Where is it? What’s the campus like?

Saint Joseph’s University is located on the western edge of the city of Philadelphia- on City Line Avenue. The campus is both in Philadelphia proper, and in the suburb of Lower Merion. “Hawk Hill” is a 7 minute train ride or 15 minute drive from Center City Philadelphia. The campus has a suburban “feel” with plenty of green space and many historic buildings, but also boasts a brand new library and residence halls.

How many students go to SJU?

There are 4,600 full-time undergraduate students at SJU. The Class of 2017 (current freshmen) is about 1300 Hawks!

What is this school known for?

Saint Joseph’s is a Catholic, Jesuit University that provides an outstanding liberal arts education with a strong emphasis on ethics and social justice. We offer over 50 majors and dozens of minors which are housed in two colleges: the College of Arts and Sciences and the Haub School of Business. We offer a number of unique programs including: Food Marketing, Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Marketing, Sports Marketing, Insurance and Risk Management, Family Business and Entrepreneurship, Autism Studies, and Behavioral Neuroscience. You might have also seen SJU student-athletes playing in the Atlantic 10 in 20 NCAA Division 1 sports. In 2004, Coach Phil Martelli was named Coach of the year and Jameer Nelson (of the Orlando Magic) was named player of the year in Division I Basketball.

Do I have to be Catholic to go there? What’s a Jesuit?

Saint Joseph's University was founded in the Catholic tradition by the Jesuits - an order of Catholic priests who place high importance on both education and service to others. Although we are proud of our heritage, we welcome students of all faith backgrounds.

Can I visit?

In a word, YES! Check out the SJU website at sju.edu/visit to register for a campus visit! The hawks host several open house programs every year, as well as daily information sessions and tours from the admissions office typically at 10am and 2pm.

Is this the one in Queens/Indiana/Patchogue/Maine/Minnesota?

You might be thinking of Saint John’s, College of Saint Joseph’s, Saint Joseph’s College, etc. SJU in Philadelphia is not affiliated with any of these other colleges and universities.

It’s in Philadelphia- is it a safe campus?

Saint Joseph’s unique location, on the edge of Philadelphia on one side of the street and in the affluent community of Lower Merion on the other side of the street, is a safe campus with a number of resources available to maintain public safety including required ID swipe, key or punch code to enter any campus residence, campus shuttle and escort service, etc. For more information regarding public safety, go to sju.edu/int/resources/security.

How far is it from Temple/Penn/LaSalle/Drexel/Villanova?

Hawk Hill is seven miles southwest on Route 1 from LaSalle and Temple, about four miles northwest of Penn and Drexel, and six miles south east of Villanova, on Lancaster Avenue. All of these other schools are easily accessible by car or by public transportation.

Do you have XYZ major? Is it a good program?
All the majors at SJU are great! If you’d like more information about a specific major, you can check out our website at www.sju.edu.

What are classes like?

The average class size is 24 students! Every student completes the GEP- the General Education Program, a set of classes across all disciplines. Classes are always taught by professors- never by graduate students. In the Jesuit tradition, many classes are discussion-or inquiry based, rather than lecture style.

What’s the retention rate?

89% of our students return to SJU after their freshman year.

What’s the career placement rate?

Within six months of graduation, 94% of the class of 2012 was employed, pursuing a graduate degree, or engaged in service programs (like the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, Teach for America, etc).

What kind of housing is offered? Is it guaranteed?

SJU requires that all freshmen and sophomores live on campus. Freshmen can choose between residence halls with traditional corridor-style housing or those with suites of 8-12 students. Sophomores can live in historic homes, apartments and townhouses on campus. Juniors and seniors have the option to move off-campus, as there is plenty of accessible, safe, and inexpensive housing around Hawk Hill. Although not housing is not guaranteed for juniors and seniors, the campus housing that may be available to them includes university-owned apartments and townhouses.

I’m the star of my high school’s XYZ team, and I want to play that sport at SJU. How do I contact the coach?

You’ll want to check out our athletics website at www.sjuhawks.com. There, you can find the contact information for the coaches for both the NCAA Division 1 team, and for the club team. We also recommend that you fill out the prospective student athlete survey on that website. The Hawk Will Never Die!

Do you have XYZ club/activity/organization?

You can take a look in our literature about some of the featured activities on campus- and many more have pages on our website. If there’s something that you don’t see listed, you can easily start a group at SJU when you find other like-minded students.

Do you offer accommodations for students with learning differences or disabilities?

SJU takes every step possible to accommodate all the students’ needs. If you have specific questions, you can contact the Office of Student Success at success@sju.edu.

Can freshmen bring cars to campus?

Most freshmen don’t bring cars to Hawk Hill. There’s a train within walking distance, and plenty of on- and off- campus shuttles. However, freshmen who need cars for specific reasons like medical appointments can apply for a special permit through the public safety office.

I live in XYZ town, and I go to XYZ High School. Who is my admissions counselor?

Here is the business card for your counselor! Unfortunately he/she could not be here today, but I know they would love to hear from you!

What SAT score/ACT score/GPA do I need for admission?

For those admitted to the Class of 2017, the middle 50% had between a 3.22 and a 3.90 GPA, an SAT between 1060-1230/1600 (just Critical Reading and Math sections--not including the writing section), and a 23-28 ACT Composite. If you want to speak with an admissions counselor about your application, feel free to send them an email!
What does it mean to be test optional?

Saint Joseph’s University is using a test-optional admissions process. This means that students have the option whether or not to send their SAT or ACT scores. The presence (or lack thereof) of test scores does not change a student’s chances of admissions or scholarships.

When is the admissions deadline?

The application deadline for Early Action is November 15 with a December 25th admission decision. The deadline for Regular Decision is February 1 with a March 15th admission decision. Both application processes use the same criteria to evaluate students for admission. Both options are non-binding and all admitted students have until May 1st to make a decision.

Do I need to take SAT II’s (subject tests)?

No. The University does not require SAT Subject Tests for admission consideration.

I’m really smart- I have a GPA of X.X and I scored XXXX on my SAT’s or ACT’s. Will I be admitted? What kind of scholarship can I expect to receive?

Each year the Office of Undergraduate Admissions evaluates applications within the context of that year’s applicant pool making it difficult to predict a student’s chances for admission or merit scholarship. If you’d like to speak with an admissions counselor, you can send an email at admit@sju.edu or call 610-660-1300 and ask to speak to the counselor who represents your geographic area.

My brother/sister/neighbor/grandpa/cat went here! Does that help me get in?

You will have the opportunity to indicate if you are a legacy (which means that you have a grandparent, parent or sibling that has graduated from SJU). The Admissions Committee will include this factor when reviewing your application as a secondary factor. The primary factors that will have the most impact will be your classroom performance (GPA, class rank, rigor of courses) test scores and application materials.

How much is tuition?

For full-time undergraduate students, tuition is $38,800. Room & board total $13,337. Please don’t hesitate to contact your admissions counselor to talk about scholarships and the financial aid process.

How do I get scholarships and financial aid?

A Saint Joseph’s University education is truly an investment in the student’s future. Every student is automatically reviewed for merit scholarships at the time of application. There are additional scholarships that you can apply for as well- the list is available on our website at www.sju.edu

Students interested in financial aid should fill out the FAFSA- Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Last year, SJU awarded over $50 million in need-based aid. The priority deadline is February 15 of your senior year.