

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

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Q: How long does it take to complete the online Ed.D.?

A: You can complete the online Ed.D. in three years.

Q: Who would benefit from this degree?

A: If you have a master's degree in a healthcare discipline, education, business or leadership and you want to teach in higher education, lead in a professional setting, facilitate people and programs, or develop curricula, you would benefit from College of Saint Mary's Ed.D in Educational Leadership program.

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.

We also believe in creating a virtual learning community through the use of online communication tools for peer-to-peer and student-to-faculty interactions.

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 Course Program of Study.

Q: How long are the courses?

A: Most courses last 8 weeks and they courses are offered in two sessions during the fall and spring courses. There are three courses that will take 16 weeks (Dissertation Readings, Research Proposal I and Research Proposal II) because they are focused on creating and writing the first three chapters of your dissertation.

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 up to 18 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 CANVAS Learning Management System. 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 during the virtual residency at the beginning of the program.

## APPLICATION, BOOKS, COST of ATTENDANCE & FINANCIAL AID

Q: What are the admission requirements?

A: See the [admissions requirements](#) and complete an [application](#).

Q: What are the program costs?

A: The online Ed.D is \$650 per credit hour for the 2016-17 academic year. Books are available from the College of Saint Mary [Campus Store](#). No other fees are charged. 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. There will be a virtual orientation that takes place in August.

Q. Who should I contact if I have questions?

A: Feel free to contact Program Director Kristi Preisman at 402-399-2602 or Enrollment Services at 402-399-2355.