

SLM CORP  
Form 11-K  
June 26, 2006  
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**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
**Washington, D.C. 20549**  
**FORM 11-K**

x **ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**  
For the year ended: December 31, 2005

.. **TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**  
For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Commission File Number: 001-13251

**SALLIE MAE 401(k) SAVINGS PLAN**

**(formerly Sallie Mae Employees Thrift & Savings Plan)**

**(Full title of the Plan)**

**SLM Corporation**

**(Name of the issuer of the securities held pursuant to the Plan)**

**11600 Sallie Mae Drive**

**Reston, Virginia 20193**

**(address of principal executive office of the issuer)**

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**Sallie Mae 401(k) Savings Plan**

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**December 31, 2005 and 2004**

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\* Other schedules required by 29 CFR 2520.103-10 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA have been omitted because they were not applicable.

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**Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

To the Participants and Plan Administrator of the

Sallie Mae 401(k) Savings Plan:

In our opinion, the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Sallie Mae 401(k) Savings Plan (the Plan ) at December 31, 2005 and 2004, and the changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2005 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan s management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits of these statements in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The supplemental Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) is presented for the purpose of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Department of Labor s Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. This supplemental schedule is the responsibility of the Plan s management. The supplemental schedule has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audits of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

/s/ PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

McLean, VA

June 26, 2006

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**Sallie Mae 401(k) Savings Plan**

**Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits**

**As of December 31, 2005 and 2004**

|   | <b>2005</b>    | <b>2004</b>    |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| Assets  |                |                |
| Interest in Sallie Mae 401(k) Savings Plan Master Trust | \$ 357,076,873 | \$ 316,442,589 |
| Employer Contributions Receivable                       | 311,085        | 194,199        |
| Net assets available for benefits                       | \$ 357,387,958 | \$ 316,636,788 |

*The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.*

**Table of Contents****Sallie Mae 401(k) Savings Plan****Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits****Year Ended December 31, 2005**

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| <b>Additions to net assets attributed to:</b>                             |                   |
| Interest in Sallie Mae 401(k) Savings Plan Master Trust investment income | \$ 23,080,214     |
| <b>Contributions</b>  |                   |
| Employer, net of forfeitures  | 15,680,048        |
| Participant   | 18,090,705        |
| Rollovers   | 2,880,785         |
|   | <b>36,651,538</b> |
| Total additions   | 59,731,752        |
| <b>Deductions from net assets attributed to:</b>                          |                   |
| Benefits paid to participants   | 21,701,270        |
| Net Transfers out (Note 1)  | 73,623            |
| Total deductions  | 21,774,893        |
| Net increase prior to plan merger   | 37,956,859        |
| Plan merger (Note 1)  | 2,794,311         |
| Net increase  | 40,751,170        |
| Net assets available for benefits   |                   |
| Beginning of year   | 316,636,788       |
| End of year   | \$ 357,387,958    |

*The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.*

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**Sallie Mae 401(k) Savings Plan**

**Notes to Financial Statements**

**December 31, 2005 and 2004**

**1. Plan Description**

**General**

The Sallie Mae 401(k) Savings Plan (the Plan) is a defined contribution plan established for the benefit of eligible employees electing to participate in the Plan (the Participants). The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as amended. The following description of the Plan provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan document for a more complete description of the Plan's provision.

With the exception of employees who are participants of the Sallie Mae DMO 401(k) Savings Plan, the Plan covers substantially all employees of SLM Corporation and its subsidiaries (the Employer and Plan Administrator). Eligible employees may enter the Plan after one month of service.

**Contributions and vesting**

Participants are eligible to contribute from 1 to 75 percent of their compensation effective June 1, 2005, in increments of whole percentages, to the Plan under salary reduction agreements up to the Internal Revenue Service maximum of \$14,000 in 2005. Prior to June 1, 2005, the maximum was 25 percent. The Plan allows participants who have attained age 50 to make additional contributions up to the IRS maximum of \$4,000 for 2005. Participants may also contribute amounts rolled over from qualified employer plans in which they had previously participated.

After one year of service, the Employer contributes an amount equal to 100 percent of Participant contributions up to 6 percent of the Participant's eligible compensation. These contributions and earnings thereon vest immediately.

Effective July 1, 2004, the Plan provides for a 2 percent core contribution to eligible Participants who are no longer accruing benefits in the defined benefit plan. These contributions are 100% vested after one year of service. Over the next five years, the Pension Plan will be frozen with respect to additional Participants based on years of service. Employees as of June 30, 2004, who have five to nine years of service will continue to accrue benefits under the Pension Plan until June 30, 2006, while employees as of June 30, 2004, who have ten or more years of service will continue to accrue benefits under the Pension Plan through June 30, 2009. Former USA Group employees who participated in the Pension Plans and had fewer than five years of service accrued benefits until December 31, 2005.

During 2005, Employer contributions were reduced by \$23,294 from previously forfeited nonvested accounts. Unused forfeitures at December 31, 2005 and 2004 totaled \$30,783 and \$4,225, respectively, which will be used to offset future Employer contributions.

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**Sallie Mae 401(k) Savings Plan**

**Notes to Financial Statements**

**December 31, 2005 and 2004**

**Participant loans**

Participants may borrow up to 50 percent of their vested benefit to a maximum of \$50,000. Participants may have no more than two loans outstanding at any time. The term of a loan shall equal three or five years, at the election of the Participant, except in the case of a loan that is used in regards to the Participant's principal residence, which must be repaid over 20 years. Loans are secured by the Participant's account balance, bear interest rates equal to the prime rate established monthly by the Federal Reserve, and are repaid biweekly through automatic payroll deductions. In addition, Participants may repay all or a portion (in \$500 increments) of such loans at any time.

**Investment elections**

Fidelity Management Trust Company ( Fidelity ) is the Plan Trustee. An affiliate, Fidelity Investments Institutional Operations Company, Inc. (FIIOC), serves as recordkeeper. Contributions are invested, based on Participants' instructions, in any of the various investment options selected by the Retirement Committee. Through the Sallie Mae 401(k) Savings Plan Master Trust, the Plan offers various mutual funds, an employer stock fund, a money market fund, and a self-directed brokerage option. Under the self-directed brokerage option, Participants may direct investments in any security or other investments offered by Fidelity, regardless of whether they are included as investment options offered by the Plan. In order to participate in the self-directed brokerage option, Participants must have a minimum Plan balance of \$10,000 and at least \$500 must remain in the other available funds.

**Participant accounts**

Each Participant's account is credited with the Participant's and Employer's contributions and their portion of the Plan's earnings (losses). Plan earnings (losses) are allocated based on the Participant's designated investments of their account balances, as defined. The benefit to which a Participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the Participant's vested account.

**Payment of benefits**

Participants may withdraw funds from their account upon retirement, disability, separation from employment, attainment of age 59-1/2, and certain other times as specified in the Plan Document. Distributions shall be made in a lump sum, reduced by the outstanding balance of any loans not repaid by the Participant.

**Administrative expenses**

Participants pay fees for loans and withdrawals, and terminated Participants pay annual maintenance fees. Additionally, Participants may pay for commissions associated with common stock purchases and sales and short term transaction fees in certain funds when Participants trade in and out of the fund within 90 days. The Participant costs are charged directly to the Participant's account and are reflected in the statement of changes in net assets available for benefits as a component of investment income/(loss). The Employer bears the remaining cost of Plan administration.

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**Sallie Mae 401(k) Savings Plan**

**Notes to Financial Statements**

**December 31, 2005 and 2004**

**Plan administration**

Members of the Retirement Committee and Trustees of the Plan were appointed by the Board of Directors of the Corporation. The Plan paid no compensation for their services.

**Plan mergers and transfers**

Plan assets of the Southwest Student Services Corporation Employee Retirement Plan in the amount of \$2,794,311 were merged with and into the Plan in November 2005. From time to time, employee transfers between companies may occur, which in turn may affect the plan in which they participate. Net plan transfers of \$73,623 to the Sallie Mae DMO 401(k) Savings Plan relate to such employee transfers.

**2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

**Basis of accounting**

The Plan maintains its accounting records on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.



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### **Sallie Mae 401(k) Savings Plan**

### **Notes to Financial Statements**

### **December 31, 2005 and 2004**

#### **Investment valuation and income recognition**

Investments held by the Sallie Mae 401(k) Savings Plan Master Trust (the Master Trust ) consist of various mutual funds, a unitized employer stock fund, a money market fund, and a self-directed brokerage option. Money market funds are carried at cost, which approximates fair value. Common stock, securities and brokerage account investments traded on national securities exchanges are carried at market value based on the closing price on the last business day of the year. The fair value of mutual funds is determined based on the net asset value for shares held by the Master Trust at year-end. Investments traded in the over-the-counter market and listed securities for which no sale was reported on that date are valued at the average of the last reported bid and asked prices. Loans to Participants are carried at cost, which approximates fair value.

The Master Trust information in Note 4 presents the net appreciation in the fair value of its investments, which consists of realized gains or losses and unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on those investments. Dividend income is recorded on the ex-dividend date. Interest earned on investments is recorded on the accrual basis. Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on the trade date.

#### **Contributions**

Contributions made by employees electing to participate in the Plan under salary reduction agreements and Employer contributions are recorded when payable into the Plan.

#### **Use of estimates**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and changes therein, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Such estimates include those regarding fair value. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

#### **Risks and uncertainties**

The Plan, through the Master Trust, provides for various investment options. Such investments are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is reasonably possible that changes in the value of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect Participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the statement of net assets available for benefits.

#### **Benefit payments**

Benefits are recorded when paid.

### **3. Investments**

The individual investment representing 5 percent or more of the fair value of net assets available for benefits is the interest in the Master Trust which was \$357,076,873 and \$316,442,589 at December 31, 2005 and 2004, respectively.

**Table of Contents****Sallie Mae 401(k) Savings Plan****Notes to Financial Statements****December 31, 2005 and 2004****4. Interest in Master Trust**

At December 31, 2005 and 2004, the Plan's investment assets were held in a trust account with Fidelity and consist of a specific interest in the Master Trust. The Master Trust also includes the defined contribution retirement plan investment assets of the Sallie Mae DMO 401(k) Savings Plan and, until the merger with and into the Sallie Mae DMO 401(k) Savings Plan on June 30, 2005, the Pioneer Credit Recovery, Inc. 401(k) Plan.

The Master Trust was composed of the following investments, at fair value, at December 31, 2005 and 2004:

|                                  | 2005                  | 2004                  |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Mutual Funds                     | \$ 244,395,157        | \$ 226,188,976        |
| Sallie Mae Stock Fund            | 68,417,290            | 65,451,833            |
| Money Market Funds               | 56,643,280            | 29,803,674            |
| Common Stock/Preferred Stock     | 3,121,669             | 3,534,654             |
| Corporate Bonds/Government Bonds | 737,524               | 942,951               |
| Participant Loans                | 9,019,756             | 7,973,284             |
| <b>Total Master Trust Assets</b> | <b>\$ 382,334,676</b> | <b>\$ 333,895,372</b> |

The net investment income of the Master Trust for the year ended December 31, 2005 is summarized as follows:

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| Dividends  | \$ 11,120,484        |
| Interest   | 399,181              |
| Net appreciation (depreciation) in fair value of investments related to: |                      |
| Mutual Funds   | 10,959,590           |
| Sallie Mae Stock Fund  | 2,162,509            |
| Common Stock/Preferred Stock   | (184,419)            |
| Corporate Bonds/Government Bonds   | (23,406)             |
|  | <b>\$ 24,433,939</b> |

The Plan's specific interest in the Master Trust was approximately 93% and 95% at December 31, 2005 and 2004, respectively. Investment income and administrative expenses relating to the Master Trust are allocated to the individual plans based upon the specific transactions occurring in the individual plans.

**5. Plan Termination**

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Employer has the right under the Plan to discontinue its contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of ERISA. In the event of Plan termination, Participants would become 100 percent vested in their employer contributions.



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**Sallie Mae 401(k) Savings Plan**

**Notes to Financial Statements**

**December 31, 2005 and 2004**

**6. Related-Party Transactions**

Certain Plan investments are shares of mutual funds or amounts of the Sallie Mae Stock Fund managed by Fidelity. Fidelity is the trustee as defined by the Plan and therefore these transactions qualify as party-in-interest. Fees paid by the Plan, through the Master Trust for administrative services were \$74,901 for the year ended December 31, 2005.

Additionally, within the Master Trust, the Plan has investments in the Sallie Mae Stock Fund comprised principally of SLM Corporation stock. At December 31, 2005 and 2004, the Plan held 1,643,087 and 1,626,932 units in the Master Trust, respectively, valued at \$66,466,782 and \$63,694,394, respectively. During 2005, 324,974 units in the amount of \$12,228,958 were purchased and 308,819 units in the amount of \$11,571,122 were sold related to the Sallie Mae Stock Fund. Such transactions qualify as party-in-interest transactions, as SLM Corporation is the Plan's sponsor.

**7. Income Tax Status**

The Internal Revenue Service has determined and informed the Plan by letter dated March 18, 1999, that the Plan is designed in accordance with applicable sections of the Internal Revenue Code (the "IRC"). Although the Plan has been amended since the date of the letter, the Plan administrator believes that the Plan and related trust are operating in accordance with the Internal Revenue Code ("IRC") and are qualified under Section 401(a) of the IRC and the Plan is therefore not subject to tax under present income tax law.

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**SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE**

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**SALLIE MAE**

**401(k) SAVINGS PLAN**

**SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (HELD AT END OF YEAR)**

**December 31, 2005**

| Identity of issuer, borrower of similar entity | Description of Investment  | Cost** | Current value |
|--|--|--------|---------------|
| <b>Participant Loans:</b>                      |  |        |               |
| Plan Participants *                            | Loans held in the Master Trust allowable under the plan instrument, collateralized by Participant account balances, due in varying installments through 2031, with interest rates ranging from 4.0% to 10.5% |        | \$ 7,883,496  |

\* Denotes a party-in-interest

\*\* Not applicable

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**SIGNATURE**

*The Plan.* Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934 the Plan Administrator has duly caused this annual report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

**SALLIE MAE 401(k) SAVINGS PLAN**

(Full title of the Plan)

Date: June 26, 2006

By: /s/ C.E. Andrews  
C.E. Andrews  
Executive Vice President,  
Accounting and Risk Management