



CONNECT, THRIVE, SUCCEED



About Saint Mary's College

At Saint Mary's, students are part of a one-of-a-kind experience. We offer a challenging curriculum in a supportive learning environment, a beautiful Bay Area location, dedicated faculty, and a Catholic, Lasallian, and liberal arts tradition. Students at Saint Mary's step into the center of the College's academic community.



Saint Mary's High Potential (HP) Program is based on promoting student strengths, is grounded in student development theory, and includes the HP Sphere of Success (HPSS), a TRIO Student Support Services Program.



For more information, contact:

High Potential Program

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YOUR GUIDE TO THE
SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE OF CALIFORNIA

HIGH POTENTIAL PROGRAM



THE HIGH POTENTIAL PROGRAM

Collaborating with Students to Achieve Academic Excellence

Saint Mary's High Potential (HP) Program includes the HP Sphere of Success, a TRIO Student Support Services Program that provides a range of comprehensive services and individualized support for first-generation and low-income students.

COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES

Resilience and Sustainability

- Students are provided with financial education and assistance (when available) in the form of book vouchers, emergency scholarship funds, and academic merit scholarships.

Psychosocial Development and Engagement

- PEER MENTOR PROGRAM—Peer Mentors are rigorously trained campus leaders who have learned how to assess and monitor a first- or second-year student's academic and social progress and model leadership skills. They offer academic and social support throughout the SAILS summer program, the first year, and beyond, as well as information about classes, support services, academic programs, and counseling.

- COACHING—Students will meet regularly with a success coach and work together toward reaching academic and leadership goals. Coaches are prepared to support students' academic and psychosocial progress, proactively reach out to and engage students through regular programming and workshops, and connect students to campus resources and leadership opportunities.
- FIRST-YEAR ADVISING COHORT (FYAC)—This weekly course cultivates student awareness, communication skills, and personal and academic success. It is taught by a faculty advisor who will work closely with each student to develop study and time management skills, and major and career exploration awareness, and foster leadership skills while connecting students to campus resources designed to help them succeed. Students earn .50 college credit for the yearlong course.

Academic Resources and Technology—Students will have access to block scheduling, tutoring, supplemental instruction, online community, and guidance in library resources and technology support.

Leadership Development

- SUMMER ACADEMIC INSTITUTE FOR LEADERS AND SCHOLARS (SAILS)—SAILS is an intensive residential experience designed to prepare first-year students for the successes and challenges of college life. Students will sample college-level courses in English, math, or an elective, along with Saint Mary's acclaimed Seminar program, and earn college credit. They will explore their personal and professional growth while interacting with faculty, staff, peer mentors, and other students on campus.
- Students will have an opportunity to participate in community engagement, intercultural programming, and leadership roles on campus.

Research and Scholarship

- Students will have opportunities to engage in research with faculty and also receive tutoring, math and science support, and connect with the Writing Center.
- NARRATIVE PROJECT—The Narrative Project is a collaboration with the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Creative Writing Program in which students write their own personal stories of challenge and success. The project offers support through mentoring, engaged learning, and instruction in this .25 unit writing circle.

Personal/Professional Exploration

- Students will be prepared for the global workplace and society through résumé reviews, exploration panels, workshops, networking with alumni and business and community leaders, opportunities for internships, shadowing, hands-on experience in the workplace, and graduate school and career fairs.



"The High Potential Program pushes everyone to break out of their comfort zones and in the process learn more about themselves. In my brief time as a mentor, I've found myself being challenged a lot, which is making me a better leader but above all a better person."

Michael '17



"The influence HP has had on me is truly making me believe that I deserve to be in college, that the admissions office didn't make a mistake when they admitted me. I worked hard to be here and HP helped me realize that."

Lizette '16



"To say that I am better off having participated in the High Potential Program is an understatement. I have no doubt that all the successes of my first year at Saint Mary's can be attributed to the unwavering support that I have received. As a peer mentor, I have the chance to give back to a community that has given me so much."

Emily '18



"HP showed me the importance of finding a place where I can fit in and get help. Because college life can make people feel very much on their own, HP offers a place I can call home here at Saint Mary's."

Jonathan '18