

# 2025 Sharing Information on Progress **(SIP) Report**

Sobey School of Business, Saint  
Mary's University

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## About the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME)

The Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) is a United Nations-supported initiative founded in 2007 that aims to raise the profile of sustainability in their classrooms through Seven Principles focused on serving society and safeguarding our planet.

PRME engages business and management schools to ensure they provide future leaders with the skills needed to balance economic and sustainability goals, while drawing attention to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and aligning academic institutions with the work of the UN Global Compact. Driven by its mission to transform management education, PRME equips today's business students with the understanding and ability to deliver change tomorrow. As a voluntary initiative with over 800 signatories worldwide, PRME has become the largest organized relationship between the United Nations and management-related higher education institutions.



“*The PRME initiative was launched to nurture responsible leaders of the future. Never has this task been more important. Bold leadership and innovative thinking are needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).*

**Antonio Guterres**

Secretary-General (2017 - Present)

United Nations

”

## Principles of PRME



### Purpose

We advance responsible management education to foster inclusive prosperity in a world of thriving ecosystems.



### Values

We place organizational responsibility and accountability to society and the planet at the core of what we do.



### Teach

We transform our learning environments by integrating responsible management concepts and practices into our curriculum and pedagogy.



### Research

We study people, organizations, institutions, and the state of the world to inspire responsible management and education practice.



### Partner

We engage people from business, government, civil society, and academia to advance responsible and accountable management education and practice.



### Practice

We adopt responsible and accountable management principles in our own governance and operations.



### Share

We share our successes and failures with each other to enable our collective learning and best live our common values and purpose.

## The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

In September 2015, all 193 Member States of the United Nations adopted a plan for achieving a better future for all – laying out a path over the next 15 years to end extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and protect our planet. At the heart of Agenda 2030 are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 related targets that address the most important economic, social, environmental and governance challenges of our time. The SDGs clearly define the world we want – applying to all nations and leaving no one behind. Successful implementation of the SDGs will require all players to champion this agenda; the role of higher education is critical to this.





# Getting Started

This section provides foundational information about Sobey School of Business, Saint Mary's University, including key details and basic institutional data.

## Mission

The Sobey School of Business, through active learning and the creation and mobilization of scholarship, prepares citizens of the world to lead sustainable, entrepreneurial businesses and communities.

## Vision

Saint Mary's, building on its strong tradition of accessibility and community engagement, will be the university of choice for aspiring citizens of the world.

## Strategy

SMU\_StrategicPlan\_2024-2029-2

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## Strategy Alignment

### Alignment - PRME and Saint Mary's Strategic Plan

The Saint Mary's University Strategic Plan World Without Limits (2025–2030) articulates commitment to responsible management education by integrating ethical leadership, environmental sustainability, equity, inclusion, accessibility and community impact across its learning, research, and engagement priorities.

## Institutional History

### History of Saint Mary's and the Sobey School of Business

Saint Mary's University (SMU) (the University) is in Halifax, Nova Scotia. It was established in 1802 by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese as a boy's school, then college and was committed to education and community service. It was under a Jesuit administration from 1937 - 1970. Now long independent of any relationship with the Church or the Jesuits, founding traditions live on through a philosophy of accessibility. The Faculty of Commerce was created in 1934, one of the first in Canada. In 1992 it was named Frank H. Sobey Faculty of Commerce. In 1997, the University received a gift from the Sobey Foundation for a building to house the growing faculty and the Sobey Building opened in 1998. In 2003 the name of the Frank H. Sobey Faculty of Commerce was changed to the Sobey School of Business ("the School" or "SSB").

As early as 2000, the Sobey School considered 'social relevance' in its expectations related to intellectual contributions and listed among its values 'concern for a just and civil society'. In 2003, the School recognized that ethics was not sufficiently integrated into curriculum. Core courses in the Bachelor of Commerce (BComm) and Masters of Business Administration (MBA) programme were developed and faculty were recruited to deliver this curriculum. These faculty continuously develop curriculum and are engaged in responsible management research. This distinguished cluster of scholarly activity further influenced hiring practices in all departments.

The 2013 mission statement specifically referenced global citizenship and sustainability. A re-alignment of the programme-level learning goals strengthened the curricular objectives related to ERS. The inclusion of 'sustainability' in the mission statement was intended as a very strong signal to all the School's stakeholders and heralded a new phase of the School's commitment.

In 2014, by unanimous approval of Faculty Council, the Sobey School became a signatory to the Principles of Responsible Management Education ([PRME](#)). The faculty lead for the School's PRME commitment is a long-serving board member of the North American PRME Chapter executive committee. The School has served as a PRME Champion since 2020.

*Elevating Impact*, the School's Strategic Plan 2020-2025, builds upon the School's mission to elevate ethics, responsibility, and sustainability to a key transversal weave. Each of the three goals (Advance, Discover & Connect) specifically reference social responsibility. The Strategic Plan 2025 – 2029 will further strengthen the School's commitment to ERS.

In 2022, the Linton Family gifted the School \$500,000 to accelerate the integration of sustainability into educational programming and to ensure that students could be the future generators of sustainable value. In 2025, the Lintons extended the gift to provide additional funding to continue this work.

## Graduates & Enrollment




2024 Statistics	Number
Graduates	600
Faculty & Staff at the University	1000
Faculty & Staff at the Institution	125
Student Enrollment at the University	5812
Student Enrollment at the Institution	2317





2024 Statistics	Number
Undergraduate Attendance	1982
Masters-Level Postgraduate Attendance	312
Doctoral Student Attendance	23
Certificate, Professional Development, or Continuing Education Attendance	795

## Degrees Offered

### Bachelor Programs

 Bachelor of Science (B.Sc. or B.S.)  Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)  Bachelor of Commerce

### Masters Programs

 Master of Technology (M.Tech.)  Master of Business Analytics


## Undergraduate Degree Programmes

 Undergraduate Degree Program Structure


## Masters Degree Programmes

 Graduate Degree Programmes

## Postgraduate Degree Programmes

 Doctoral Programmes - Sobey School of Business

## Certificates, Professional Development, or Associate Programmes

 Executive and Professional Development Program Portfolio



# Values

We place organizational responsibility and accountability to society and the planet at the core of what we do.



## Who Champions Responsible Management Education at Our Institution

- ❖ Interdisciplinary efforts across business school



# Teach

We transform our learning environments by integrating responsible management concepts and practices into our curriculum and pedagogy.



## Courses that support RME

Sobey School of Business, Saint Mary's University reports 1 course in 2024 that support responsible management education and sustainable development goals.

### Exploring Sustainability

| BCOM 1201

In this interdisciplinary course, students examine concepts, issues, opportunities, and challenges in moving toward sustainability, emphasizing environmental, social, and governance (ESG) aspects. Through the lens of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), students will explore how individuals and organizations can operate in a responsible and sustainable way.

This core, required course for all Bachelor of Commerce students is interdisciplinary and team taught which ensures a consistent learning experience for all students across all course sections. It emphasizes student-centered design and practical strategies for exploring the concepts, issues, opportunities, and challenges in moving towards sustainability that are grounded in learning experience and motivational theories. By introducing a core course early in the program, faculty hope to inspire additional studies and co-curricular exploration of sustainability.



## Teaching Awards

In 2024, 1 award was given to faculty and educators at Sobey School of Business, Saint Mary's University.

### PRME North America Teaching Excellence Award

**Granter:** PRME North America Chapter

**Grantee:** Dr Hao Lu

#### **Award Description:**

Dr Hao Lu won the PRME North America Teaching Excellence Award for his leadership in the development of the BCOM 1201 Exploring Sustainability course.

### Fostering Innovation



### **Somewhat**

Teaching and learning at our institution moderately support innovation.

## **Experiential Learning**



### **Somewhat**

Teaching and learning at our institution moderately support experiential learning.

## **Learning Mindset**



### **Somewhat**

Teaching and learning at our institution moderately support a lifelong learning mindset.

## **Method of Teaching and Learning**



### **In person**

Traditional classroom-based learning with face-to-face instruction.



# Research

We study people, organizations, institutions, and the state of the world to inspire responsible management and education practice.

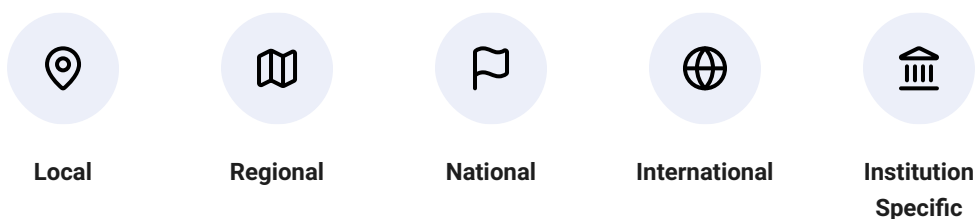


## Research vs Research for RME/Sustainable Development



## Research Funding

In 2024, Sobey School of Business, Saint Mary's University was awarded funding for research that is:



## Socializing Research

In 2024, Sobey School of Business, Saint Mary's University contributed research findings to:

- ❖ Community organizations
- ❖ Government and policy makers
- ❖ Industry and business networks
- ❖ Local media
- ❖ Open-access platforms
- ❖ Public events and lectures
- ❖ Research collaborations
- ❖ Social media and digital outreach



# Partner

We engage people from business, government, civil society, and academia to advance responsible and accountable management education and practice.

## Institutional Partnerships

- ❖ AASHE (Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education)
- ❖ AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business)
- ❖ EFMD (European Foundation for Management Development)
- ❖ Positive Impact Rating (PIR)

## Student Organization Partnerships

- ❖ Enactus
- ❖ Net Impact
- ❖ PRME Global Students



# Practice

We adopt responsible and accountable management principles in our own governance and operations.

## Institutional Policies and Practices

- ❖ AASHE STARS report
- ❖ Accreditation body recommendation documents
- ❖ Sustainability strategy or strategic plan (school or university level)

## Practice Awards

In 2024, Sobey School of Business, Saint Mary's University received 1 award for responsible and/or sustainable practices.

### **Clean50 Top Project Award**

**Granter:** Clean50

**Grantee:** Saint Mary's University

#### **Award Description:**

The Loyola Residence Recladding Project, a 22-storey student residence with an integrated, retrofitted solar exterior wall, was selected for its environmental leadership and innovation. According to Clean50, the project is a model for sustainable urban infrastructure, showcasing how older buildings can be revitalized to meet today's energy efficiency standards.



# Share

We share our successes and failures with each other to enable our collective learning and best live our common values and purpose.



## Engagement Opportunities

Sobey School of Business, Saint Mary's University offers transparent engagement opportunities for members of our institution and community to contribute to our sustainability and responsibility efforts in the following ways:

- ❖ Boards and advisory committees
- ❖ Annual reports
- ❖ Community events and consultation forums
- ❖ Public events and panel discussions
- ❖ Publicly accessible sustainability data and dashboards
- ❖ Sustainability-focused research and collaboration Opportunities

## Communication Audiences

Sobey School of Business, Saint Mary's University communicates its policies and progress on sustainable development and responsibility with:

- ❖ Accreditation bodies
- ❖ Faculty and staff
- ❖ Media and public relations channels
- ❖ Prospective and current students
- ❖ Research and academic networks

SIGNATORY

# Sobey School of Business, Saint Mary's University

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## Address

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Canada



## Website

<http://www.smu.ca/academics/sobey-school-of-business.html>