General
MISSION

The University of Southern Mississippi is a comprehensive research extensive university. Our primary mission is to cultivate intellectual development and creativity through the generation, dissemination, application, and preservation of knowledge.

Our mission is supported by the values that have been formed through the history and traditions of our institution. These values are widely and deeply held beliefs of our faculty, staff, students, and administrators:

~ Education encourages and advance the ideals of a pluralistic democratic society: civic responsibility, integrity, diversity, and ethical behavior.

~ Academic freedom and shared governance are long-established and living principles at the university. We cherish the free exchange of ideas, diversity of thought, joint decision making, and individuals’ assumption of responsibility.

~ We make efficient and effective use of our resources, for we are accountable to our university communities, the Board of Trustees, and taxpayers.

~ We cherish innovation in the creation and application of basic and applied research findings, creative and artistic expression, meaningful learning experiences, the scope of services provided to our students and the broader community that we sustain, and the continuing evolution of degree programs that both respond to and anticipate the evolving demands of our society, employers, and the labor market.

~ Education provides opportunities to improve the quality of intellectual, social, economic, and personal well-being. These opportunities should be available to all who are willing and able to meet our standards of excellence.

~ Our success is reflected by the degree to which our students become well-read, articulate, and creative and critical thinkers. It is measured by their display of specialized knowledge and abilities suitable to the pursuit of a career and life in our complex, ever-changing world.

Administration

Dr. Rodney D. Bennett
President
The University of Southern Mississippi

**ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH UNITS**

**College of Arts & Letters**  
Dr. Steven Moser

- Aerospace Studies (AFROTC)  
- Anthropology & Sociology  
- Art & Design  
- Communication Studies  
- Dance  
- Foreign Languages & Literatures  
- History  
- Interdisciplinary Studies  
- Mass Communication & Journalism  
- Military Science (AROTC)  
- Music  
- Philosophy & Religion  
- Political Science, International Development & International Affairs  
- Theatre

**College of Business**  
Dr. Faye Gilbert

- The School of Accountancy  
- Casino, Hospitality, & Tourism Management  
- Finance, Real Estate & Business Law  
- Management & International Business  
- Marketing & Fashion Merchandising

**College of Education & Psychology**  
Dr. Ann P. Blackwell

- Child & Family Studies  
- Curriculum, Instruction & Special Education  
- Educational Leadership & School Counseling  
- Education Studies & Research  
- Library & Information Sciences  
- Psychology

**College of Science & Technology**  
Dr. David Hayhurst

- Biological Sciences  
- Chemistry & Biochemistry  
- Criminal Justice  
- Coastal Sciences  
- Computing  
- Construction  
- Economic & Workforce Development  
- Geography & Geology

**College of Nursing**  
Dr. Katherine Nugent

- Collaborative Nursing Care  
- Advanced Practice  
- Systems Leadership & Health Outcomes

**College of Health**  
Dr. Michael Forster

- Community Health  
- Human Performance & Recreation  
- Medical Laboratory Sciences  
- Nutrition & Food Systems  
- Social Work  
- Speech & Hearing Sciences  
- Marine Sciences  
- Mathematics  
- Physics & Astronomy  
- Polymers & High Performance Materials  
- Science & Mathematics Education
The University of Southern Mississippi Administrative Structure

President
Dr. Rodney Bennett

Vice President for University Advancement
Mr. Bob Pierce

Vice President for Finance and Administration
Dr. Douglas H. Vinzant

Interim Vice President for Gulf Park Campus
Dr. Steven Miller

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. Denis Wiesenburg

Vice President for Research
Dr. Gordon Cannon

Vice President for Student Affairs
Dr. Joe Paul

Vice President for External Affairs
Mr. Chad Driskell

Executive Assistant to the President for Administration
Dr. Tom Burke

General Counsel
Mr. Jon Mark Weathers

Director Intercollegiate Athletics
Mr. Bill McGillis

Special Assistant to the President for Military & Veterans Student Affairs
Gen. Jeff Hammond

Affirmative Action
Dr. Becky Malley

Chief Communication Officer, University Communications
Mr. Jim Coll

Internal Auditor
Mr. Vijay Patel

Senior Associate Athletics Director for Compliance and Student Services
Mr. Daniel Feig

Executive Cabinet is indicated by shaded boxes.