



SAINT MICHAEL'S COLLEGE FOUNDED 1904

Frequently Asked Questions

updated March 2018

Please also use the **SMC Profile** for a quick reference guide

What's the average student like (academically)?

B+ /A- average, 1150-1310 SAT range, 24-28 ACT range. Many students have honors/AP/college classes.

How is your X program?

This question is very popular, and not very fun to answer. Encourage students to research what we offer online, because each major's webpage has a variety of information. You can add that we have plenty of opportunities for internships and research, small class sizes, etc. I like to use this opportunity to tell them important info about SMC.

Tuition? There's a page inside the travel piece brochure with information

Undergraduate Program Tuition and Fees for 2018-2019

Tuition	\$45,050
Student Activity Fee	\$325
Room and Board	\$12,220 (Traditional Double Room)
Total	\$57,595

After grants and scholarships, the actual cost can be much less. Links for more info found in the travel piece.

Financial Aid?

All accepted students are automatically considered for merit aid based on academic achievement. Scholarships range from \$1,500 to full tuition. Families must submit a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) to be considered for need-based aid. We do not require the CSS Profile.

Does SMC require the SAT or ACT?

Submitting test scores is optional. If test scores fall within our range (see below) then students should submit them. People will ask about the new SAT-just reiterate that we are test optional, and if they have more questions to call or email our office. Applicants who want to be considered for our most selective merit scholarships are encouraged to submit scores. Any student who wishes to play a sport must take the SAT or ACT and submit scores to the NCAA separately.

The typical admitted student has scored between 1150-1310 (both tests) on the SAT and 24-268 on the ACT. If a student scores at least 550 in each section of the SAT, encourage them to submit their scores.

We do not require SAT II or SAT Subject Tests. SAT II foreign language tests can be used to demonstrate language proficiency with a score of 610 or higher. If someone proves proficient in a language, they can opt out of taking more language classes while at SMC, or they can jump to upper level courses in that language.

Is it necessary to specify a major when applying for admission to SMC?

No, our most popular major for new students is Exploratory (undecided). Students should declare a major by the end of their sophomore year. The Liberal Arts requirements keep students focused until they decide. A student's admission is not affected by their major or lack thereof.

Does SMC grant Advanced Placement (AP) credit/Does SMC grant International Baccalaureate (IB) credit?

AP: Yes, students who have taken accelerated courses (AP) in high school who score 3 or above on the AP examination administered by the College Board will be considered for credit and /or course waiver. In reality, many departments require a 4 or 5. Determination is made on a departmental basis. A score of a 3 or above on an AP foreign language test demonstrates proficiency and exempts a student from the foreign language requirement at SMC.
IB: Yes, we may award credits for up to two courses for each Higher Level exam passed with a score of 5, 6, or 7. We accept up to two IB classes per subject.

What are the most important factors that are considered when evaluating an application?

A student's academic record is the most important factor upon which an admission decision is based. We look most favorably upon students who in addition to high school requirements take a 4th year of math and science, at least 2-3 years of foreign language, select honors or AP courses, maintain a B or better average and rank in the top 25% of their class. Other important factors are SAT or ACT scores, extracurricular activities, writing submissions and recommendations.

Learning Disability?

Please contact Toni Messuri at amessuri@smcvt.edu for more information about any academic support. Saint Michael's College is devoted to ensuring equal educational opportunities and a responsive campus environment for students with disabilities. Support is provided through the Office of Accessibility Services located in the Academic Enrichment Commons in Durick Library. The Director promotes self-awareness for students with disabilities by educating them about their rights so that they can independently advocate and make choices to meet or exceed the academic standards expected of them. All eligible students are invited and encouraged to seek access to the services provided.

How religiously oriented is SMC?

About half of our students define themselves as Catholic. We feel it is an important time in a person's life to question what they believe, and we provide the environment to do so. DO NOT say "SMC is as Catholic as you want it to be"

There are opportunities to participate in religious activities for many denominations in the Burlington area. Liturgies and volunteer work are open to all students. Talk about the active campus ministry program with an emphasis on social justice and volunteering. There are many opportunities to participate in Catholic campus ministry activities and we have a beautiful chapel right on campus. The mission of the Edmundites lives in our service to others. All students are required to take at least one course in religious studies and one in philosophy, and then choose a second class in one of those fields.

What is the Liberal Studies Curriculum?

The Liberal Studies Curriculum is a set of courses that gives students in all majors the tools to think critically, make sound ethical judgments, understand different perspectives on the world, and communicate effectively. It consists of 10-12 courses in a variety of categories:

First Year Seminar	Arts & Literature
Fundamental Philosophical Questions	Scientific Inquiry
Study of Christian Traditions and Thought	Quantitative Reasoning
Engaging Diverse Identities	Social and Institutional Dimensions of Human Behavior
History & Society	*Second Language

* Students take a proficiency exam prior to entering SMC. The score determines a student's placement in a language. Some students can also use the exam to place out of the language requirement. Second Language is only required for students pursuing a Bachelor of Arts.

ROTC?

Saint Michael's College works with both UVM and Norwich to provide ROTC opportunities. UVM offers an Army ROTC program that is open to SMC students. Norwich University offers an Air Force ROTC program.

Engineering?

Yes, SMC has established a cooperative engineering program with both Clarkson University (Potsdam, NY) and the University of Vermont (Burlington, VT). The program with Clarkson is most commonly known as a 3+2 program, since students spend 3 years at SMC and the final 2 years at Clarkson. The program with UVM is also a five-year program but students may begin taking classes at the University as early as spring semester of their first year. Students will be at SMC primarily the first year, overlap the middle years and their fifth year will be spent at UVM focusing on engineering classes. For the UVM program, students may live on SMC campus all 5 years. See website for a sample course schedule.

Study Abroad?

About 35% of our students study abroad. Students pay SMC semester fees when they study abroad and all of their financial aid (except work study) is applied. Programs are offered in almost every continent in the world with varying degrees of language immersion. Students in all majors may apply for a study abroad program. We also offer a number of shorter faculty-led academy study trips where students either take a course on campus for the semester and take a 2 week trip, or sign up for an intensive one month course during winter or summer break. Cost: approximately \$3,000 for credits and all fees.

Internships/Research?

Yes. Qualified (2.9 GPA) students may engage in independent research or internships for either academic credit or as a paid position. Internships are available in a wide variety of areas. Students may intern near SMC during the school year, stay in VT for the summer, intern at home in the summer, or go somewhere different for a summer! Internships required of business majors, encouraged for all. Research has been done in a variety of fields: natural science, social science, religious studies, history, etc.

Honors Program?

Yes. First-year students are selected as honors candidates on the basis of a promising high school record and all SMC students with a GPA of 3.6 or above are eligible to be nominated for the program at the end of their first year. Honors students take at least five honors courses during their career at SMC. They participate in research, extracurricular activities and work with faculty mentors in their major fields as well as complete a senior Honors thesis or project in their chosen discipline. Those who complete the requirements receive special recognition at graduation. Additionally, SMC is a member of **Phi Beta Kappa**. This is the nation's oldest honor society with the motto "love of learning is the guide of life". Fewer than 10% of colleges and universities are privileged to have Phi Beta Kappa chapters on their campuses. Only 9% of Catholic colleges have a PBK chapter.

Where are students housed?

Our campus is a 24-hour living and learning community where our students not only eat, sleep and study, but socialize, get involved, develop lifelong friendships and become better citizens both on campus community and in society. All full-time undergraduates live on campus (unless you live with your family). All first year students will be housed within a Theme Living Communities (TLC). (TLCs) are supportive environments comprised of groups of students brought together around a common interest or purpose to make living on campus a more rewarding adventure: Approaches to Transition, Service, Wellness. There are also Honors, Ambassador (GEAR), and GREAT (Alcohol and Drug Free) living communities.

What is the meal plan?

The Green Mountain Dining Hall, located on the main campus is open for meals continuously throughout the day. Most students have an unlimited meal plan, with an all-you-can-eat style buffet once you swipe your ID card at the door. There is also a smaller dining hall on the North campus where there are residence halls and apartments for juniors and seniors.

When can students have a car?

Students may have cars on campus starting their sophomore year with the exception of extenuating circumstances such as an off campus job. Those students may obtain a free pass and park on North Campus.

What do students do on campus on the weekends?

Students are very active on campus with such programs as student government, campus radio station, community service (MOVE), Martin Luther King Jr. Society, literary magazine, drama, dance, singing, bands, Wilderness Program, rugby and 21 varsity sports and intramurals. Students also take advantage of our beautiful location - hiking, camping, skiing, snowboarding. Students enjoy the cultural aspects of Burlington along with the social activities of a college town.

All full time SMC students in good academic standing will have access to a ski/snowboarding pass at **Sugarbush** starting at \$65 and a free ride to the mountain with the Adventure Sports Center and a **Saint Michael's/Flynn Center Cultural Pass** with \$10 to almost every show offered at the downtown theater.

What forms of transportation are available to students?

SMC has an agreement with CCTA bus service that allows all students and faculty with an SMC ID to ride the bus at no charge. Burlington International airport is 10 minutes from campus. The bus station is located right in Burlington and the train station in Essex. The Mega Bus is a great option with stations in Boston, Hartford, New York, and beyond. Students take advantage of internal communication to post carpooling opportunities.

Is the campus safe?

Saint Michael's Security is on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Security officers patrol by car, foot, and bike. The campus is well lit and there are over 50 Emergency Phones strategically placed around the campus. The residence halls remained locked at all times, with student card access to the buildings and a key to their room. Residence Life staff is on duty at all times, in the office until midnight on weekdays and 2am on weekends. We also have our own Fire and Rescue Squad. We also use smart phone apps and text message alerts for immediate emergency information sharing.

Is campus wireless? Yes. All of campus is wireless.

What type of computer do I need?

You are not required to bring your own computer, but 98% of students come with a laptop, both Macs and PCs.

When was SMC founded?

The Society of Saint Edmund traces its foundation to 1843 when a group of diocesan priests banded together at St. Mary's Abbey in Pontigny, France. Threats of government restrictions on religious orders in France led the congregation in 1892 to make a foundation in the Burlington, Vermont diocese, which needed French-speaking priests. They transplanted their mission and built upon their expertise in preaching and religious education with the opening in 1904 of Saint Michael's College in Colchester, Vermont. In succeeding years the Society has remained faithful to its mission even as it has adapted to changing circumstances in our world. There are approximately 12 priests and brothers involved in teaching, administration and support services on campus.

Why SMC?

Kiplinger's 35 Best College Values in New England, 2014 [Link here if viewing online](#)

Travel & Leisure Magazine #1 college town in the US [Link](#)

Forbes list of America's Top Colleges [Link](#)

Phi Beta Kappa National Honor Society Chapter [Link](#)

The Princeton Review Best of 276 Colleges [Link](#)

US News & World Report # 90 [Link](#)

Fiske Guide Best of 300 Colleges [Link](#)