

Missouri State University vs Southeast Missouri State University

A side-by-side comparison for Indian students evaluating both Missouri public universities

Particulars	Missouri State University	Southeast Missouri State University
Founded	1905	1873
City	Springfield, MO	Cape Girardeau, MO
Acceptance Rate	~93%	~86%
Total Enrollment	~22,500 – 25,000	~8,500 – 11,000
International Students	~1,200 – 1,600	~630 – 680
UG Tuition (Int'l, per year)	USD 23,760	USD 16,395
PG Tuition (Int'l, per year)	USD 17,694	USD 12,645
Courses Offered	200+	~170
Employment Rate (6 mo.)	~90 – 92%	~98% (self-reported)
US News Ranking	#358 National (2026)	#89 Regional Universities – Midwest
Scholarships Granted (approx.)	USD 85 million	USD 20+ million

Quick Read

- **Cheaper option:** SEMO is meaningfully cheaper on both UG and PG tuition (roughly 30% lower than MSU) and has a slightly easier acceptance bar.
- **Bigger, more established brand:** MSU is 2–3x larger, hosts more international students in absolute terms, offers a wider range of programs, and ranks higher nationally on US News.
- **Employment claims need verification:** SEMO's ~98% employment/further-study figure is self-reported and notably higher than typical regional-university placement rates — often a sign of a small survey response base rather than a stronger outcome. MSU's ~90–92% figure is more in line with peer institutions.
- **Course breadth:** MSU's larger catalog (200+ courses vs. ~170) matters more for students who haven't finalized a specialization.
- **Affordability vs. scale trade-off:** The core decision is whether the lower cost and smaller, closer-knit campus at SEMO outweighs MSU's larger alumni network, broader program list, and higher national ranking.

Notes on the Data

Figures are approximate, compiled from publicly available university and study-abroad platform data as of September 2026, and are intended for directional comparison only. Enrollment, fee, ranking, and placement figures vary by source and update cycle — always confirm current numbers on the official university websites (missouristate.edu and semo.edu) before making application or financial decisions.