PM	EXCEL/SSS Office, Rm. C7	EXCEL/SSS Staff	Snatch a moment out of stressful and busy preparation for finals, and drop by EXCEL/SSS for cookies and lemonade.

NOTES:

* Additional trips to four-year colleges, including all St. Louis colleges, SEMO, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, and Washington University, will be scheduled if there is sufficient student interest. Please contact Robbin or Elaine in the EXCEL/SSS Office to schedule a trip to the four-year school of your choice.

** All workshops are generally limited to the first 20 students who sign up. The sign-up sheets are at the front counter in the EXCEL/SSS Office. Field trips where advance purchase of tickets is required are generally limited to the first 18 students who sign up. Students who sign up for these trips and are "no shows" must reimburse EXCEL/SSS for the cost of the ticket UNLESS they find another EXCEL/SSS student to take their place. If there is a last-minute emergency and you will not be able to attend an event you have signed up for, please notify Robbin in the EXCEL/SSS Office as soon as possible.

*** A minimum of 18 students is required for the field trip to the Repertory Theatre. If fewer than 18 students sign-up and confirm for this trip, it will be cancelled.

For accommodations with any activity or event listed, please contact the Access Office at (573) 518-2152.

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