



# Frequently Asked Questions

## How do I apply for financial aid?

The financial aid process starts with the annual FAFSA application through the Department of Education at [FAFSA.gov](https://fafsa.gov). Once the application is completed, the college receives your FAFSA information and can construct an award notice. Awards are mailed in the spring of each year.

## Does the college have scholarships available?

Yes. Need-based scholarships are awarded to about 96% of St. John's College (SJC) students. To apply, complete the FAFSA and the college scholarship application. Information on the college scholarship program is sent to admitted students at the beginning of each year (normally January or February) once scholarship amounts are determined.

## How much is the cost of attendance?

Costs are determined each February by the St. John's College Board. Current tuition and fee rates can be found at [hshs.org/StJohnsCollege/Financial-Services](https://hshs.org/StJohnsCollege/Financial-Services). The total cost per student varies based on the type and amount of financial aid. Individual appointments are available upon request by phone or in person to calculate the actual cost on a case-by-case basis.

## Are outside scholarships and other funding available?

SJC has partnerships with and accepts outside funding from agencies such as Illinois Work Net, Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS) hospitals, Memorial Health hospitals and the Department of Rehabilitation Services. Individual students must apply for benefits from these agencies and can contact the college a financialaid@sjcs.edu for more information.

## Do I need to be a CNA before I apply?

No. A CNA certification is not needed to apply.

## How much debt will I have after I graduate?

On average, our students graduate with less than \$20,000 in federal student loan debt. The cohort default rate for SJC is currently 0.00%, which reflects our graduates' ability to pay for their loans after graduation. Additional student loan questions can be directed to the financial aid office.

## Is SJC accredited?

Yes. We are nationally and regionally accredited. For more information, go to [hshs.org/StJohnsCollege/Current-Students/Academic-Resources/The-Higher-Education-act-\(HEA\)/Accreditation,-Approval-and-Licensure](https://hshs.org/StJohnsCollege/Current-Students/Academic-Resources/The-Higher-Education-act-(HEA)/Accreditation,-Approval-and-Licensure).

## Do I need all pre-requisites completed before I apply?

No, you can apply at any time. Your application is valid for one year. However, your pre-requisites must be completed and official transcripts submitted to our registrar prior to your intended start date.

## How do I apply?

Complete our free application at [sjcs.edu](https://sjcs.edu). You will need proof of your legal name and a personal essay. You can find SJC admissions requirements at [hshs.org/StJohnsCollege/Prospective-Students/Admissions](https://hshs.org/StJohnsCollege/Prospective-Students/Admissions).

## Will the credits I have from other colleges transfer to SJC?

The list of prerequisites we accept from other colleges can be found at [hshs.org/StJohnsCollege/Prospective-Students/Admissions/Pre-Requisites](https://hshs.org/StJohnsCollege/Prospective-Students/Admissions/Pre-Requisites). If you do not see your college, please contact the registrar.

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## When will I receive a decision regarding my application?

SJC has a rolling admissions process. Each application is reviewed after it is processed. Once all materials are received, your application will be reviewed, and you will receive a decision by mail.

## What do I write in a personal statement essay?

Your personal statement essay should be about yourself, your goals and why St. John's College is a good fit for you. The essay should be at least 250 words.

## I cannot get to the application I started. What is my username and or password?

Contact the registrar or student services coordinator to reset your password and/or retrieve your PIN number.

## I am having trouble uploading my documents in CastleBranch.

Email your document to the registrar or student services coordinator.

## Do I need to have the two-step tuberculosis (TB) test for my CastleBranch requirement?

Either a two-step TB skin test or a TB blood test is required and must have a negative result.

If you have the TB skin test, you will need to renew with a one-step TB test and new TB questionnaire yearly.

If you did a TB blood test, you only need a new blood test if you had an exposure. A new TB questionnaire must be submitted annually to show you have not had symptoms.

## How do I update my contact information?

Go to [sjcs.edu](https://sjcs.edu), click on Current Students and then Update Contact Information. Complete the form and click submit.

## How do I update my name if it has changed?

Email the registrar with a copy of your new legal proof of name. You will need the last four digits of your Social Security number and birth date for verification. You also may bring this information to the registrar's office, room 137, on the main campus.

## What pre-requisite courses do I need?

Go to [sjcs.edu](https://sjcs.edu) and click Prospective Students and then Pre-Requisites. Scroll down and select the college from which you are transferring. The form will show what requirements you need. For more information, email the registrar or call 217-814-5440.

## Can an unofficial transcript evaluation be done to see what additional courses I need?

Yes. Email your unofficial transcripts to the registrar. Please note that official transcripts are preferred and will be needed at time of application. Official transcripts must be requested from the previous institution.

## Is campus housing available?

No. However, a listing of area rentals is available upon request. The listing contains a variety of options both within walking and minimal driving distance to SJC.

## What academic supports are available?

Academic supports include peer tutoring, faculty coaching, alumni academic mentoring, group study and our Pathway to Success (P2S) program. Academic supports can be requested directly by students and/or in collaboration with advisors and faculty.

## Can SJC students receive academic accommodations for testing?

Yes. Students who have individual education plans (IEPs) and/or medical documentation to receive academic accommodations will receive their approved and listed academic accommodations for testing. These accommodations also can be used for the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX).

## What additional resources are available?

Incoming students can take advantage of our student preceptor program, support from our campus chaplain and resources from ComPsych.

The student preceptor program is a voluntary peer support program where incoming students are mentored by senior students.

ComPsych provides a wide range of resources for SJC students, covering such areas as confidential emotional support, work-life support, legal guidance and financial resources.

## What student organizations are available?

SJC students can become a members of the National Student Nurses Association (NSNA) and/or the international honor society Sigma Theta Tau (Sigma). They also can participate in our student government association, serve as representatives on our student affairs or academic affairs committees, or serve as a class officers for their cohort.