



Saint Mary's Mission Statement

Saint Mary's College is a Catholic, residential, women's college in the liberal arts tradition. A pioneer in the education of women, the College is an academic community where women develop their talents and prepare to make a difference in the world. Founded by the Sisters of the Holy Cross in 1844, Saint Mary's promotes a life of intellectual vigor, aesthetic appreciation, religious sensibility, and social responsibility. All members of the College remain faithful to this mission and continually assess their response to the complex needs and challenges of the contemporary world.

Statement of Philosophy and Purpose

As a center of higher education, Saint Mary's fosters an academic climate of scholarship and learning for faculty and students alike. Through excellence in teaching and the example of its own active scholarship, the faculty challenges students to expand their horizons and supports them in their intellectual pursuits. A broad-based course of study invites students to think critically and creatively about the natural world and human culture. Acknowledging the need to prepare women for an array of careers, the college insists on a liberal arts foundation for all its students. During their years at Saint Mary's, students acquire depth and breadth of knowledge, competence in quantitative skills and modern languages, the ability to think clearly about complex problems, and the capacity to community with precision and style.

As a Catholic college, Saint Mary's cultivates a community of intellectual inquiry, liturgical prayer, and social action. The College creates an open forum in which students freely and critically study the rich heritage of the Catholic tradition, raising the questions necessary to develop a mature religious life. The celebration of liturgy encourages students to explore the fullness of life and its mysteries. The College nurtures awareness and compassion for a troubled world and challenges students to promote human dignity throughout their lives. In preparing women for roles of leadership and action, Saint Mary's pays particular attention to the rights and responsibilities of women in the worlds of work, church, community, and family.

Dedicated to the personal and social growth of its students, Saint Mary's cultivates a community of students, faculty, and staff, which responds to the needs of women. In order to offer the richest educational experience possible, the college strives to bring together women of different nations, cultures, and races. It provides a residential environment where women grow in their appreciation of strengths and needs of others. Through a host of co-curricular programs on campus and in the local community, Saint Mary's initiates students in the habits of civic responsibility. Engaging in all aspects of the college experience, students acquire the hallmarks of a liberally educated woman: keen self-knowledge, lively imagination, lifelong intellectual and cultural interest, and the ability to make socially responsible choices about the future.

Vision Statement

Saint Mary's is a vibrant, diverse, Catholic college that is nationally recognized for its excellence in educating women. Saint Mary's fosters the pursuit of knowledge and a spirit of discovery, ethical leadership, spiritual development, and personal growth. Innovative undergraduate and graduate programs prepare students to engage creatively with our complex and changing world. Rooted in the tradition of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, a Saint Mary's education is animated by its mission and enriched by a holistic educational experience that vitalizes students, faculty, and staff in a common quest for a life filled with purpose and meaning.

Fundamental Principles

First Principle: *Saint Mary's is committed to providing students with an excellent intellectual and academic experience.*

Second Principle: *Saint Mary's is unwavering in its commitment to being a Catholic and Holy Cross college*

Third Principle: *Saint Mary's is committed to the education of undergraduate women.*

Fourth Principle: *Saint Mary's is committed to being a residential college.*

Fifth Principle: *Saint Mary's is committed to campus sustainability.*

Goals and Recommendations

Goal #1: Enhance Our Academic Programs

Recommendation 1: *Complete Implementation of the Sophia Program*

Recommendation 2: *Seek Authorization for and Begin Graduate Education in Selected Programs*

Recommendation 3: *Support Student-Initiated Learning Experiences*

Recommendation 4: *Reduce the Teaching Load*

Recommendation 5: *Begin an Honors Programs*

Recommendation 6: *Build on Our Strength in Study Abroad and Global Studies*

Recommendation 7: *Conduct External and Internal Evaluation of All Academic Programs*

Recommendation 8: *Support a First-Class College Library*

Goal #2: Focus our efforts to recruit and retain students

Recommendation 9: *Continue Our Excellent Retention and Completion Rates*

Recommendation 10: *Target Recruitment and Retention of U.S. Minority Students and International Students*

Recommendation 11: *Expand Intercollegiate Athletic Opportunities*

Recommendation 12: *Become More Effective at Telling the Saint Mary's Story*

Recommendation 13: *Better Assist Students to Bridge Their Growing Knowledge and Skills with Practical Experience*

Recommendation 14: *Develop a More Comprehensive Leadership Program for Students*

Goal #3: Meet the Needs of a Diverse Community

Recommendation 15: *Continue Efforts to Diversify the Faculty and Staff*

Recommendation 16: *Promote a Culture that Values and Embodies International and Multicultural Diversity*

Recommendation 17: *Promote Understanding of Socio-Economic Differences*

Goal #4: Address a Variety of Infrastructure Needs

Recommendation 18: *Develop a New Campus Master Plan*

Recommendation 19: *Improve the Campus Information Technology Services and Infrastructure*

Goal #5: Grow and Faithfully Steward College Resources

Recommendation 20: *Improve the Work Environment and Increase Compensation for Faculty and Staff*

Recommendation 21: *Grow the Endowment*

Recommendation 22: *Increase Dollars Raised and Grow Alumnae Participation in Annual Giving to the College*

Recommendation 23: *Reduce the College's Carbon Footprint*

Recommendation 24: *Continue to Address Campus Maintenance*