



ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

ZARAGOZA

AUG. 15 TO 18, 2025

NEW STUDENT GUIDE

ZARAGOZA

YOUR FIRST RATTLER TRADITION

Zaragoza, Spain, was the town where Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, founder of the Society of Mary, took time to reflect on his life. It was a place of new beginnings for him. During his time in Zaragoza, Blessed Chaminade was inspired to form the Society of Mary (Marianists), an order of priests and brothers who eventually founded St. Mary's Institute, the forerunner to St. Mary's University, in 1852. Blessed Chaminade's experience in Zaragoza parallels the reflection and new direction you will experience as you begin your collegiate career. As you make the transition to life at St. Mary's, you will be introduced to the campus, academic programs, faculty members, administrators, and other students and their families. We welcome you as a member of the University community and are happy to discuss questions, concerns or curiosities you might have about the experiences St. Mary's has to offer. This program will acquaint you with the University and our academics, social life and spiritual resources before classes start.

***The Characteristics of Marianist Universities* articulates the common elements of the Marianist educational philosophy and spirit. These characteristics are:**

- Educate for formation in faith
- Provide an integral quality education
- Educate in the family spirit
- Educate for service, justice and peace, and integrity of creation
- Educate for adaptation and change

These approaches to education permeate the St. Mary's experience, from course work to extracurricular events. Zaragoza is designed with these characteristics in mind.

Rattler Meet Groups: *Small group sessions will be led by Zaragoza Leaders who are undergraduate students. Each Rattler Meet Group session will include time for the groups to gather and further explore the session topic through activity, reflection and conversation.*

FRIDAY, AUG. 15, 2025

8 to
9:15 a.m.

Zaragoza Check-In
Registro Para Zaragoza
 Alumni Athletics & Convocation Center (AA&CC),
 Bill Greehey Arena, Lobby

Zaragoza begins here.

9:30 a.m.

New Beginnings and Strong Foundations
Nuevos Comienzos
 AA&CC, Greehey Arena

The Rev. John Thompson, S.M., Ed.D., *Vice President for Mission*

Tim Bessler, Ed.D., *Vice President for Student Development
and Dean of Students*

Jove Bagley, Mark Chesson and Nnamdi “Jesse” Onwuzurike,
Zaragoza Student Directors

Allow our staff to welcome you and meet our Zaragoza team.

10 a.m.

Academic Convocation
Convocación Académica
 AA&CC, Greehey Arena

Academic Convocation introduces new students to the traditions and expectations of our academic community. This program instills a sense of belonging to the institution and advances the centrality of academic life in the St. Mary’s experience.

11 a.m.

Major Connections
Conexiones Universitarias
 Various Locations

Immediately following Academic Convocation, students will join department faculty for additional information on their majors.

Noon

Lunch A: Resident Students
Almuerzo
 University Center (UC), Diamondback Café

Your Rattler Home: Commuter Session
Su casa de Cascabel
 AA&CC, Auxiliary Gym

Meet with your commuter community to connect and launch your St. Mary’s journey.

1:15 p.m.

Lunch B: Commuter Students

Almuerzo

UC, Diamondback Café

Your Rattler Home: Resident Session

Su casa de Cascabel

AA&CC, Greehey Arena

Meet with your respective community to connect and launch your St. Mary's journey.

2:30 p.m.

Rattler Meet Group 1: Howdy!

¡Hola!

Various Locations

Get to know your Rattler Meet Group.

3:45 p.m.

Rattler Blessing

Bendición

AA&CC, Greehey Arena

The Rev. John Thompson, S.M., Ed.D., *Vice President for Mission*

Join us for an informational session followed by a blessing for students, parents and guests.

4:30 p.m.

Hooray!

¡Hurra!

AA&CC, Greehey Arena

Rebecca Smith, *Entrepreneurial Keynote Speaker for Metropolis Management*

A unique, fun and exciting entertainment event unlike anything you have experienced. Begin making new friendships with members of the incoming St. Mary's Class of 2025!

6:15 p.m.

Dinner

Cena

UC, Diamondback Café

7:30 p.m.

Fangs Out, Hang Out!

Conoce a tu comunidad

Dougherty, Lourdes and Founders Halls Courtyards

Join us for fun interactive games, activities, music and snacks as a welcome to the St. Mary's community.

Sponsored by Residence Life

SATURDAY, AUG. 16, 2025

- 10:15 a.m. **Check-In**
Registro
 Parking Lot T, Outside AA&CC
- Pick up breakfast tacos while checking in for the second day.
- 11 a.m. **Depart from St. Mary's**
Partida de St. Mary's
- Noon **Rattlers at the Ranch**
Cascabeles en el Rancho
 Pedrotti's Ranch
- Get excited and bust a move with your Zaragoza Leaders!
- 12:30 p.m. **Rattler Meet Group 2: Uniquely U**
Personalidades Únicas
- Alan Utley, *Certified CliftonStrengths Coach and Founder of My Coach Next Door LLC*
- Using your customized CliftonStrengths report, this session will guide you towards an “aha” moment as you experience new ways to understand what makes you unique.
- 1:30 p.m. **Snack Break**
Botana
- 2 p.m. **Fun and Games**
Diversión y Juegos
- Take a break and enjoy various games and activities.
- 3:15 p.m. **Rattler Meet Group 3: What We Bring to the Table**
Lo que traemos a la mesa
- Tim Bessler, Ed.D., *Vice President for Student Development and Dean of Students*
- Wendy Martinez, *Assistant Dean for Residence Life*
- Our commonalities and our differences form a beautiful mosaic that enriches our campus. Let's take a deeper dive into our lived experiences.

4:30 p.m. **Rattler Meet Group 4: Red Light, Green Light**

Dentro y fuera de tu control

Tim Bessler, Ed.D., *Vice President for Student Development
and Dean of Students*

St. Mary's educates for service, justice, peace and the integrity of creation. In this session, explore the rights and responsibilities of being a St. Mary's community member.

5:30 p.m. **Dinner**

Cena

6:30 p.m. **Rattler Meet Group 5: Ready, Set, Action!**

¡Preparados, listos, acción!

Hang out with your Rattler Meet Group, while preparing skits that showcase St. Mary's University values and spirit. Skits will be performed during Show Up and Show Out!

7:15 p.m. **Show Up and Show Out!**

¡Preséntate y muéstrate!

8:15 p.m. **Depart from Pedrotti's Ranch**

Salida del Rancho de Pedrotti

9:15 p.m. **Movie Night: Monsters University**

Noche de Película

UC, Mengler Conference Room

Enjoy a movie and snacks with your classmates and Zaragoza Leaders.

Sponsored by University Programming Council (UPC)

DAY THREE

SUNDAY, AUG. 17, 2025

Need groceries or school supplies? Hop on a Shuttle!

Start your semester off right by taking advantage of a free Campus Shuttle Service for a day! We're offering convenient rides to nearby grocery stores and retailers so you can stock up on food, snacks and any beginning-of-year essentials. Whether you're setting up in your Residence Hall or just need to grab some fresh items, this shuttle has you covered.

- 1 p.m. **Walmart (Meet at Lot T)**
918 Bandera Road, San Antonio, TX 78228
Depart back to St. Mary's at 2 p.m.
- 2:30 p.m. **Target (Meet at Lot T)**
4522 Fredericksburg Road, Balcones Heights, TX 78201
Depart back to St. Mary's at 3:30 p.m.
- 4:15 p.m. **H-E-B (Meet at Lot T)**
5601 Bandera Road, San Antonio, TX 78238
Depart back to St. Mary's at 5:15 p.m.

Sponsored by St. Mary's Orientation and Leadership Programs and Office of Residence Life

DAY FOUR

MONDAY, AUG. 18, 2025

- 11:30 a.m. **Lunch (Optional)**
- Noon **Check-In**
Registro
AA&CC, Greehey Arena, Lobby
- 12:30 p.m. **Rattler Meet Group 6: First-Year Experience (FYE)**
Experiencia de primer año
AA&CC, Greehey Arena
- Rafael Moras, Ph.D., P.E., *Professor of Industrial Engineering*
Raúl Zendejas, Ph.D., *Director for First-Year Experience and Professional Development*

Learn what fun, new and exciting things are planned for your First-Year Experience course. You will also be introduced to some of the FYE mentors.

- 1:45 p.m. **Rattler Meet Group 7: Sustainable You — Rattler Wellness**
Manteniendo tu salud
AA&CC, Greehey Arena
- Vanessa A. Pena, Ph.D., *Executive Director of Student Health and Wellness Programs*
- Cristina Villegas-Hernandez, LCSW-S, *Associate Director of Student Counseling Center*
- Lauren Hyle, M.P.H., *Coordinator for Wellness Programs*
- Join Health and Wellness Programs to learn about holistic wellness and incorporating self-care practices into your everyday routine in a way that works.
- 3 p.m. **Rattler Meet Group 8: Gold and Blue in Action**
Dorado y Azul en Accion
Various Locations
- Explore the experiences available to you through activities, programs and events. Learn about the resources and various campus involvement opportunities that will help you stay connected.
- 4 p.m. **Rattler Round-Up**
Feria de Organizaciones Estudiantiles
AA&CC, Greehey Arena
- Meet representatives from our Registered Student Organizations (RSOs). There are more than 90 organizations ranging from service-based, sororities, fraternities, club sports, honor societies, special interest, academic-oriented and more.
- 5:30 p.m. **Action and Interaction**
Acción y Interacción
AA&CC, Greehey Arena
- Explore campus recreation and all that the AA&CC has to offer. Challenge yourself on the rock-climbing wall; play some esports games; join a game of volleyball or basketball; challenge your friends to a Just Dance battle and more! Closed-toe shoes are recommended. Food will be available.
- Sponsored by Rattler Athletics and Campus Recreation*

ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY CAMPUS MAP



MAP KEY

- 39 Adele Hall •▲
- 31 Albert B. Alkek Business Building
- 43 Alumni Athletics & Convocation Center
Bill Greehey Arena
- 10 Alumni Pavilion
- 45 AT&T Center for Information Technology
- 20 Blank Sheppard Innovation Center
- 23 Blume Library
Cotrell Learning Commons
Starbucks
The Pub at St. Mary's
- 37 Bordeaux Hall •▲
- 30 Casa Maria Marianist Residence
- 6 Center for Life Directions
- 9 Chaminade Hall •
- 3 Chaminade Tower
Admission Office
- 7 Charles Francis Hall
- 41 Cremer Hall •▲

- 35 Donohoo Hall •▲
- 27 Dougherty Hall •▲
- 46 Founders Hall •▲
- 34 Frederick Hall •▲
- 8 Garmi Science Hall
- 24 Law Administration Building
- 25 Law Classrooms Building
- 33 Law Library
- 44 Leies Hall •▲
- 32 Lourdes Hall •▲
- 12 Marian Hall •
- 11 Marianist Residence
- 21 Moody Life Sciences Center
- 56 Périgieux Hall •▲
- 26 Raba Law Building
- 2 Reinbolt Hall
Assumption Chapel
- 22 Richter Math-Engineering Center

- 1 St. Louis Hall
(Administration)
Business Office
Financial Assistance
Registrar's Office
- 36 St. Mary's Research Center
National Archives,
Marianist Province of the
United States
- 18 Treadaway Hall •
Guadalupe Chapel
Recital Hall
University Police
- 38 University Center
Barnes & Noble at
St. Mary's
Campus Life
Diamondback Café
- Residence hall •*
The Village at St. Mary's •

ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

SAVE THE DATE

FALL 2025 EVENTS

MONDAY, AUG. 18

Rattler Round-Up

TUESDAY, AUG. 19, TO FRIDAY, AUG. 29

Welcome Weeks

SATURDAY, AUG. 23

Continuing the Heritage Day of Service

THURSDAY, AUG. 28

Mass of the Holy Spirit — Opening School Liturgy

TUESDAY, SEPT. 9

Burgers with the Brothers

TUESDAY, SEPT. 23

The Escobedo *Saint John's Bible* Lecture Series: Reading the Bible Today

THURSDAY, OCT. 2

Marianist Foundation Day Celebration

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 15

The Lin Great Speakers Series: Praying in the World Today

FRIDAY, OCT. 3, TO SUNDAY, OCT. 5

Family Weekend

SATURDAY, OCT. 4

StMU 5k for the Neighborhood

Rattlerpalooza

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 3

Christmas Tree Lighting and Alumni Social

GET CONNECTED!

Follow these St. Mary's Instagram accounts to get useful information and discover cool things happening on campus!

Student Life

@stmarysstulife

Residence Life

@stmureslife

University Programming Council (UPC)

@upc_stmu

Student Government Association (SGA)

@sga_stmu

Career and Professional Development Center

@stmucareer

St. Mary's University

@stmarysu

Student Health and Wellness Programs

@stmu_well

Commuting Rattlers

@stmu_commuters

College Panhellenic Council (CPC)

@stmupanhel

Rattler Success Center

@stmary_rsc

Community Engagement

@stmu_engagement

Emerging Leaders

@stmuemerging_leaders

Inter-Fraternity Council (IFC)

@stmu_ifc

Fraternity and Sorority Life (FSL)

@stmu_fsl

TRiO

@stmu.trio.sss

ALMA MATER

The Bells of St. Mary's
Ah! Hear they are ringing
They sing out the bright hope
Of hearts firm and true.

And while they are ringing
Our young hearts are singing
The praises of, the glory of
The Gold and Blue!

MISSION

St. Mary's University,
as a Catholic Marianist University,
fosters the formation of people in faith
and educates leaders for the common good
through community, integrated liberal arts
and professional education,
and academic excellence.



ST. MARY'S
UNIVERSITY

The Catholic and
Marianist University
www.stmarytx.edu