

2024
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.

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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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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 website.
- 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. Students must submit their volunteer hours through the Impact Program website. 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

Beginning with the high school graduating class of 2026, 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 at svcc.edu/impact
- Complete 25 hours of community service between June 1 and May 31. Students may submit their volunteer hours at impact.svcc.edu

Sophomore Year:

- Complete 25 hours of community service between June 1 and May 31. Students may submit their volunteer hours at impact.svcc.edu

Junior Year:

- Complete 25 hours of community service between June 1 and May 31. Students may submit their volunteer hours at impact.svcc.edu

Senior Year:

- Complete 25 hours of community service between June 1 and May 31. Students may submit their volunteer hours at svcc.edu/impact
- 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 WEBSITE

Sauk Valley Community College has developed a website impact.svcc.edu, and it will include all things impact.

- 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







Dr. Lori Cortez

*The Impact Program
has the potential
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transformative higher
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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
Vice President of 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 volunteer hours prior to being eligible for the Impact Program funds?
 - Yes! To receive 100% of their tuition and fees, students will need to complete 100 hours of volunteering by high school graduation. Students may begin receiving Impact Program funds no sooner than six months to their intended graduation date.
- 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?
 - Students can log on to svcc.edu/impact, which will allow students to track their progress. They will be able to 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: INSTRUCTION FOR STUDENTS

Sign Up for Events

- To view/sign up for volunteer opportunities click Event Calendar or Upcoming Event Listing
- Click on an event and select I would like to attend this event
- You will confirm that you want to attend this event by selecting Sign up for event
- You are now all signed up and ready to go for your event!

Cancel Event

- You can cancel an event you have signed up for by clicking the Delete button up to 24 hours prior to the event
- Contact the event supervisor to cancel if it is within 24 hours prior to the event. (Click on the event to display supervisor contact information)

If you have any questions, please feel free to email us at impact@svcc.edu

APPENDIX C: SUBMITTING VOLUNTEER HOURS

CALENDAR EVENT SUBMISSIONS

What is a Calendar Event?

Calendar events are volunteer opportunities that are found on the Impact web portal.

- 1 To sign up for a Calendar event, please log in to your SVCC Impact account.
- 2 Click on the tab in the red toolbar labeled Event Calendar or Upcoming Event Listing tab.
- 3 Find an event you are interested in, click on the event, and then select I would like to attend this event.
- 4 Next, click on the red button labeled Sign-Up For Event.
- 5 By clicking that button you have signed up for that event and have logged the hours. You do not need to complete any additional steps to submit hours for Calendar events.
- 6 If you are signed up for an event and can no longer attend, please remove your name from the event by clicking on the Hour Tracking/Submission tab in the red toolbar and then clicking on the corresponding Delete button. If you need to cancel within 24 hours of an event, please contact the event supervisor directly to notify them either by phone or email.

NON-CALENDAR EVENT SUBMISSIONS

What is a Non-Calendar Event?

Non-Calendar events are volunteer opportunities that students find on their own, not on the Impact Calendar. Non-Calendar volunteering must be done with a non-profit organization, school, place of worship, community event, or community organization. Please email impact@svcc.edu to pre-approve any Non-Calendar events.

- 1 Students must bring the Non-Calendar Hours Submission Form to the volunteer event.
- 2 You will not be able to submit Non-Calendar volunteer hours without providing a supervisor signed form along with the online hours submission form.
- 3 First, log in to your SVCC Impact account.
- 4 Click on the tab Hours Tracking/Submissions in the top toolbar.
- 5 Next, click on the button labeled Click here to submit additional hours.
- 6 Complete the form by making sure to enter in all of the details accurately AND attach a picture of your Non-Calendar Hours Submission Form with your supervisor's signature.
- 7 Please make sure to submit Non-Calendar events within 2 weeks of the event date. Non-Calendar volunteer hours will only be applied to your account if you have provided the Non-Calendar Hours Submission Form with supervisor signature.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email us at impact@svcc.edu



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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.