

Broken Priorities

“You see it on every campus—an increase in administration and a decrease in full-time faculty, and an increase in the use of part-time faculty,” he [Scott Carlson] said. With that trend, along with rising tuition and falling state support, ‘you’re painting a pretty fair picture of higher ed,’ he continued. ‘It’s not what it should be. What’s broken in higher ed is the priorities, and it’s been broken for a long time.’” [Administrator Hiring Drove 28% Boom in Higher-Ed Work Force, Report Says](#) By Scott Carlson

A [quick search](#) of usmnews.net shows that [broken priorities](#) are [nothing new](#) at Southern [Miss](#). [Administrative bloat](#) is common place. Faculty salaries may remain flat, while administrative salaries continue to climb.

Tuition continues to climb while Southern Miss remains firmly mired in the [fourth tier](#). The 2015 edition of *Best Colleges* from *U.S. News & World Report* reported that after six years, Southern Miss manages to graduate only 48% of its students. This is not a statistic of which any school should be proud. College Factual reports Southern Miss’ [on time](#) graduation rate as only 2%.

A [rarely mentioned statistic](#) is a 9% average alumni giving rate. What does this mean? There are a couple of options that come to mind: (1) alumni feel little loyalty to Southern Miss or (2) the degree does not allow them to generate enough income to make contributions. Loyalty is subjective and nearly impossible to measure; money is not. According to College Factual, the average starting salary for a Southern Miss graduate is \$34,000 with a “poor” earnings boost.