Insider Tips for a Successful First Year at SJU

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Our Work in Higher Education

• “We take thousands of 18-year-olds out of their homes and communities every August, move them all into giant holding facilities called residence halls, and expect them to bond immediately, navigate conflict successfully, and abstain from bad decision-making, all while diligently focusing on their academic pursuits.”

JASPA Monthly Update (June 2019)
FY to SO Retention
(Full-time students at 4 yr. private institutions)

National Average: 80%

Saint Joseph’s University: 89% (Class of 2023)
6 Year Graduation Rates
(4 yr. institutions with similar admit rates)

National Average: 63%
Saint Joseph’s University: 81% (Class of 2018)

77% of SJU students from the Class of 2020 graduated within 4 years
Academic Information
2020 Pre-Enrollment Survey Data

- **10%**: I was able to do well in HS with minimal effort
- **93%**: felt it somewhat or very likely to make Dean’s List during the first semester (3.5 GPA)
- **38%** actually made Dean’s List
Study vs. Class Time

- College = hard work
  - Students choose to be here
- In class: 15-18 hours per week
- Recommended: 20-25 hours of study time per week
Academic Advising

- Academic Advisor: declared vs. undeclared major
- Academic Advisor vs. the Advising Center
Support Services on Campus

- Office of Learning Resources
- The Writing Center
- Counseling & Psychological Services
- Office of Student Success
- Student Outreach & Support
- Student Disability Services
- Career Development Center
Printing on campus

• 200 free black and white prints per semester
• After that:
  – One-sided black and white: $.08 per page
  – Double-sided black and white: $.06 per side
  – Color print: always $.35 per page
Other Academic Information

- Add/Drop (Aug. 31) vs. withdrawal from a class (Nov. 29)
- Taking 4 classes vs. 5 classes
- Accommodations with Student Disability Services need to be renewed each year
2020 Checking-In Survey

• 40% - Social transition was somewhat/very easy

• 56% - Somewhat/very successful at making friends

• 57% - Somewhat/very successful at adjusting to the social environment

**These numbers are down ~15-20% from their averages, largely due to Covid**
1,000+ Social Media friends/followers…
…but no one to eat lunch with

• A few pieces of advice to share:
  – Put themselves out there and talk to people
    • Ex. Cell phones in class, not meeting classmates
  – Keep making friends, don’t limit themselves
    • 1st friend group based on proximity (res hall, classes)
  – Video game console in dorm room (maybe at Fall Break?)
Early Arrival Programs

Benefits:
- Early move-in (residential students)
- Opportunity to make friends
- Get acclimated to campus and the surrounding area
- Ease into college

Beginning August 17th:
- BEAGLE
- PSIP
- Running Start

Beginning August 18th:
- SJU Reads
- AIM (all spots filled)
Greek Life

- Recruitment takes place in the Spring semester for first year students
- ~22% of undergrads are involved in Greek Life
- Minimum GPA required (2.7) with at least 12 college credits completed
- Social bond, academic standards, and an emphasis on philanthropy
Students Offering Advice and Resources (SOAR)

- Peer mentoring program for SJU students
- Open dialogue and conversations
- Some topics include:
  - Adjusting to college and life on campus
  - Making connections as a commuter student
  - Navigating roommate troubles
  - Overcoming academic difficulties
- Email: SOAR@sju.edu
Financial Information
Tuition Bills

• Emailed to the student’s “sju.edu” email address
• Students can assign access to E-bill through The Nest
  – Students > Tuition Information > Billing, Payment and Payment Plans
• “Add an Authorized Party”
Opportunities to Lower Costs

• Apply to become an RA

• Become “The Hawk”

• On-Campus Employment
  – www.sju.edu/careers
Financial Holds

An unpaid tuition balance greater than $2,000 prevents students from registering for classes and receiving a transcript.
Tuition Refund Schedule
(20% reduction each week)

- Applies to WD all classes or WD from SJU
- Before the end of Add/Drop (Aug. 31) = 100%
- Each subsequent week = 20% less
- After the 5th week = 0%

Tuition insurance is available
(gradguard.com/tuition/sju)
FERPA- Parent Access to Information
(Yes or No- students select)

- Account/Billing
- Financial Aid
- Academic Information
- University Communications

Allows SJU employees the opportunity to speak with parents.
Extended Absence
(Notification policy for students missing extended class time)

• Send an email to success@sju.edu
• Professors, Academic Advisor, Associate Dean, and Advising Center are all notified (cc: student)
• Others as appropriate
Public Transportation

- Overbrook Train Station
- SEPTA Buses

*Discount Tickets Available*
• Variety of meal plan options available
• 2 sides to Campion
  • All-you-care to eat
  • A la carte
• Food kiosks throughout campus
• Ability to add Hawk Cash or Declining Balance Dollars to ID Card at any time

https://sjuhawkcard.com/acceptinglocations/
Fall Semester Dates to Know

• Fall Break (October 11-15)- no classes
  – Classes resume on Monday, October 18

• Thanksgiving Break (Begins November 24)
  – Coming home to see their friends
  – Classes resume on Monday, November 29

• Final exams (December 13-18)
Top 3 Takeaways from Today

• Encourage your student to get involved early at SJU
  – Activities Fair
  – Freshmen Day of Service
  – Spark Retreat

• Have a conversation this summer to set expectations and get everyone on the same page
  – Don’t forget to pick up your purple paper before leaving

• We’re all here to help your student succeed
  – When in doubt... success@sju.edu
www.sju.edu/studentsuccess