COLLEGE of SAINT MARY
ONLINE Ed.D.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Q: How long does it take to complete the Ed.D. online?
A: You can complete the Ed.D. online in three years.

Q: Who would benefit from this degree?
A: If you have a master’s degree in a healthcare discipline — nursing, occupational therapy, exercise science, etc. — and want to advance your career to teach at the college level or in a medical setting, you would benefit from the Health Professions emphasis in the Ed.D.

If you have a master’s degree in education, business, leadership or any other discipline and want to advance your career to teach others, you would benefit from the Educational Leadership emphasis.

Q: What sets this online program apart from others?
A: College of Saint Mary is known for our strong student support and personalized educational experiences. Faculty and staff will take a very personal interest in your success. Many doctoral programs (online and otherwise) leave students on their own to finish their dissertations once coursework is completed. Our online program includes classes specifically designed to help you prepare your research proposal and dissertation in the program of study.

Q: How will I know if online learning is for me?
A: To be successful in online education, you’ll need to dedicate 12-15 hours per week to coursework. You must be computer literate with basic Internet and software expertise. You should also have the self-discipline to work independently and keep up without having to attend class in person, and you should be able to communicate clearly and effectively in your written work.

Q: How can I see a calendar of the dates for the entire program?
A: This information is shown on the individual program of study for each emphasis: Healthcare Professions or Educational Leadership.

Q: How long are the courses?
A: Most courses last 8 weeks.

Q: Can I pursue this program part time?
A: No. This is a cohort program, which means classes are offered sequentially and you proceed through the program with the same group of people. Each cohort accommodates 20 students.

Q: How many credits is the degree?
A: The degree is 87 credits but you may transfer in up to 36 credits from your master’s degree. The credit load each semester is between 4 and 7 credits.

TECHNOLOGY
Q: What kind of technology do I need to participate in this program?  
A: You will need an Internet connection and word processing software. Our campus also uses the Angel Learning Management System. See the technology requirements for using Angel. In addition, some of our instructors may use Tegrity, which is a video and screen capture software package. See the minimum requirements for Tegrity. Finally, your instructors will likely use Cisco WebEx, a synchronous software package. See the minimum requirements to use WebEx.

Q: What is a synchronous communication platform, and why is it helpful?  
A: CSM uses a web-based program called WebEx that allows you to talk to your instructor and members of your class just like you would if you were using Skype except you can have many students online at once. You can also share documents for group work. You will be trained on this during the Ed.D. online orientation in May and/or June during the residential component of the program.

SUMMER RESIDENCY

Q: Is there a residency requirement?  
A: Yes. Each summer, you will come to College of Saint Mary’s campus in Omaha, Nebraska, for one week. College of Saint Mary is pleased to offer nearby housing.

Q: Are there any exceptions to the summer residency requirement?  
A: No. You must complete the residency requirement.

APPLICATION, BOOKS, COST of ATTENDANCE & FINANCIAL AID

Q: What are the admission requirements?  
A: See the admissions requirements for Healthcare Professions Education or Educational Leadership and complete an application.

Q: What are the program costs?  
A: The online Ed.D is $750 per credit hour for the 2015-16 academic year. Books are available from the College of Saint Mary Campus Store. No other fees are charged. If you are traveling to Omaha for the Summer Residency program, you must also plan for transportation and housing. Our Financial Aid department will work with you to make sure you have the resources needed to finance your education.

LEARN MORE

Q: How can I find out more about this program?  
A: Register to attend one of our virtual open houses. You can participate from the convenience of your home or work.

Q: Will there be any orientation to this program?  
A: Yes. In mid-May, we will send you a link to an online orientation module for you to view at your convenience. We will follow that with a synchronous online orientation
using WebEx on May 21st at 6:30 pm CST. Further orientation will occur in June during the on-campus residency component.

Q. Who should I contact if I have questions?
A: Feel free to contact Program Director Vicky Morgan at 402-399-2675 or Admissions Counselor Patique Collins at 402-399-2444.