



## Parent & Family Newsletter

Hello Saint Mary's Parents and Families,

Happy 2026! We hope the winter break offered time to rest, recharge, and reconnect. Some of you have students who are finishing up their Jan Term courses and we hope they had an engaging deep dive into a topic they were interested in. It's been wonderful to hear about all of the experiences our students have been having both on and off campus during Jan Term.

For your calendar: Note that Jan Term Break is Monday, January 26- Friday, January 30 and no undergraduate courses are held during that time. The Spring Term starts on Monday, February 2.

As the Spring term begins, students are encouraged to settle into healthy routines, prioritize their mental well-being, and take advantage of the many campus resources designed to support them. This new term is a chance to continue healthy study and self-care habits or to start fresh if you saw your students struggling in the Fall. Remind your student that we have on-campus support with tutoring, academic coaching as well as on-campus mental health services. Asking for help is a strength and shows self-awareness and confidence; remind your student that our services on campus expect and welcome their requests for help and support.

Spring is also a great time for your student to get, or stay, involved on campus. Participating in student organizations, events, and service opportunities helps students build community and stay engaged. The Spring Involvement Fair is on February 4 from 12-2 and is an opportunity for your student to learn about all the clubs and organizations on campus they can get involved with. For our seniors, this semester is especially important, and now is the perfect time to connect with the Career Center for guidance on resumes, interviews, graduate school planning, and post-graduation opportunities. Keep reading below for ideas about how your students can engage.

We look forward to a productive and energizing Spring semester ahead!

Julie Scaff  
Asst. Vice Provost, Student Support Services

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## Jan Term Takes Off!

As one of SMC's signature programs, January Term fosters curiosity by offering distinctive teaching and learning opportunities — on or off campus, domestic or abroad — that are not available during a typical semester. Through intensive and immersive academic engagement with a single course, students and faculty strengthen their capacities for exploration, critical thinking, and creativity.

This year we have courses traveling to 15 different countries for the month of January, ranging from restoring the Amazon Rainforest, wildlife conservation in Australia, and studying positive psychology in Scandinavia, as well as a wide range of on-campus courses including Fencing & Swords in History, Confections of a Chocoholic, Climate Change & Carbon Sequestration, and Experimental AI & Creativity.



Learn more about the Jan Term Program and our offerings [on our webpage](#).

### Jan Term Program

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## Commencement 2026 Schedule and Information

### Graduate and Professional Studies Commencement

Thursday, May 21, 2026 | 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

### Commencement Liturgy

Friday, May 22, 2026 | 9 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

### Undergraduate Commencement

Friday, May 22, 2026 | 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.



- Students have received an email with information about how to register to participate in the May Commencement ceremonies. Students should fill out that form by **3/2/26** and questions can be directed to the Registrar's Office at [registrar@stmarys-ca.edu](mailto:registrar@stmarys-ca.edu)
- To ensure compliance with fire safety codes and to provide a safe and comfortable environment for all attendees, we kindly ask that each graduate limit their guest count to **no more than 12 guests**, based on the venue's maximum capacity of 7,000. There are no physical tickets needed to enter the event
- The Grad Fair will be held on Tuesday, March 10 from 10am-7pm in the Soda Center. At the fair, students will pick up their regalia and their guests' tickets.
- Registration for 2026 Cultural Graduate Celebrations will open in March 2026 and more information about these celebrations will be included in the March edition of the Family Newsletter

### Commencement 2026 Website

# A Spring Full of Career Exploration and Connection

The Career Center has an exciting lineup of spring events to help students explore career possibilities and prepare for life after graduation. This semester includes hiring fairs, employer information sessions, and industry-focused meet-ups, all designed to connect students with real-world opportunities and professional networks.

We encourage families to remind their students to take advantage of these events, which are a great way to explore interests, gain confidence, and begin planning next steps beyond college. [View the Spring Event Schedule here.](#)

Graduating seniors should also keep an eye out for information on Career Convos, a required one-on-one meeting with a career counselor focused on post-graduation plans. Seniors will receive more information and sign-up details midway through the semester.



Career Center

## Spring Housing Office Information

### Jan Term Break

Students can remain in their room during the Jan Term Break, but limited dining options and meal plans are not active during Jan Term Break

- The last meal served in Jan Term is brunch on 1/23/26
- The first meal starts for Spring is dinner on Sunday 2/1/26
- 25-26 Dining Hours At-A-Glance - More Dining Information can be found on the Gael Dining Website Here



Campus Housing

### Housing for 2026-2027

Start talking with your students about their housing plans for next year! Did you know nearly 70% of undergraduate students live on campus?

- **The Housing Application** for 2026-2027 Academic Year opens March 3rd 2026 and closes March 24th 2026.
- Students can check out different room types and residence halls during our "Open House, After Dark" Residence Hall Tours on March 3rd 8-10pm, as well as attend our Roommate Mixers on March 10th 7-8pm and March 17th 7-8pm
- Returning students will pick their room for the next academic year **IN PERSON** April 7th-April 9th 2026
- Check out our residence halls here
  - **Sophomores & Up Housing Options**
  - **Upperclassmen Only Housing Options**
  - **Floorplans & Layouts**

### Resident Advisor Applications for 2026-2027 Open February 2!

Resident Advisor applications for the 2026-2027 academic year will open on **February 2, 2026**. *All applicants will be required to attend an info session prior to receiving access to the application.*

#### **Important Dates:**

- Resident Advisor Application Opens - February 2, 2026
- Resident Advisor Application Closes - February 23, 2026 at 11:59 PM
- RA Interview Weekend - Saturday, March 7, 2026 - Sunday, March 8, 2026

- RA Sticker Afternoon (Sign-up for Individual RD Interview) - Friday, March 13, 2026 (2:30-3:30 PM)
- Individual Interviews with Resident Directors - Saturday, March 14, 2026 - Monday, March 23, 2026
- RA Candidates notified of offer status - Friday, March 27, 2026

**Housing & Dining Website**

## Reminder: Medical Requirements for Incoming Spring Students

### Health Insurance

All full-time undergraduate students are AUTOMATICALLY ENROLLED in the Saint Mary's College Student Health Insurance Plan (SMC-SHIP). Students must ANNUALLY waive the insurance if they can demonstrate comparable coverage and would like to opt-out of the school's coverage.

The waiver process must be completed by all new students incoming Spring '26 by March 15, 2026 to avoid incurring a \$1,083 insurance fee on your account.



To **WAIVE** or **OPT-IN** (opting in will grant you access to your insurance card earlier than March 3rd): <https://studentcenter.uhcsr.com/stmarys-ca>

### Medical Requirements:

All incoming students intending to live in campus housing need to complete the following two medical requirements PRIOR TO MOVE-IN:

1. **TUBERCULOSIS SCREENING:** Complete your Tuberculosis (TB) Screening Form on Med+Proctor. This screening questionnaire will occur automatically upon registering with Med+Proctor. You will be notified if further testing is required.
2. **IMMUNIZATIONS:** Submit a copy of your immunization record to [Med+Proctor](#), a FERPA & HIPAA compliant third-party immunization verification service, so that your required immunizations can be verified. You will need to register for a new account using your SMC email.

### Required immunizations:

- Meningococcal (ACWY): Required for all students 21 years of age or younger. Must include one dose on or after age 16.
- MMR (Measles, Mumps, and Rubella): two doses or a positive MMR titer documenting immunity.
- Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis): one dose within the last 10 years.

2025-2026 [Summary Flier](#) for Health Plans for Saint Mary's College of California

Check out our FAQ page about incoming student medical requirements, or email or call the Student Health Center with questions: [healthcenter@stmarys-ca.edu](mailto:healthcenter@stmarys-ca.edu) / 925-631-4254

**Student Health Center**



# Library Open at the Power Plant

Saint Albert Hall (the library) is now closed for renovations, and the Library has moved operations to the Power Plant building across campus!

Students can now come to the Power Plant to check out books on reserve for courses, laptops, chargers, and more. Limited study spaces and printing will be available in the Power Plant at the start of the spring semester.

Even while the library building is closed, **many other spaces are open** for students to study quietly or meet with a group. And **librarians remain available** online and in-person for research help.

More information: [Library Services and Support at the Power Plant](#)



Library

## Student Leadership Conference - February 28

**2026 Student Leadership Conference**  
**February 28 | 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM**  
**Soda Center**

Encourage your student to participate in the 4th Annual Student Leadership Conference—a day of interactive sessions designed for students, by students. This year's theme, The Future is Human, focuses on leadership that centers people—leading with empathy, real-world skills, and thoughtful strategy.



The event is free for students to join and includes breakfast, lunch and swag!

[Student Leadership Conference Registration Link](#)

## Saint Mary's Night at Sacramento Kings - March 3

Get ready, Sacramento... SMC Night is coming to the 916!

Join fellow Gaels as we take over the Golden 1 Center for a high-energy night cheering on the Sacramento Kings vs. the Phoenix Suns. All are welcome!

Plus: We'll kick things off with a special Pregame Party—details coming soon.

For questions on this event contact:



[Purchase Sacramento Kings Event Tickets](#)

## Gael Athletics

The Gaels have had several standout performances this academic year including women's soccer who rattled off 12 wins for their best season since 2001. Head coach Theresa Romagnolo took home WCC Coach of the Year while Kate Plachy was named Goalkeeper of the Year as the Gaels took home six all-conference selections.



Men's basketball started 8-0 for their longest unbeaten streak to start a season since 2013 and currently sit in second place in the WCC with a 18-3 overall record. Want to check out a Saint Mary's basketball game? Head to [smcgaels.com/tickets](http://smcgaels.com/tickets) to watch your Gaels in action this month as they prepare for postseason action in Las Vegas starting on March 5th. To catch all the Gaels action in Las Vegas, click [HERE](#) to order WCC Tournament tickets.

Looking towards the spring, the Saint Mary's baseball and softball programs will start their seasons in February, looking to defend their respective WCC titles after both took home trophies last season in 2025. Baseball season ticket packages are on sale now at [smcgaels.com/tickets](http://smcgaels.com/tickets) and full schedules for both teams can be found at [smcgaels.com](http://smcgaels.com).

[Gael Athletics](#)

## A Poll for Parents: We want to know!

If you received a SMC Family Calendar at Incoming Student Orientation or Family Weekend, we'd like to hear from you! Please complete this short poll to let us know if you have found the calendar helpful and if you use it regularly to keep informed.



## Have you been using the family calendar that was shared during orientation & Family Weekend?

Yes! It's part of our routine 

We've peeked at it once or twice

Not yet... but it's on our radar

Honestly, we haven't used it

Wait — I didn't receive a family calendar

**[Didn't receive a physical calendar? Check out our online version here!](#)**

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## Information for Parents & Families



Staying engaged with your student's college experience helps foster meaningful support and connection. We offer several resources to keep you informed:

- Parent & Family Newsletter – Stay updated on important dates, campus events, and helpful tips by reading this monthly newsletter
- College Social Media Channels- Follow SMC on Instagram @stmarysca for real-time updates and campus highlights.

- [Parent & Family Website](#) – Access quick links to common resources including academic calendars, billing info, and campus departments in one convenient place.
- Family Weekend & Campus Events – Attend events designed to bring families into the campus community.

These tools help you stay involved while supporting your student's independence and growth. Still have questions? Email us at [family@stmarys-ca.edu](mailto:family@stmarys-ca.edu) for additional assistance.

[Parents & Families Website](#)



[Click Here to View Upcoming Campus Events](#)



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