



# EARNED TUITION

SAUK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

STUDENT & FAMILY PLAYBOOK



*Welcome to*  
The SVCC Impact Program



Scan the QR code to visit [impact.svcc.edu](https://impact.svcc.edu)

This is where you can log in to your account,  
get help, and find resources.

If you have any questions, the Impact team is just an email or phone call away.  
Please reach out if you need any assistance.

**Impact@svcc.edu • 815.835.6650**

# The Sauk Valley Community College Impact Program will make the *imagined* real



Dr. David Hellmich  
President, SVCC

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.

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.



Dr. Lori Cortez  
VP of Advancement, SVCC

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



## EARNED TUITION

SAUK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

### IMPACT PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

To earn 100% of their tuition and fees at Sauk Valley Community College, students must complete the following requirements:

1

Sign up for the program by September 1 of their freshman year of high school.

2

Progress with the rest of their class and graduate on time or early from a high school or home school program located within the SVCC district.

*\*Inform the Impact team if you plan to graduate early*

3

Participate in 100 hours of community service before high school graduation (25 hours per year).

*\*Refer to volunteer requirements & guidelines*

4

Apply for at least one other local/state/national scholarship.

*\*Senior Year*

5

Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

*\*Senior Year*

Visit [svcc.edu/impact](https://svcc.edu/impact) to sign up.

Sign up begins on **April 1**.

For questions, email [impact@svcc.edu](mailto:impact@svcc.edu)

### 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 tuition & fees covered

#### JUNIOR YEAR

50% of tuition & fees covered

#### SENIOR YEAR

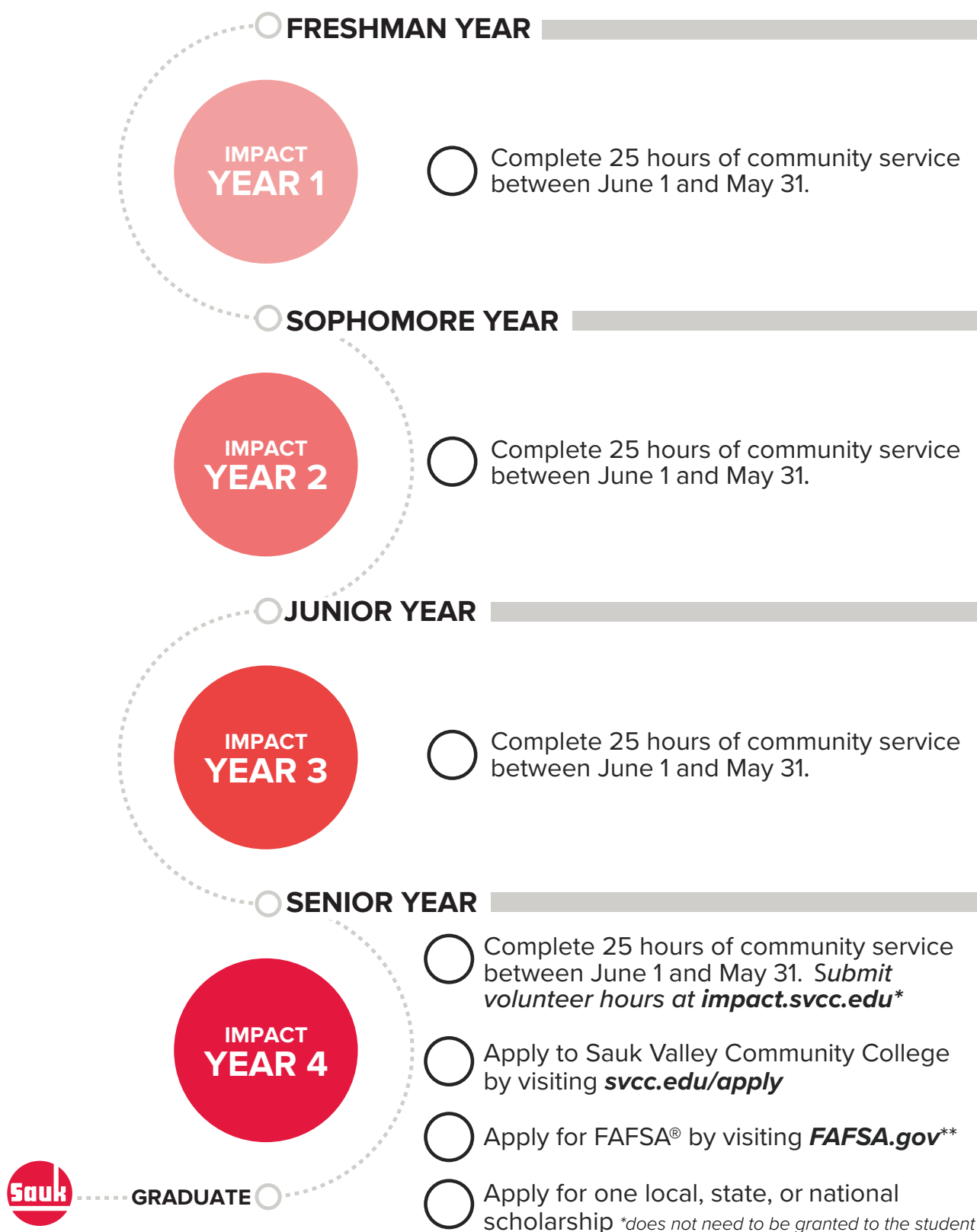
25% of tuition & fees covered

*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.*

*If a student is dismissed from the Impact Program, they are not eligible to sign up again.*



## IMPACT TIMELINE



\*See “How to...” section to understand how to submit volunteer hours.

\*\*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, they should complete the FAFSA forecaster. Please call 815.835.6339 or send an email to fa@svcc.edu for assistance.\*\*

## VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS

- 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 non-profit organizations, schools, places of worship, community events, or community organizations.
- Students must not be compensated in exchange for volunteer service.
- An adult, other than a parent/guardian, associated with the volunteer opportunity, will need to verify the volunteer hours for a non-calendar event.
- Volunteer hours must be completed between **June 1 - May 31**, which allows students to begin volunteering at the end of their eighth grade year.
- Students may find their own volunteer opportunities as long as they meet the above mentioned criteria.

*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 may file an appeal. To request an appeal form email [impact@svcc.edu](mailto:impact@svcc.edu).*

### UNDERSTANDING THE VOLUNTEER COMPONENT OF THE IMPACT PROGRAM

*Why we require students to volunteer as part of the Impact Program:*

#### CONNECTION

*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.*

#### EMPOWERMENT

*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)<sup>1</sup>*

#### PROSPERITY

*Volunteering also helps students develop soft skills that make them more desirable to potential employers.*

<sup>1</sup> 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-onself-esteem-development/docview/1805168786/se-2?accountid=57479>





## ACCEPTABLE IMPACT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:



**Volunteer activities sponsored by non-profit organizations**

*Examples: Big Brothers Big Sisters, homeless shelters, United Way, YMCA, YWCA, and food pantries*



**Volunteer activities sponsored by service organizations**

*Examples: Kiwanis, Lions, Optimists, and Rotary Clubs*



**Community events**

*Examples: Town & Country Days, Dixon Petunia Festival, Fiesta Days*



**School sponsored events**

*Examples: concession stand, clean up day, and club events*



**Places of worship**



**Local hospitals**



## UNACCEPTABLE IMPACT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:



**Volunteer activities not sponsored by a community organization**

*Examples: mowing your neighbor's lawn, helping a friend move, or raking leaves in your yard*



**Volunteering at a for-profit business**

*To check the eligibility of a volunteer opportunity contact the Impact Program at [impact@svcc.edu](mailto:impact@svcc.edu)*



## TIPS FOR VOLUNTEER SUCCESS

**VOLUNTEER YEAR** The Impact Program volunteer year runs from June 1 – May 31. Start volunteering on June 1 to complete most or all of your hours over the summer before school begins.

**LOG YOUR HOURS** When volunteering for non-calendar events, log your hours online immediately after volunteering.

**TRACK YOUR PROGRESS** Regularly check the Hours Tracking section of your account. If your hours are not verified in a timely manner, reach out to the event supervisor or the Impact Team for assistance.

**FIND OPPORTUNITIES** Use the Impact Program calendar in your account to discover and sign up for volunteer opportunities near you.

**BE ENGAGED** Stay off your phone while volunteering. Instead, ask questions, engage with your supervisor, and take advantage of the connections you're making in the community.

**BE PROACTIVE** If you finish a task, ask the supervisor, "Is there anything else you would like me to do?"

**FOLLOW ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES** Do not bring additional people, such as siblings or friends who are not Impact students, to your volunteer events. Our volunteer partners can only accommodate approved Impact volunteers.

## STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

Participation in the Impact Program is a privilege and comes with the responsibility to uphold the program's standards of behavior and integrity.

To ensure the program remains a positive and effective experience for all participants, the following Student Conduct Policy will be enforced.

### STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO

Demonstrate respect for peers, staff, and community members.

Act with honesty and integrity in all program-related activities, including volunteer work.

Abide by all Impact Program rules, policies, and expectations.

Represent the Impact Program in a positive manner at all times.

### VIOLATIONS OF CONDUCT

*The following behaviors are considered violations of the Student Conduct Policy and may result in disciplinary action:*

Disrespectful or disruptive behavior.

Failure to adhere to program requirements or deadlines.

Dishonesty or misrepresentation of volunteer hours.

Any action that undermines the mission or reputation of the Impact Program.

### DISCIPLINARY PROCESS

**WARNING** Upon the first violation of the Student Conduct Policy, the student may receive a formal warning.

**DISMISSAL** If the student commits a subsequent violation after receiving a warning, they may be dismissed from the Impact Program.

*Dismissal will result in the forfeiture of all program benefits, including tuition and fees scholarship eligibility.*

*A student may be dismissed from the Impact Program without warning if the Impact Program Director deems it necessary for the safety and well being of the student and others.*

### APPEAL PROCESS

Students who are dismissed from the program due to a violation of the Standards of Conduct have the right to submit a written appeal within 10 business days of the dismissal notice.

Appeals will be reviewed by the Impact Program leadership team, and a final decision will be communicated in writing.



# LAST DOLLAR

The Impact Program Scholarship is a last-dollar scholarship. It is an award that covers the remaining tuition and institution-wide mandatory fees after scholarships and non-repayable state and federal financial aid are applied.

Last-dollar scholarships\*, as the name implies, are applied after all other financial aid resources have been awarded. The last-dollar amount is determined on the gap between what aid has been awarded and what aid is still needed to help a student meet the cost of attendance.

## IMPACT AWARD WITH FINANCIAL AID / SCHOLARSHIP EXAMPLES

Tuition and Fees	\$5040.00
Aid/Scholarships	- \$1000.00
Impact Award	\$4040.00

*\*Disclaimer: Students may be subject to not receiving Impact Program funds depending on the total of scholarship or aid funds received.*

Tuition and Fees	\$5040.00
Aid/Scholarships	- \$0000.00
Impact Award	\$5040.00

Tuition and Fees	\$5040.00
Aid/Scholarships	- \$6000.00
Impact Award	\$0000.00



## HOW TO...

### SIGN UP FOR A CALENDAR EVENT

Calendar events are volunteer opportunities that are found on the Impact website.

- 1 Visit *impact.svcc.edu*
- 2 Click the “*Login*” button (*top right*) and log in to your Impact account.
- 3 Click the “*Event Calendar*” or “*Upcoming Event*” button (*found in the top red toolbar*).
- 4 Search the calendar on this page to find an event that interests you and click on it. Select “*I would like to attend this event*”.
- 5 Click on the red button labeled “*Sign-Up For Event*”.\*

*\*By signing up to volunteer this way, you have not only “signed up” for the selected event but you have also “logged your volunteer hours” for the selected event.*

*You do not need to complete any additional steps to submit hours for Calendar Events.*

### CANCEL AN EVENT

If you are signed up for an event and can no longer attend, remove your name from the event by clicking on the “*Hour Tracking/Submission*” (in the red toolbar) and then by clicking on the corresponding “*Delete*” button.

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 do not cancel an event through your Impact account or by notifying the event supervisor, you will be marked as a no-show.

Repeated no-shows within a year may lead to losing access to sign up for calendar events.



## HOW TO...

### PRE-APPROVE A NON-CALENDAR EVENT

Non-Calendar events are volunteer opportunities that students find on their own, not listed on the Impact website.

- 1 Email the Impact team at [impact@svcc.edu](mailto:impact@svcc.edu) to pre-approve any Non-Calendar events.
- 2 Once the event is approved by the Impact team, download and print a *Non-Calendar Hours Submission Form*. To access the submission form, visit [svcc.edu/impact](http://svcc.edu/impact) and click the “Resources” button.
- 3 Bring your Non-Calendar Hours Submission Form to the volunteer site.
- 4 Have your supervisor sign the form to confirm your hours.\*\*

### SUBMIT VOLUNTEER HOURS FOR NON-CALENDAR EVENT SUBMISSIONS

Submit Non-Calendar events within 2 weeks of the event date.

- 1 Visit [impact.svcc.edu](http://impact.svcc.edu)
- 2 Click the “Login” button (*top right*) and log in to your Impact account.
- 3 Click on the tab “Hours Tracking/Submissions” (*found in the top red toolbar*).
- 4 Click on the “Click Here to Submit Additional Hours” button to submit hours.
- 5 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.

*\*\*Non-Calendar volunteer hours will only be applied to your account if you have provided the Non-Calendar Hours Submission Form with supervisor's signature. You will not be able to "submit" Non-Calendar volunteer hours without providing a supervisor signed form along with the online hours submission form.*

## FAQs

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 will continue for three years or until they earn a degree.

Are there additional benefits if the student is a Sauk Scholar?

**YES** In addition to tuition and fees, books will also be covered as part of the Impact Program. Sauk Scholars must opt into the SaukReady Textbook Program.



Can a student take a semester off while enrolled in the Impact program at SVCC?

**YES** A student may take a semester off while enrolled in the Impact program at SVCC, as long as the volunteer requirement and good academic standing requirement are maintained, and it is within the three-year time frame. However, the student is still bound to the original three-year time frame for usage of Impact funds.

If a student does not enroll at SVCC right after high school graduation, are they still eligible?

**YES** However, they must enroll no later than Spring semester (January) after high school graduation. They will potentially lose up to half of a year of their three-year time frame to use Impact funds. If they do not enroll by Spring semester after graduation, they will no longer be eligible for Impact funds.



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, but students must be certificate or degree seeking.

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.



What happens if a student's GPA drops below 2.0 while enrolled in SVCC?

Students will be suspended from the program. They may be readmitted after completing and paying for one semester on their 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.

How will a student track their progress with the Impact Program?

Students can log on to **impact.svcc.edu**, which will allow them to track their progress, sign up for volunteer opportunities, see how many volunteer hours they have completed, and much more.

Can an Impact student plan to take a summer class or classes at SVCC after high school graduation and then enroll at another institution?

**YES** Students participating in the Impact Program who plan to attend an institution other than SVCC after high school may take summer classes through the Impact Program during the immediate summer semester following their high school graduation, provided all program requirements during high school have been met and approved by the Impact Program team.

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. For example, a student graduating at the end of their junior year must complete 25 hours in both their freshman and sophomore years, and 50 hours during their junior year. Students may only bank hours if they are graduating early and in their final year of high school. Students may begin receiving Impact Program funds no sooner than six months to their intended graduation date.

For a complete list of frequently asked questions, please visit [svcc.edu/impact](http://svcc.edu/impact) and click on the “Resources” tab.



## You're on Your Way!

Embarking on the SVCC Impact Program is more than just an educational opportunity—it's a journey that empowers you to shape your future and contribute meaningfully to your community.

By dedicating yourself to academics and community service, you'll not only earn tuition and fees for up to three years at Sauk Valley Community College, but also develop invaluable skills and experiences that will serve you throughout your life.

This program is designed to open doors to new possibilities, foster personal growth, and set you on a path toward success. We are thrilled to support you in this exciting and life-changing endeavor!

Sincerely, The Impact Program Team





## The SVCC Impact Program

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

Be social with us • *SVCC Impact Program*



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@SVCCImpact



173 IL Route 2 • Dixon, IL 61021  
svcc.edu • 815.288.5511

Impact@svcc.edu • 815.835.6650