

# 2017-18 FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION

You have successfully completed the financial aid application process and received Saint Mary's College's offer of financial aid for the 2017-2018 academic year. The information in this booklet walks you through the rest of the financial aid process in five steps.

## FIVE EASY STEPS

### STEP 1

Review/Accept/Decline your financial aid

### STEP 2

Take Action on your federal loans

### STEP 3

Evaluate your options to pay the bill

### STEP 4

Report any outside scholarships

### STEP 5

Apply for student employment

## How We Determined Your Need

Financial need is the difference between the estimated cost to attend Saint Mary's College for one year minus the amount your family should be able to afford to pay (per the aid applications) for one year.

### FORMULA:

$$\text{COA (cost of attendance)} - \text{EFC (expected family contribution)} = \text{Financial Need}$$

The financial aid cost of attendance (COA) includes estimates of all expenses a typical student will have during the school year, even expenses that the family will not pay to Saint Mary's College. The expected family contribution (EFC) comes from your financial aid applications. To find your exact cost of attendance, expected family contribution, and calculated financial need, log onto PRISM.

## STEP 1: Review/Accept/Decline Your Financial Aid

Carefully review your offer of financial aid and accept or decline the awards on PRISM

- Login to PRISM at [saintmarys.edu/prism](http://saintmarys.edu/prism)
- Click on "Enter Secure Area"
- Enter your Saint Mary's Student ID # and PIN
- If this is the FIRST time you will be logging onto PRISM:
  - Your initial PIN will be your birth date in MMDDYY format
  - You will be prompted that your PIN has expired and will be asked to enter a new PIN. The PIN is case-sensitive
  - You will be asked to confirm your new PIN and enter answers for two security questions
- You should now see the Main Menu
- Click on Financial Aid > My Award Information > Award for Aid Year
- Select the 2017-2018 aid year
- Go to the Accept Award Offer tab and accept/decline/reduce the loan(s) and/or Federal Work Study offered to you

**Take action on awards beginning May 1**

## December

Notification of financial aid for admitted freshmen and transfer students begins

## May

Accept, decline, or reduce financial aid awards on PRISM

Complete the Federal Direct Loan Master Promissory Note (MPN) and Entrance Counseling at [studentloans.gov](http://studentloans.gov)

Apply for an additional loan, if needed

## July 1

Report all outside scholarships (or as soon as received)

## July

Bill is sent for the Fall 2017 semester

## August 1

Student job postings are available online  
Submit High School Transcript

## August 1 & January 1

Enroll in the payment plan if desired



[finaid@saintmarys.edu](mailto:finaid@saintmarys.edu)

574-284-4557

866-502-7788 toll free

574-284-4818 fax

Office hours: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Monday through Friday

(summer hours may vary)

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## STEP 2: Take Action on Your Federal Loans

Federal loans are awarded based on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) each academic year. Borrowing to pay for college expenses allows the student to take some responsibility for her education by deferring payment until after leaving school. First-time borrowers at Saint Mary's must electronically sign a Master Promissory Note (MPN) and complete online Entrance Counseling for each loan program in order for the funds to disburse to the student account. Visit [studentloans.gov](http://studentloans.gov) to complete the Direct Loan MPN and entrance counseling.

**Note: if you declined your loans in STEP 1, do not complete STEP 2.**

### Federal Direct Loan Information

The Direct Student Loan program offers a low interest rate, and repayment begins six months after the student leaves school or drops below half-time enrollment. There is a 1.069% origination fee.

### There are two kinds of Direct Student Loans:

**Subsidized:** Subsidized Direct Student Loans are awarded to students with financial need (per the FAFSA). No interest accrues while the student is enrolled at least half time. (6 credit hours)

**Unsubsidized:** Unsubsidized Direct Student Loans are awarded to students who have no financial need (per the FAFSA). Interest begins accruing once the loan is disbursed.

2017-2018 interest rates, which will be fixed for the life of the loan, will be published soon after July 1, 2017 and will be based on the 10 year Treasury note. As an example, the 2016-2017 interest rate was 3.76%.

Accept loans AFTER May 1, 2017, but BEFORE August 1, 2017. (the final deadline to apply and submit necessary documents is the last week of classes)

Complete the **MPN** and **Entrance Counseling** between May 1, 2017 and August 1, 2017 ([studentloans.gov](http://studentloans.gov)).

Direct Student Annual Loan Limits			Bachelor Degree Maximum Loan Limits
	Dependent Students	Independent Students	
Freshmen	\$5,500	\$9,500	<b>Dependent Undergraduates:</b> \$31,000 (no more than \$23,000 of which may be subsidized) <b>Independent Undergraduates:</b> \$57,500 (no more than \$23,000 of which may be subsidized)
Sophomores	\$6,500	\$10,500	
Juniors	\$7,500	\$12,500	
Seniors	\$7,500	\$12,500	

## STEP 3: Evaluate Your Options to Pay the Bill

The Student Accounts Office emails billing statements to the student at her Saint Mary's email address in mid-July for the fall semester, and in December for the spring semester.

### How to access Touch Net

- Sign into [My.Saintmarys.edu](http://My.Saintmarys.edu)
- Click "Student Academics" tab in the top left corner
- Click on blue "Pay Your Bill" icon in the middle of the page. This will automatically sign students into Touch Net account.

### Payment Plan

Saint Mary's College works with TouchNet Information Systems to offer our families the option of paying the yearly tuition and fees over time. Visit [www.saintmarys.edu/student-accounts](http://www.saintmarys.edu/student-accounts) for more info.

**Fall 2017:** Enroll in payment plan no later than August 14. First payment is due August 15, 2017.

**Spring 2018:** Enroll in payment plan no later than January 14. First payment is due January 15, 2018.

### Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan Information

- Repayment begins after the loan is fully disbursed. Parents have the option to defer payment until after the student is no longer enrolled, but interest does accrue during this deferral.
- There is a 4.276% origination fee.
- The interest rate for 2017-2018 will be published soon after July 1, 2017 and will be based on the 10 year Treasury note. As an example, the 2016-2017 interest rate was 6.31%.
- The maximum amount parents can borrow is the cost of attendance minus all financial aid the student has been awarded. Note that you may view your exact cost of attendance on PRISM.
- A credit check is required for this loan. If a parent is denied the loan due to credit, the student may then borrow an

additional amount of Unsubsidized Direct Student Loan (up to \$4,000 for freshmen and sophomores, up to \$5,000 for juniors and seniors).

### Apply for the Federal Direct PLUS Loan

- Visit [saintmarys.edu/directplus](http://saintmarys.edu/directplus) for information about how to apply for a Federal Direct PLUS Loan
- Please apply for the full aid year unless the student will be attending ONLY one term.

Please apply **AFTER** May 1, 2017, but **BEFORE** August 1, 2017. (the final deadline to apply and submit necessary documents is the last week of classes – not the last day of finals)

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## Alternative Loans

- Various lenders offer these commercial loans to students specifically for college costs. Repayment begins after the student graduates or is no longer enrolled.
- These loans require a student to have a satisfactory credit history and/or a credit worthy co-signer.
- The maximum amount students can borrow is the cost of attendance minus all financial aid the student has been awarded. Note that you may view your exact cost of attendance on PRISM.
- Visit [saintmarys.edu/alternative](http://saintmarys.edu/alternative) for information about how to apply for an Alternative Loan.
- Please apply for the full aid year unless the student will be

attending **ONLY** one term.

### Research Alternative Education Loans at FASTChoice

- Navigate to [choice.fastproducts.org/FastChoice/home/183600/1](http://choice.fastproducts.org/FastChoice/home/183600/1)
- Click on Continue to review tutorial about borrowing
- When you reach Compare Loan Option, select Expand All to view all Alternative Loan Options for Saint Mary's

Please apply **AFTER** May 1, 2017, but **BEFORE** August 1, 2017 to ensure sufficient time for processing (the final deadline to apply and submit necessary documents is the last week of classes – not the last day of finals)

## STEP 4: Report Any Outside Scholarships

According to federal regulations, scholarships received from any organization are considered a resource available to meet your financial aid eligibility. Financial aid recipients must report

all outside scholarships from sources such as scholarships from Kiwanis, community foundations, ROTC, etc.

### Outside Scholarship Information

- Adjustments in aid may occur if all need-based assistance exceeds financial aid eligibility, the total of all tuition-specific awards exceeds the cost of tuition, or the value of all awards exceeds the total cost of attendance.
- Students are responsible for following through with the scholarship donor to make sure the funds are sent directly to the Student Accounts Office in a timely manner.
- Checks must be properly endorsed to ensure the appropriate credit to the student's account.
- Scholarships in the amount of \$500 or more will be split evenly between the fall and spring semesters
- Outside scholarship funds will show on the bill and be taken

into account with the payment plan amount due, once they have been received and processed

### Report Outside Scholarships

Go to [saintmarys.edu/prism](http://saintmarys.edu/prism)

Login > Click on Financial Aid tab

My Award Information > Award for Aid Year > Resources/Additional Information

- Enter Outside Scholarship(s)
- Click Submit Information

Outside scholarships may also be reported by sending a copy of the scholarship letter or check to the Financial Aid Office.

**Report all outside scholarships by July 1, 2017 or as soon as received.**

## STEP 5: Apply for Student Employment

All Saint Mary's students may utilize student employment to earn money toward their education expenses. Visit [saintmarys.edu/student-employment](http://saintmarys.edu/student-employment) for more information.

## STEP 6: High School Transcript

If you are a new student to Saint Mary's College, make sure your high school sends your final transcript to Saint Mary's by August 1.

## Additional Information

### Merit Scholarships

The Admissions Office awards academic scholarships based on academic achievement at the time of your admission to the College. These awards are restricted to full-time tuition during the fall and spring semesters and may be renewed for a maximum of eight semesters provided the student maintains the required cumulative grade point average (transfer students might have fewer semesters of eligibility).

### Endowed Scholarships

The Financial Aid Office awards endowed scholarships to students with need. These endowed scholarships are awarded in place of the Saint Mary's grants. Usually the receipt of an endowed scholarship does not increase the total amount of aid awarded to a student. If you have been awarded an endowed scholarship, information about requirements will be emailed to

your Saint Mary's email address.

- If you have been awarded an endowed scholarship, you will be asked to write a thank you letter to your scholarship donor. **Your scholarship will not be credited to your account until after we have received your thank you letter, which is due prior to August 1, 2017.**

### Grants

The results of the FAFSA and PROFILE aid applications determine whether a student qualifies for need-based aid. Examples of need-based aid include the following grants, which do not need to be repaid. Visit [saintmarys.edu/types-of-aid](http://saintmarys.edu/types-of-aid) for more detailed information on:

- Federal Pell Grant
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG)

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## Additional Information *(continued)*

- Federal TEACH Grant
- Grants from the states of Indiana, Rhode Island, and Vermont
- Saint Mary's College Grant
- Saint Mary's College Holy Cross Grant
- Saint Mary's Mother Pauline Award
- Saint Mary's Spes Unica Award

### Payment of Aid

All aid disburses ten days before the semester begins, provided the student has completed all necessary paperwork by that date.

### Refunds

If the amount of aid exceeds the charges on the student's account, she may request a refund of the excess aid. For information about requesting a refund, please refer to the FAQ's page on the Student Accounts webpage, [www.saintmarys.edu/student-accounts](http://www.saintmarys.edu/student-accounts)

### Graduating in December

Students who plan to graduate in December are required to have the amount of their federal direct student loans prorated.

If you plan to graduate in December and your award letter does not reflect this, please contact the Financial Aid Office so that we can recalculate your federal aid eligibility.

### Consumer Information

The Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA), as amended by the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 (HEOA), requires Saint Mary's to disclose certain information to current and prospective students. These notices include information about campus security, graduation rates, our refund policy, and many other topics. You can view this information at [saintmarys.edu/about-us/consumer-information](http://saintmarys.edu/about-us/consumer-information)

### Changes to Enrollment

Eligibility for federal aid is based on the total number of credit hours a student is enrolled for a given semester. This determination is based on the number of credit hours the student maintains after the first class day that the College has predetermined for freezing class enrollment in a semester. If a student's credit hour enrollment is different from the enrollment on which her federal aid eligibility was originally calculated, her aid eligibility will be reviewed and adjusted accordingly.

## Financial Aid in Future Years

The financial aid award is applicable only to the 2017-18 academic year. Students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and perhaps the CSS PROFILE each year in order to be considered for need-based aid from Saint Mary's College.

### Financial Aid Standards of Academic Progress

To maintain eligibility for federal financial aid, students are required to meet specific minimum standards of academic progress. These standards are separate from, and in addition to, academic standards required by the College for continued enrollment. Saint Mary's College assesses the student's progress at the end of each semester. All periods of enrollment are reviewed including semesters during which no financial aid was received. For more information, please refer to the College Bulletin.

### Merit Scholarship Renewal

A student may receive a merit scholarship for a maximum of eight semesters (a transfer student may have a lesser number of eligible semesters). To renew a merit scholarship, a student is required to maintain the cumulative grade point averages, which follow:

Presidential Scholarship: 3.00	Bertrand Award: 2.50
Dean's Scholarships: 2.80	Le Mans Award: 2.50
Madeleva Scholarship: 2.70	Brother Andre Award: 2.00

**Note:** The scholarship amount remains constant, in future years even though our tuition might increase. Grades are checked once each year after the end of the spring semester, and grade point averages are **not** rounded-up.

### Need-Based Aid Renewal

If a family's financial situation is relatively unchanged from year to year and the student's housing status does not change, the amount of need-based assistance a student receives is likely to stay the same. However, in the event of any of the following occurrences, the amount of aid the student receives from Saint Mary's College is likely to change:

- The student fails to maintain the required grade point average to maintain her merit scholarship
- The number of family members and/or number of family members enrolled in an undergraduate degree program changes
- The student moves from on-campus housing to off-campus housing or vice-versa
- Parent or student income/assets significantly increases or decreases
- The student received aid in 2017-18 that was based on a special circumstances appeal that is not renewed in 2018-19

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