

**Saint Mary's University
2025-26
Priorities and Target Allocations
of the
Research Security Funds**

Research Security Priority / Vision:

Saint Mary's has an integrated approach to Cyber Security that includes research computing. Our CIO Enterprise Information Technology (EIT) department work with the Office of the AVP-Research to provide cyber security solutions that support and protect research activities both on campus and out to the broader community at large. Our program is achieved through the 3 components "People / Process / Technology" as described below.

PEOPLE:

We have assigned resources that support the inventory, deployment and security configuration across our research cluster and researchers in the field, from both a Hardware and Software (HW, SW) perspective.

PROCESS:

Our research community members participate in the university cyber security awareness training. The research network and attached devices are subject to regular vulnerability and penetration testing by both third-part and internal scans. We subscribe to security operation centre monitoring services like the CANSSOC and the ACORN-NS/CANARIE SIEM.

TECHNOLOGY:

We have deployed a virtual sandbox environment separated by V-Lan that is controllable through the research firewall which provides a secure environment where research can be conducted without performance impact from our normal detection and filtering solutions. In further support of research continuity, an air-gapped Google environment has been provisioned and implemented to support the resurrection of research data and systems backup.

With this approach, we will continue to enhance the protection of our systems and data through our Zero Trust initiative. This is a multi-year, multi-layered approach to cyber security for our whole institution.

Research Security Fund – 2025-26 Target Allocations:

Saint Mary's has an Research Security Fund allocation of **\$14,415** for 2025-26.

This amount will be targeted toward this project in support of the overall vision.

- Data Centre Refresh (\$14,415)

The University will be implementing a technology refresh of its on-premises data centre environment to support research computing. This will include hardware and software for computing, network, and storage.

Project started at beginning of FY26 (April 1, 2025) and anticipated to complete after 18 months.

During FY2025-26, it is anticipated that approximately \$333,000 will be invested toward this important project – and the \$14,415 from the Research Security Fund will supplement this amount.
