



Parent & Family Newsletter



Hello Saint Mary's Parents and Families,

As we reach the close of another academic year, we want to extend our sincere gratitude to you for being such an important part of our community. Your encouragement, support, and partnership play a meaningful role in your student's journey, and we are grateful to share in their growth and accomplishments.

These final weeks of the semester can be both exciting and demanding. You can support your student by encouraging steady routines, healthy habits, and a balanced approach to studying and rest. A quick check-in, a listening ear, or a word of encouragement can go a long way as they complete exams, projects, and final commitments.

As summer approaches, we hope this season offers your family time to rest, recharge, and reconnect. Whether your student is working, taking classes, or simply taking a well-deserved break, we wish you all a safe, restorative, and enjoyable summer.

Julie Scaff
Asst. Vice Provost, Student Support Services

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Wrapping Up the School Year: Important Reminders & Next Steps

Final Exam Schedule

Final exams are just around the corner. Students should review the final exam schedule carefully so that they feel confident and prepared. Parents and families can help by encouraging good study habits, rest, and balance during this time can make a big difference.

Course Registration for Next Year

Registration for next year's classes occurred the week of April 27. We encourage families to check in with your students, make sure your student has a full schedule and encourage students to contact their Faculty Advisor if they have not yet registered or have questions about what courses they need to take in the Fall. Students with questions or needing guidance can also contact The Advising Office at tao@stmarys-ca.edu.

Finishing the Year Strong

These last weeks are an important opportunity for students to stay focused, complete assignments, and take pride in their accomplishments. We encourage all students to check in with their professors, stay organized, and maintain a positive mindset through the end of the term.



Final Exam Schedule

Commencement 2026 Schedule and Information

Graduate and Professional Studies Commencement Ceremony

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 Ceremony

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



- 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

Commencement 2026 Website

Summer with Purpose: Smart Moves for Career Success

Summer break is one of the best times for students to gain experience and build connections—without the pressure of a full academic schedule. The reality: they don't need a perfect internship to make meaningful progress. Small, intentional steps can go a long way across any major.

Here are realistic ways students can use their summer effectively:



Start Conversations That Matter

Encourage informational interviews—short conversations with professionals to learn about career paths, day-to-day work, and make early connections. It's one of the simplest and most effective ways to build a network.

Build In-Demand Skills

Online courses through platforms like Coursera or LinkedIn Learning allow students to strengthen skills such as Excel, communication, data analysis, or project management.

Try Short-Term Experiences

Externships or project-based roles offer hands-on exposure without the long-term commitment of an internship.

Volunteer with Purpose

Volunteering in a relevant field helps students gain experience while making an impact.

Plan Ahead for Fall Jobs

Preparing to apply early for on-campus roles can lead to flexible, skill-building positions that often include mentorship.

Use What's Available

Helping with a family business or a local organization can provide practical, resume-ready experience.

Takeaway

A summer job—any job—builds transferable skills like teamwork and communication. The key is learning how to articulate those skills later.

A Final Thought for Parents

Summer doesn't need to be *perfect* to be productive. Encouraging your student to stay curious, take initiative, and try something new can make a lasting impact on their confidence and career direction. The SMC Career Center has online appointments available throughout the summer! Students can make an appointment online through their Handshake app!

Career Center

End of Year Student Events

There are many ways students can create end of year memories as we enter the last few weeks of school!

This weekend, students can enjoy two unforgettable campus events, Raíces y Ritmo's Banda Night tonight, celebrating culture and Saturday night Saddle Up, where students can throw on their boots and dance the night away.

Encourage your student to pull up, dance, discover new favorite artists, enjoy amazing food vendors, and make memories with friends.



Student Activities and Engagement Office

The Library Lends Tools for Student Success

Worried your student doesn't have the tools they need to succeed? Send them to the Library at the Power Plant! We lend more than you'd think:

- iPad not cutting it? We lend **laptops!** (Loans now extended to 3 days, or ask about our Laptop for the Term program)

- Need to charge? We lend **chargers!**
- Making a video or podcast for class? We lend **cameras, mics, and more!**
- Drawing cell diagrams before an exam? We lend **mini whiteboards and markers!**
- Putting together a poster? We lend **maker boxes** with glue, scissors, markers and more!
- Doing math? We lend **calculators!**
- Need to lock in? We lend noise-canceling **headphones!**
- Watching a movie for class? We lend **DVDs and players!**

Get it at the Power Plant

COURSE RESERVES
SCIENCE

CAMERAS & MICS

HEADPHONES

LAPTOPS

PORTABLE WHITEBOARDS

MAKER BOXES

CHARGERS

SMC Library

The Library is now in the Power Plant!
Questions? Stop by or call 925-631-4229

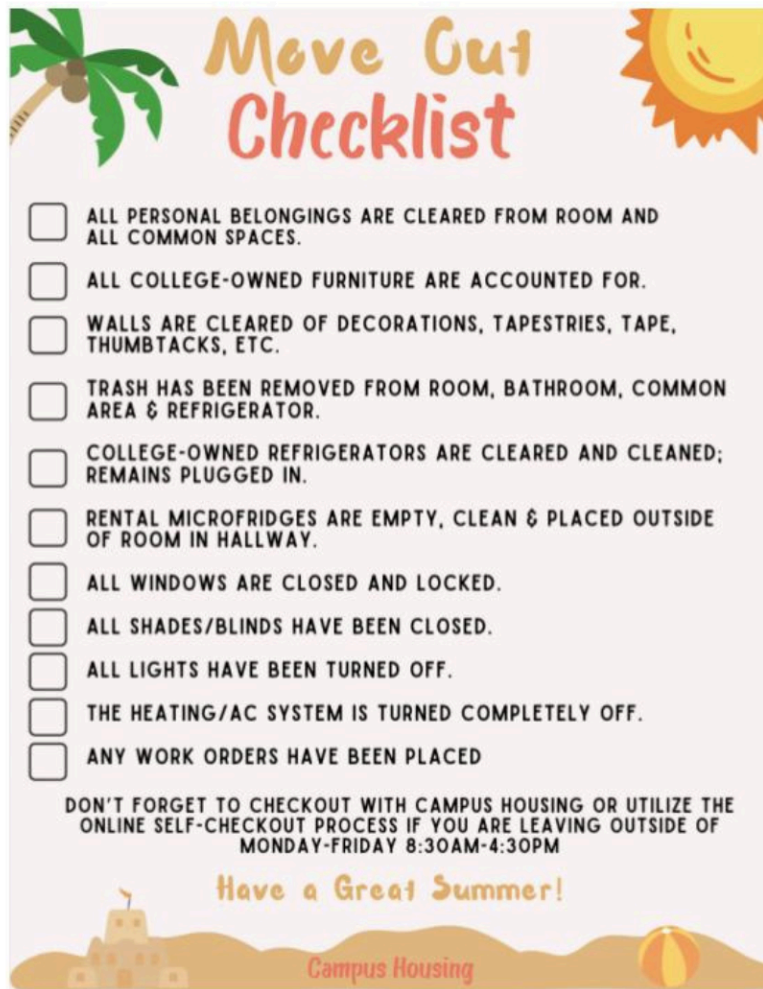
Library Services Lending Support

Campus Housing

Important information to support your student if they are living on campus:

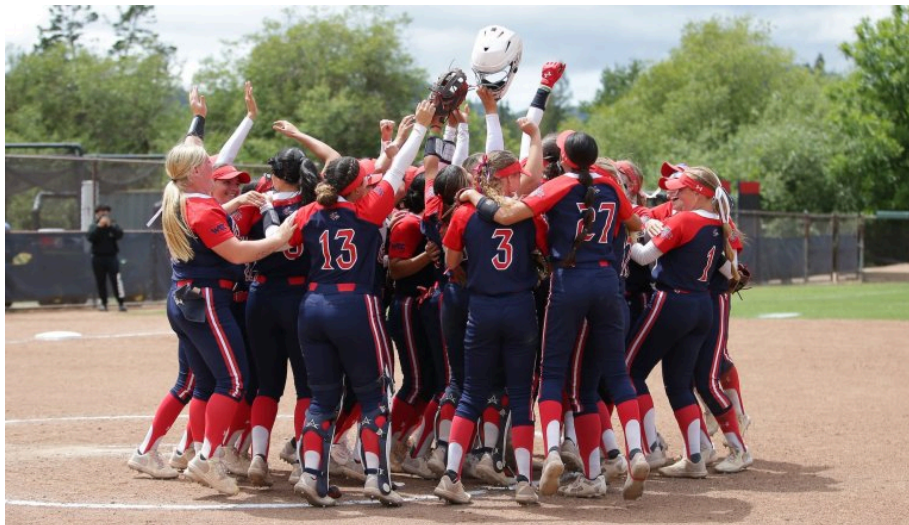
- The Residence Halls close Thursday, May 21st at 4:00pm. Students can apply to stay late (as late as 12pm on Saturday, May 23rd) via the Housing Portal. Graduating seniors will not be charged the \$50/night cost, but still need to apply.
- Students needing to live on campus during the summer can still submit our summer housing application on the Housing Portal, and all summer students will be living in Marjorie David Ageno (Ageno B).
- Leading up to spring move-out, there are multiple ways for students to stay engaged and destress such as Late Night Breakfast on 5/18, and Smash-A-Plate on 5/19.





[Housing & Dining Website](#)

ATHLETICS



CONGRATULATIONS to our Women's Softball Team!!! Back-to-Back-to-Back West Coast Conference Softball Champs. Our Gaels picked up a Senior Day Victory over LMU to secure their Third Straight Title!



Saint Mary's College Associate Head Coach and former standout Gael Mickey McConnell was named head men's basketball coach of the Gaels earlier this spring. McConnell, who has been an instrumental piece of the program for decades, first as a student-athlete and then as the associate head coach under Randy Bennet, takes over a program coming off three consecutive single digit NCAA Tournament seeds. Since returning to Saint Mary's in the summer of 2019 as an assistant coach, McConnell and the Gaels have had a 175-54 (.764) record over that seven-year span.

"This is a special place to me and my family and I'm honored to have the support and trust from President Roger Thompson and Athletic Director Mike Matoso to lead the Saint Mary's basketball program," McConnell said. "None of us would be in this position without Coach Bennett and all he has done over the years. He took the program from 2-27 to 5 straight NCAA tournaments and 4 straight league titles. Everything he has done has been to put the program first and get it onto the National stage. I can't thank him enough for being such a strong leader and mentor to me."



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 for additional assistance.

[Parents & Families Website](#)

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



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