



The President's *Magis* Scholarship Initiative



Profiles of Student Need

The President's Magis Scholarship Initiative, will open Saint Joseph's doors to more students who share our Jesuit ideals and values, while providing new scholarships and financial aid and meet the greater need. Through this initiative, we aim to help three types of students:

1. Students who cannot afford a college without full financial support

Bright and ambitious young men and women, largely from underserved communities, have multiple barriers to considering a private college degree. Despite this, these students are beating the odds every day and hold great promise for themselves and their communities. These students are motivated and hard-working and can envision how a college degree could change their lives dramatically. They are also highly sought after because all institutions are seeking to broaden socioeconomic, ethnic and cultural diversity, which these students often represent.

These students typically attend a local public high school or charter school or have a full scholarship to a private secondary school. Supported by a safety net from college placement or college readiness organizations (such as SJU's Ignatian College Connection or the Cristo Rey network), they prepare for their dream of college. Unfortunately, their financial situation can abruptly change the conversation. While they are academically prepared to be successful in college, they require complete financial support for tuition, room and board to actually attend.

These students are at the heart of our mission and one of our most important responsibilities, but our current scholarship and financial aid programs support only a limited number at Saint Joseph's.

2. Strong academic students who cannot afford a private college or university

Increasingly the decision about where to attend college is based not on where students aspire to go but what institution they and their families can afford. This holds true especially for students from middle income families who want to attend Saint Joseph's, who value a Jesuit, Catholic education, who would thrive on our campus and who would give back to their communities after graduation. Unable to afford the full cost of Saint Joseph's – even with an academic scholarship and student loans – they are forced to go elsewhere, most likely to a public university or another private institution that can better absorb their financial aid requirements.

Increased scholarship support would make Saint Joseph's an appealing choice for these families. So many of our alumni have come from families just like these, and have demonstrated the transformational impact the Saint Joseph's education has had on their lives. They become engaged citizens committed to social justice and improving the health and welfare of their communities, as well as for the people in need around them. They become leaders in their fields with a sphere of influence that brings our Jesuit ideals to life, personally, professionally and spiritually.

3. Students who are academically gifted and have their choice of private universities

Nationwide, colleges and universities are recruiting highly talented, engaged students who can make an immediate impact on their campus and in turn become strong alumni. Usually in the top 5-10 percent of their high school classes, they apply to 10-12 institutions.

They are ambitious for themselves and others, strive to achieve in all that they do, engage in research with faculty and stand out as leaders. They seek study abroad and honors programs. Such students at Saint Joseph's will raise our academic profile, improve our selectivity rate and advance national recognition. Because they are in such great demand by all institutions, their decision often turns toward the university with the greatest prestige, the best match for their personal and career goals and the most comprehensive financial package.

By providing more full tuition scholarships for high achieving students such as these, Saint Joseph's will become known as a more competitive university that supports and attracts academic achievement. These students enrich the learning experience for all students and help to attract top faculty.