

Saint Mary's A to Z – the self-guided tour.

- A. Parking for your tour – You may park anywhere in this lot without a permit. There are four spaces reserved for prospective students by the Admissions Office just across from Brother Jerome West Hall. These are generally available on a first come, first served basis.
- B. Brother Jerome West – Welcome! Please come in! Admissions and Financial Aid are both located here in BJW, so if you happen to be on campus from 8:30 AM-4:30 PM, Monday-Friday, please stop in and say hello. We would love to speak with you and answer any questions you may have. If nothing else, come into the Visitor Center and grab a complimentary cup of Peet's coffee to get you started. Also, your tour directions will bring you back here at the end, so write down any questions you might have and feel free to contact us after your tour.
- C. Assumption Hall (Only viewable from outside, residence hall exterior doors are locked) – You pushed yourself in high school, and you want to keep achieving in college? Assumption will help you do just that. One of our six first year residence halls, Assumption is reserved for students admitted with Honors and for students interested in studying math or science. There are three student mentors living in the building, one from the sciences, one from the liberal arts, and one from mathematics. Also, the Resident Director here is Prof. Chris Jones (aka Jonesy) from the Mathematics department and his wife is Mary Volmer, the Director of the Honors Program at Saint Mary's.
- D. Galileo Hall (walk all the way through and continue straight out other end) – A great education challenges everything you think you know. With Newton and Einstein, Pascal and Euler, students of Physics, Math, and Astronomy study to the edge of human knowledge here. Check out classrooms, the brand new math pedagogy center, the seismograph, and the math fractals digital display, as well as posters put up by the Psychology club and the Liberal and Civic Studies department.
- E. Saint John Baptist de la Salle (get to his statue by walking straight out of Galileo hall) – You think you have attitude? You obviously haven't met this guy's friends, yet. Saint John Baptist de la Salle, the patron saint of teachers, founded the Christian Brothers in 1680, giving up everything he had (no paltry inheritance as a nobleman) to dedicate his life to providing education for the impoverished peasantry of seventeenth century France. His Brothers today sport big hearts and stiff upper lips as they continue his work in over 80 countries worldwide, from the jungles of Papua New Guinea to the politically volatile deserts of Palestine, all the way to Saint Mary's College of California. There are 26 Brothers living on campus and working as administrators, faculty, and staff, so stay alert as you walk around, because you never know when one of them might change your life.
- F. Chapel Plaza (walk behind the statue of de la Salle, toward the Chapel) – From here you can see the 'SMC' on the hill above campus. What color is it? Any student organization can paint the SMC any colors for any reason. Is it pink for breast cancer awareness month; red, white, and green for Latino/a heritage; red, white, and blue for Saint Mary's? If it's just white, then it's ready and waiting for the next group. The first to paint the SMC each year are new students during Weekend of Welcome. 5 gallons of white, 5 gallons of blue, 5 gallons of red, and no paintbrushes. Being a Gael will look good on you.
- G. The Chapel (enter and exit the front door, it is OK to take pictures) – Many people think Catholics are boring, but we know better. The Catholic Church is at the forefront of social justice movements around the world, and that definitely comes out here. Whether you are Catholic or not, you are

welcome to go to one of the three masses offered here throughout the week, and you are more than welcome to stop into the Office of Mission and Ministry just next door (M&M for short) to be part of something revolutionary. Through M&M students have opportunities to immerse themselves in social justice, a key component of the culture here at Saint Mary's. Immersion trips at the Dorothy Day House or in immigrant communities in Arizona help shape the attitude in our students that the world is a place they have the power to change for the better, and we give them the tools to do it.

- H. Oliver Hall (walk down the arcade from the Chapel, noting also the seminar classroom on the way by) – People come up to us all the time and ask, “How’s the food?” Well, quite frankly, it’s excellent. From the omelets at breakfast and the custom salads at lunch to the General Tsao’s stir fry at dinner, everything here is made fresh. Stop in for a meal and check out the wide range of options, including the vegetarian station that features food grown in the Legacy Garden right here on campus. Just be careful on the way in, because the bakery is right at the servery entrance!
- I. Dante Hall (walk straight out the door of Oliver Hall and down the stairs) – If you thought college would be like high school but a little harder, you were wrong. This building holds two of the programs that make Saint Mary’s totally different – Collegiate Seminar and January Term.
 - a. January Term (stop just inside the door of Dante to see the JanTerm displays) – During JanTerm you’ll embark on an academic adventure. You will take one class, three hours per day, four days per week, for the whole month of January. Whether on campus or off, you’re bound to see – and do – some amazing things. On campus, courses run the gamut from social and political issues to food and culture. You could find yourself learning Mandarin or spending your days surveying area wetlands and creating an environmental curriculum for local elementary school kids. You might have a community engagement experience working with at-risk youth in Oakland or the homeless in Berkeley. If you’re really ready to explore uncharted territory, consider one of the travel courses. Recently, Saint Mary’s students have traveled to India to study entrepreneurship among the less affluent; gone deep-sea diving in Micronesia to investigate the coral reefs; and followed in the footsteps of Saint Paul, from Israel and Palestine to Rome. If you check out the map just inside the door of Dante Hall you’ll see all the courses that travelled last year, and the display case next to it usually has artifacts and photos students have brought back from their JanTerm travels.
 - b. Seminar (Continue down the hall. The murals and quotes all reference Dante’s Divine Comedy) – Put on your intellectual flak jacket. The Marines have boot camp and we have Collegiate Seminar. It’s a simple idea: read and discuss the world’s greatest thinkers. Then go out and be one. If you glance into room 119 (feel free to go in if no class is in session), you’ll see the training ground. Students throw ideas across the round table here with as much alacrity as when our rugby team plays Cal, and they take away an unforgettable experience that never ends. Our graduates often say, ten years down the road, that Collegiate Seminar prepared them in a way no lecture class ever could. It will teach you to think critically, to listen to other perspectives, to argue effectively, and to see the complexity in every issue. Along the way, you’ll converse with the best minds that have ever written. From Aristotle to Austin, Seminar helps put everything else here into perspective.

- J. Saint Albert Hall (Leave Dante from the door opposite the one you came in and go to the building on the right) – Saint Albert the Great is known for being one of the most brilliant minds of the thirteenth century. We want you to follow in his footsteps. Open until 1 AM during the week, Saint Albert Library houses more than 200,000 volumes, 100,000 print and electronic periodicals and over 50,000 research bases. In addition, our membership with Link+ (a consortium of major collections nationwide) allows access to more than 12 million additional items and volumes. The reference desk attendant is on MSN and AOL Instant Messenger, ample study spaces on the second floor are always buzzing with students getting ready for their next exam, and the computer lab downstairs (both Macs and PCs) is one of the busiest places on campus when term papers are due.
- K. Filippi Academic Hall (As you exit the library, go down the arcade to the right, turn right at the corner, and head down the road. You will see a patio area at the entrance to this building) – “At last count, there were maybe two dozen Chicanas with Ph.D.s in History in the whole country – and I’m one of them.” Myrna Santiago is just one of the many amazing professors having one-on-one experiences with students every day at Saint Mary’s College. As you wander through this building, peek through the huge windows on the classroom doors and get a sense of what really goes on in a class at Saint Mary’s. These are ‘lecture’ rooms, but with an average class size of 20, most classes are more like conversations anyway. The majority of classes in Filippi are from the Kalmanovitz School of Education, but look at the schedule next to the door to see everything that happens in a room during the week. Anthropology, Sociology, History, and Business are just a few of the other departments utilizing the newest academic building on campus (completed in January 2008).
- L. Ground floor of Augustine Hall (Having walked down the hall of Filippi, exit any door on the left and you will come out looking across the courtyard at Augustine Hall) – If you need any kind of support – physical, spiritual, emotional – you’ll never have to go far. Minor injuries and illnesses can be treated for no extra charge at the Health and Wellness Center, and the trained professionals at the Counseling Center are always available to provide caring, culturally sensitive counseling services. Don’t forget New Student and Family Programs as well as the Academic Advising Center. Transitioning into life at college might not be easy or painless, but with the diverse, supportive staff at Saint Mary’s, you can be assured you won’t be trying to do it all alone.
- M. Tutoring (South wing of Filippi Academic) – Maybe you were just too smart for tutoring in high school, but college is going to take an attitude adjustment. Classes here are tough, but when you need a little extra help just drop into TASC (Tutoring and Academic Skills Center) and Saint Mary’s will provide you, at no extra cost, with a tutor, a note taker, or whatever else you might need. Student Disabilities Services also operates out of TASC, helping students with extra needs stay in the game academically.
- N. First Year Residence halls (Walk back around Augustine Hall the same way you came and take the diagonal sidewalk toward De La Salle) – De La Salle Hall in the middle, Augustine on the right, Aquinas on the left, Mitty beside Aquinas, and Justin behind Mitty; these are the other five of our first year residence halls, and we can pretty much guarantee you’ll love yours. Every room comes with the basics (furniture, phones and data ports) and every floor is staffed by a trained student Resident Advisor as well as a staff or faculty Resident Director. The RAs coordinate activities and act as informal mentors. They know the ropes, and they’re great listeners. Brothers, faculty members, coaches, administrators (even President Bro. Ron Gallagher!) are available as RDs to lend an ear or

offer advice. Take a minute, too, to go into the ground floor of De La Salle Hall and check out the student lounge, late night café, and game room. Glance in the office windows in the hallway while you're there. Campus Activities Board and the Residence Hall Association usually have posters advertising their upcoming events, like taking students to the West Coast Conference basketball tournament in Las Vegas or hosting a comedian in Dryden Hall on Friday night.

- O. Student Involvement and Leadership—aka “SIL” (exit De La Salle hall and follow the curved sidewalk away from the library, then follow the arcade. SIL is the first office on the right) – Saint Mary’s students don’t sit around. It simply isn’t our nature. With around 40 student organizations being run out of SIL, there is plenty to keep you busy. From cultural clubs like the Latin American Student Association to the student senate (Associated Students of SMC) to academic clubs like St. Luke’s pre-med society, students at Saint Mary’s make a difference in their community by bringing their passions with them. So what’s yours?
- P. “CILSA” (around the corner from SIL) – Maybe you have guts. Maybe you have brains. But do you have heart? Service isn’t required. For most of our students, it’s just second nature. The Catholic Institute for Lasallian Social Action, now in its tenth year of operation, is an office solely dedicated to providing service opportunities for students. Tutoring at the Lasallian Educational Opportunities Center, JumpStart programs at Saint Martin De Porres School in Oakland, gardening at the Alameda Point Collaborative, these are just some of the kinds of service work students engage in at Saint Mary’s College. Stop in and ask what students are engaged in now, you’ll surely get an earful.
- Q. Café Louis (continue up the arcade from CILSA, alongside the large quad) – Maybe you drink coffee, maybe you don’t. Either way, this café, named after one of the earlier professional baseball players from Saint Mary’s (Louis Guisto went pro in 1916, the first SMC baseball player to go pro was Jerry Denny in 1881), is a great place to read for seminar, meet a professor, or hang out with friends over a cup of hot chocolate. Step inside to get a glimpse of the history of the college decorating the walls.
- R. Delphine Intercultural Center (continue up the arcade) – Give up your stereotypes now, because there is no ‘typical’ Saint Mary’s student and the people in Delphine know that better than anyone. Our student body is 43% African American, Asian American, Latino American, Native American or Pacific Islander, 13% out of state, and represents 32 different countries. Eleven cultural clubs operate out of Delphine, about a fourth of the student organizations active on campus.
- S. Bookstore (again, continue up the arcade) – We know what you’re thinking – why is the bookstore on the self-guided tour? Our students don’t just have a good attitude about their college, they have pride. They tend to show it by wearing their SMC gear pretty much everywhere they go, and they get most of it at the bookstore. Don’t forget to go downstairs, too, and check out what people are picking up for their classes. From Education and History to Mathematics and Biology, our Barnes and Noble run bookstore has it all in stock.
- T. Le Fevre Theatre and Syufy Hall (both are visible from the door to the bookstore) – *Forty-eight thousand dollars*. That’s how much we’ll give you if you prove you have what it takes to excel in the performing arts as a major or minor. Twelve grand a year to do what you love – dance, music, or drama – is no trifle. And if you aren’t interested in the major or minor, maybe you just want to keep yourself in the arts as a hobby. There is ample opportunity to interact with this department regardless of your field of study, and world class faculty like Lino Rivera (an internationally

renowned pianist), Cathy Davalos and Dana Lawton (directors taking a group of SMC dancers to perform at the National American College Dance Festival in Washington D.C.) will help you stay passionate and improve your skills. Step into the theatre to see where the dramatic magic happens, or go upstairs in Syufy and peek into the private music practice rooms available for any student at Saint Mary's.

- U. Hearst Art Gallery (go through the tunnel under Syufy Hall and turn left at the top of the stairs, then follow the road) – Do you have as much attitude as Andy Warhol? We do. The Hearst Art Gallery is the only accredited gallery in Contra Costa County and recently received a grant that enabled it to put on an Andy Warhol show. Art and Art History students at Saint Mary's often work in the gallery designing shows and getting pieces ready for display. Students also put their own attitude on display in Gallery 160, just across the courtyard and up the stairs from the Hearst Gallery.
- V. McKeon Pavilion (continue down the road from the Gallery, McKeon is behind the large pine trees. If you want to go inside, try the door furthest to the right, it is usually unlocked) – What is a Gael, anyway? When one's charging down the field at you, you'll know, but in the simplest terms, it is a Gaelic speaking Irish person. We currently field 14 NCAA Division I teams and we are a founding member of the West Coast Conference. The most followed sport in the WCC is Men's Basketball, and last year we advanced into the Sweet 16, busting President Obama's March Madness bracket when we ousted Villanova in the Round of 32. Other notable recent successes include Women's Tennis's WCC Tournament title, the naming of Men's Soccer's Adam Cooper as WCC Coach of the Year, and Women's Softball's first ever NCAA Tournament appearance.
- W. Madigan Gym (down the road from McKeon, this building has palm trees in front of it) – For love of the game, can you stack up? Both Club and Intramural sports run out of Madigan (named after the man who put Saint Mary's football on the map in the 1920s and 30s), and we are turning heads all over the country. In 2008 Men's Rugby finished 2nd in the nation, and has advanced to the Sweet 16 more than 5 years running. Similarly, Men's Crew and Men's Lacrosse also had championship showings in 2008. If intercollegiate isn't your style, jump on an intramural team and just have some fun. Students on campus participate in dodgeball leagues, basketball, softball, football, soccer, and other sports. Additionally, Madigan Gym is available all day for students to drop in, there is a cardio center upstairs, and a swimming pool next door. On the weekends, Outdoor Adventures runs excursions to places like Yosemite, Lake Tahoe, and the American River.
- X. Br. Alfred Brousseau Hall (Across the street and somewhat down the road from Madigan Gym) – 17 laboratories. 14 students in a classroom. 1 professor. 0 graduate teaching aides. Want to study science at Saint Mary's College? Welcome to your second home (or third, if you still count your parents' house). Professors here will challenge you to do better than you think you can, and the 6 small group study rooms in this building, plus the lounge with a coffee maker and refrigerator, are going to be important to help you reach the level they expect. Every year, at least a third of our students conduct research with a professor, and from our graduating class of 2009 we had 100% placement of pre-med majors into medical school. Wherever you see yourself after college, Saint Mary's can take you there. You'll have the chance to live and breathe your subject matter, and you'll gain valuable real-world experience in your future field.
- Y. Power Plant (The building with the smokestack. Main entrance is in the back of the building) – Have we mentioned that Saint Mary's is one of the oldest colleges in the West? Founded in San Francisco

in 1863, we didn't get to Moraga until 1928 (after a 40 year stint in Oakland). When we came here, Saint Mary's was the only thing around, so we dammed Las Trampas creek to make Lake La Salle and ran a power plant here on campus. During World War II, the US Navy took over campus and made it the west coast flight training school. Uncomfortable with being dependent on a stream for power, the Navy had East Bay Municipal Utility District run power and water to campus, eliminating the need for Lake La Salle and the Power Plant. Today, the old power plant building is a weightlifting facility available for any Saint Mary's student.

- Z. That's it for the tour, but you are welcome to keep wandering campus and revisit any of your favorite spots. If you have more questions, please don't hesitate to call or email us (925.631.4224; smcadmit@stmarys-ca.edu), or drop into the office. To get back to your car, simply continue down the road past Assumption Hall and you will see the parking lot directly ahead. Thanks for visiting! We hope to see you back on campus soon.