

***DON'T FORGET – A \$400 non-refundable enrollment deposit is due by May 1.
Please review the “Next Steps” document for further details.***

COMMONLY-ASKED QUESTION AND ANSWERS

Is Santa Clara on the quarter or the semester system?

Santa Clara runs on the quarter system. A normal course-load consists of three to four courses. Students typically take four courses each quarter during their freshmen and sophomore years, then three or four during their junior and senior years. Some classes meet for 65 minutes on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Other courses meet for one hour and 45 minute periods on Tuesdays and Thursdays. There are now undergraduate classes at Santa Clara on Wednesdays, and students get a full week off for the Thanksgiving holiday.

When are quarters in session?

The regular academic year consists of three quarters, which consist of ten weeks of instruction and one week of exams.

Fall Quarter begins the fourth week of September and concludes in the first week of December. Christmas break is four weeks long.

Although there are no classes the week of Thanksgiving, the residence halls do remain open and fully operational.

Winter Quarter begins the first week of January and ends in mid-March. Spring Break lasts for one week.

Spring Quarter extends from early April through the first or second week in June

What courses will I take as a freshmen?

In keeping with Santa Clara's Jesuit tradition and dedication to the liberal arts, all students complete a broad series of core courses in the arts and sciences. This **Core Curriculum**, as it is known, is generally completed during the first two years while students are concurrently experimenting with courses in their majors.

The Santa Clara Core (Required of all Santa Clara University undergraduate students)

First Thematic Cluster: Laying Foundations

- English Composition (2)
- Religious Studies (First Course)
- Mathematics
- Second Language
- United States
- Western Culture (2)

Second Thematic Cluster: Reaching Out

- Social Science
- Natural Science
- Technology
- Religious Studies (Second Course)
- World Cultures/ Societies

Third Thematic Cluster: Integrating for Leadership

- Sophomore status or higher recommended
- Ethics
- Religious Studies (Third Course)
- Third Writing Course

College and School Supplemental Degree Requirements

Arts and Sciences

1 Ethnic Studies/Women's and Gender Studies

1 Fine Arts

+1 World Cultures/Societies

Second Language (*Proficiency through the 002 level or equivalent for mathematics and natural science majors, proficiency through the 003 level or equivalent for all other majors.*)

B.A. Degree

+1 Western Culture

B.S. Degree

+1 Math/Natural Science, to total two each in Math and Natural Science

Business

+2 additional Economics

Contemporary American Business

Intro to Business Computing

Leadership Competency

2 Accounting

2 Data Analysis

1 Information Systems

1 International Business

5 Business Core Courses

Second Language (*Proficiency through the 002 level or equivalent.*)

Engineering

+7 Mathematics/Natural Science

See department specifications.

Students may count courses as fulfilling more than one requirement if the courses have been approved as meeting the goals, outcomes, and criteria of more than one requirement.

TRANSFER students who enter Santa Clara with less than 44 units must take all three Religious Studies courses in the required sequence. Those who enter with 44 or more units may take any two Religious Studies courses.

ENGINEERING students must also ensure that they complete at least 37 total units in humanities and social sciences in fulfillment of their degree, not including any units associated with the technical (third) writing requirement. Effectively, this limits the number of times a student may fulfill more than one Core requirement with the same course.

Could you describe the University Honors Program?

The University Honors Programs provides Santa Clara's most able students with intellectual opportunities based in small, seminar-style classes. With 14 to 17 students each, seminars emphasize analytical rigor, effective expression, and interaction among professors and students. In the classroom and elsewhere on campus, students enjoy a level of collaboration exceptional even at Santa Clara.

The course of study combines broadly based, liberal learning with depth of specialization in a major field. Honors Program classes are designed to fit within the curricula of the humanities, natural and social sciences, business, and engineering. Possible majors include every undergraduate field in the university.

Generally, first year students are invited into the program, although, some students are accepted on the basis of an application after the first year. Students in the University Honors Program may select from the following four RLCs: da Vinci, Alpha, Modern Perspectives, and Loyola. **Note:** Neither "Admitted with Distinction" nor scholarship status confirms a place in the University Honors Program.

All students are able to graduate with honors, regardless of their placement in the program.

For more information regarding the Honors Program, please contact Carole Wentz, Assistant to the Director, at 408-554-4439 or by sending an e-mail to cwentz@scu.edu.

What Study Abroad options are available?

Santa Clara students are able to study abroad at any one of numerous campuses spanning Europe, Latin America, Africa, Asia, Middle East, Australia, Canada, the Caribbean, and the Pacific Islands. Many students choose to study abroad the beginning of their junior year at SCU, for one quarter. It is possible to study for longer than a quarter. All Financial Aid a student is receiving can now be applied to the study abroad programs. For more information refer to www.scu.edu/studyabroad.

Are religious studies courses required at Santa Clara?

The University requires all students to take three quarter-long courses in religious studies during their four-year degree program. The catalogue lists over 60 different classes encompassing a wide variety of religious traditions.

Is financial aid available?

Approximately 71 percent of the students at Santa Clara receive some form of financial aid, need-based and/or merit-based.

A student's eligibility for **need-based financial aid** is calculated after the filing of the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** and **CSS Financial Aid Profile**. The forms should be filed as quickly as possible after January 1 of the student's senior year in high school; February 1st is the priority deadline. Santa Clara should be listed as one of the schools to receive the completed form. Students can obtain the CSS and FAFSA from their high school's counseling office. There is more information on the Financial Aid website at www.scu.edu/finaid.

Students are also considered for **merit-based financial aid**, which is based on academic merit. Student will be notified in the admission letter if he/she is a merit scholarship recipient (or Admitted with Distinction). Need is not a factor when merit-based awards are determined.

A financial aid package combining merit and need based aid will be assembled and sent to each eligible student. Notification of packages is usually around March.

Also emphasize that part-time jobs on campus are available in ample supply for all students, regardless of their financial need.

Does SCU match UC financial aid packages?

SCU does not match financial aid packages given by UC schools. If you applied for aid, we will do our best to issue you a Financial Aid Award Offer by April 15. If you have not heard from the Financial Aid Office by that time, please call 408-554-4505.

What kind of disability services does SCU offer?

The Office of Disabilities Resources in the Drahn Resource Center addresses disabilities such as medical, physical, psychological, attention-deficit, and learning disabilities. Contact Ann Ravenscroft, Coordinator, Disabilities Resources at 408-554-4111.

Where is the closest airport?

Many major airlines fly directly into San Jose International Airport, just three miles from the campus. Cab fare to or from the airport is about \$15. Free VTA Airport flyer provides transportation from the Santa Clara CalTrain station, located directly across from campus, to and from San Jose International Airport. San Francisco International Airport is 35 miles north of the campus, a 45-minute trip by car and an hour or more by public transportation.

What recreational activities does the local area offer?

Pizza parlors, dessert shops, coffee houses, and other restaurants are within walking distance. Movie theaters, Westfield Shoppingtown Valley Fair, with 270 specialty shops and three major department stores, and the upscale Santana Row are within a two-mile drive. Great America Amusement Park is three miles away, and a commuter train, one block from campus, takes students up the peninsula to San Francisco.

Historic San Jose, the third largest city in California, is located adjacent to campus. With its newly-redeveloped downtown area, located within five miles of campus, San Jose provides access to an assortment of high-quality restaurants and hotels, theatre arts (including the opera, repertory theatre, ballet, symphony, civic light opera, and outdoor concerts), athletic events and a variety of multicultural performances year round. Also located downtown are the Technology Museum of Innovation, Children's Discovery Museum, San Jose McEnery Convention Center, San Jose Art Museum, and the HP Pavilion (home of the San Jose Sharks).

Does a student need a car?

Freshmen students in their first quarter are not permitted to bring a vehicle to campus. Under serious circumstances, some students may be eligible for a hardship waiver. These waivers are available at www.scu.edu/studentlife and are reviewed regularly by a student-faculty committee. A very limited number of appeals are granted each year.

Do I have to attend a Summer Orientation?

All first year students (living in the 50 United States, including Hawaii and Alaska) are required to attend one of the six Summer Orientation sessions scheduled in July. There are no longer sessions scheduled in September. Summer Orientation is designed to acclimate the student to the academic and social climate at SCU. He or she will meet the Faculty Director for his/her RLC, receive academic advising, and register for Fall Quarter classes. Students who do not attend one of the July sessions will not be eligible to enroll at SCU. If you have any questions regarding this program, please contact the Office of First Year Programs at 408-551-1995.

Preview Days

Students will be personally contacted by the college they are entering and invited to an appropriate program. Students are strongly encouraged to attend one of the Preview Days with their parents. R.S.V.P. is needed. Dates for Preview Days are listed below:

January 15-16, AD Invitational
April 10-11, Noche Latina (*for students of Latino descent*) and SADIE (*for students of African American descent*)
April 12 & 13, Preview Days
April 17-18, Be Our Guest
April 22-23, Presidential/Provost Scholarship Invitational

Please contact the following Admissions Office representatives for the above events:

- AD and Provost & Presidential Invitationals – Christina Louie at 408.551.6998 or clsouie@scu.edu
- Noche Latina – Lorenzo Gamboa at 408.554.5278 or lgamboa@scu.edu.
- SADIE – A.J. Howell-Williams at 408.554.6018 or ajhowellwilliams@scu.edu.
- Preview Days – Miranda Niemoth at 408.554.5259 or mniemoth@scu.edu.
- Be Our Guest – Danielle Wenzel at 408.554.4720 or dwenzel@scu.edu.

Does SCU have overnights on campus?

In addition to **Preview Days**, **Noche Latina**, and **SADIE**, the Undergraduate Admissions Office

sponsors on-campus events aimed at prospective students and their families. The **Be Our Guest** program welcomes ALL admitted students. The **AD Invitational** is only for students Admitted with Distinction. The **Provost & Presidential Invitational** is specifically for admitted students who are receiving a Provost or Presidential scholarship. For more information about these programs, please visit www.scu.edu/ugrad/visiting/events.cfm.

When can I go on Campus Tours and how do I schedule them?

Campus visits are offered during weekdays throughout the year. Please visit www.scu.edu/ugrad/visiting/visiting.cfm for the schedule or to make reservations (reservations are a must for groups of 10 or more). Campus visits can begin with an information session led by an Admissions Counselor in Varsi Hall. The information session provides prospective students and families with an excellent opportunity to learn more about our campus, the admission and financial aid processes, and have their specific questions answered. The information sessions begin daily at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., and are followed by a student-led tour of the campus.

Does SCU make recommendations for laptops or PC's? Is there a student discount?

If you go to the IT web site it will mention what computers we recommend for students. We recommend Dell for PC's and Apple. For discounts on Apple merchandise, go to www.apple.com/education/hed/students/

The student can also go directly to either Dell or Apple's Web site and receive an educational discount on their machine. Depending on what they are interested in purchasing.

For any additional questions, please contact Erin Hussey '05 in the Alumni Office at 408-554-5004, 866-554-6800 (toll-free) or via e-mail at ehussey@scu.edu. Thank you for your efforts!