



BELLES BULLETIN

A quarterly review of all things Saint Mary's
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IN THIS EDITION

From the Director
Fall Event Dates
Major Spotlights
College Fair Scanners
Test Optional

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Welcome back to a brand new school year! We hope you enjoyed well-deserved relaxing and fun summers! Once again, our office plans to send out a quarterly e-newsletter this year to our school counselor partners. We hope to keep you updated on what's happening here at Saint Mary's so you can share info with all your incredible young women.

Saint Mary's saw a 12% increase in enrollment this fall and the most diverse first-year class in the history of the College. Our students came from nearly 40 states, 3 countries, and 22% come from underrepresented populations. We believe that diversity in cultures, backgrounds, experiences, and thoughts enrich the educational and co-educational experiences of our students at Saint Mary's. Through increased diversity, we see greater rigor in the classroom and intangible assets such as richer discussions, a more thoughtful debate of ideas, and greater personal and intellectual growth of our students. The first year class is transitioning well, enjoying the first few weeks of school, and loving that our Fighting Irish are 3-0 this season and ranked 8th in the country!

This fall, our admission counselors are traveling to 23 states, 9 countries, and visiting hundreds of high schools. Applications are rolling in and we'll begin reading them in mid-October. From that point on, we'll send out decisions with priority toward early decision applicants followed by regular decision applicants.

When you find a few minutes, check out info about our new Test Optional Policy, our new academic major in Environmental Studies, and our new criminology program. On behalf of our entire admission team, I want to thank you for the continued support you give to your students and to our staff. We look forward to working with you this year and wish you all the best this fall.

- Sarah Gallagher Dvorak '99, Director of Admission

FALL EVENT DATES

Spotlight Saturday - November 17, 2018

If your student cannot attend an event during the week, encourage them to join us on the weekend! During this event, students will have the opportunity to hear an admission presentation, take a guided tour of campus, learn more about Saint Mary's from the student perspective, and eat lunch in the Dining Hall. All high school students are welcome to join! Space is limited.

Senior Preview Days

Senior Preview Days are designed specifically for high school seniors only. Prospective students will be matched with a current Saint Mary's student who will be their hostess for the day. Students attend classes, eat lunch in the Dining Hall, and explore the residence halls. Parents will have the opportunity to learn more about the admission process, financial aid, faculty interaction, student life, and much more.

- Monday, September 24, 2018
- Monday, October 8, 2018 (Columbus Day)
- Monday, November 12, 2018
- Monday, February 18, 2019 (Presidents' Day)

[Click here to register for all events.](#)

MAJOR SPOTLIGHTS

Psychology



Encourage your students to jump-start their [psychology major](#)! If they have taken an AP or IB psychology course in high school and earned a B+ or higher, we will waive the Introductory Psychology requirement and enroll students in a sophomore-level psychology course in their first semester. In Fall 2018, one such course is Child Psychology. In this course, students learn observational and developmental assessment techniques as they work with children at our Early Childhood Development Center! Other sophomore-level courses include Cultural Psychology, Neuropsychology, and Personality Psychology.

By jump-starting their college major or minor, students will have access to many advanced psychology opportunities earlier than normal. Students have the opportunity to develop counseling skills in our Clinical Psychology course, take part in a psychology internship, and gain hands-on experience in the community in our supervised Clinical Practicum. Valuable research skills are honed as students work together on collaborative research projects, pursue independent research, and assist faculty in a research lab.

New Criminology Concentration

Saint Mary's now offers a concentration in criminology through the [Department of Sociology](#)! Through this program, students are able to demonstrate knowledge of the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, and findings in criminology. Students learn to articulate the impact of inequality on crime, victimhood, and the criminal justice system. Students are able to locate, interpret, analyze, and/or produce empirical data about crime and/or its impact.

Courses with a criminology focus include the following: Crime and Society, Gender and Law, Juvenile Delinquency, Social Inequalities in Health, Social Psychology, and Policing and Society. This new concentration prepares students for a variety of careers including paths in business, research, human resources, social services, criminal justice, and more.

New Environmental Studies Major



Saint Mary's now offers a major in Environmental Studies. Previously a minor, this new major is designed for students who want to make a difference in the world through caring for the environment, enhancing the sustainability of society, and deepening their understanding of the beauty, dignity, and the irreplaceable value of the living world. A major in Environmental Studies will increase student knowledge on how natural and human systems interact and focus on how environmental decision making happens in society.

This program integrates students' diverse interests. Students can concentrate their environmental studies major in Environmental STEM; Global Environmental Policy; Nature, Culture, Arts; or Spirituality, Justice, Ethics. The Environmental Studies major prepares students for work in green jobs and for taking leadership in local and global movements for environmental change.

[Click here to learn more about our undergraduate programs.](#)

COLLEGE FAIR SCANNERS

Please encourage your students to sign up for [GoToCollegeFairs](#) and/or [StriveScan](#) when attending college fairs. Using scanners is a more efficient way to exchange student information. If students are attending local NACAC fairs, remind them to sign up ahead of time so that colleges can quickly scan their barcode!



TEST OPTIONAL

Saint Mary's has decided to adopt a test-optional admission alternative starting with students applying for Fall 2019 admission. When applying, students will be able to indicate whether or not they would like their test scores considered in the admission and scholarship decision process. Both our external and internal research demonstrates that high school record - grades and the rigor of coursework - is the most important factor in the review process and best predicts how students perform at the college level.

Requirements to apply test-optional

- Minimum GPA of 3.2 out of a 4.0 grading scale
- Must submit an academic writing sample (analytical paper, expository essay, research report, etc.)
- Must submit an academic recommendation from a teacher who taught the student from 10-12 grades

Please note that international and homeschooled students are not eligible to apply test-optional.

[Learn more about our admission requirements here.](#)

Find us on social media!



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