

ST. JOHN'S
COLLEGE
FACTS

CHARACTER

St. John's is a four-year, co-educational, liberal arts college with no religious affiliation.

CURRICULUM

The integrated arts and sciences program is based on a chronological study of seminal works of Western civilization.

DEGREE GRANTED

B.A. in Liberal Arts

FACULTY-STUDENT RATIO

1 to 8

LOCATION

The 36-acre Eastern campus is located in the heart of historic Annapolis, Maryland. The 250-acre campus in Santa Fe, New Mexico, offers both spectacular scenery and the cultural attractions of the Southwest.

STUDENT

ENROLLMENT

Undergraduate enrollment ranges from 425 to 475 on each campus. Students come from all 50 states and about 20 countries. Students of color make up approximately 10 percent of the student body. The ratio of men to women is 10 to 9.

STUDENT LIFE

About 82 percent of the students live on campus. Both campuses offer extensive intramural sports programs and extracurricular opportunities.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

The aim of the education offered by St. John's College is the liberation of the human intellect. This is an education for all, regardless of a person's race, ethnicity, sex, religious beliefs, country of origin, economic background, age, disability, or sexual orientation.

By reading great books and struggling together with the fundamental questions that they raise, students and their teachers learn from their differences and discover more deeply their shared humanity. In this and other ways, a diversity of background and experience enriches our community of learning. Because it offers an education for all, St. John's College has sought and continues to seek to make its program of study known and available to people of diverse backgrounds.

ADMISSIONS

Students may apply using the college's paper application or the Common Application with supplement. Interviews and campus visits are recommended.

FEES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2010-2011

Tuition: \$41,792
Room and Board: \$9,984
Required Fees: \$400

FINANCIAL AID

St. John's is committed to making its distinctive educational program available to students from families of all income levels. All financial aid awards are based on need, and about 65 percent of the students receive some form of assistance—with the average aid package totaling \$31,160 annually.

Founded as King William's School, 1696; chartered as St. John's College, 1784; accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-2680; 215-662-5000), by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (30 N. La Salle Street, Suite 2400, Chicago, IL 60602; 800-612-7440), and by the American Academy for Liberal Education (1710 Rhode Island Ave., NW, 4th Floor, Washington, DC 20036; 202-452-8611). The college is coeducational and has no religious affiliation. St. John's admits qualified students of any race, religion, or national or ethnic origin, without regard to sex, age, disability, or sexual orientation. Academic facilities and most residence halls are accessible to persons with physical disabilities.

NCSDO S29008 7.10

Better Questions

There are typical questions. And then there are those that display a thoughtfulness that leads to insight. At St. John's College, asking better questions is the way we educate ourselves. As you consider your options, here are some questions . . .

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For more information, visit www.stjohnscollege.edu or contact:

P.O. Box 2800
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21404
410-626-2522 • 800-727-9238
ADMISSIONS@SJCA.EDU

1160 CAMINO CRUZ BLANCA
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87505
505-984-6060 • 800-331-5232
ADMISSIONS@SJCSF.EDU



ST. JOHN'S
College

ANNAPOLIS • SANTA FE

Questions you might not think to ask about college

Instead of: *Where are you located?*

Ask:

How does your location matter?

St. John's happens to have two campuses, but it is one college. We have a single program of study for all students—and, in nearly every respect, that program is the same on both campuses. Insofar as St. John's is a place of ideas, where students read and discuss some of the most enduring works of Western civilization, our location really doesn't matter. Yet as it happens, each of our campuses—in Annapolis, Maryland, and Santa Fe, New Mexico—is located in a place of history and beauty. And the fact that we have two locations gives you a choice, as well as the opportunity to change campuses at the end of any academic year—something you won't find at most other colleges.

Instead of: *What majors do you have?*

Ask:

Why do I need a major?

At St. John's, we don't ask you to choose a major—only to encounter and contemplate the meaning of some of the greatest books ever written. By responding to such works, you'll gain tremendous insight into yourself and the world around you—insight that will enable you not only to specialize later, but also to know something of profound importance: *why* you choose what you choose to do with your life.

Instead of: *Can I get in?*

Ask:

Is it the right fit?

No matter what college you get into, it won't do you much good if it's not right for you. St. John's is not for everyone, but for many students it is *exactly* right. If you like to read, to question ideas that others take for granted, to pursue meaning tirelessly without demanding final answers, and to do this in a community of other curious, hard-working students, you will thrive at St. John's.

A LEARNING COMMUNITY: United by the college's distinctive academic program, St. John's students address enduring questions as they decide how to live their lives.



Questions your parents might ask

Instead of: How much does it cost?

Ask:

How much is it worth?

It's hard to put a price on a St. John's education, but its value is certain: both as preparation for a lifetime of learning and as flexible training in critical thinking and communication, the college's liberal education has few peers. Here, students are challenged every day to think for themselves and to consider what others have to say. They learn to approach new ideas and situations with confidence and intelligence—and to seek better solutions by questioning accepted beliefs. Such abilities serve them throughout their lives and make it easy for our graduates to distinguish themselves in any field they choose.

Instead of: What can you do with your degree?

Ask:

What *can't* you do?

Each year, St. John's alumni prove there is little they can't do. Some choose to launch careers directly after graduation. Nearly 70 percent pursue advanced education; many enter the nation's leading business, law, and medical schools. And the college is in the top 2 percent of all colleges in the nation for alumni earning PhDs and in the top 4 percent for earning them in science or engineering.

Instead of: Will it help you make a good living?

Ask:

Will it help you make a good life?

A St. John's education has an extraordinary impact on individual lives. It places students on a lifelong quest for self-knowledge and gives them the means to deeply understand and appreciate their careers and the world that surrounds them—and those with whom they share it.



A COMMAND OF IDEAS: In class, St. John's students grow confident and comfortable articulating their thoughts—and they learn how to listen and observe.

Questions you'll ask at St. John's

Instead of: Will it be on the test?

Ask:

What does this book have to say to *me*?

St. John's is not interested in seeing how much you can memorize for a final exam. And St. John's students care more about genuine understanding than they do about reciting facts and figures. They would rather encounter the works of brilliant authors directly and form their own opinions than read a textbook interpretation. That's why St. John's avoids secondary sources and gives oral examinations rather than written finals—and why students write papers to articulate carefully their responses to classic texts.

Instead of: What classes should I take?

Ask:

Where might an open mind take me?

If you suspend your biases and preconceptions as you explore timeless works at St. John's, you'll find yourself encountering fundamental ideas on their own terms. Opening your mind is a prerequisite to true understanding. Whether you agree or disagree with an author, you'll be thinking for yourself.

Instead of: Will I be able to make the team?

Ask:

What else brings me joy?

All St. John's students are encouraged to play intramural sports and participate in extracurriculars of every kind—to revel in the intrinsic joy of working with a team and embarking on untried pursuits. They approach life at the college with the same spirit of fearless inquiry they bring to the books.



A BROAD BACKGROUND: As they expand their academic horizons and try out new activities, St. John's students open themselves to a range of experiences.



The St. John's College Reading List

The program of study is built around the college's reading list—a chronological examination of more than two thousand

years of Western intellectual history. Though not comprehensive, it is designed to touch on nearly every area of inquiry.

**These authors and works are read in seminar. The others are distributed among tutorials in language, music, mathematics, and laboratory.*

FRESHMAN YEAR

- * **Homer**
Iliad, Odyssey
- * **Aeschylus**
Agamemnon, Libation Bearers, Eumenides, Prometheus Bound
- * **Sophocles**
Oedipus Rex, Oedipus at Colonus, Antigone, Philoctetes
- * **Thucydides**
Peloponnesian War
- * **Euripides**
Hippolytus, Bacchae
- * **Herodotus**
Histories
- * **Aristophanes**
Clouds
- * **Plato**
Meno, Gorgias, Apology, Crito, Phaedo, Republic, Parmenides, Theaetetus, Sophist, Timaeus, Symposium, Phaedrus
- Aristotle**
**Nicomachean Ethics,*
**Poetics,*
**Metaphysics, On Generation and Corruption,*
**Physics,*

**Politics, Parts of Animals, Generation of Animals*

Euclid
Elements

* **Lucretius**
On the Nature of Things

* **Plutarch**
"Lycurgus,"
"Solon"

Nicomachus
Arithmetic

Lavoisier
Elements of Chemistry

Harvey
Motion of the Heart and Blood

Essays by:
Archimedes,
Fahrenheit,
Avogadro,
Dalton,
Cannizzaro,
Virchow,
Mariotte,
Driesch,
Gay-Lussac,
Spemann, Stears,
J. J. Thomson,
Mendelejev,
Berthollet,
J. L. Proust

SOPHOMORE YEAR

- *The Bible
- Aristotle**
**De Anima, On Interpretation, Prior Analytics, Categories*

Apollonius
Conics

* **Virgil**
Aeneid

* **Plutarch**
"Caesar,"
"Cato the Younger"

* **Epictetus**
Discourses, Manual

* **Tacitus**
Annals

Ptolemy
Almagest

* **Plotinus**
The Enneads

* **Augustine**
Confessions

* **Anselm**
Proslogium

* **Aquinas**
Summa Theologica, Summa Contra Gentiles

* **Dante**
Divine Comedy

* **Chaucer**
Canterbury Tales

Des Prez
Mass

* **Machiavelli**
The Prince, Discourse on Livy

Copernicus
On the Revolution of the Spheres

* **Luther**
The Freedom of a Christian

Palestrina
Missa Papae Marcelli

* **Montaigne**
Essays

Viète
"Introduction to the Analytical Art"

* **Bacon**
Novum Organum

Shakespeare
**Richard II,*
**Henry IV, Henry V,*
**The Tempest,*
**As You Like It,*

**Hamlet,*
**Othello,*
**Macbeth,*
**King Lear, Coriolanus,*
Sonnets

Poems by:
Marvell, Donne,
and other 16th-
and 17th-century
poets

Descartes
Geometry,

**Discourse on Method*

Pascal
Generation of Conic Sections

Bach
St. Matthew Passion, Preludes and Fugues

Mozart
Operas

Beethoven
Eroica

Schubert
Songs

Stravinsky
Symphony of Psalms



**JUNIOR
YEAR**

***Cervantes**
Don Quixote

Galileo
Two New Sciences

***Hobbes**
Leviathan

Descartes
**Meditations, Rules for the Direction of the Mind*

***Milton**
Paradise Lost

La Rochefoucauld
Maximes

La Fontaine
Fables

***Eliot**
Middlemarch

***Pascal**
Pensées

Huygens
Treatise on Light, On the Movement of Bodies by Impact

***Spinoza**
Theological-Political Treatise

***Locke**
Second Treatise of Government

Racine
Phèdre

Newton
Principia Mathematica

Kepler
Epitome IV

***Swift**
Gulliver's Travels

Leibniz
**Monadology, *Discourse on Metaphysics, Essay on Dynamics, *Philosophical Essays, *Principles of Nature and Grace*

***Hume**
Treatise of Human Nature

***Rousseau**
Social Contract, The Origin of Inequality

***Molière**
The Misanthrope

***Adam Smith**
Wealth of Nations

***Kant**
Critique of Pure Reason, Foundations of the Metaphysics of Morals

***Mozart**
Don Giovanni

***Austen**
Pride and Prejudice

Dedekind
Essay on the Theory of Numbers

Essays by:
Young, Maxwell, Taylor, Euler, D. Bernoulli

**SENIOR
YEAR**

*Articles of Confederation,
*Declaration of Independence,
*Constitution of the United States,
*Supreme Court Opinions

***Hamilton, Jay, and Madison**
The Federalist

Darwin
Origin of Species

***Hegel**
Phenomenology of Spirit, "Logic" (from the Encyclopedia)

Lobachevsky
Theory of Parallels

***Tocqueville**
Democracy in America

***Lincoln**
Selected speeches

***Kierkegaard**
Philosophical Fragments, Fear and Trembling

***Wagner**
Tristan and Isolde

***Marx**
Capital, The Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844, The German Ideology

***Dostoevsky**
The Brothers Karamazov

***Tolstoy**
War and Peace

***Melville**
Benito Cereno

***Twain**
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

***O'Connor**
Selected stories

***William James**
Psychology, Briefer Course

***Nietzsche**
Birth of Tragedy, Thus Spake Zarathustra, Beyond Good and Evil

***Freud**
General Introduction to Psychoanalysis

Baudelaire
Poems

Booker T. Washington
Selected writings

Du Bois
The Souls of Black Folk

***Heidegger**
What Is Philosophy?

***Wittgenstein**
Philosophical Investigations

Heisenberg
The Physical Principles of the Quantum Theory

Einstein
Selected papers

Millikan
The Electron

***Conrad**
Heart of Darkness

***Faulkner**
The Bear

Poems by:
Yeats, T. S. Eliot, Wallace Stevens, Rimbaud, Valéry

Essays by:
Faraday, J. J. Thomson, Mendel, Minkowski, Rutherford, Davisson, Schrödinger, Bohr, Maxwell, de Broglie, Dreisch, Ørsted, Ampère, Boveri, Sutton, Morgan, Beadle & Tatum, Sussman, Watson & Crick, Jacob & Monod, Hardy



A MEETING OF MINDS:
Examining the books as a basis for discussion, the St. John's seminar poses questions of perennial significance.

Questions you'll ask at St. John's (continued)

Instead of: What were the social and historical conditions under which this book was written?

Ask:

What questions does this book raise?

At St. John's, students aren't training to be specialists on a particular era or segment of society. They aren't seeking to view ideas through the lens of a school of thought or movement, or to impose a literary or cultural theory on a work. They want to think about the work itself, to discuss it in class, to let it provoke questions that spill over into conversations all around campus. They not only want to test the ideas in a book; they want to be tested by them in return. In short, they challenge every book to transform their minds.

Instead of: Should I join a fraternity or sorority?

Ask:

How can I contribute to this learning community?

With everyone participating in the same curriculum, St. John's students always have something in common. And every time someone joins the greater conversation, everyone benefits. There's no need for planned bonding through traditional Greek life: kinship is in the program, and in the shared encountering of it.

Instead of: How am I different from people of other times and places?

Ask:

What does it mean to be human?

The emphasis here is on what we share—not what appears to set us apart. At St. John's, you'll approach the questions that have concerned humans throughout history, and answer them as if for the first time.

A PLACE OF CONVERSATION: Discussions don't stop at the classroom doors—nor does the joy of exchanging points of view, taking positions, and making connections.



Questions we might ask you

Instead of: *What are your SAT scores?*

WE MIGHT ASK:

What are you reading?

We're interested in the life of your mind, and there are few better indications of lively curiosity than what you read for pleasure. Sure, you might have performed well on a standardized test, but at a college where insights are gained through discussion—and where not knowing is often more productive than knowing—test scores simply aren't that important to us. We want to know what kinds of books you seek out—and how the dialogue you create with them affects your life.

Instead of: *What was your grade point average in high school?*

WE MIGHT ASK:

How much do you want to learn?

Ability and achievement in high school are important, of course—but even more important is your desire to undertake the St. John's program of study. If you can't imagine passing up the opportunity to engage with many of Western civilization's greatest minds, you belong at St. John's.

Instead of: *What are your reasons for applying to college?*

WE MIGHT ASK:

What excites you about an examined life?

Ultimately, your choice of college is a reflection of how you want to live your life. Graduates of St. John's use their powers of analysis to interpret current events, to guide their careers, and to make productive and satisfying life decisions—and, not incidentally, to keep asking better questions.

A LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE: Intellectual, musical, experimental, athletic, artistic—the St. John's program challenges and enriches the entire person.

