Most classes have 10–19 students. Profs accessible rating 84
Profs interesting rating 84
Student/faculty ratio 13:1
Calendar 4/1/4
% students graduating within 6 years 58
% students graduating within 4 years 49
% students returning for sophomore year 88
Academic Rating 85
# of countries represented 22
SURVEY SAYS . . .
Everyone loves the Gaels
Frots and sororities are unpopular or nonexistent
Lab facilities are great
Lots of beer drinking

STUDENTS SAY “. . .”
Academics
Intimacy rules the day at Saint Mary’s, a Catholic college where “small class sizes” and professors who you “get to know personally” are the rule rather than the exception. “They make time for me outside of class,” one student boasts, “I even have some of their phone numbers.” This intimacy offers “unlimited opportunities for students and very direct interaction with staff and faculty,” and makes it feel as if “the professors are learning at the same time from the students.” These teachers are “very optimistic and love what they teach, so it’s great to be taught by them because they’re so passionate about their subject. It helps make learning about the subject fun and interesting.” Indeed, as one student points out, “It’s usually very difficult for a math or physics professor to inject their personality into their classes, but the faculty that Saint Mary’s employs somehow manage to do it.” Some do complain that “when they teach they go really fast and it makes it hard to keep up with them,” but that may be a result of the attitude that “lectures are overrated.” Instead, “professors help students learn by engaging one another in meaningful dialogue and debate.” The idea is to help you to “learn how to talk more in public settings and (give) you life skills that you can rely on and use the rest of your life.” The bottom line is, “Saint Mary’s offers students an unparalleled education with small class sizes, seminars, high accessibility to professors, and a strong alumni and network association.”

Life
Don’t expect non-stop parties at Saint Mary’s. This is a “distinguished, calm campus” with students focused on their studies. When it comes time to wind down, sports, clubs, and mellow socializing are far more prevalent than rowdy keggers. Saint Mary’s “is what you make it, it takes time to adjust,” but “there are vast opportunities provided by the school to get involved with others inside and outside of the community.” There is “a grove that is a secluded area where everyone goes to just leave the urban world for a bit and just relax,” while others “go on great hiking and outdoor adventure trips the rec sports provides the students with.” The school is six miles off the freeway, so access to other communities isn’t as easy as at other schools, but nearby Orinda has beautiful theaters and restaurants, and all that San Francisco has to offer is accessible to students willing to make the journey. The biggest draw is sports and athletic recreation. Students here are “very active. Everyone wears some sort of active clothes because everyone is basically a regularly active individual. Sports are a big focus at my school, whether it be intercollegiate or just for fun.”

Student Body
The “smart, humble, dedicated, and compassionate” students of Saint Mary’s make up a group with a “wide range of students from a large spectrum of life and socioeconomic status. Students mix easily and the college climate promotes equality and understanding.” At this “very welcoming” school you’ll find “few cliques among students,” only “normal people who are looking to go on and succeed at life.” The “hard-working” students of Saint Mary’s have a reputation for being friendly. “You walk through the halls and say hi to almost everyone even if you have never seen them before.” Indeed, “students always smile and say have a good day. Students fit in by taking the time to meet others. A simple smile can make a day for a lot of people.” Typical students are “involved in sports or some type of club on campus. They are a big part of the community, and are avid NCAA college basketball fans.” That, or they are engaged in their studies. Saint Mary’s is filled with people serious about their educations—but not at the expense of social interaction. “Students can engage in complex discussion and easily switch to witty banter at any given moment.”
THE SCHOOL SAYS “...”

From the Admissions Office

“Today, Saint Mary’s College continues to offer a value-oriented education by providing a classical liberal arts background second to none. The emphasis is on teaching an individual how to think independently and responsibly, how to analyze information in all situations, and how to make choices based on logical thinking and rational examination. Such a program develops students’ ability to ask the right questions and to formulate meaningful answers, not only within their professional careers but also for the rest of their lives. Saint Mary’s College is committed to preparing young men and women for the challenge of an ever-changing world, while remaining faithful to an enduring academic and spiritual heritage. We believe the purpose of a college experience is to prepare men and women for an unlimited number of opportunities, and that this is best accomplished by educating the whole person, both intellectually and ethically. We strive to recruit, admit, enroll, and graduate students who are generous, faith-filled, and human, and we believe this is reaffirmed in our community of brothers, in our faculty, and in our personal concern for each student.

“For freshman applicants, we will accept the SAT, and the ACT is also accepted. The ACT writing assessment is optional. The highest critical reading and the highest math scores attained on the SAT will be used. SAT Subject Tests are not required.”

THE SCHOOL SAYS “. . .”

Admissions

Very important factors considered include: GPA, rigor of secondary school record, standardized test scores. Important factors considered include: Essay, recommendation(s), first generation. Other factors considered include: Alumni/ae relations, character/personal qualities, extracurricular activities, geographical residence, interview, level of applicant’s interest, racial/ethnic status, religious affiliation, talent/ability, volunteer work, work experience. SAT or ACT required; ACT with or without Writing component accepted. TOEFL required of all international applicants. High school diploma is required and GED is accepted. Academic units required: 4 English; 3 mathematics; 2 science; (1 science lab); 2 foreign language; 1 social studies; 1 history; 2 academic electives. Academic units recommended: 4 English; 4 mathematics; 3 science; (1 science labs); 3 foreign language; 1 social studies; 1 history; 2 academic electives.

Financial Aid


The Inside Word

Saint Mary’s has a deep commitment to serving underprivileged students and offering opportunities for low-income students with strong academic potential, which is why the school sets aside 25 percent of its undergraduate population for low economic status students. That core philosophy of the school won’t be changing anytime soon, so students with economic difficulties should not hesitate to apply if their academics are strong.

THE PRINCETON REVIEW SAYS

Admissions

Important factors considered include: Essay, recommendation(s), first generation. Other factors considered include: Alumni/ae relations, character/personal qualities, extracurricular activities, geographical residence, interview, level of applicant’s interest, racial/ethnic status, religious affiliation, talent/ability, volunteer work, work experience. SAT or ACT required; ACT with or without Writing component accepted. TOEFL required of all international applicants. High school diploma is required and GED is accepted. Academic units required: 4 English; 3 mathematics; 2 science; (1 science lab); 2 foreign language; 1 social studies; 1 history; 2 academic electives. Academic units recommended: 4 English; 4 mathematics; 3 science; (1 science labs); 3 foreign language; 1 social studies; 1 history; 2 academic electives.

Financial Aid


The Inside Word

Saint Mary’s has a deep commitment to serving underprivileged students and offering opportunities for low-income students with strong academic potential, which is why the school sets aside 25 percent of its undergraduate population for low economic status students. That core philosophy of the school won’t be changing anytime soon, so students with economic difficulties should not hesitate to apply if their academics are strong.

THE SCHOOL SAYS “...”

From the Admissions Office

“Today, Saint Mary’s College continues to offer a value-oriented education by providing a classical liberal arts background second to none. The emphasis is on teaching an individual how to think independently and responsibly, how to analyze information in all situations, and how to make choices based on logical thinking and rational examination. Such a program develops students’ ability to ask the right questions and to formulate meaningful answers, not only within their professional careers but also for the rest of their lives. Saint Mary’s College is committed to preparing young men and women for the challenge of an ever-changing world, while remaining faithful to an enduring academic and spiritual heritage. We believe the purpose of a college experience is to prepare men and women for an unlimited number of opportunities, and that this is best accomplished by educating the whole person, both intellectually and ethically. We strive to recruit, admit, enroll, and graduate students who are generous, faith-filled, and human, and we believe this is reaffirmed in our community of brothers, in our faculty, and in our personal concern for each student.

“For freshman applicants, we will accept the SAT, and the ACT is also accepted. The ACT writing assessment is optional. The highest critical reading and the highest math scores attained on the SAT will be used. SAT Subject Tests are not required.”

THE SCHOOL SAYS “. . .”

From the Admissions Office

“Today, Saint Mary’s College continues to offer a value-oriented education by providing a classical liberal arts background second to none. The emphasis is on teaching an individual how to think independently and responsibly, how to analyze information in all situations, and how to make choices based on logical thinking and rational examination. Such a program develops students’ ability to ask the right questions and to formulate meaningful answers, not only within their professional careers but also for the rest of their lives. Saint Mary’s College is committed to preparing young men and women for the challenge of an ever-changing world, while remaining faithful to an enduring academic and spiritual heritage. We believe the purpose of a college experience is to prepare men and women for an unlimited number of opportunities, and that this is best accomplished by educating the whole person, both intellectually and ethically. We strive to recruit, admit, enroll, and graduate students who are generous, faith-filled, and human, and we believe this is reaffirmed in our community of brothers, in our faculty, and in our personal concern for each student.

“For freshman applicants, we will accept the SAT, and the ACT is also accepted. The ACT writing assessment is optional. The highest critical reading and the highest math scores attained on the SAT will be used. SAT Subject Tests are not required.”

THE SCHOOL SAYS “...”

From the Admissions Office

“The emphasis is on teaching an individual how to think independently and responsibly, how to analyze information in all situations, and how to make choices based on logical thinking and rational examination. Such a program develops students’ ability to ask the right questions and to formulate meaningful answers, not only within their professional careers but also for the rest of their lives. Saint Mary’s College is committed to preparing young men and women for the challenge of an ever-changing world, while remaining faithful to an enduring academic and spiritual heritage. We believe the purpose of a college experience is to prepare men and women for an unlimited number of opportunities, and that this is best accomplished by educating the whole person, both intellectually and ethically. We strive to recruit, admit, enroll, and graduate students who are generous, faith-filled, and human, and we believe this is reaffirmed in our community of brothers, in our faculty, and in our personal concern for each student.

“For freshman applicants, we will accept the SAT, and the ACT is also accepted. The ACT writing assessment is optional. The highest critical reading and the highest math scores attained on the SAT will be used. SAT Subject Tests are not required.”

THE SCHOOL SAYS “. . .”

From the Admissions Office

“The emphasis is on teaching an individual how to think independently and responsibly, how to analyze information in all situations, and how to make choices based on logical thinking and rational examination. Such a program develops students’ ability to ask the right questions and to formulate meaningful answers, not only within their professional careers but also for the rest of their lives. Saint Mary’s College is committed to preparing young men and women for the challenge of an ever-changing world, while remaining faithful to an enduring academic and spiritual heritage. We believe the purpose of a college experience is to prepare men and women for an unlimited number of opportunities, and that this is best accomplished by educating the whole person, both intellectually and ethically. We strive to recruit, admit, enroll, and graduate students who are generous, faith-filled, and human, and we believe this is reaffirmed in our community of brothers, in our faculty, and in our personal concern for each student.

“For freshman applicants, we will accept the SAT, and the ACT is also accepted. The ACT writing assessment is optional. The highest critical reading and the highest math scores attained on the SAT will be used. SAT Subject Tests are not required.”

THE SCHOOL SAYS “. . .”

From the Admissions Office

“The emphasis is on teaching an individual how to think independently and responsibly, how to analyze information in all situations, and how to make choices based on logical thinking and rational examination. Such a program develops students’ ability to ask the right questions and to formulate meaningful answers, not only within their professional careers but also for the rest of their lives. Saint Mary’s College is committed to preparing young men and women for the challenge of an ever-changing world, while remaining faithful to an enduring academic and spiritual heritage. We believe the purpose of a college experience is to prepare men and women for an unlimited number of opportunities, and that this is best accomplished by educating the whole person, both intellectually and ethically. We strive to recruit, admit, enroll, and graduate students who are generous, faith-filled, and human, and we believe this is reaffirmed in our community of brothers, in our faculty, and in our personal concern for each student.

“For freshman applicants, we will accept the SAT, and the ACT is also accepted. The ACT writing assessment is optional. The highest critical reading and the highest math scores attained on the SAT will be used. SAT Subject Tests are not required.”