



## ST. MARY'S COLLEGE

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Rev. Fr. Patrick Rutledge, President  
Dr. Joseph Strong, Academic Dean

# RULES AND DECORUM

*Upon entering St. Mary's College, students must have a clear understanding of how our college differs from most secular institutions. Students come from varied backgrounds, and a common rule helps to promote cohesion. Beyond this, the controlled and closely quartered boarding school environment demands a universally applicable set of clearly understood guidelines for issues of safety. The majority of our students live on campus, and many policies apply especially to them; day students must use common sense in distinguishing between policies that apply to them and those that apply to boarders. As a traditional Catholic College, St. Mary's requires a standard of conduct based on the perennial teachings of the Church, which sets forth guidelines not to oppress, but to encourage human activity toward the noble and transcendent. St. Mary's students as a rule lead lives based on the guidelines listed below. In the exceptional instance, however, failure to follow these guidelines for behavior will result in disciplinary action or, in serious cases, expulsion.*

### General Decorum

- *St. Mary's College assumes a level of maturity, civility, and nobility appropriate to college-aged traditional Catholics.*
- *Alcohol, drugs, firearms, and indecent popular music are forbidden on campus; tobacco use is restricted.*
- *The college provides unparalleled access to the Catholic Sacraments, as well as a College Chaplain. Students should take full advantage of these exceptional conditions, and are expected to attend daily Mass and Rosary, and make regular confession.*
- *Students must live on campus unless living locally with parents.*
- *College students will not enter Academy buildings without permission.*
- *The College dormitory is a private dwelling. Non-residents including visitors and fellow students require permission to occupy dorm spaces.*
- *Students will respect the property and privacy of others and will obtain permission before using personal property or entering another's room.*
- *Men's and women's quarters remain off limits to members of the opposite sex at all times. College men are allowed in the area near the women's dorm only at meal times.*
- *Students must have approval for attendance at off-campus gatherings.*
- *Students are expected to help with dorm jobs as scheduled.*
- *Students must have written approval of the Rector to hold off-campus jobs.*
- *Students are permitted to have cars on campus; use may be restricted.*
- *Students are expected to abide by the rules concerning personal electronics, computer usage, internet publishing, and social networking outlined in the Catalog.*
- *Classrooms are off-limits to students outside of class times or activities.*
- *Guidelines for attire apply to all college students during school hours.*

### Hours

College personnel must know the location of students at all times. Students will make their intended whereabouts known verbally with a proper authority, or in writing on the sign-out sheet. Curfew is 10:00pm Sunday through Thursday, 11:00pm Friday and Saturday. Grand silence is observed in all buildings after 10:00pm weekdays, and 11:00pm Friday and Saturday. Unnecessary noise, telephone use, and conversation are strictly forbidden.

### Modesty

Modesty rests on Charity: for love of God and neighbor, Catholics are bound to think, speak, and act in a way that preserves individual virtue and promotes it in others.

Modesty in dress is an individual act of will, a deflection of unwanted attention rather than an active attempt to attract others, whose motives and thoughts, if directly inspired by immodesty, become a grave matter of complicit responsibility. As with any Catholic guidelines, the strictures harmonize with nature and common sense. However, as Pope Pius XII wrote, “There always exists an absolute norm to be preserved, no matter how broad and changeable the relative morals of styles may be.” With this in mind, men and women of the College will adhere to the following principles and guidelines:

- ***Clothing should conceal rather than reveal the figure***
- ***Dresses and skirts should extend well below the knee***
- ***Clothing should provide sufficient coverage for the chest and arms***
- ***Transparent or flesh-toned clothing is forbidden***

#### **Attire for Men**

Men will maintain proper personal hygiene, and observe military standards for hair. Men will remain clean-shaven. During class hours and at liturgical functions, men of the College will observe professional standards for dress: dress shirt, tie, and jacket or sweater (which may be omitted in warmer weather). Athletic wear, sneakers and open-toed shoes are not permitted during class hours. During non-class hours, men will wear neat, activity-appropriate clothing.

#### **Attire for Women**

Women will maintain proper personal hygiene, and will exercise Catholic discretion in cosmetics use and hair styling. During class hours and at liturgical functions, women of the College will wear conservative skirts or dresses which easily cover the knee while seated; all clothing must adhere to accepted standards both of Catholic modesty and professionalism. Sneakers and open-toed shoes are not permitted during class hours. During non-class hours, women will adhere to standards of Catholic modesty delineated above.

#### **Attendance and Punctuality**

Students are expected to attend all classes, and to be on time for each class and activity. Instructors will determine individual policies for tardiness. The student is responsible for making up all class work missed due to absence. Repeated absences or tardiness may constitute grounds for loss of credits or dismissal.

#### **Personal Electronics**

The College encourages students to develop mature and civil relationships based in reality. Though an increasingly necessary convenience, the use of cell phones and personal electronics in the presence of others is an essentially anti-social behavior. As such, students should refrain from the use of personal electronics in the College building.

#### **Internet and Computer Usage**

The College provides a computer lab with internet-enabled computers for student use during posted hours. The internet provides a powerful and valuable tool for students, but also poses potentially severe moral risks. Students may use the internet for research, study, and e-mail only. The College strongly discourages the creation, hosting, or maintenance of personal websites, and participation in on-line social-networking; such activity is forbidden on campus.

*By signing below, I agree to abide by these rules.*

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Student signature/Date

*I have read the St. Mary's College rules, and will help my son or daughter to comply with them.*

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Parent or guardian signature (for students under 21)/Date