

2022
STUDENT
PARENT
GUARDIAN
PLAYBOOK



**EARNED
TUITION**
SAUK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MISSION STATEMENT

The SVCC Impact Program will harness the collective power of Sauk Valley partners and communities to create an effective, supportive, sustainable path for students to pursue a college education and achieve career success through lifelong learning, public service, and economic advancement.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2	Introduction
3	Preface by Dr. Martha Kanter and Dr. David Hellmich
4	Program Overview
5	Tiered Tuition Program
6	Understanding the Volunteer Component of the Impact Program
7	Timelines and Checklists
8	Resources for Parents and Guardians
9	App Overview
10	Conclusion
11	Appendix A: Frequently Asked Questions
12	Appendix B: Scholarship Resources
12-13	Appendix C: Academic Programs at Sauk Valley Community College
14-15	Appendix D: How to Enroll at Sauk Valley Community College
15	Appendix E: College Terminology



INTRODUCTION

The Impact Program is an earned tuition program that provides eligible students the opportunity to earn tuition and fees for up to three years, or until they earn their certificate or degree at Sauk Valley Community College. This playbook provides students, parents, and guardians with information about the Impact Program and serves as a resource guide.

PREFACE

Sauk Valley Community College's Impact Program will make the imagined real.

For more than 55 years, Sauk Valley Community College has provided a path for thousands to improve themselves through earning higher education and engaging in lifelong learning and public service. The economic benefits to Sauk's alumni and their Sauk Valley communities are enormous. For example, Sauk graduates earn \$700,000 more over their careers than persons not graduating, which not only improves their standard of living, but also boosts the tax base of their communities.

Now, imagine for the next 55 years and beyond, every child in the Sauk Valley growing up knowing he or she can earn an SVCC certificate or degree. Imagine that while in high school, and at Sauk, every child in the Sauk Valley is earning that certificate or degree through volunteering in our local communities. And, imagine every child in the Sauk Valley finally and fully realizing his or her potential with their name on that Sauk certificate or degree.

As residents of the Sauk Valley, we are proud of our communities and believe our communities have the potential to be exceptional. Sauk Valley Community College's Impact Program is a path to realizing the exceptional in the Sauk Valley.

We have created this Playbook to help connect families and community leaders, like you, to the SVCC Impact Program, and thus realize a better, more prosperous Sauk Valley for our region and state.

As president of Sauk Valley Community College and on behalf of Dr. Martha Kanter—CEO of College Promise at the national level—we are delighted with the strides made by the Sauk Valley College Foundation, the community and educational leaders, and by benefactors throughout the Sauk Valley in creating the Impact Program. We are especially proud of the students and families in Fulton and Prophetstown who are taking the first steps with us toward a new and brighter future.

Thank you for your commitment to Sauk Valley exceptionalism and to a future where the exceptional youth of our region play such vital roles in every Sauk Valley community.



Dr. David Hellmich
President
Sauk Valley Community College



Dr. Martha Kanter
CEO
College Promise

*Sauk Valley Community
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the exceptional in the
Sauk Valley.*



PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

In order for students to earn 100% of their tuition and fees at Sauk Valley Community College they must do the following things:

- 1 Opt in to the program by **September 1 of their freshman year of high school**. Students may register for the program by using the **Impact Program Opt-In Form**.
- 2 Graduate **on time or early** from high school. This also includes home school programs located within the SVCC district.
- 3 Participate in **25 hours** of community service during each year of high school, for a total of 100 hours by graduation. Students may volunteer more than 25 hours a year, but the **extra hours will not roll over or be applied to the following year's volunteer hour requirement**. Volunteer opportunities must be associated with community organizations and service organizations like Kiwanis, Lions, Optimist, or Rotary. Students are also encouraged to volunteer at community and school events. Volunteer hours must be completed between June 1- May 31, which allows students to begin volunteering at the end of their eighth grade year. If a student does not complete 25 hours of community service due to a classifying event, such as the death of a parent, experiencing homelessness, documented domestic violence, and/or a serious or life threatening medical condition, as defined by the Family Medical Leave Act, they will need to file an appeal with the advisory panel. Students must submit their volunteer hours by using the **Impact Program Volunteer Opportunity Report Form**. An adult, other than a parent/guardian, associated with the volunteer opportunity will need to verify the volunteer hours.
- 4 Apply for at least **one** local, state, or national scholarship. The student does **not** need to receive the scholarship. Please check with your high school guidance counselor or visit **svcc.edu/scholarships** for more information.
- 5 Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®). SVCC financial aid officers are trained and available to assist students and families with completing the FAFSA. If a student is ineligible to apply for FAFSA, he/she should complete the FAFSA forecaster. Please call 815.835.6339 or send an email to **fa@svcc.edu** for assistance.



TIERED TUITION PROGRAM

If a student moves into the Sauk Valley Community College district or opts in to the program after September 1 of their freshman year of high school, they will be eligible for a tiered tuition program:

- **Sophomore Year** = 75% of their tuition and fees covered
- **Junior Year** = 50% of their tuition and fees covered
- **Senior Year** = 25% of their tuition and fees covered

Please note that students will need to complete the rest of the requirements, including 25 hours of community service each year they are in the program.

UNDERSTANDING THE VOLUNTEER COMPONENT OF THE IMPACT PROGRAM

Why volunteering is an important aspect of the program:

- Volunteering provides a deeper understanding of the community organizations located within the Sauk Valley area; makes valuable connections with community leaders; and builds lasting friendships with others
- *In her 2016 work, Dr. Taryn Bates states, "93% of young people report that they have a desire to volunteer and make a difference in the world by volunteering, however a much smaller percentage of young people actually volunteer." (p.2)¹*
- Volunteering also helps students develop the soft skills employers are looking for

¹ Bates, T. L. (2016). Impact of volunteering on self-esteem development of middle school students (Order No. 10119242). . (1805168786).

<https://www.proquest.com/dissertations-theses/impact-volunteering-on-self-esteem-development/docview/1805168786/se-2?accountid=57479>

What ARE good volunteering opportunities?

- Any non-profit organizations like Big Brothers Big Sisters, churches, homeless shelters, United Way, YMCA, YWCA, and food pantries
- Service organizations like Kiwanis, Lions, Optimists, and Rotary Clubs
- Local hospitals
- Community events
- School events, concession stands, clean up days, and club events

What ARE NOT considered volunteer opportunities?

- Volunteer activities not sponsored by a community organization such as mowing your neighbor's lawn, shoveling their snow, or raking their leaves
- Accepting money in exchange for your volunteer service

Additional Information

Those participating in the Impact Program at SVCC are expected to abide by their local school district's code of conduct during the completion of their community service hours.

Students may find their own volunteer opportunities as long as they meet the above mentioned criteria. Please note that students may volunteer more than 25 hours per year, but the hours will not roll over or be applied to the next year's volunteer hour requirement. If you have any questions, please contact the Impact Coordinator at impact@svcc.edu





CHECKLIST AND TIMES

Freshman Year:

- Opt in to the Impact Program by September 1 of their freshman year. Students may register for the program by using the **Impact Program Opt-In Form**
- Complete 25 hours of community service between June 1 and May 31. Students may submit their volunteer hours by using the **Impact Program Volunteer Opportunity Report Form**

Sophomore Year:

- Complete 25 hours of community service between June 1 and May 31. Students may submit their volunteer hours by using the **Impact Program Volunteer Opportunity Report Form**

Junior Year:

- Complete 25 hours of community service between June 1 and May 31. Students may submit their volunteer hours by using the **Impact Program Volunteer Opportunity Report Form**

Senior Year:

- Complete 25 hours of community service between June 1 and May 31. Students may submit **Impact Program Volunteer Opportunity Report Form**
- Apply to Sauk Valley Community College between September 1 and December 15. Visit svcc.edu/apply
- Apply for FAFSA® between October 1 and March 1. Visit svcc.edu/fafsa-fridays to make an appointment
- Apply for one local, state, or national scholarship between January 1 and April 15 (does not need to be granted to the student)
- Meet with an academic advisor and enroll in classes between March 15 and May 31. Visit svcc.edu/appointment

RESOURCES FOR PARENTS & GUARDIANS

Congratulations! Your student is on their way to earning their tuition and fees at SVCC! As part of this program, students are required to do community service and graduate from high school on time. What can you do to help?

- Be informed about the Impact Program so you can talk about it with your student.
- This playbook explains the most important features of the program, and our website has more detailed information.
- Celebrate your student for making this life-changing decision and for working hard in school to maintain good grades.
- Let them know that you're there to provide support and help when needed, whether that is with understanding homework or supporting and encouraging them to complete their community service.
- Encourage your student to explore the various academic programs at Sauk Valley Community College.
- When things are not going so well, encourage them to talk to someone, such as a school counselor. It's sometimes easier for your child to share their challenges with someone other than a parent/guardian because of the strong bond between parent and child.
- Your involvement and support throughout this program will be crucial for your student's success.

If you have questions or want to learn more about the Impact Program, visit our website at svcc.edu/impact or contact the Impact Program Coordinator, at impact@svcc.edu.

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IMPACT PROGRAM APP

Sauk Valley Community College is currently developing an app for the Impact Program. Features of the app will include:

- Registering for the Impact Program
- Signing up for volunteer opportunities
- Keeping track of volunteer hours
- Receiving reminders about completing the FAFSA® and applying for scholarships

Please stay tuned for announcements on when the app will be available in the Apple Store and Google Play Store.

Anticipated launch date for the Impact App is February 2022.



Dr. Lori Cortez

*The Impact Program
has the potential
to be the greatest
transformative higher
education program in the
Sauk Valley region.*

CONCLUSION

The Sauk Valley Community College Impact Program has the potential to be the greatest transformative higher education program in the Sauk Valley region since the College's inception in 1965. We hope that you will enjoy your Impact journey with us, as a student, a family member, community leader, or business owner. Because of you, we are able to offer tuition and fees to hundreds of thousands of students in the years to come. Yet, the Impact Program does not stop at earned tuition, or even college graduation. The SVCC Impact Program harnesses the collective power of Sauk Valley partners and communities to create an effective, supportive, sustainable path for students to pursue a college education and achieve career success through lifelong learning, public service, and economic development.

Thank you for being our partner, thank you for allowing Sauk Valley Community College to be *your* community college.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lori Cortez
Dean of Institutional Advancement
Sauk Valley Community College

APPENDIX A: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- 1 Are dual enrolled students eligible for the Impact Program?
 - No. The Impact Program is a post-secondary opportunity. Impact Program funds will be applied toward a student's account after high school graduation and would continue for three years.
- 2 If a student graduates high school early, would they still need to complete 100 hours prior to being eligible for the Impact Program funds?
 - Yes! To receive 100% of your tuition and fees, you will need to complete 100 hours of volunteering by graduation.
- 3 What are eligible volunteer opportunities?
 - Volunteer opportunities must be sponsored by a community organization like: non-profits, service organizations, community events, and school events. Money in exchange for their volunteer service is not permissible.
- 4 How will a student track their progress with the Impact Program?
 - SVCC is developing an Impact Program app, which will allow you to opt in to the program, sign up for volunteer opportunities, see how many volunteer hours you have completed, and so much more.
- 5 Are there additional benefits if the student is a Sauk Scholar?
 - Yes! In addition to tuition, books and fees will also be covered as part of the Impact Program.
- 6 Are there any requirements once a student is enrolled at SVCC?
 - Yes! Completion of 25 volunteer hours and maintaining good academic standing, which is to have a 2.0 GPA or higher and complete 67.7% of classes each semester, will be expected.
- 7 Are students required to be a full-time student at SVCC?
 - No. The Impact Program will cover up to three years of tuition and fees at SVCC for full-time or part-time students.
- 8 If I do not enroll at SVCC right after high school graduation, am I still eligible?
 - Yes! However, you must enroll no later than Spring semester (January) after high school graduation. You will potentially lose up to half of a year of your three-year time frame to use Impact funds.
- 9 Can a student take a semester off while enrolled in the Impact program at SVCC?
 - A student may take one semester off while enrolled in the Impact program at SVCC, as long as the volunteer requirement and good academic requirement are maintained, and it is within the three-year time frame. However, the student is still bound to the original three-year timeframe for usage of Impact funds.
- 10 While enrolled at SVCC, if I do not complete 25 hours of volunteering and fall below a 2.0 GPA, is there a procedure for readmittance?
 - If the minimum standards are not met while enrolled at SVCC, you will be suspended from the program. You may be readmitted after completing and paying for one semester on your own and completing program requirements (volunteering and maintaining good academic standing), although the three-year time frame will still be in effect. This is also consistent with SVCC's financial aid policy.

For a complete list of frequently asked questions, please visit svcc.edu/impact or email our Impact Coordinator at impact@svcc.edu.

APPENDIX B: SCHOLARSHIP RESOURCES

Here is a list of all of the area high schools. Please check with your guidance counselor for scholarship information and also with the Sauk Valley College Foundation, svcc.edu/foundation.

- AFC High School
- Amboy High School
- Bureau Valley High School
- Dixon High School
- Faith Christian
- Fulton High School
- Milledgeville High School
- Morrison High School
- Newman Central Catholic High School
- Ohio High School
- Oregon High School
- Polo High School
- Prophetstown-Lyndon-Tampico High School
- Rock Falls High School
- Sterling High School
- Unity Christian School
- West Carroll High School

Additional external scholarships: svcc.edu/external-scholarships.

For tips on applying for scholarships: svcc.edu/scholarship-apply.

APPENDIX C: ACADEMIC PROGRAMS OFFERED

GENERAL UNIVERSITY TRANSFER PROGRAMS:

Associate in Arts Degree

- Agribusiness
- Art
- Business
- Business-Accounting Major
- Communication (Media)
- Communication Studies
- Computer Science/Information Technology Track
- Criminal Justice
- Economics
- Education
 - Early Childhood
 - Elementary
 - Middle Level
 - Secondary
 - Special
- English
- Foreign Language
- History
- Kinesiology and Physical Education
- Nursing
- Political Science
- Pre-Athletic Training
- Psychology
- Social Work
- Sociology
- Theater Arts
- Undecided/Liberal Arts

Associate in Science Degree

- Agriculture Animal Science
- Agriculture-Crop and Soil Science, Mechanization
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science/Technical Track
- Education
 - Middle Level
 - Secondary
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Pre-Physical Therapy/Occupational Therapy
- Pre-Professional Medical
- Psychology
- Undecided/STEM

APPENDIX C: ACADEMIC PROGRAMS OFFERED

SPECIALIZED UNIVERSITY TRANSFER PROGRAMS:

Associate in Engineering Science

- Engineering

Associate in Fine Arts

- Art

CAREER PROGRAMS:

Associate in Applied Science Degree

- Accounting
- Agricultural Mechanics
- Agriculture Business
- Agriculture Production Technology
- Computer Information Systems
 - Computer Software Technology
 - Networking Specialist
 - Windows Server Administrator
- Criminal Justice
 - Law Enforcement
- Early Childhood Education
- Management
- Marketing
- Multicraft Technology
- Nursing (ADN)
- Paraprofessional Educator
- Radiologic Technology

NON-SPECIALIZED CAREER PROGRAM:

Associate in Liberal Studies Degree

- Liberal Studies

CAREER CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS:

Certificate

- Accounting
- Agriculture Production Technology
- Art: Digital Media Arts: Advanced
- Art: Digital Media Arts: Entry Level
- Commercial Drivers License
- Computed Tomography
- Computer Information Systems
 - Business Software Specialist I
 - Business Software Specialist II
 - Networking
 - PC Technician
 - Server Support Specialist
- Criminal Justice: Corrections
- Early Childhood Education
 - Educator
 - Educator Assistant
 - Foundations of Infant Toddler Care
- Electronics
 - Industrial
- Entrepreneurship & Small Business Management
- Heating, Refrigeration, & Air Conditioning
 - Entry Level Technician
- Industrial Maintenance Electrician
- Machining & CNC
- Management
- Management, Supervisory
- Marketing
- Nursing
 - Nurse Assistant (CNA)
 - Practical (LPN)
- Solar Energy Technician
- UAS/Drone Pilot
- Welding
 - Advanced
 - Entry Level
 - Robotic Welding

*Additional career programs are available through career agreements with other community colleges.
2021-2022 Catalog Active Programs*

APPENDIX D: HOW TO ENROLL

1 Complete a Student Information Form

Submit a Student Information Form to Admissions & Records. Forms are available at the College and on the College website svcc.edu/apply.

2 Learn About SVCC Program/Class Information

SVCC offers many types of programs to assist students in reaching their goals. This includes career and transfer programs, and individual class enrollment.

3 Satisfy Class Placement Requirements

Multiple placement options in English/language arts and mathematics are available for all students wishing to register for any English/language arts class, mathematics class, or any other college class requiring a specific ENG/ELA/MAT co-requisite or prerequisite. College staff will discuss required placement areas and options.

4 Examples of Placement Options:

- ACT/SAT scores
- SVCC placement test results
- Review of credit earned at the College level
- Review of high school transcript
- GED score

5 Submit Other Academic Records

Students should submit their official high school transcripts, GED scores, and college/university transcripts from institutions previously attended. Students submitting college transcripts should also file a Transcript Evaluation Request Form in Admissions & Records or on the college website svcc.edu/admissions. Transcripts must be delivered through an authorized electronic method or in a sealed envelope.

6 Learn About Tuition Costs & Payment Options

SVCC tuition is charged per credit hour based on residence. Course fees are assessed per credit hour based on the type of course.

Students are encouraged to apply for financial assistance, scholarships, and/or veterans benefits as early as possible. Contact Financial Assistance at 815.835.6339 for more information.

7 Meet with an Academic Advisor

Students will need to meet with an academic advisor to discuss their career plans, placement results, and course/program requirements. Call Academic Advising at 815.835.6354 for more information.

8 Register for Classes

Students register for classes with Admissions & Records staff. Summer/Fall registration begins in April; Spring registration begins in November.

9 Learn About SOAR, Sauk E-mail & Other On-line Tools

Go to svcc.edu/login for assistance with accessing student accounts at SVCC.

10 Pay Tuition & Fees

Students may pay by check, credit card, or apply for the deferred payment plan online at svcc.edu/soar. Students who have applied for financial aid should contact Financial Assistance to confirm eligibility. Students may also pay by cash, check or credit card in the Business Office. For additional information, call 815.835.6267.

11 Attend New Student Orientation

12 Buy Books & Supplies

Visit the SVCC bookstore to buy textbooks, supplies, and other important items.

13 Start Classes!

APPENDIX E: COLLEGE TERMINOLOGY

Academic Plan – A tool used by an academic advisor to help students map out coursework and academic goals while at SVCC.

Academic Program – A series of courses leading to the completion of a degree, certificate, or certification.

Associate Degree – An award issued to a student that signifies completion of a two-year program. Six associate's degrees are offered at SVCC. Four of them are designed to transfer to a four-year college or university:

- Associate in Art (AA).
- Associate in Engineering Science (AES).
- Associate in Fine Arts (AFA).
- Associate in Science (AS) degrees.
- Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree is intended to lead to employment and is not designed to transfer.
- Associate in Liberal Studies (ALS) is a non-specialized, non-transfer degree designed to meet the individual needs of a student.

Certificate – An award given at the completion of specific career training programs. Having a certificate means that the student is qualified to enter the workforce in a particular career area. A certificate requires fewer credit hours to complete than an associate degree.

Course Delivery Options

- Live Streaming Courses - Classes meet off campus during regularly scheduled class times through a virtual meeting platform such as Google Hangouts. Shown as SY on your schedule.
- Live Stream Blended Courses - Classes meet off campus during regularly scheduled class times through a virtual meeting platform, such as Google Hangouts, and meet on campus to complete any mandatory course work that cannot be completed virtually (i.e. labs/studio/clinical/field experience or work). Shown as SY or HY on your schedule and with LB for on campus labs.
- Traditional, Face-to-Face - Classes meet on campus.
- Online - Classes that are fully online (asynchronous) with no on campus or virtual class meetings. Some online courses may require in-person or recorded proctored tests. Shown as OL on your schedule.

Course Load – The number of credit hours a student takes during a semester.

Credit Hours – The amount of credit a student receives for completing a specific course.

Dean's List/President's List – Honor notation on a student's transcript identifying academic excellence for each term based on good academic standing and a minimum of six hours of college-level coursework at a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Electives – Classes a student chooses to take that are not specifically required for graduation but will increase the student's knowledge. Some electives may be required for graduation.

FAFSA® – Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

Fees – Course fees are assessed per credit hour based on the type of course.

Grade Point Average (GPA) – The total number of points per credit hour earned (A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, F=0), divided by college-level credit hours attempted. A 2.0 GPA cumulative is required to graduate.

In-district Resident – Someone who lives within the designated boundaries of Sauk Valley Community College District 506.

Prerequisite – An introductory course that must be taken before the next level course. Prerequisites are listed in the catalog and in each semester's class schedule.

Registration – The process of enrolling in classes.

Semesters – The Fall semester lasts between August and December. The Spring semester is from January to May. There is an eight-week summer session which begins in May. Check the academic calendar for details.

Skyhawk – The SVCC mascot; a mythical bird said to be strong, fierce, and driven, yet cooperative with others.

Student Status

- Full-time Students – Anyone taking 12 credit hours or more during the fall or spring semesters, or six or more credit hours during the summer semester.
- Part-time Students – Anyone taking 11 credit hours or less during the fall and spring semesters, or five credit hours or less during the summer semester.

Syllabus – A document that lists a course's objectives and requirements. This is course specific and each student will receive one at the beginning of each class.

Transcript – A document that serves as a complete record of all courses taken and grades received at SVCC.

Transfer Programs – Curriculum that can be applied toward bachelor degree programs at four-year colleges and universities.

Tuition – The amount charged for a course. Additional fees may apply.



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Sauk Valley Community College is dedicated to teaching and scholarship while engaging the community in lifelong learning, public service, and economic development.