

Winter Clothing Tips & Resources

Winter at Smith can be quite challenging if you don't have the proper winter clothes. Here's a list of helpful tips and resources to help you stay warm through the harsh winters!

Places to look for winter clothing

- ISSO Winter Clothes Closet
- Common Goods Resource Center
- Inexpensive department stores such as those at the Holyoke mall!
- Thrift Stores
- Online options (especially those with student discounts!)

ISSO Winter Clothes Closet

ISSO organizes an annual Winter Clothes Closet event each fall, where students can pick up free, gently used winter clothes and other warm clothing, including coats, boots and more! Donations are collected throughout the year and the event happens in mid-October each year.

Funding

If you have financial need, and are unable to find what you need at the winter clothes closet or the Common Goods Resource Center, you can apply for limited funding assistance for winter clothing through the Emergency Funding application on the Smith Social Network.

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We have also included some tips and tricks to help you buy more strategically!

Shopping Strategically

- Layers are key!
 - It is easier to stay warm if you layer lots of items, instead of just buying one huge coat!
 - Wool wicks moisture away, so it makes a great base layer against your skin. Cotton stays damp so it can make you sweaty if worn as a base layer!
- Shop Signatures/Basics!
 - Prioritize obtaining a selection of basic items instead of standout items, go for comfort and warmth, not fashion!
- Buy Off-Season
 - Purchase winter clothes towards the end of winter or during spring and summer, when they more likely to be on-sale!
- Shop Sales!
 - Even more upscale stores have a sale section or a discount/clearance rack. Keep an eye out for sales and student discounts! Some websites specialize in discounted brand names, too.
- Second-hand items can be great!
 - Sometimes shopping for used items can stretch your purchasing power. You may be able to get something really nice for much less.
 - Websites like Thredup.com specialize in gently-used clothing.