What is a college fair?

College fairs provide parents and students with the opportunity to meet briefly with university representatives and obtain information regarding academic programs, admission, financial assistance, and student life. This is one of the many effective ways colleges and universities distribute information about the university to prospective students.

High schools, civic groups and other colleges sponsor most college fairs. Saint Joseph’s University’s Office of Admissions handles the invitations and RSVPs. We choose to attend the fairs that we believe will best allow you to connect with a number of interested students and families.

The number of colleges and universities as well as the number of students who attend varies at each college fair. Most college fairs are set up in an open browsing style and last 1½ to 2 hours. This allows students and parents to roam freely through the fair to pick up information and speak with admission representatives.

How do I prepare for a college fair?

Before going to the college fair, you should review all the materials that you received. Be sure to read through the official Saint Joseph’s University information that you will be distributing.

Review the enclosed “Frequently Asked Questions”, admission guidelines, and SJU facts. It is recommended that you view SJU’s website at www.sju.edu for additional information. The more you know, the better you will feel about answering questions that parents and students will ask and the more enjoyable the experience of doing a college fair will be.

Double check the date and time of the fair, look over the directions and make certain you know where you are going. Saint Joseph’s University has registered for the fair and in many cases paid a registration fee; you may be presented with a receipt upon your arrival. Please send this back with your evaluation. If for some reason you are not on the list, show them the material you have from our office and ask if they can accommodate you. It may also be the case that another name is on the registration list, no worry.

If you have any questions after reading these materials, please feel free to contact the Office of Admissions at 610-660-2960 or e-mail Denard Jones at denard.jones@sju.edu
Guidelines for college fairs

Please arrive at least 20-30 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the program. Many times there is a hospitality room available in case you want to get something to eat or drink before the fair begins.

You are a representative of Saint Joseph’s University, so please be sure to act and dress professionally. Business casual is appropriate. Make every effort to stand behind your table at all times. Admission representatives are not allowed to stand in the aisles or in front of their tables. Please do not bring children along to the fair.

Turn off your cell phone and do not answer it at the table, your attention should be focused on the students and parents who approach your table. Do not bring reading material in case the fair is slow, it is not appropriate to read behind the table. It is suggested that you do not bring a laptop either.

Arrange your table with the banner(tablecloth) logo facing out toward the aisle, and neatly display brochures facing the fair participants.

Wait for students and parents to approach your table. Admission representatives are not permitted to call out to students or coerce them into stopping at their table.

Do not compare Saint Joseph’s University with any other school. It is your job to provide information about SJU and then allow parents and students to make their own comparisons.

Do not distribute anything to prospective students other than the information provided to you. It is a violation of National Association of College Admissions Counseling rules to distribute key chains, candy, notepads, etc.

In the event you are unable to answer a question, encourage the student to write the question on the inquiry card. An admission counselor will respond to all questions.

Do not guarantee admission to the University to any student regardless of his/her credentials. The admission review committee makes all admission decisions.

Encourage students to visit campus. A list of visit days and options is available by visiting our web site: sju.edu/visit

Should you run out of inquiry cards, please record the student’s name, address, phone number, high school, and year of graduation, and send it to the admissions office with the other inquiry cards.

Be honest, enthusiastic, and positive about your experience with Saint Joseph’s University! If there is an opportunity, please leave a few copies of your materials with a guidance counselor (if present) for their college resource libraries. Please keep the rest for other fairs you volunteer for in the future.
Materials to use at the college fair

**Travel brochure** – Each student you meet should receive one. The brochure is full of information including basic statistics, admission information, scholarship information, student activities and financial aid information.

**Scholarship Pages** – This is a comprehensive list of scholarships offered by the university to incoming freshmen, transfer, and international students.

**Inquiry cards** – Please have the students you meet complete one of these cards and leave it with you. You will return these cards to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, and we will place these students on our mailing list. Students often want to take the card with them and mail it themselves – this is fine. Double checking that the birth date is completed is important. You may also meet a student who is already receiving information, they do not have to complete a card, however if they do we can update their record that they attended a college fair. Make notes on the card if necessary so that an admissions counselor can follow up.

*The vast majority of applications we receive are completed online using either the Common Application or SJU own application. Students can also download paper application from both sites. If a student specifically requests a paper application as they do not have access to the Internet to apply online or download our application, please take their name and address and a paper application will be mailed to the student.*

**Viewbooks** – One has been provided for your reference. These pieces are not to be distributed to students at fairs. Once a student fills out an inquiry card or inquires on our website, he or she will be mailed a viewbook.

**Pens** – You may place a few of them, at a time, on the table for students to use when completing inquiry cards. They are not for distribution, but don’t be surprised if they disappear.

**Facebook Cards** – These are reminders for students, parents, and guidance counselors to “like” SJU on facebook, twitter, instagram, and other forms of social media.
Evaluation and Feedback

At the end of the college fair, please complete our evaluation form for the fair. The evaluation can be found within the materials packet and it will be e-mailed to you so you can return it electronically if you’d like. We will use this information when we decide which fairs we will attend in the future. Please return all completed inquiry cards, the banner, and the evaluation form in the postage-paid envelope/box provided. It is extremely important that this information be returned in a timely fashion because students will be anxiously awaiting a reply to their request for information and the Office of Undergraduate Admissions needs the banner to send to other volunteers who are doing college fairs in different areas of the country.

Admissions Procedures and Guidelines

Saint Joseph’s University has two deadlines for freshman applicants. Early Action deadline for freshmen is November 15, with notification by December 25. Regular Decision deadline for freshmen is February 1 with notification by March 15.

Transfer applications are reviewed on a rolling basis with a preferred application deadline of November 1 for spring transfers and March 1 for fall transfers.

How does a student apply for admission?
Students can apply online via the Saint Joseph’s University application or the Common Application. A print-ready SJU application is also available. (If a student has no access to the Internet, please take their name and address and we can mail them a copy of the SJU application). Otherwise, please refer them to the application section of our website, sju.edu/apply. We have no preference as to which application the student uses - all applications are viewed equally in the admissions process.
A complete application includes:

- Application fee of $60
- Official high school transcript(s)
- Official SAT and/or ACT scores (optional)
- One or more letters of recommendation from guidance counselors or teachers
- Essay
- Resume and/or activities list (optional)
What is the profile of the average student admitted to Saint Joseph’s University?
It is important to know that the Office of Admissions does not have “cut-offs” for class ranks, test scores or grade point averages. You can provide students with the profile of the middle 50% of applicants who were admitted to SJU for the Class of 2016.
- Middle 50% GPA: 3.22–3.90
- Middle 50% on the SAT: 1060-1230
- Middle 50% on the ACT: 23-28

Please remember that these statistics are the middle 50%. Students will ask for “average” SAT or ACT scores: we report the middle 50% because it is a more representative sampling. The University admits many students with higher credentials, and in some cases, students are admitted who fall below the credentials. Each application will be reviewed individually and the admission review committee makes all final decisions.

Financial Aid and Merit-Based Scholarships

All applicants are evaluated for academic scholarships when they apply for admission. Students are notified at the time of admission if they are receiving a scholarship. There are also separate applications for several scholarships—some may require an essay and interview. Please review the enclosed scholarship flyer.

One fact worth mentioning to prospective students and parents when asked about financial aid and scholarships is that $50 million of institutional merit scholarships and need-based aid was awarded to incoming students for the fall 2013.

Please remember that you can simply refer the prospective students and parents to the Office of Admissions 610-660-1300 when or if you are asked about merit-based scholarships and criteria.

***In other words, please do not begin an in depth conversation regarding potential merit-based scholarship and/or financial aid packages with prospective students you meet.
Visiting SJU

There are many opportunities for students to visit Hawk Hill. We strongly encourage students and their parents to visit campus so that they can see for themselves what we have to offer. A current listing of all visit opportunities is available on the admissions web site at sju.edu/visit.

Ask-a-Counselor Session
These sessions are available Monday through Friday and serve as an opportunity for students and parents to meet individually with an admissions counselor to have individual questions answered. Interviews are not a formal requirement in the admissions process.

Discover SJU Presentations
Discover SJU sessions are offered regularly on weekdays and on select Saturdays. These 30 minute presentations will give students and their families the opportunity to learn more about academics, student life, and the admissions process at SJU. A campus tour with a Hawk Host follows.

Open Houses
Prospective students and parents will spend a full day on campus and receive information regarding admissions, financial aid, academics, the Jesuit tradition, student life, activities, and athletics. There will also be opportunities to listen to a student panel discussion and tour the campus.

Campus Experience Days
Campus Experience Days are unique opportunities for admitted high school seniors to spend the day on campus, and view Saint Joseph’s through the eyes of those who know it best, our current students. Admitted students are placed with a “Hawk Host” and taken to classes, social activities, and meals in the dining hall. Parents are invited to spend the day participating in several information sessions that will cover various aspects of life on Hawk Hill. Campus Experience Days begin in February and run through April of each spring semester.

Admitted Student’s Day
Admitted Student's Day is typically held in the beginning of April and allows admitted students and their parents to receive insight into what college life and academics is really all about at SJU. Faculty presentations, panel discussions, keynote speakers, campus tours, and lunch in the cafeteria are provided.
Frequently Asked Questions/Responses

So what is SJU in one minute?
Founded by the Society of Jesus in 1851, Saint Joseph's University is a Catholic and Jesuit University located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Saint Joseph's offers over 50 undergraduate majors and sponsors 100 student clubs and organizations for 4,650 full-time undergraduates. Our Haub School of Business holds AACSB (Association for the Advancement of Collegiate Schools of Business) International Accreditation of which only 10% of business schools in the U.S. hold. Saint Joseph's is also one of only 280 U.S. schools to have a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. Steeped in the 450-year Jesuit tradition of scholarship and service, this year Saint Joseph's was named to the 2012 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for the sixth consecutive year.

1. How many students attend SJU?
   SJU has 4650 undergraduate students.

2. What is the ratio of men to women at SJU?
   SJU is 49% men and 51% women

3. What are the admissions requirements?
   Candidates are reviewed for admission based on the student’s high school curriculum, their overall academic work (GPA, rank, course rigor) test scores, letters of recommendation, essay, and extracurricular activities. The profile of the middle 50% of admitted applicants for the Class of 2017 was
   GPA: 3.22 – 3.90
   SAT: 1060-1230
   ACT: 23-28

4. How do I apply for scholarships?
   Every student who applies for admission is automatically considered for merit-based scholarships. There are also some scholarships which require separate applications. It is important that students adhere to the published deadlines that can be found in the current publications and our web site.

5. How do I apply for financial aid?
   Students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), in order to be considered for need-based financial aid. The FAFSA is available online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

6. How much does it cost to attend SJU?
   Tuition, room and board for the 2012-13 academic year is $37,670. SJU is a private school so the cost is the same for in-state and out-of-state students. There are additional fees for books, labs, technology, and other expenses that will vary by student.
7. **What is the student to faculty ratio?**
   14:1

8. **What is the average class size at SJU?**
   Average class size is 24

9. **How many of your students return for their sophomore year?**
   89.8%

10. **Are students required to live on campus?**
    Freshmen and sophomores are required to live on campus and housing is guaranteed for these two years. Students may choose to commute from the home of their legal guardian. Junior and senior students may choose to live on campus, but most live in the neighborhoods near SJU where there is plenty of accessible, safe, and affordable housing.

11. **What happens on the weekends?**
    SJU students have many opportunities on and off campus. The Student Union Board, as well as the Office of Student Life, provides activities on the weekends, which can include concerts, comedians, museums, dances, trips to the Washington, D.C. and New York City, ski trips, Phillies games and service activities. SJU students also take advantage of the city through shopping, theater, performing arts, local bands, restaurants, parks, professional athletic teams and outdoor recreation areas. There is a vibrant SJU life on campus.

12. **Does SJU offer athletic scholarships?**
    Yes. SJU is a NCAA Division I school in the Atlantic 10 conference. Scholarships are available in all 10 mens’ and womens’ sports. Students are encouraged to contact the coach or visit our website for additional information. www.sjuhawks.com

13. **Does SJU offer study abroad programs?**
    Yes, through the Center for International Programming (CIP), SJU offers an increasing range of opportunities for students to study abroad. Students may choose to study abroad for a summer, semester or even possibly a year. Students have studied in such countries as: Australia, Argentina, Belgium, Chile, China, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Spain and South Africa.

14. **Does SJU offer internships?**
    Yes. Through our Career Development Center and extensive alumni network and the, SJU provides opportunities for students to gain professional work experience through internships.
15. **Does SJU offer any Co-op programs?**  
Yes. The Cooperative Education Program (Co-op) is a partnership between students, employers and the Haub School of Business, where students take 6-8 months off of school to work at a paid internship. The Co-Op program is a four year program that is available to all undergraduate business majors. The Food Marketing program offers a five year co-op program.

16. **What is the percentage of students of color on the SJU campus?**  
14%

17. **What if I am not Catholic?**  
SJU is a Jesuit, Catholic University; however we embrace students of all faiths. The Office of Mission and Identity and Campus Ministry can provide students with a list of different places of worship in the area. Theology and philosophy are required academic courses in the General Education Program (GEP) for all student; these courses cover Catholic traditions and other diverse world religions.

Thank you again for participating!

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