

COLLEGE OF SAINT MARY

ED.D. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

As you consider advancing your education with a Online Doctor of Education degree in Educational Leadership, please review the following information. We know this is an important decision for you and your family, so we have answered the most frequently asked questions about our programs.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

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

A. You can complete the online Ed.D. in three or five 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 in the **3-year** and **5-year** course program of study.*

Q: How long are the courses?

A: Most courses last 8 weeks and the courses are offered in two sessions during the fall and spring courses. There are two courses that will take 16-weeks (Dissertation Readings and the Dissertation class).

Q: Can I pursue this program part time?

A: Yes, we have a 5-year option that will allow you to take between 3-4 credit hours per semester.

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 for the 3-year program and 3-4 credits for the 5-year program.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Q: What kind of technology do I need to participate in this program?

*A: You will need Internet connection, a webcam and Microsoft Office. Our campus also uses the CANVAS Learning Management System. **See the technology requirements.** In addition, some of our instructors may use VidGrid, which is a video and screen capture software package. Finally, your instructors will use Zoom, a synchronous software.*

Q: What is a synchronous communication platform, and why is it helpful?

A: CSM uses web-based programs called Canvas Conference and Zoom that allow you to talk to your instructor and members of your class. You can also share documents for group work. You will be trained on these during the Ed.D. online orientation during the virtual residency at the beginning of the program

APPLICATION, BOOKS, COST AND FINANCIAL AID

Q: What are the admission requirements?

*A: See the **admissions requirements tab** for the Doctor of Education degree and complete an **application.***

Q: What are the program costs?

A: *The online Ed.D is \$700.00 per credit hour for the 2020-2021 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 Live Information Sessions. 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 mid to late July*

Q: Whom should I contact if I have questions?

A: *Feel free to contact Program Director [Kristi Preisman](#) at 402-399-2602 or Admissions Counselor [Rachel Etter](#) at 402-399-2444.*