



DOCTOR OF

Nursing Practice



Saint Mary's College

NOTRE DAME, INDIANA

Lead Change. Transform Lives. Advance Your Career.

LEAD THE WAY IN PATIENT CARE
AS A NURSE PRACTITIONER



GRADUATES OF THE SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE PROGRAM:

- Provide advanced evidence-based clinical care within a collaborative, cultural and spiritual context for individuals, families and/or populations.
- Demonstrate communication and collaboration skills to create change in health care and complex health care delivery systems.
- Apply business and entrepreneurial strategies for meaningful quality improvement and efficient use of resources within health care environments.
- Synthesize and apply scientific evidence for the development, implementation, and evaluation of clinical interventions for advanced nursing practice.
- Advocate for social justice, equity, and ethical policies in health systems, population health initiatives, and evidence-based health policy initiatives through collaboration with other health professionals and stakeholders.

SMC's Nursing
Science program
ranked by
Nursing Schools
Almanac, 2024

#57
IN THE US

#4
IN INDIANA

Become top of your field and an agent of change

Open to women and men, the online program at Saint Mary's College combines virtual coursework with one on-campus weekend immersion per term, giving students the best of both worlds: flexibility and hands-on experience. With this program, you'll be prepared to lead in the nursing profession and pursue a wide range of patient care opportunities in today's complex healthcare environment.

You will choose from two dynamic program tracks, each designed to prepare you for an impactful career as a nurse practitioner. Both tracks are among the most accessible and rigorous online options available, and both play a vital role in shaping the future of healthcare:

- **Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP):** Designed for students looking to become an advanced practice RN who provides primary and specialty healthcare services to individuals and families across the lifespan. FNP's diagnose and treat illnesses, prescribe medications, and focus on health promotion, disease prevention, and patient education. They often work in a variety of settings, including family practices, community health centers, urgent care clinics, other specialty clinics, and sometimes in schools or private practices.
- **Adult-Gerontology Acute Care (AG-ACNP):** Designed for students looking to become an advanced practice RN who specializes in the care of patients with serious, complex, or urgent health conditions. ACNPs assess, diagnose, and manage acute and chronic illnesses, often in high-intensity settings. They commonly work in hospitals, emergency departments, intensive care units (ICUs), and specialty clinics, focusing on patients who need immediate or short-term care.

Geriatric Neuropsychiatry Certificate

There is an unprecedented need for nurse practitioners skilled in the care of older adult populations and the treatment of neurological disorders. In response, Saint Mary's College has introduced a groundbreaking Geriatric Neuropsychiatry Certificate to increase access to care for older adults facing neurological and psychiatric conditions. This certificate program is offered entirely online and takes approximately one year to complete. It is designed for practicing APRNs, as well as students currently pursuing their DNP at Saint Mary's College. Students interested in earning only the certificate do not need to be enrolled in the DNP program.



PROGRAM FEATURES

Students will complete their degree in this primarily online program in 11 semesters over 4 years (includes 3 summer terms).

- 1,180 supervised clinical practice hours
- A capstone practice innovation project, which includes a scholarly paper and oral presentation
- Advanced standing may be available for those who have completed graduate-level coursework
- Renewable scholarships and preceptor stipend for all students admitted for Fall 2025
- If you are already a MSN-prepared APRN, you can complete your DNP through our accelerated MSN to DNP track.



Required Coursework for all Tracks*

The comprehensive curriculum blends online instruction, immersive clinical rotations, and engaging coursework. It equips students with the advanced knowledge and clinical skills needed to deliver high-quality care to patients with acute, critical, and chronic conditions.

- Human Population Ecology
- Social Entrepreneurship and the Business of Healthcare
- Evidence-Based Practice II: Translation of Evidence for Practice
- Philosophical and Ethical Foundations for the Advanced Nursing Practice Role
- Quality Effectiveness, Safety, and Informatics in Organizational Systems
- Resource and Practice Management
- DNP Practice and Innovation 1 - 4

**Not a comprehensive list of coursework required for the entire program.*



Track-Specific Courses

ADULT-GERONTOLOGY ACUTE CARE (AG-ACNP)

- Advanced Clinical Studies: Acute Care NP 1-3
- Advanced Clinical Studies: Acute Care NP Capstone

FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER (DNP-FNP)

- Advanced Clinical Studies: Primary Care NP 1-3
- Advanced Clinical Studies: Primary Care NP Capstone

CERTIFICATE IN GERIATRIC NEUROPSYCHIATRY COURSES

- Social Determinants of Health: Individuals and Families
- Policy, Regulatory Compliance in the Care of Older Adults
- Clinical Geriatric Neuropsychiatry 1: Pathophysiology, Differential Diagnosis, Pharmacology
- Clinical Geriatric Neuropsychiatry 2: Pathophysiology, Differential Diagnosis, Pharmacology
- Legal and Ethical Principles in Geriatric Healthcare



Application Requirements

- Applicants who graduated from U.S. nursing programs must have earned a BSN from an ACEN or CCNE accredited program.
- Applicants graduating from international programs must have had their credentials reviewed by the CGFNS, graduated with a United States-comparable BSN documented on the CES report, passed the NCLEX exam or received RN licensure by endorsement, and are practicing with an unencumbered Registered Nurse license within the United States.
- The most competitive candidates will have maintained at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA in undergraduate coursework
- Official transcripts from all previously attended institutions
- Applicants must have had a statistics course in their BSN program. If it has been more than 7 years since taking the statistics course, a refresher course is highly recommended.
- Unencumbered license or eligibility for RN licensure in the state where clinical course work hours will be completed
- A substantive personal statement that reflects on the DNP and your desire to pursue the specific track for which you are applying
- Three letters of recommendation from academic and/or other professionals. Recommenders should be able to evaluate your clinical abilities, critical thinking skills, and your ability and preparedness to succeed in a DNP program. Letters of recommendation from individuals who have earned a doctoral degree, especially the DNP, are most helpful. At least one letter should be from a faculty member.
- A current resume or curriculum vitae
- As a result of state boards of nursing and the Department of Education regulations, we are not accepting applications for the DNP program at this time from students residing in and/or planning clinical work in the following states:
 - Alabama
 - Georgia
 - Louisiana
 - New York
 - North Carolina
 - Tennessee

Credits required to graduate: 84*

By entering a graduate program, you are investing in your future. We understand navigating the financial aid process for a graduate degree can be overwhelming.

To make sure you reach your goals, we will help you identify various funding sources, analyze

repayment options, and provide you with tools to establish a budget, estimate costs, and plan for your future.

Tuition for the fall 2025 entering class is \$995 per credit hour.* Information and statistics portrayed in this publication are current as of print date.

** Please note that the credit hour requirements and cost per credit hour will likely be updated for fall 2026. Please check saintmarys.edu/dnp_tuition for the most up-to-date information.*

\$0

the amount your tuition will increase from term to term as long as you remain enrolled in the program.

The nursing profession is at a critical point in history. Technology and evidence-based practice continue to evolve at increasing speeds and hospitals not only need nurses...

They need leaders.

Career Outcomes

Graduates from Saint Mary's College's DNP program can expect to join an industry as some of the highest-paid nursing professionals, earning an average salary of nearly \$129,210.* The demand for DNPs is growing. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects a 40% increase from 2023 to 2033, making it one of the fastest growing occupations. Here are a few of the highest-paid work settings.

\$137,640

Outpatient care centers

\$129,820

Offices of physicians

\$132,070

Educational services: state, local, and private

\$117,780

Offices of other health practitioners

\$137,790

Hospitals, state, local, private

Want to learn more about the Doctor of Nursing Practice?

CONNECT WITH US

You can chat with us via email, video chat, or phone call.

We are here to help you.

PHONE

(574) 284-5098

TEXT

(574) 485-0088

ADDRESS

Saint Mary's College
Office of Graduate Admission
Notre Dame, IN 46556

EMAIL

graduateadmission@saintmarys.edu

WEBSITE

saintmarys.edu/graduate-studies



DEPARTMENT OF NURSING

saintmarys.edu/graduate-studies/nursing/doctor-of-nursing-practice

The Saint Mary's DNP program is ideal for those looking to make a meaningful impact.

RENEWABLE
SCHOLARSHIPS AND A
PRECEPTOR STIPEND
FOR ALL ADMITTED
STUDENTS FOR
FALL 2025



Saint Mary's College
NOTRE DAME, INDIANA