

Saint Mary's College offers graduate students an outstanding curricular program in the form of masters degrees and a professional doctorate. These programs are supported by the Office of Graduate Studies as well as other offices and services throughout the College. This office also implements graduate academic policies and procedures of the College.

DIVISION OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

The Acting Dean of Graduate Studies currently heads the Office of Graduate Studies which includes the Director of Graduate Admissions, the Assistant Director of Admission Marketing for Graduate Programs, the Director of Instructional Technology and Support for Graduate Programs. This office serves the needs associated with the incoming graduate student, readying him or her for his or her status as a degree seeking student. In concert with the Acting Dean of Graduate Studies and the Graduate Program Directors, additional offices on campus support the ongoing needs of our graduate students.

These additional offices, as well as the individual graduate program within which the student is accepted, provide direct support for students seeking advising, course registration assistance, advice on study strategies, stress relief, and career advising.

ACADEMIC OFFICES, PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Career Crossings Office

The Career Crossings Office (CCO) offers services to graduate students through their graduate study and beyond. Information on career resources and programs is available online at saintmarys.edu/career-center, by contacting the office in 114 Spes Unica by calling (574) 284-4775, or emailing cco@saintmarys.edu. Services and assistance can be provided in person as well as by email, Skype, and telephone.

Exploring Career Options

Instrumental to the foundation of career development and growth of students, the CCO provides support and guidance in exploring career options associated with fields of interest. The CCO can provide counseling and access to:

- Career assessments including the Strong Interest Inventory, Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, and StrengthsQuest.
- Informational interviewing.
- “What Can I do With a Degree in...?” and alumni career path resources.
- Career Resource Center with books and resources to explore career options.

Job Searching

The CCO helps students explore career goals and strategies to meet their individual needs and maximize job search results. Information and resources are available to develop networking, researching, and résumé and cover letter writing skills.

Résumé and Cover Letter Writing

Résumés and cover letters are an opportunity to provide a great first and lasting impression with potential employers. The CCO assists with developing and fine tuning job search correspondence to make a positive impact on employers. In addition, the Career Resource Center provides several print publications on writing effective résumés and cover letters that are available for browsing and checking out. Resources are available through the CCO portal community as well.

Networking and Interviewing Skills

Perhaps the most difficult to develop and master, networking and interviewing skills are critical to the success of job searches. The CCO provides one-on-one mock interviewing and counseling sessions to assist in developing interviewing skills as well as in learning the basics of networking. Throughout the year, the CCO hosts programs that allow students to utilize and develop both networking and interviewing skills.

On-Campus Recruiting Program

Employers from various industries visit the Saint Mary's campus each year to recruit for jobs and internships. Employers conduct interviews, information sessions, and information tables in which students are encouraged to participate and explore options offered by the employers. A current list of employers recruiting on campus is available in College Central Network. The office also hosts an annual career and internship fair.

College Central Network

All students have an account created for them to access the College Central Network system, featuring numerous job and internship opportunities. Students can review postings, apply for positions, post résumés, and more. Access the site at <http://collegecentral.com/saintmarys>.

Alumnae Resource Network

The ARN houses contact information for over 8,000 alumni throughout the United States and abroad working in all industries and with all types of employers. Access the ARN at <http://connect.saintmarys.edu>.

Career Resource Center

The CRC houses hundreds of publications on career-related topics. Books and resources are available for check-out from the CRC or can be browsed in the office.

The Center for Women's Intercultural Leadership

The Center for Women's Intercultural Leadership (CWIL) was established at Saint Mary's College in December 2000 with the support of a grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc. CWIL is an innovative collaboration between Saint Mary's College faculty, staff, students and local community leaders and national and global partners. CWIL advances Saint Mary's College's mission of "preparing students to make a difference in the world" by empowering students to realize their call to leadership and to develop the intercultural knowledge and competence critical in today's increasingly interdependent world. In the spirit of the College's sponsors, the Sisters of the Holy Cross, CWIL promotes human transformation and systemic change, from the local to the global context, by providing challenging justice-based educational opportunities.

The Center is organized around three core components. Intercultural Leadership empowers students to use diversity, gender, and culture as a strength in their leadership. Global Education promotes engagement with other cultures through study abroad experiences, a student club, international student services, and the internationalization of the College's curriculum. Research and Scholarship serves as an interdisciplinary think tank where scholars can contribute to an ongoing dialogue about how human cultures interact and the roles women play in today's global reality.

Disabilities Resource Office

Saint Mary's College will provide reasonable accommodations to qualified graduate students with disabilities who request accommodations and provide appropriate documentation.

Documentation should be provided by an appropriately credentialed professional: a physician for physical disabilities, a psychologist with training in the learning disabilities

of adults and adolescents for learning disabilities, or a mental health provider licensed to diagnose psychiatric disabilities. The specific content of the documentation will vary with the nature of the student's disability, but in all cases it should include a diagnosis, justification, recommendations, and a clear rationale for the recommendations.

The student is responsible for arranging accommodations with the Disabilities Resource Office and with his or her professors each semester. Students in online graduate programs who need accommodations must email the Disabilities Resource Office to set up an appointment via phone or video chat such as Skype. The student will sign a release of information allowing the Disabilities Resource Office to inform his or her professors of the approved accommodations each semester, and must make a follow-up appointment to meet with each professor to discuss the implementation of the accommodations. Faculty are not authorized to grant academic accommodations and those receiving requests will refer students back to the Disabilities Resource Office.

Office of Student Success

Located in the Academic Resource Center in Madeleva Hall, the Office for Student Success offers workshops, programs, and individual consultation for all Saint Mary's College students. This office provides assistance to students covering topics such as time management, study strategies, and stress relieving strategies.

ACADEMIC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Academic Appeals

Grade Appeals

The instructor has the jurisdiction in determining and assigning grades at the end of the semester. The criteria for assigning grades must be stated in the course syllabus and communicated to students at the beginning of the course. Students have the right to appeal a final grade that they believe was not consistent with grading policies stated in the syllabus and/or different from those applied to other students in the same course. Before appealing, the student must meet with the instructor to discuss his or her dissatisfaction with the grade. This process must be initiated within 30 days of the start of the new semester. If the grade dispute is not settled at this level, the student and instructor will confer with the program director. If the issue is still not resolved, the student may initiate a formal grade appeal to the Provost. The appeal must be initiated within 10 working days of the decision being sent by the program director. The Provost will appoint three faculty members from across the graduate programs to serve on a Graduate Hearing Board. This Graduate Hearing Board will make a recommendation to the Provost. The Provost will notify the student of the final disposition of the appeal. The decision of the Provost is final.

Dismissal Appeals

A student has the right to appeal a dismissal from the graduate program for academic reasons other than academic dishonesty by submitting an appeal in writing to the Provost within 10 working days of the decision being sent by the program director. The appeal must include reasons the student believes s/he should be reinstated and a plan for future success. The decision on the student's status will be made by the Provost after consultation with members of the graduate program in which the student is enrolled. The Provost will notify the student of the decision. The decision of the Provost is final.

In cases of dismissal for academic misconduct, refer to the policy on Academic Integrity and Academic Honesty below.

In cases of dismissal for non-academic reasons, refer to the Code of Student Conduct.

Academic Calendar

The academic year is divided into two semesters and one summer session. The fall semester begins in late August and ends before the Christmas holidays. The spring semester begins in mid-January and ends in May. The summer session begins in mid-May and continues until mid-August. There is a one-week mid-semester break in the fall and spring, short Thanksgiving and Easter recesses, and a vacation of approximately a month between fall and spring semesters.

Most graduate courses taught in the fall and spring semesters are taught for the duration of the 15-week semester. Graduate courses taught in the summer vary in length depending on the program. All courses taught in the summer are compressed.

Academic Integrity and Academic Honesty

Saint Mary's College is dedicated to intellectual inquiry and the personal and professional growth of its students. Academic integrity is foundational to the vibrant academic life and social structure of the College and represents the mutual engagement in learning between students and faculty members. Academic integrity is grounded in certain fundamental values which include truth, honesty, respect, responsibility, and fairness that form the basis for a vibrant academic culture. The highest standards of academic integrity are expected of all graduate students and faculty members in academic coursework and research activities. Activities that compromise truth gleaned through the advancement of learning and knowledge development undermine intellectual effort.

Academic integrity, in all its forms, is an explicit value of the College. Academic honesty is a form of academic integrity. Academic honesty can be best understood by the ethical standards guiding faculty in their academic work. Specifically an individual's contributions, in terms of words and scholarly findings, are attributable to the individual scholar alone; no other individuals can honestly claim another's ideas as their own. Furthermore, the integrity of scholarly knowledge rests on the accurate demonstration of the assumptions and reasoning that produced it. These standards are used as the implicit basis for teaching and learning in the College.

Responsibilities for Academic Honesty

Academic honesty consists of truth telling and truthful representations in all academic contexts. All members of the academic community have a responsibility to ensure that academic honesty is maintained.

Faculty responsibilities include:

- Upholding the College's principles of academic honesty.
- Mitigating opportunities (where reasonable) for dishonesty,
- Promulgating this policy to graduate students by placing it in the course syllabi.
- Protecting students' privacy, whether in confronting an individual suspected of dishonesty or receiving reports of dishonesty from others.
- Communicating and sharing evidence of the dishonesty with the student.
- Imposing an appropriate penalty as stated in the syllabus or as stated in the department handbook if dishonesty happens outside of class.
 - A student who has been found to commit an act of academic dishonesty in a program requirement that lies outside of a particular course, (e.g. comprehensive, thesis, project, or presentation), may fail this requirement. Each program will determine the way in which a student can address the successful completion of this requirement. Students will not be dismissed from their program of study unless they have more than one violation of academic honesty or a single violation of academic honesty that is so egregious as to warrant dismissal. Whether a single

instance of academic honesty is raised to the level of the egregiousness will be determined by the Acting Dean of Graduate Studies and the Program Director.

- Reporting instances of academic dishonesty to the designee of the Provost.

Student responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Refraining from violations of academic integrity.
- Completing individual assignments with their own work.
- Completing collaborative assignments by appropriate division of labor.
- Completing internship, clinical or practicum assignments including time of service with their own work.
- Refusing to participate in an act of academic dishonesty.
- Notifying instructors of dishonesty that is observed.

Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to: cheating on assignments or exams, fabrication of data, tampering, sabotaging another student's work, plagiarism, falsification of records and official documents, unauthorized access to computerized academic or administrative records or systems, and aiding and/or facilitating any such activities. It is assumed that all work submitted by a student represents the student's own ideas and work. Verbatim copying, paraphrasing, adapting or summarizing the work of another, regardless of the source—whether books, journals, periodicals, websites, or other forms of media—must be properly cited. Any representation of the work of another that is not properly referenced is considered to be plagiarism. Ignorance of what constitutes plagiarism is not a defense to an allegation of a violation of the academic integrity policy. Any act that involves misrepresentation regarding the student's academic work or that abridges the rights of other students to fair academic competition is unacceptable.

Any context in which students neglect or actively decline to be fully honest in academic work is academic dishonesty. Similarly, failure to report observations of academic dishonesty is considered to constitute a violation of academic integrity. The medium in which full honesty is ignored—whether electronic, print or verbal (e.g., verbally claiming responsibility for another person's academic work)—is immaterial. Neither is it important whether the academic work in question is required for a course or optional, a quiz or a test, a term paper or an in-class essay, graded or ungraded, etc. Neither does it matter whether the student benefits directly or at all from the dishonesty.

Professional Standards

Individual graduate programs at Saint Mary's College may have additional, discipline-specific ethical guidelines as appropriate to the program. Please see the relevant program's policies.

Academic Standing

Good Academic Standing

A degree-seeking graduate student is in good academic standing if he or she: 1) meets the standards of quality of his or her academic program; 2) makes satisfactory progress toward completion of degree requirements within the established time limit; 3) meets the requirement regarding continuous registration; 4) meets the minimum required cumulative grade point average of 3.0. Individual degree programs may have policies in place for satisfactory academic progress. Students are responsible for verifying additional satisfactory progress policies as required by his or her degree program. If a student fails to satisfy the requirements of his or her degree program, the student may be dismissed from his or her program based on the academic unit's recommendation to the College.

Academic Probationary Status

A graduate student is expected to maintain a B average throughout his or her program of study (3.0/4.0 GPA). The student and his or her advisor will receive written notification of academic probationary status from the Program Director if:

- The student earns a grade lower than a B- in a course; or
- The student earns a single semester GPA lower than 3.0.

Written Communication will be directed to the student's permanent address on file with the College. A second course grade lower than a B- may result in dismissal from the program even if the cumulative GPA is above 3.0. Students may continue on academic probation for no more than two consecutive semesters. No grades below a B- may be counted as fulfilling degree requirements; such grades will be calculated into the grade point average. Grades below B- such as a C or D grade are awarded to graduate students and are used to calculate both semester and cumulative GPA; however, they will not be accepted for completion of graduate course work. Students may be required to repeat courses to complete the degree. See individual program policies for additional detail about courses with grades below B-.

The faculty, staff, and administration of Saint Mary's College are committed to helping students achieve success in his or her graduate studies. Therefore, the GPA of each graduate student is reviewed at the end of each semester by his or her advisor to determine whether action is necessary.

Completing Degree Requirements in Academic Probationary Status

A student may complete all remaining degree requirements during a semester in which the student was in Probationary Status. If the student's cumulative GPA at the end of the semester is 3.0 or above, the student's probationary status will be elevated to Good Academic Standing. If the student's cumulative GPA is below 3.0, the student remains in Academic Probationary Status.

Add/Drop

Full semester courses offered in the fall or spring semester may be added until the end of the first week of class. Courses meeting less than 16 weeks, including all summer courses, must be added no later than the first day of class.

Assignment of Credit Hours

Saint Mary's College operates under a semester credit hour system and defines credit hours based on the Carnegie unit. Each semester hour of credit represents one hour per week (15 weeks) of lecture or recitation and 2 to 3 hours of time spent in independent preparation (readings, papers, etc.). The length of a clinical, laboratory, practicum, or internship period depends upon the requirement of the course. Normally, one semester hour of credit is awarded for satisfactory work in two or three hours of clinical, laboratory, practicum, or internship work per week for a 15-week semester.

The assignment of credit policy applies equally to courses offered for less than 15 weeks, such as summer session courses. Such courses contain an equal or greater number of hours of direct instruction and independent preparation as the same course offered in the standard 15-week semester.

The assignment of credit policy applies equally to courses delivered through all modes of instruction including online courses. A course taught online must first be reviewed and approved by the Teaching Learning Technology Roundtable. An online course is approved only once it has been determined that the course covers the same content and achieves the same outcomes as the same course taught on campus.

Attendance

A student is expected to attend every meeting of a class for which he or she is registered. The responsibility for attendance rests with the student. Excused absences may be granted to students who must miss class for serious and documentable reasons of personal health, family concerns (emergency or important event in student's family).

Auditing a Course

A graduate student may elect to take a graduate or undergraduate course on an audit basis with the approval of the instructor and as long as space is available. Auditors are not permitted in laboratory courses, practicum, internship, or clinical experiences. No credit will be given for the course. Audited courses will be indicated on the student's transcript with a grade of V. Courses taken for audit do not apply toward any academic degree and do not count as a part of a student's full-time or part-time course load for purposes of financial aid or for loan deferments. Full time graduate students may audit free of charge. All part time graduate students will be charged full tuition for each course audited. Tuition for an audited course is the same as a credit course. A student wishing to declare an audit must do so in accordance with the Registrar's posted academic calendar.

Completion of the Master's Degree

For all master's degrees, a minimum of 30 credits is required. Consult individual master's degree programs for the precise requirements as some programs require more than 30 hours. Only courses at the 500-level or above are included in the master's degree program. A degree is not conferred for a mere collection of credits. A significant culminating or "capstone" experience or other mechanism to demonstrate evidence of analytical ability and synthesis of material is required. The specific form of the culminating experience is determined by the degree program and includes, but is not limited to, one or more of the following:

- written thesis, essay, or paper.
- project report
- internship
- exhibition
- production
- comprehensive examination
- capstone course

Students are expected to know the requirements of their program's culminating experiences. Failure to satisfy the program requirements will result in forfeiture of degree eligibility.

Completion of the Practice Doctorate (DNP)

The DNP is a terminal degree in nursing and, as a clinical doctorate, emphasizes expert clinical practice. To qualify for the DNP degree, all students must successfully complete the required course work in their program of study:

- complete a minimum of 77 credits and a minimum of 1,000 supervised practicum hours and should be completed in 12 semesters.
- complete a faculty-guided scholarly experience completed in the final semesters of the student's doctoral program (see individual program curriculum plans). This culminating experience provides evidence of the student's critical thinking and ability to translate evidence into practice through problem identification, proposal development, implementation, and evaluation. The DNP Innovation project encompasses the synthesis of coursework and practice application and results in a deliverable product that is reviewed and evaluated by a faculty advisor and a scholarly project committee.
- The DNP final project consists of:
 - a scholarly comprehensive paper
 - a public oral defense presentation
 - the submission of an abstract for presentation at a state or national meeting.

Failure to satisfy the program requirements will result in forfeiture of degree eligibility. In rare circumstances, and where a leave of absence is not appropriate, a student may petition the graduate program director and the Provost for one additional semester to complete the requirements for completion of the DNP program.

Continuous Enrollment

Once admitted to a graduate degree program, graduate students must be registered for a minimum of one credit hour (not audit) or a zero credit hour “continuous enrollment” course during all phases of their graduate education. All students, including those who have completed all coursework, must register each semester until all degree requirements are met. Students are responsible for completing the registration process each semester. A student who does not maintain continuous enrollment must communicate with the director of the relevant graduate program prior to applying for reinstatement.

Those students who have completed all coursework and are writing a master’s thesis or preparing for a comprehensive exam should register for the corresponding course in their department of study for the purpose of continuing enrollment. Courses with grades of “V” (audit) are not considered valid registration for continuous enrollment purposes; students completing work for a course in which they received an “X” (incomplete) must maintain continuous enrollment in the following semester while completing all incomplete courses.

A student who does not meet the continuous enrollment requirement unless they have received an approved leave of absence, is considered inactive and not in good academic standing. Continuous enrollment may continue until the student’s length of continuous enrollment reaches the Maximum Time to Degree as determined in the policies of the program into which the student matriculated. If degree requirements are not completely met by the Maximum Time to Degree, the student is considered inactive.

Inactive Status

Students who do not maintain continuous enrollment are considered inactive. Please see the Reinstatement policy for more details.

Course Numbering

Courses appearing in this *Bulletin* are numbered according to the following guidelines:

- 400 level courses are assumed to be primarily for undergraduates. If the course material is described as sufficiently advanced, graduate credit may be granted upon approval of the Graduate Program Committee. Requests for graduate credit for 400 level courses must provide information to verify that the course material is at the graduate level for all students or that graduate students are required to do additional work beyond the level required of undergraduates in the course.
- 500 level courses are assumed to be primarily for first-year graduate students; senior majors or other students may also take them or others by special permission. These students are limited to six credit hours of graduate work.
- 600 level courses are assumed to be for master’s and doctoral students. Only rarely are exceptional undergraduate students allowed to take these courses and they are limited to six credit hours of graduate work.
- 700 level courses are assumed to be for master’s and doctoral students.
- 800 and 900 level courses are assumed to be primarily for doctoral work, beyond the master’s level.

Degree Requirements

All students will follow the policies for program completion, GPA requirement, and maximum time to degree established by the individual graduate programs at Saint Mary’s College. Students are required to earn at least a B- in each graduate course in order for the course to count toward degree completion; some programs may have more rigorous grade requirements. Individual programs may also require a capstone experience, comprehensive

examination, clinical practicum, oral defense, or field experience. Please see specific programs’ sections of the Graduate Bulletin for individual program requirements.

Dismissal from the Program

Saint Mary’s College reserves the right to dismiss a student from a graduate program when the student’s poor academic performance or conduct warrants such action.

Poor Academic Performance

Poor academic performance may be demonstrated by remaining in probationary status for more than two academic terms (see Academic Standing policy). Failure to make satisfactory progress toward program completion may also be considered poor academic performance (see Completion of the Master’s Degree policy and the Completion of the Practice Doctorate (DNP) policy). Individual programs may define additional criteria for poor academic performance. Please review the policies of the relevant graduate program. The Provost will review extreme cases of poor performance (such as a single semester GPA of 2.3 or below) to determine the student’s eligibility to continue.

Misconduct

All students enrolled at Saint Mary’s College are expected to adhere to all College policies and procedures as defined by our Community Standards and Code of Student Conduct. Students are also expected to avoid academic misconduct (see Academic Honesty policy), research misconduct, and other fraudulent, unprofessional, or unethical behaviors as defined in the policies of the relevant graduate program.

Notification and Appeal

Students will be notified in writing within 10 business days of the decision for dismissal. Students who have been dismissed have a right to appeal and are advised to consult the appeal process below.

Appeal Process

A student may complete all remaining degree requirements during a semester in which the student was in Probationary Status. If the student’s cumulative GPA at the end of the semester is 3.0 or above, the student’s probationary status will be elevated to Good Academic Standing. If the student’s cumulative GPA is below 3.0, the student remains in Academic Probationary Status.

Enrollment

All degree seeking graduate students must register each semester during the dates and times posted by the College Registrar. Any admitted student who fails to maintain continuous enrollment (see the Continuous Enrollment policy) must apply for reinstatement to the College, who will review the student’s case with the Graduate Program Director of the relevant program. Students should consult their programs’ policies for additional requirements regarding full-time enrollment status.

The College defines *full-time*, *half-time*, and *less-than-half-time* in the following manner:

	Fall/Spring	Summer
Full-time status	8 credit hours	6 credit hours
Half-time status	4 to 7.5 credit hours	3 to 5.5 credit hours
Less-than-half-time status	3.5 or fewer credit hours	2.5 or fewer credit hours

Please see program policies for additional enrollment requirements for individual programs.

Governmental Requirements for Some Professions

Some professions (e.g. nursing, teaching, social work, speech therapy, accounting, etc.) require specific requirements for licensure and/or hiring (e.g. acceptable criminal background check, sex offender check, drug and alcohol testing, citizenship or permanent resident status documentation, valid immigration status for non-US citizens, valid social security number, etc.). Such requirements may also apply to required clinical and field work, or other out-of-class room experience necessary to complete degree requirements in the majors related to these professions. These requirements are determined by laws and regulations at both the state and federal levels and are subject to change. *Saint Mary's College strongly urges all admitted and current students to research and understand the appropriate requirements for their intended course of study and profession. Compliance with these requirements is the responsibility of the student and the graduate.* You should become informed and continue to monitor such requirements as laws and other legal requirements are subject to change.

Grade Point Average (GPA)

A grade point average is determined by dividing the total grade points earned by the number of graded semester hours of the coursework taken. The quality points for a particular course are found by multiplying the grade points assigned to the letter grade by the number of semester hours of the course. (See also: Grade Scale.)

Saint Mary's computes a semester GPA and a cumulative GPA for all graded graduate courses taken. The GPA excludes grades of courses transferred from other colleges. The GPA also excludes grades earned in undergraduate coursework taken at Saint Mary's College. The student's official GPA is maintained in the registrar's office and is truncated at two decimal places on the academic transcript.

Grade Reports

Students may view final grades via PRISM through the my.saintmarys.edu portal. At the end of each semester a student will be mailed a grade report only upon request. The grade report is withheld if a student has not met all financial obligations to the College, and PRISM access denied.

Grade Scale

At the end of each semester the student receives a final grade in each course based upon the instructor's evaluation of course requirements. The following grades are used in calculating the GPA:

Letter Grade	Grade Points per semester hour
A	4.00
A-	3.67
B+	3.33
B	3.00
B-	2.67
C+	2.33
C	2.00
C-	1.67
D+	1.33
D	1.00
F	0.00

Grades not included in calculating the GPA:

H/S/U	honors/satisfactory/unsatisfactory
NR	no grade reported

P	pass (course taken on pass/fail basis)
V	successful audit
W	withdrew with permission
X	incomplete

Grades lower than a B- may be awarded for courses in graduate programs and are used to calculate both semester and cumulative GPA; however, they will not be accepted for completion of graduate coursework. If a student receives lower than a grade of B- in a required course, he or she must either retake the same course or its equivalent as determined by the program to fulfill the degree requirement.

Graduation Petition

Petitioning for Graduation: A graduate student planning to participate in the commencement ceremony held in May must file a degree petition with the Office of the Registrar. This includes Degree Candidates described in the following paragraph. This petition must be approved by the Program Director of the department.

Degree Candidates: Some graduate programs require students to complete coursework during the summer following the commencement ceremony. If a student plans to complete all degree requirements during the summer following the commencement ceremony, permission may be requested from the Office of the Registrar to take part in commencement exercises as a "degree candidate." "Degree candidates" do not receive a diploma and are not graduates of Saint Mary's College until the end of the semester in which all degree requirements have been completed.

Incomplete Grade

All work for credit is expected to be completed within the term it is attempted including independent studies. This expectation of students should also guide faculty members who teach graduate courses. That is, faculty are obligated to evaluate and grade graduate work by the end of the term in which the course is offered.

An incomplete grade (X) should only be given when an emergency or other legitimate reason prevents a student, who has been passing the course, from completing some critical portion of the required work. An incomplete grade is not automatic and must be negotiated with the course instructor prior to the final exam week. If an incomplete is granted by the instructor, the student is generally expected to complete the course requirements within 30 days after the beginning of the next term. If no change has been made by the approved due date, the grade will convert to a grade of F. Extensions for incompletes beyond 30 days require formal approval from the Graduate Program Director.

Leave of Absence Policy

A leave of absence (LOA) is a period of time during which a student remains in the intended graduate program but is inactive. Students do not take courses at Saint Mary's College during a leave of absence or engage in academic or practicum activities that are part of their program of study.

Whenever possible, students must request a LOA in advance of the leave from the Graduate Program Director at Saint Mary's College. A LOA will only be granted under extraordinary circumstances including but not limited to such events as prolonged illness, serious injury, family circumstances, relocation, change in employment status, etc.

A request for an LOA must be made in writing and should include the length of time desired for the LOA, the reason for the leave request, and a defined plan to return to the program after the LOA is complete.

Without prior approval from the Graduate Program Director, transfer credits will not be granted for courses taken elsewhere during a leave of absence.

Students who do not qualify for or are not granted a LOA may transition to inactive status (See policy on Continuous Enrollment and Academic Standing: Inactive Academic Status). Inactive status does not require formal approval but does count against the maximum time to graduation.

Pass/Fail Option

Graduate students cannot elect a Pass/Fail grading option for graduate courses. Graduate students may elect a Pass/Fail grading option for undergraduate courses. See the “Pass/Fail Option” in the Undergraduate Policies and Programs section.

Permanent Record and Transcript

A student’s permanent academic record is maintained in the Office of the Registrar. Official transcripts of the permanent record are available to each student or alumna. Requests for transcripts must be submitted in writing to the registrar or through the secure area within PRISM via the my.saintmarys.edu portal. Transcripts will not be issued to students or alumni who have not met their financial obligations to the College.

Privacy of Education Records (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act is a federal law that protects the privacy of education records for all students at Saint Mary’s College. Education records are considered confidential and may not be released to third parties (including parents) without the written consent of the student except in specific circumstances. Additional information about FERPA and student records privacy can be found at www.saintmarys.edu/academics/resources/registrar.

Proctored Exams for Online Courses

Note: Students are responsible for fees that any of the options below may incur.

In-person proctoring

Exams are given online through Blackboard. A proctor must be arranged in advance. A student needs to present or email a potential proctor a letter detailing proctoring duties as provided by the course instructor. The course instructor needs an email from the proctor from their official (e.g. employer-provided) email address briefly explaining who they are and how they know the student.

- Find your own proctor meeting the requirements below:
 - not a family member
 - not a close friend
 - in a position of authority, for example:
 - o professor
 - o teacher
 - o librarian
 - o police officer
 - o coach
 - o clergy (priest, pastor, nun, rabbi, etc. of a generally recognized faith)
 - o military officer (not your direct superior)
 - o manager (not your direct supervisor)
 - o some other trustworthy individual with no conflict of interest.
- Find a test center through **National College Testing Association**

This website contains information on participants both inside and outside the United States: www.ncta-testing.org/cctc/find.php, including test center location, service availability students from other institutions, hours of operation, testing fees, etc.

Online proctoring

- **Proctor U:** live online proctoring—www.proctoru.com
- **Remote Proctor Now:** on demand proctoring—www.psonline.com

Registration

Graduate students register for courses through PRISM, the online registration system for Saint Mary’s College, via the my.saintmarys.edu portal. Registration dates are published on the graduate program academic calendar. No student shall attend any class unless he or she is registered for the class. Credit will not be awarded to a student who is not officially registered.

Reinstatement

A student who does not maintain continuous enrollment must request reinstatement into the graduate program in which they were matriculated. Any student who wishes to apply for reinstatement into his or her program of study may do so with permission from the Graduate Program Director of the relevant program and the Acting Dean of Graduate Studies.

A readmission application must be submitted to the Graduate Programs office. It must be accompanied by transcripts of any academic work pursued by the student while not at Saint Mary’s College. The program may require the student to complete additional work if the length of the student’s inactivity from the program merits it.

Students who may be reinstated to a graduate program are reinstated with Probationary Academic standing.

Repeating a Course

A graduate student may retake any course at Saint Mary’s College; however, all grades are a part of the student’s permanent academic record and remain on the student’s transcript as well as in all GPA calculations. If a course is repeated, credit will be awarded only on the most recent attempt.

Research Conduct

Research involving human subjects must meet the guidelines of the Saint Mary’s College Institutional Review Board. The student must consult his or her advisor to assure these guidelines are followed. The student must also complete CITI training. The student may not use the name of Saint Mary’s College in connection with personal research without the sponsorship of a member of the student’s program faculty. This permission is freely and generously given, but the College insists upon its right to determine the context in which its name is used.

Transfer Credit

Pre-Admission Graduate Credits: A program may accept graduate coursework completed at another accredited college or university toward meeting its degree requirements. Official transcripts must be submitted to Graduate Admission from the records office where the credits were earned. A student may transfer graduate credits earned at another accredited college or university only if all of the following requirements are satisfied.

- The student has graduate degree-seeking status at Saint Mary’s College.
- The courses taken were graduate courses that are appropriate for their graduate program at Saint Mary’s College.
- Grades of B (3.0/4.0 scale) or better were achieved.
- Generally, the courses to be transferred were completed within a five-year period prior to admission to a graduate program at Saint Mary’s College.
- The transfer is approved by the Graduate Program Director of the student’s intended program.



Typically, no more than six semester graduate credit hours may be transferred into a Saint Mary's College graduate program. Additional graduate credit hours may be transferred by students who already have an earned graduate degree. A student pursuing a master's degree at Saint Mary's may transfer up to 9 credit hours; A student pursuing a doctoral degree at Saint Mary's may transfer up to 50% of the total credits required for the Saint Mary's degree. *Transfer students who join a previous cohort will be charged according to the tuition rate applied to that cohort.*

Grades for accepted transfer courses are not included in the student's Saint Mary's GPA.

Certain types of graduate credits are not accepted for transfer to Saint Mary's College graduate programs. In particular, graduate programs do not accept credit awarded

- for life experience;
- for courses taken at non-collegiate institutions (e.g., government agencies, corporations, and industrial firms); or
- by post-secondary institutions that lack candidate status or accreditation by a regional accrediting association, or some equivalent international accreditation.

All transfer credit is subject to review and approval, at outlined above.

Transfer students who join a previous cohort will be charged according to the tuition rate applied to that cohort.

Pre-Admission Graduate Credits Earned by Saint Mary's Undergraduate Students:

Saint Mary's graduate courses completed while a student is an undergraduate at Saint Mary's may be accepted into a graduate program. The following requirements need to be satisfied:

- The student has graduate degree-seeking status at Saint Mary's College.
- The courses taken were graduate courses that are appropriate for their graduate program at Saint Mary's College.
- Grades of B (3.0/4.0 scale) or better were achieved.
- Generally, the courses to be transferred were completed within a five-year period prior to admission to a graduate program at Saint Mary's College.

- The transfer is approved by the Graduate Program Director of the student's intended program.

No more than six semester graduate credit hours may be transferred into a Saint Mary's College graduate program.

Grades for accepted transfer courses are included in the student's Saint Mary's GPA.

Undergraduate Courses Taken by Graduate Students

Graduate students may elect to take undergraduate courses for credit. All graduate students, full-time and part-time, will be charged the current graduate tuition rate. Undergraduate courses do not affect a graduate student's grade point average. Students interested in taking an undergraduate course should contact the Office of the Registrar for assistance.

Withdrawal from a Course

After consultation with the instructor and the graduate program director, a student may withdraw from a course after the add/drop deadline and until the last day of class as stated in the course syllabus. If the student is passing the course at the time of withdrawal, the grade of "W" is recorded on the student's transcript for that course. A grade of "F" is recorded for a withdrawn course in which the student is failing.

Withdrawal from the Program

A student wishing to withdraw from a graduate program is required to notify the Office of Graduate Studies and the graduate program director. The date of official written notification will determine the official date of withdrawal. If a student withdraws from the program between the first day of class and the end of the drop period, he or she will be dropped from all classes and a notation of enrollment and a withdrawal entry is made on his or her permanent record. If a student withdraws from the program after the official drop period, he or she will receive grades of "W" or "F" from his or her instructors depending on progress to date.

