



## ST. MARY'S COLLEGE

200 East Mission Street  
Saint Marys, Kansas 66536  
(785) 437-2471

*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 physical and moral safety. Most 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 suppress individual freedom, but to encourage human activity toward the noble and transcendent. St. Mary's College 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

- The College assumes a level of maturity, civility, and nobility appropriate to traditional Catholic adults.*
- The college provides unparalleled access to the Catholic Sacraments, and a dedicated Chaplain. Students should take full advantage of these exceptional conditions, and are encouraged to attend daily Mass and Rosary, and make regular confession.*
- Alcohol, illegal drugs, firearms, and indecent music are forbidden on campus; tobacco use is restricted.*
- No pets of any kind are allowed in the dormitories.*
- Students must live on campus unless living locally with parents or close relatives approved by the Rector.*
- College students will not enter Academy buildings without permission or sufficient cause.*
- 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 always remain off limits to members of the opposite sex. College men are allowed in the area near the women's dorm only at mealtimes.*
- Students must have approval to attend off-campus gatherings.*
- Students will complete dorm jobs as assigned and scheduled.*
- Students must have written approval of the Rector to hold off-campus jobs. Work hours will be limited.*
- Students are permitted to have personal vehicles on campus; use may be restricted.*
- Students are expected to abide by the rules concerning personal electronics, computer and internet usage, and social media outlined in the Catalog.*
- 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 on school nights, 11:00pm Friday and Saturday, and before scheduled days when classes will not meet. Grand silence is observed in the dormitories after 11:00pm before school days, and midnight non-school days. Excessive noise, telephone use, and conversation are forbidden after grand silence. College buildings remain locked after curfew.

## **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 conditions). Athletic wear, sneakers and open-toed shoes are not permitted in class. 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, casual sandals (such as flip-flops), and slippers or house shoes are not permitted in class. During non-class hours, women will adhere to standards of Catholic modesty.

## **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 restrict their use of personal electronics in the College building.

## **Video Gaming**

Habitual, and certainly excessive video game playing is an activity irreconcilable with the maturity and discipline required to succeed in any serious vocation. Essentially mindless and highly habit-forming, gaming invariably consumes time serious students can ill-afford to lose. Consistent gaming is incompatible with academic success. The College emphatically discourages frequent gaming, either online or with personal consoles. Equipment is subject to confiscation at the earliest indication of problematic usage.

### **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 should 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 social media; such activity is forbidden on campus.

### **Romantic Relationships**

As College students, the course of study—spiritual, intellectual, and physical formation—must remain the primary focus of every student. Necessity—for example working part-time to pay tuition—can and does create understandable external pressures, but few things can distract students more than an infatuation or a serious romantic relationship which will invariably negatively affect individual student performance, College cohesion, and morale. While enrolled, students may not establish romantic relationships, especially within the college, and must limit the development—through keeping consistent exclusive company or excessive in-person or electronic communication—of such relationships.

Revelation of these relationships will likely result in disciplinary actions, up to and including recommended withdrawal or expulsion. Any disciplinary action in these cases remains at the sole discretion of the President.

Relationships with non-students that pre-exist enrollment in the College may be allowed to continue as a notable exception, but only if the student is forthcoming about their existence and it remains clear that the relationship in no way affects the student's performance or the common good of the college.

The College understands keenly the natural attraction to the opposite sex. Students must, however, commit fully to their duties of state while at the College and save for a later time the pursuit of Catholic courtship or religious life, both of which require a total commitment of the mature individual. Learning to appreciate and cherish fellow classmates of the opposite sex is a beautiful aspect of St. Mary's College life but requires discipline and charity above all. Students should feel free to speak with the College chaplain or a spiritual director to acquire such self-mastery, which is certainly necessary for Christian life.

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

---

Student signature/Date

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

---

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