



ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

ZARAGOZA

AUG. 14 - 17, 2026
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. 14, 2026

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*

Skye Razavi and Nicolas Urbina, *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
- David Coleman, *Keynote Speaker for High Impact Training*
- 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 2030!
- 6:15 p.m. **Dinner**
Cena
UC, Diamondback Café
- 7 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. 15, 2026

- 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: With Great Power Comes Great Responsibility**
Con un gran poder... viene una gran responsabilidad
 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 a chant that showcases St. Mary's University values and spirit. Chants 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: Pitch Perfect**
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. 16, 2026

- 11 a.m. **Sunday Mass**
Misa
Treadaway Hall, Guadalupe Chapel

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. *Please note the times below are the departure times from St. Mary's University.*

- 11 a.m. **La Cantera (Meet at Lot T)**
15900 La Cantera Pkwy, Suite 6698, San Antonio, TX 78256
Arrive at 11:30 a.m.
Depart back to St. Mary's at 1:45 p.m.
- 12:45 p.m. **Walmart (Meet at Lot T)**
918 Bandera Road, San Antonio, TX 78228
Arrive at 1 p.m.
Depart back to St. Mary's at 2 p.m.

2 p.m. **La Cantera (Meet at Lot T)**
15900 La Cantera Pkwy, Suite 6698, San Antonio, TX 78256
Arrive at 2:30 p.m.
Depart back to St. Mary's at 4:45 p.m.

Target (Meet at Lot T)
4522 Fredericksburg Road, Balcones Heights, TX 78201
Arrive at 2:30 p.m.
Depart back to St. Mary's at 3:30 p.m.

4 p.m. **H-E-B (Meet at Lot T)**
5601 Bandera Road, San Antonio, TX 78238
Arrive at 4:15 p.m.
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



— **MONDAY, AUG. 17, 2026** —

11:30 a.m. **Lunch (Optional)**

Noon **Check-In**
Registro
AA&CC, Greehey Arena, Lobby

12:30 p.m. **Rattler Meet Group 6: No Tryouts. No Pressure. Just Play!**
¡Olvidate de las pruebas. Olvidate de la presión. ¡Solo juega!
AA&CC, Greehey Arena
Chad Peters, Associate Director of External Operations for Athletics
Whether you're chasing championships or just chasing a good time, Intramural Sports is for you! Discover the sports, events and friendly competition waiting for you this year.

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, 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 80 organizations ranging from service-based, sororities, fraternities, club sports, honor societies, special interest, academic-oriented and more.

5:30 p.m.

Action and Interaction

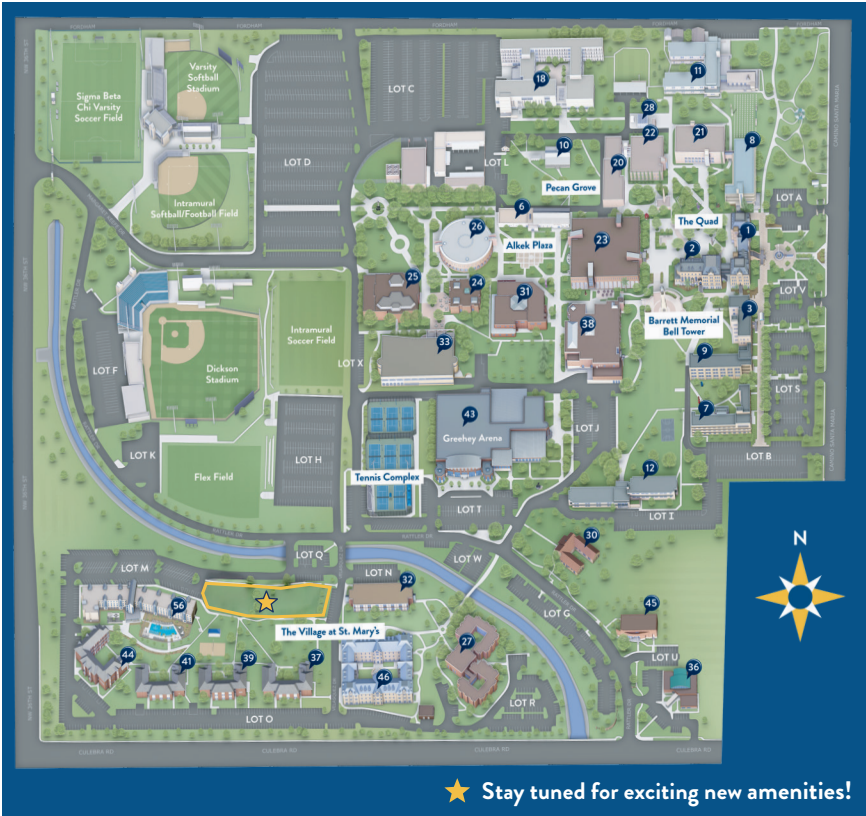
Acción y Interacción

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.

Sponsored by Rattler Athletics and Campus Recreation

ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY CAMPUS MAP



MAP KEY

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 39 Adele Hall •▲ | 35 Donohoo Hall •▲ | 1 St. Louis Hall
(Administration)
<i>Business Office</i>
<i>Financial Assistance</i>
<i>Registrar's Office</i> |
| 31 Albert B. Alkek Business Building | 27 Dougherty Hall •▲ | 36 St. Mary's Research Center
<i>National Archives,</i>
<i>Marianist Province of the</i>
<i>United States</i> |
| 43 Alumni Athletics & Convocation
Center
<i>Bill Greehey Arena</i> | 46 Founders Hall •▲ | 18 Treadaway Hall •
<i>Guadalupe Chapel</i>
<i>Recital Hall</i>
<i>University Police</i> |
| 10 Alumni Pavilion | 34 Frederick Hall •▲ | 38 University Center
<i>Campus Life</i>
<i>Diamondback Café</i>
<i>Rattler Outfitters</i>
<i>(University Bookstore)</i> |
| 45 AT&T Center for Information
Technology | 8 Garni Science Hall | <i>Residence hall •</i>
<i>The Village at St. Mary's •▲</i> |
| 20 Blank Sheppard Innovation Center | 24 Law Administration Building | |
| 23 Blume Library
<i>Cotrell Learning Commons</i>
<i>Starbucks</i>
<i>The Pub at St. Mary's</i> | 25 Law Classrooms Building | |
| 37 Bordeaux Hall •▲ | 33 Law Library | |
| 30 Casa Maria Marianist Residence | 44 Leies Hall •▲ | |
| 6 Center for Life Directions | 32 Lourdes Hall •▲ | |
| 9 Chaminade Hall • | 12 Marian Hall • | |
| 3 Chaminade Tower
<i>Admission Office</i> | 11 Marianist Residence | |
| 7 Charles Francis Hall | 21 Moody Life Sciences Center | |
| 41 Cremer Hall •▲ | 56 Périgueux Hall •▲ | |
| | 26 Raba Law Building | |
| | 2 Reinbolt Hall
<i>Assumption Chapel</i> | |
| | 22 Richter Math-Engineering
Center | |

ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

SAVE THE DATE

FALL 2026 EVENTS

MONDAY, AUG. 17

Rattler Round-Up

TUESDAY, AUG. 18, TO FRIDAY, AUG. 28

Welcome Weeks

SATURDAY, AUG. 22

Continuing the Heritage Day of Service

THURSDAY, AUG. 27

Mass of the Holy Spirit — Opening School Liturgy

MONDAY, SEPT. 14

The Lin Great Speakers Series

TUESDAY, SEPT. 15

Burgers with the Brothers

FRIDAY, OCT. 2, TO SUNDAY, OCT. 4

Family Weekend

SATURDAY, OCT. 3

StMU 5k for the Neighborhood

Rattlerpalooza

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 2

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!

CAMPUS LIFE

Student Life

@stmarysstulife

Fraternity and Sorority Life

@stmu_fsl

Registered Student Organizations (RSO)

@stmurso

Orientation and Leadership Programs

@stmu.orientation

Community Engagement

@stmu_engagement

STUDENT DEPARTMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

University Programming Council (UPC)

@upc_stmu

College Panhellenic Council (CPC)

@stmupanhel

Emerging Leaders

@stmuemerging_leaders

Student Government Association (SGA)

@sga_stmu

Inter-Fraternity Council (IFC)

@stmu_ifc

Commuting Rattlers

@stmu_commuters

ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY OFFICES

St. Mary's University

@stmarysu

Career and Professional Development Center

@stmucareer

TRiO Student Support Services

@stmu.trio.sss

Residence Life

@stmureslife

Student Health and Wellness Programs

@stmu_well

Rattler Success Center

@stmary_rsc

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