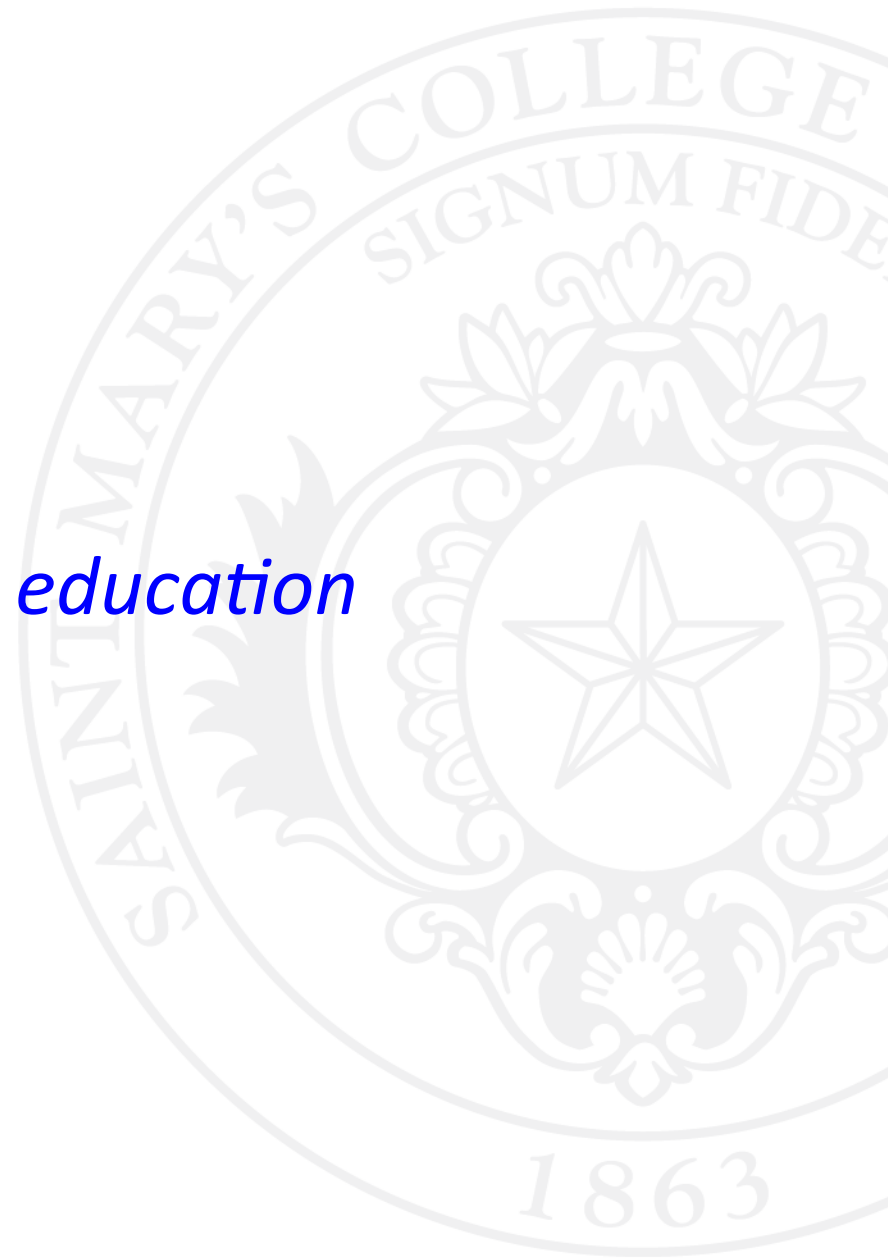




The SMC Core

The heart of a Saint Mary's education





The Core & the Majors

Common knowledge and skills shared by all graduates of SMC

For example

Critical Thinking

Community Engagement

Social, Historical, and Cultural Understanding

Specific, disciplinary knowledge that builds expertise in an area

For example

Chemistry

Accounting

Philosophy



The Core Curriculum Is...

Student-centered
Intentional
Developmental
Common
Integrated



The Parts of the Core

The Habits of Mind

Critical Thinking, Shared Inquiry, Written & Oral Communication, and Information Evaluation & Research Practices

Pathways to Knowledge:

Artistic Understanding, Mathematical & Scientific Understanding, Social, Historical & Cultural Understanding, and Theological Understanding

Engaging the World:

American Diversity, Common Good, Global Perspective, and Community Engagement

The Habits of Mind: What Students Have to Do



The Seminar Program - 4 courses, one per academic year

- *Seminar 1, Critical Strategies and Great Questions* - First year, spring
- *Seminar 2, Western Tradition, part 1* - Second year, fall
- *Seminar 103, Western Tradition, part 2* - Third year
- *Seminar 104, The Global Conversation of the 20th and 21st c.* - Fourth year

Writing across the Curriculum - 3 courses (not inc. Eng 3)

- *English 4, Composition* - First year, fall (unless tests into Eng 3 or Eng 5)
- *English 5, Argument & Research* - First year, spring (generally)
- *Writing in the Major* - Timing varies by department (Eng 5 is always a prerequisite)

Pathways to Knowledge: What Students Have to Do



Artistic Understanding

- Similar to Old Core:
 - 2 courses in Artistic Analysis (from designation list)
- New element: at least 0.25 credits worth of participation in Creative Practice
 - Can be embedded in a full-credit art course (from designation list)
 - Can be a separate 0.25 credit class (from designation list)

Mathematical & Scientific Understanding

- Similar to Old Core:
 - 1 math course (from designation list)
 - 1 science + lab course (from designation list)
- No radical changes

Pathways to Knowledge: What Students Have to Do



Social, Historical, and Cultural Understanding

- Similar to Old Core:
 - 2 courses (from designation list)
- No radical changes

Theological Understanding

- Similar to Old Core:
 - 1 Bible course in “Christian Foundations” (from designation list)
 - Must be taken at SMC
 - 1 other course in “Theological Explorations” (from designation list)
- New elements (apply only to “Theological Explorations”)
 - Can be transferred in; cannot be waived; does not have to be upper-division

Pathways to Knowledge: Final Points



Can double-dip with major or minor courses

Cannot be fulfilled by January Term courses

Cannot be waived

Engaging the World: What Students Have to Do



At least one “dip” into each of the four goals

- American Diversity
- The Common Good
- Global Perspective
- Community Engagement

Can be fulfilled by...

- January Term courses
- Major or minor courses
- Pathways to Knowledge courses
- Approved experiences (i.e., outside of traditional courses)
- All must be designated by the CCC ahead of time
- Double-dipping encouraged

Language and January Term: What Students Have to Do



Requirements remain unchanged.

Language

- Level-3 proficiency required.

January Term

- One required for each year in residence.

Advising for the fall term: Requirements and Suggestions



1 Required Course

- English 4, Composition
 - Unless student tests into English 3 or English 5
 - English 3 must be taken in fall
 - English 5 should be taken in fall
- NO SEMINAR IN FALL
 - English 4 (and 3) will prepare students for Seminar in the spring

3 Elective Courses

- Freedom to EXPLORE POSSIBLE MAJORS
- Build student success by having students CONTINUE COMPETENCY lines, e.g., fulfilling Math and Language requirements



Resources for the new core

The Core Curriculum Committee

Members: Jim Sauerberg (chair), Cynthia Ganote, Ed Tywoniak, Jennifer Heung, Paul Zarnoth, Greg Merrill, Rebecca Jabbour

Website - <http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/core-curriculum-committee>

Flyers (e.g., designated courses, summaries)

New academic evaluation form (registrar)