

As students check into dorms to begin the semester, usmnews.net received a request to repeat the letter to the editor below. This request came accompanied by a report that we are going to see some slippery calculations in an effort to make it appear that student enrollment is at least holding steady.

*Dear usmnews.net*

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*U.S. News & World Report* doesn't tell the whole story [of the problems at USM]. My oldest started at Southern Miss and did not, for lack of a better word, thrive. For one thing, far too many of his teachers barely spoke English. Have you ever tried to learn calculus from someone whose first language is Chinese? Too many faculty and staff made him feel as if he was a necessary evil and that he was imposing on them by being there. After the first year, he left Southern Miss and went to another school where he did well.

If the people at Southern Miss want to know why enrollment is dropping, I'm giving you part of the reason.

Name withheld

Dear Name withheld,

Sadly, this is not the first time I have heard this kind of report. I do know that the graduate programs at the College of Business were so weak that many of the faculty, including me, suggested our top students go elsewhere, particularly if they were interested in an academic career. A number of them reported to me that they had to completely retake their math and statistics before really getting into their coursework.

In my opinion (for what it's worth), students at Southern Miss don't care about fancy dorms or football or the president having his/her own plane. They care about quality education and would prefer not to have to borrow a fortune to support this kind of nonsense.