



Frequently Asked Questions

APPLICATION

Why do I need to apply? Can't I just join?

Marian University's TRIO-Student Support Services (SSS) Program is offered through a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Education and needs to follow federal guidelines. Participants must be undergraduate students enrolled at Marian or accepted for enrollment to the university.

Additionally, students must meet at least one of the following eligibility criteria:

- Be a first-generation college student where neither parent/guardian has completed a 4-year degree (obtained a Bachelor's degree)
- Demonstrate financial need
- Have a documented disability

Why should I apply?

We are your coaches through college – your home away from home. TRIO-SSS can build on your strengths and help with your weaknesses.

Participants have access to services and opportunities not available to others – including a lending library and Study Studio.

When should I apply?

We love to enroll incoming freshman into the program even before the academic year starts! An application packet should be sent to your home several months before school starts. All you have to do is fill out and return the application.

I didn't apply before my freshman year – or at the beginning of the semester. Is it too late?

New students, upperclassmen, transfer students and non-traditional students are all encouraged to apply. We graduate participants from the program each semester, so we are continually seeking to enroll new members. Because we are funded to serve a limited number of students, however, we occasionally have a waiting list.

REQUIREMENTS

How do I determine if I qualify for the program based on financial need?

We encourage students who feel they may be eligible to apply. We determine financial eligibility based on guidelines for federal TRIO Programs low-income levels using TAXABLE income (not adjusted gross income).

I have a disability, what documentation is needed?

Students with documented disabilities (physical, psychological or learning) should have paperwork on file with Marian University's Center for Academic Support and Excellence/Accessibility Services office.

How do I know if I have been accepted?

Students who have submitted an application will be emailed a notification of their initial status, usually within one week.

What if I am not accepted?

If you are notified that you have not been accepted and have questions, please contact our office. It is possible that you may need to submit additional information in order to have this status changed. If you do not meet the eligibility criteria, we can refer you to other resources on campus.

What does it cost to be in TRIO?

All program services are offered at NO COST!



Can I actually get money from TRIO-SSS?

A variety of national scholarship opportunities are available, and active participants can apply for an SSS grant. Program staff will also help students maximize their financial resources and search for other scholarship opportunities.

EXPECTATIONS

I'm pretty busy already. How much time do I need to devote to the program?

You could choose to be active as little as six hours each semester – or as much as several hours each week. At minimum each semester for the first two years, we expect our participants to attend:

- **3** individual meetings (to cover academic, career and financial topics)
- **2** informational workshops
- **1** social or cultural event

We call it our 3-2-1 model — which most of our students say is as easy as one, two, three! (Starting your junior year, you are asked to do your “3-2-1s” only once per year.)

I get good grades, so why should I participate?

TRIO-SSS is not only for students who need academic help, but also for those needing additional support for rigorous academic programs; seeking other assistance (applying to graduate schools, exploring volunteer and internship opportunities, and job searching); looking for a place to call home base; and desiring leadership opportunities. Students would tell you that you should participate because it enhances your college experience and helps you answer questions you didn't even know you had!

PARTICIPANTS

If I am enrolled in Marian's EXCEL program, can I participate in TRIO-SSS too?

We recommend that to avoid becoming overwhelmed by multiple program requirements, EXCEL students wait to apply. However, joining TRIO-SSS immediately after participating in EXCEL (or even overlapping a little near the end) is a great way to continue getting the support you need.

Can I be in TRIO-SSS if I'm a commuter?

TRIO-SSS is available to students whether they live on campus or commute.

Do I need to re-apply each year?

No. Once you are accepted into TRIO-SSS, you are eligible to participate until graduation. Individual meeting topics and workshop offerings match where you are at in college and grow with you, building on your experiences.

I would like to meet more students like me. How can SSS help?

We host several social events each month. In the past, these have included holiday activities, game nights, sporting events, professional theater productions, bowling, mystery tours, and more! We have a Study Studio dedicated for our program participants. Our pre-orientation program for incoming freshmen helps you meet classmates even before the official school year starts. We also match our incoming freshmen with a student leader who offers additional opportunities and support throughout the year. You can also take advantage of our weekend away at the Outdoor Wisconsin Leadership School experiencing the outdoors, teambuilding with new friends, and learning leadership skills.

What is your Pre-Orientation Program?

TRIO-SSS offers a unique opportunity for traditional-aged freshman to get a jump on university life by coming to campus a few days prior to orientation. You are able to move in early, become familiar with the campus, learn tips and tricks to enhance your personal and academic success, hear about campus resources, and build relationships with fellow students and support staff. This is a great way to increase your comfort level and start your college career ahead of your peers.

*You can't spell “success”
without SSS!*

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