

*Q. How long will 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 timeline 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 REQUIREMENTS

*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 two web-based programs, [WebEx](#) and Canvas Conference. These platforms will allow you to talk with your instructor and members of your class just like you would if you were using Skype except many students can be online at once. You can also share documents for group work. Students will become familiar with these interactive tools during the Graduate Virtual Orientation held in July each year.

## APPLICATION, COST AND FINANCIAL AID

*Q: What are the admission requirements?*

A: See the admissions requirements tab for the Doctor of Education in [Educational Leadership](#) and complete an [application](#).

*Q: What is the cost of the program?*

A: \$670.00 per credit hour and there are no additional fees.

*Q: How do I find out more about financial aid?*

A: Please go to the Financial Aid page located at [Paying College Tuition and Financial Aid Information](#).

## 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 July.

*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.