

St. Mary's University
The Four-year Graduation Pledge

Philosophy

A university education represents one of the most precious opportunities in our society. Because of its commitment to educating leaders for the common good, St. Mary's University works to help reduce the cost of higher education required of our students and their families. The St. Mary's Four-year Pledge reflects the University's commitment to our students' success. It is designed to encourage students to be intentional and responsible in successfully pursuing an undergraduate degree within four years of matriculation. It also affirms the University's role as a responsible partner working in community with our students to achieve this desired outcome.

The Pledge

St. Mary's University pledges to provide the student with the community, tools and information that the student needs to stay on track to graduate in four years. In turn, the Pledge requires the student to fulfill the student's responsibilities. Most undergraduate degrees at the University can be completed in four years. If a student is enrolled in an eligible major, the University will assure that the classes needed to complete the degree requirements are available. If the University is unable to provide the necessary course(s) the University will offer reasonable substitutions to keep the student on track for graduation in four years. If the student fulfills the student's responsibilities and is unable to complete the requirements for the degree within four years, the University will provide a grant covering tuition and fees (after federal and state financial aid is applied) for the additional courses required to complete the degree during the next two consecutive semesters.

Preserving the Student's Options

Even though the Four-year Pledge is designed for those students who want to complete their degree program in four years, the University continues to be committed to allowing students the flexibility to explore and discover their educational aspirations. It is understood that not all students can or should graduate in four years. Some students may choose to take a wider range of courses that are not directly related to their field of study or might want or need to progress at a different pace. A student may extend their studies beyond four years to take advantage of research and internship opportunities, certificate and/or minor programs, or to pursue specialized plans of study tailored to unique career goals. There is no penalty to the student if he/she decides to graduate in more than four years.

Student Participation Agreement

I, _____, have received information about the St. Mary's Four-year Graduation Pledge and understand that in order to benefit from the Pledge, I must fulfill my student responsibilities as more fully described on the Four-year Pledge website.

Signature _____ Date _____

Printed Name _____

Student ID _____ Student Major: _____

For students under 18 years of age, a parent/guardian signature is required.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Printed Name _____ Date _____

Please return this form to the Office of Academic Advising.