



The Monk's Lantern Initiative

SJC's Free Tuition Program

**Empowering Maine students through
access, compassion, and opportunity.**

At Saint Joseph's College of Maine, we believe that a transformative, values-based education should be within reach for every qualified student.

That's why we've been proud to offer The **Monk's Lantern Initiative** — A **free tuition** program designed to illuminate the path to higher education for deserving students. Inspired by the compassionate spirit of **Catherine McAuley** and the values of the **Sisters of Mercy**, The Monks Lantern Initiative reflects our long-standing commitment to **education, dignity, and opportunity for all**.

The Monk's Lantern Initiative isn't a new idea — it's a reflection of a **legacy we've upheld for years**: walking with students at the margins and opening doors to higher education. This initiative continues our mission to serve Maine students with integrity, compassion, and a deep commitment to their success.



Eligibility Criteria

To be considered for the Monk's Lantern Initiative, prospective students must meet the following requirements:

- **Residency:** Students must be **Maine residents** for at least one year prior to enrollment.
- **Residential Status:** Applicants are required to be residential students at Saint Joseph's College throughout their enrollment.
- **Academic Achievement:** A strong academic record is essential, with a minimum cumulative high school GPA of **3.4 or higher**.
- **Financial Need:** Demonstrating financial need is a key component. Applicants must have a family income of \$100,000 or less, **Student Aid Index (SAI) not above 0**.
- **Application Requirements:**
 - Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
 - Successfully complete the full admission application process for Saint Joseph's College.

Program Details

- **Tuition Coverage:** The Monk's Lantern Initiative covers the full cost of tuition for eligible students.
- **Renewability:** This commitment is renewable for up to four years of undergraduate study, provided the student continues to meet the following criteria annually:
 - Maintains a family income under \$100,000.
 - Maintains full-time enrollment status and makes satisfactory academic progress.
 - Files the FAFSA by the financial aid renewal deadline of April 1st.

Additional Costs

While the Monk's Lantern Initiative covers tuition, students should be prepared for other educational expenses, including:

- Meals and housing
- Comprehensive fees
- Books and supplies
- Personal expenses

Outside scholarships and federal loans can be utilized to help cover these additional costs.

*Recipient accepts this scholarship in the amount of up to free full-time tuition. The final amount will be determined in conjunction with the Office of Financial Aid. If the recipient has other institutional grants or scholarships which when combined with this Scholarship exceed the Cost of Tuition, the amount of their institutional aid may be reduced. Recipient represents that the final amount does not exceed Recipient.

