

Together...



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alumni profiles

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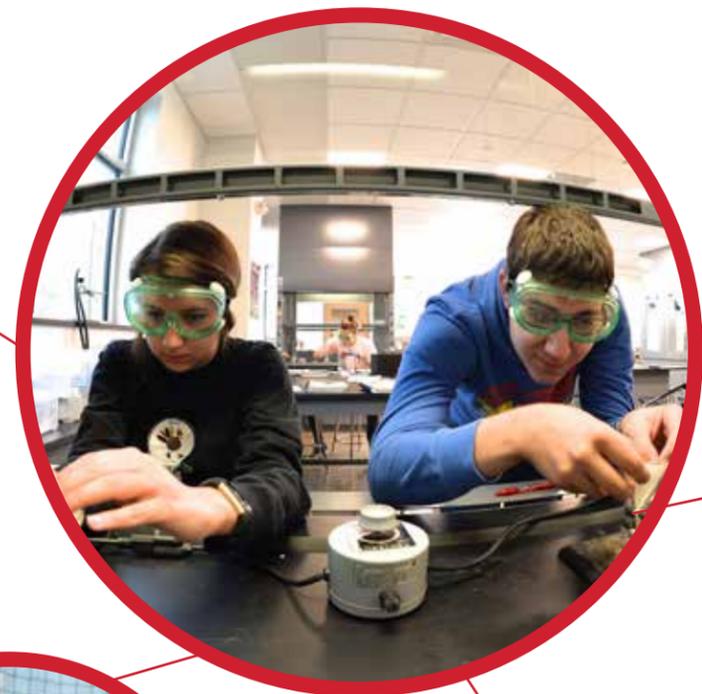
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WE ARE SAINT MARY'S.



HERE, OUR ADVICE
TO STUDENTS IS SIMPLE:

YOU BE you

Whatever your dreams, our commitment to the academic, personal, and future success of each and every student means we support you in realizing them.

In the following pages, you will read stories of alumni success in business, science, education, the arts, and athletics. In our classrooms, we do more than present information; we help you find connections, question the status quo, and dig deep into issues that confront you as a student and will shape your life as a professional. You will leave Saint Mary's prepared to not only lead with knowledge and confidence, but also to lead with character and conviction.

And you will learn about us: about the community of educators and thinkers, of fellow students and staff who will support you, empower you, and celebrate you as you awaken your inner leader, healer, artist, athlete, teacher, and self.

SO GO AHEAD; BE YOURSELF.
WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THE REST.



If you dream of being the next video influencer, we've got you covered.

MAJOR IN EDUCATION

to hone your teaching and instruction skills and **MINOR IN DIGITAL MEDIA AND JOURNALISM** to develop video storytelling savvy.



Are you inspired to turn your love of gaming into a career? We can help! Enroll in the **SOFTWARE DESIGN** track as a **COMPUTER SCIENCE MAJOR** and **MINOR IN BUSINESS** to market your app to the right audience—and manage the revenue.



If all you've ever wanted to do is make people feel better, our **3+2 PHYSICIANS ASSISTANT PROGRAM**, in educational collaboration with **MAYO CLINIC SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES**, will give you the skills you need to work in the medical field, from pediatrics to geriatrics.



KEVIN COLLINS

EVP, Managing Director
Momentum Worldwide | Chicago, Illinois

Major, English Literature | '02



***THAT INTERNSHIP
CHANGED EVERYTHING FOR ME,
INCLUDING HOW I ENVISIONED
MY FUTURE CAREER.***

Photo by Sawyer Bengtson on Unsplash

LIBERAL ARTS + INTERNSHIP =

Opportunity

CAREER SUCCESS IS ABOUT MORE THAN TECHNICAL SKILLS

Kevin Collins took a practical approach to college, choosing to pursue journalism because of its relevancy even in the toughest of economical times. Through Saint Mary's, Collins was able to find a liberal arts education that aligned with his creative side, and the major in English Literature that allowed him the flexibility to succeed in the ever-changing business world.

Collins considered multiple career paths, including law school. Then, the summer before his senior year, he completed an internship with Clear Channel Entertainment (now Live Nation) where he worked at concert venues and engaged directly with brands, marketers and VIPs.

After graduating, a contact gained during that internship reached out to Collins because he was starting an events agency in New York City. The rest is history. Collins joined a world he already knew he loved and that career path has provided ample opportunity and memories.

From joining an agency as it was being built to opening agency offices in Chicago and London (with his young family in tow), staffing the 2012 Beijing Olympic Games, and touring with brands like Nike and Beats By Dre, his internship taught him the importance of seizing opportunity and making the most of relationships gained along the way.

His advice for those making a big decision? "When beginning your career, don't wait for everything to be perfect. Just start! There is always something to be gained."





LUIS ESCOBAR

Physicians Assistant

Mayo Health System, Mankato, Minnesota

Major, Biology | '12



***AT SAINT MARY'S, I LEARNED
ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF
FINDING AND PURSUING
A PURPOSE."***

Photo by Luis Melendez on Unsplash

SCIENCE AND SERVICE

Together

FINDING PURPOSE AND SUCCESS IN HEALTHCARE

Luis Escobar always loved science and knew he wanted to do something where he could give back and serve the greater good. But healthcare wasn't the immediate answer.

Before enrolling at Saint Mary's, Escobar visited campus, toured the science building, and met with faculty to learn more about the science program and ensure it was the right fit for him. He was especially drawn to the small class and lab sizes, because he was seeking a more personalized college experience.

During his junior year, he started to explore what might come next. After talking with his adviser and considering his options, he felt most comfortable with the physician's assistant pathway.

"At Saint Mary's, I learned about the importance of finding and pursuing a purpose," noted Escobar. "I wanted to be of service to others and my degree in biology and role as a physician's assistant have allowed me to do just that."

Now he works within the Mayo Health System near Mankato, Minnesota where he has the opportunity to improve a patient's quality of life and build relationships that have a positive impact.

For him, the decision to attend Saint Mary's not only aligned with who he wanted to be, but what he wanted to accomplish. "It was about taking the time to explore, research, and understand," shared Escobar.

"Don't rush the process or the decision. Listen to the people you surround yourself with, including family, friends, advisers, faculty, and staff."





TARA NAGY

Business Analyst

Chicago White Sox | Chicago, Illinois

Major, Business Intelligence and Analytics | '18



***WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE
I GAINED AT SAINT MARY'S,
I WOULDN'T BE EQUIPPED TO
DO WHAT I'M DOING TODAY.***

Photo by Boris Balsindes on Unsplash

BIG DATA AND THE

Big Leagues

TURNING A PASSION FOR NUMBERS INTO A CAREER

Tara Nagy has played sports her entire life and always dreamed of job in the industry. In search of her first full-time role, she found the perfect fit when a business analyst position opened up with the Chicago White Sox. With a degree in business intelligence and analytics, the role aligned with her education, experience, and interests. It was truly a dream opportunity.

A key part of her job is telling the data story. Numbers and statistics mean nothing without the context necessary to paint a picture, draw conclusions and make informed recommendations. She is proud of her ability to talk to leadership and bring forth information to key stakeholders in a way that is meaningful and actionable.

"I am in Excel all day, every day," shared Nagy. "I remember wondering why Michael Ratajczyk, assistant professor and program director of Business Intelligence and Data Analytics, required so much Excel work. But without that knowledge, I wouldn't be equipped to do what I'm doing today. I loved every second of being at Saint Mary's!"

When asked what she loves most about working for the White Sox, Nagy shared, "Seeing the behind-the-scenes work that goes into a game. As a fan, you see what happens on the field, which is a huge part of the game. But there is so much more and now I get to see the work all of the departments put in to make each game happen."

Her advice to high school seniors planning for the future? "Step outside your comfort zone. Be proactive and start networking early!"



SAM HYBERGER

Teacher, Social Studies

St. Helena Catholic School | Minneapolis, Minnesota

Major, Secondary Education | '19



***A CAREER IN EDUCATION
TRULY ALIGNED WITH WHO I AM
AND WHAT I WANTED
TO ACCOMPLISH.***

THE BEST KIND OF

Homework

LEARNING TO TEACH THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS

Sam Hyberger was drawn to Saint Mary's because of its location, beautiful campus, and degree offerings. He had always envisioned a career in sports management—one of the university's more popular degrees—but then he attended the major fair at Saint Mary's and his future was irrevocably changed. A conversation with Karen Sorvaag, professor and chair of the Education Department, led him to his true calling—a career in education.

He credits Saint Mary's for getting students out into the field early in comparison to other schools. Hyberger noted, "It helped us stand out and ultimately, we were better prepared with the opportunity to make connections early within the school districts."

Having grown up attending a Catholic school, the opportunity to teach at St. Helena Catholic School was the right one for him—and two of his classmates. Working alongside fellow Saint Mary's alumni made the transition from college to career much easier. Now he can't imagine working somewhere without having his Saint Mary's community for support.

"I loved the small, tight-knit community at Saint Mary's, but still learned the importance of self-advocating," shared Hyberger. "This is more important than ever right now as everyone is worried about their own well-being."

For anyone considering what's next and worried about making the wrong decision, Hyberger encourages you to follow your intuition. "I was petrified to change my major, because I felt like I was altering the course of my life. But the decision to pursue a secondary education major is the best decision I ever made."



JAKE LECHNER

Sales

Universal Athletic | Edina, Minnesota

Major, Business Management and Marketing | '11



***THE BONDS I FORMED
IN COLLEGE REMAIN SOME
OF THE MOST IMPORTANT
IN MY LIFE.***

CAPTURING

Team Spirit

HOW TO SUCCEED ON AND OFF THE FIELD

Sports are known to bring people together, and baseball at Saint Mary's did that and more for Jake Lechner. "When I first started baseball in the fall, I immediately gained a family of 30 to 40 people before classes even started," Lechner said.

That sense of community extended into the classroom as well, where Lechner felt the small class sizes allowed students and faculty to really get to know him (and vice versa). He knew he wanted to go into business and perhaps someday own a sports shop, so the decision to pursue business management and marketing was a natural one.

Lechner's education and experiences at Saint Mary's helped him build his resume, prepare for the working world, and create a strong network of relationships. After graduation, he secured a position at a company near where he grew up.

Looking back, it's not the big wins that he remembers but the relationships, experiences, and memories. "I was able to play a game that I loved and form bonds along the way. Those bonds are still relevant today and remain some of the most important in my life," noted Lechner.

For those considering which college or university might provide the best fit, Lechner would encourage you to gather as much information as possible. "I connected with alumni, visited campus, and considered what mattered most to me as I prepared for this next step in life," he shared. "I appreciated the small class sizes and accountability of being known. I can say Saint Mary's truly felt like home."



BECCA GRIER

Tumbling Instructor
Charter Elementary School | Colorado

Major, Theater | '15



***THE CHANCE TO SPEND
AN ENTIRE SEMESTER STUDYING
THEATER IN A DIFFERENT
COUNTRY SOUNDED AMAZING!***

Photo by Mihai Halmi-Nistor on Unsplash

OUTSIDE THE

Comfort Zone

DISCOVERING YOURSELF IN A DIFFERENT COUNTRY

Becca Greer has always loved theatre and dance. Since she's from Colorado, her plan was to stay close to home and family after high school. She wasn't interested in attending a college out of state—until she learned about Saint Mary's.

Greer was intrigued by Saint Mary's semester in London study abroad program. "The chance to spend an entire semester studying theatre in a different country sounded amazing," said Greer.

Throughout the program, Greer gained exposure to different types of theatre and saw over 25 shows in a very short period of time. Her art class showcased amazing works of art with regular visits to museums. The experience culminated in a performance that has not only been great for her resume, but a unique talking point as well.

Like many theatre majors, Greer dreamed of moving to New York City and becoming a star. But her experiences abroad helped guide her a different direction. "While I loved my time in London, it also taught me I'm not a city girl," Greer shared. "I missed my car and green things!"

Greer realized what she's best at, what she enjoys most in life, and where her passion lies... in musical theatre. When an opportunity opened up for her to teach and choreograph tumbling at an elementary school, she knew she had to jump on it.

Greer emphasized the importance of being open-minded, no matter the vision you have in your head. "If I hadn't been open to venturing outside my comfort zone, I would have missed out on this opportunity."

YOUR

new backyard



Tucked along the Mississippi River and nestled between high granite bluffs, Winona is easy to miss. And to be honest, we like it that way. With a growing population of just under 27,000, the city's small town reputation is good cover for a vibrant and flourishing scene for the arts, music, culture, history, and sports.

Saint Mary's campus is home to about 1,200 undergraduates and is one of the most scenic and safe places in the country. As a student, you can run, dance or play basketball in the Gotomski Field House, swim in the Jul Gernes pool, play hockey in the ice arena, or enjoy a play at the Page Theatre.

Winona residents fully embrace all four seasons. In the spring and summer, we can be seen hiking, biking or climbing the bluffs, including the trails on the Saint Mary's campus. We paddle board, boat, canoe, and water ski on the river, and camp in one of the three state parks within a short drive of campus. In the fall, we do the same, but more slowly, as we're distracted by the breathtaking foliage.

But what about winter? Winona fully embraces winter! When you live in a cold climate, you find ways to make the best of it. Like cross country skiing on the trails through campus, attending the Frozen River Film Festival, shopping at the indoor farmers' markets, downhill skiing at one of the slopes in the region, or taking a short drive to Red Wing for the Big Turn Music Festival.

LEARN MORE AT VISITWINONA.COM

TOP 30

**MOST BEAUTIFUL
COLLEGE CAMPUSES
IN THE FALL
(NATIONALLY)**

117

**MILES FROM WINONA
TO MINNEAPOLIS**

57.5°

**AVERAGE
TEMPERATURE (°F)
IN WINONA**

10

**MILES OF
ON-CAMPUS
TRAILS**

16,534

**CUPS OF COFFEE SOLD
AT CARDINAL COFFEE
LAST YEAR**

ON A Mission

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A LASALLIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY...

WE HONOR AND RESPECT

the dignity of all individuals.

WE ENGAGE TOGETHER

in quality education as students, staff, and faculty by thinking critically and examining our world in light of faith and reason.

WE CELEBRATE

unity in diversity and welcome all members of our community.

WE ARE IN SOLIDARITY

with the marginalized and advocate for those suffering from injustices.

WE BELIEVE

in the living presence of God in our students, in our community, and in our world.



Your Saint Mary's education will be about more than what you learn in the classroom or lab. Here, you'll learn about faith, service, justice, and outreach—elements that define the Saint Mary's experience. Whatever your faith or wherever you are on your faith journey, our community is dedicated to helping you explore ways to serve, because we believe that service to our neighbors results in healthier individuals, healthier communities, and a healthier world.

OUR MISSION, ENRICHED BY THE LASALLIAN CATHOLIC HERITAGE, IS TO AWAKEN, NURTURE, AND EMPOWER LEARNERS TO ETHICAL LIVES OF SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP.

The Office of Campus Ministry is dedicated to developing student leadership and campus-wide involvement meeting students where they are in their faith journey. Every event hosted or sponsored by the Office of Campus Ministry is open to all Saint Mary's students, and we have many opportunities for you to build relationships of faith, service, and community through a variety of student-led groups and programs.

- *Buddies*
- *Catechists*
- *Cor Team*
- *CRS Ambassadors*
- *Culture of Life Club*
- *De La Salle Week*
- *Deprecor*
- *Discipleship Quad Groups*
- *F.C.A.*
- *Habitat for Humanity*
- *Ignatian Retreats*
- *Interfaith Services*
- *Lasallian Week of Peace*
- *LIFT Retreats*
- *Liturgical Ministry*
- *Liturgical Music Ensemble*
- *New Student Retreat*
- *Outreach Retreat Teams*
- *Peer Ministry*
- *Prayer Services*
- *RCIA*
- *S.O.U.L.*
- *Tommy More Band*
- *Volunteer Mentors*
- *Warming Center Volunteers*
- *Weekly Faith Formation Classes*

LEARN MORE AT [SMUMN.EDU/CAMPUSMINISTRY](https://smumn.edu/campusministry)

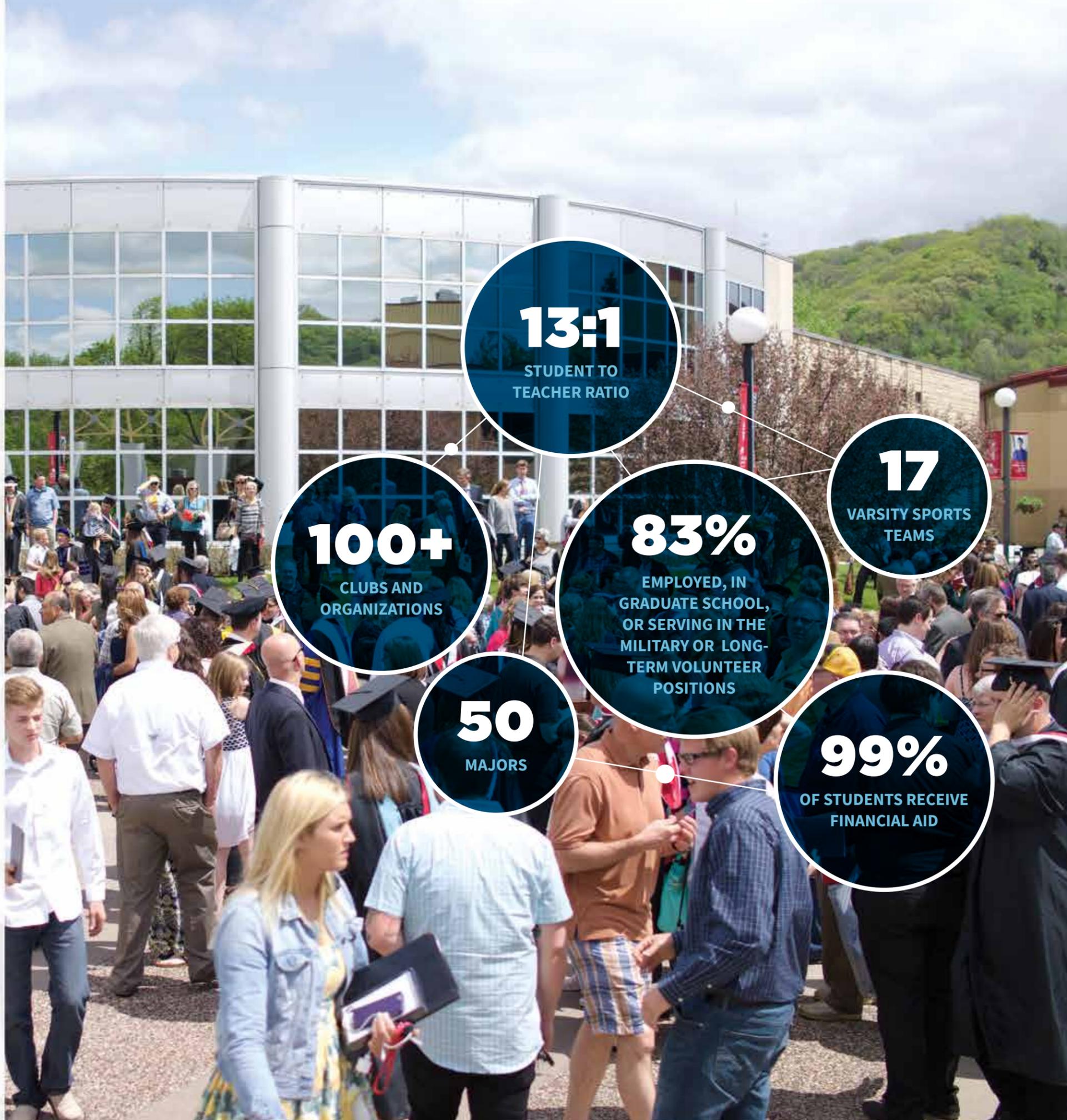
**WHAT ELSE DO YOU NEED TO KNOW
TO HELP YOU BE YOU?**

Visit Us!

If you could visit Saint Mary's campus, you—like thousands of students before you—would be enchanted with the bluffs, the legacy of the buildings, the beauty of the grounds, and the genuine friendliness of everyone you meet. You would see for yourself how the residence halls have been created to provide you with a safe and welcoming space to study, live, and grow into the person you've always dreamed of becoming.

But if you can't visit, we've got the next best thing—virtual tours hosted by our admissions team, vlogs created by students sharing the highlights of their Saint Mary's experiences, and online open houses to give you the chance to ask questions and get the answers you need to make the best decision for you.

**NEED TO KNOW
WHAT CTA AND
CONTACT INFO
YOU WANT HERE**



13:1

STUDENT TO
TEACHER RATIO

17

VARSITY SPORTS
TEAMS

83%

EMPLOYED, IN
GRADUATE SCHOOL,
OR SERVING IN THE
MILITARY OR LONG-
TERM VOLUNTEER
POSITIONS

100+

CLUBS AND
ORGANIZATIONS

50

MAJORS

99%

OF STUDENTS RECEIVE
FINANCIAL AID



SMUMN.EDU