

MASTER OF
Science
in Nursing



Saint Mary's College
NOTRE DAME, INDIANA



MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Embark on a transformative journey at Saint Mary's, a renowned institution with a legacy of excellence in nursing education, through the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Direct-Entry to RN program. **Designed for women and men with a bachelor's degree outside of nursing,** this two-year on-campus program offers a unique opportunity to transition to a rewarding nursing career while simultaneously pursuing a graduate degree.

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.

Outstanding Faculty & Real-World Curriculum

At Saint Mary's, you will learn from faculty members who understand the current, complex nursing field. They are devoted to furthering their fields, practicing what they teach and bringing you the very latest in evidence-based practice and technological advances.

This practical knowledge is why Saint Mary's College is the **first in the state of Indiana to offer a direct-entry master's program** for students with a baccalaureate in any field of study other than nursing. Considerable attention is paid to your ability to think critically and communicate effectively, imperative skills in today's job market.

“Exceptional faculty, students, and facilities make this innovative graduate program an ideal entry to the field of nursing.”

COLLEEN M. HOOVER, PH.D.

ASSOCIATE PROVOST AND DEAN OF GRADUATE STUDIES



VALUABLE PARTNERSHIPS AND BEST-IN-CLASS TRAINING LABS

Partnering with Beacon Health System and Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center, we ensure you will gain critical exposure to authentic clinical settings. Through our direct-entry MSN curriculum, you will receive experiential learning in several different clinical areas, such as perinatal, mental health, community health nursing, and pediatric nursing. During your MSN program, you'll complete three semesters of clinicals within medical-surgical units and a final capstone experience, in which you'll be paired with a staff nurse on their patient assignment.

You will also benefit from the Center for Integrated Healthcare Education, our high-tech teaching and training facility. Located in the heart of campus, the Center is home to ultra-realistic clinical exam rooms, simulation labs, advanced observation rooms, spacious classrooms, and high-fidelity medical mannequins that can talk, show emotion, and indicate pain.

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

#57
IN THE US

#4
IN INDIANA

Take Courses That Matter

Our MSN curriculum is designed for the modern healthcare landscape. In addition to traditional nursing education, our direct-entry MSN program features unique seminar courses that connect you with healthcare leaders in hospital and community settings. As a Saint Mary's nursing student, you'll explore the issues, policies, and trends impacting healthcare and work in interdisciplinary teams to improve patient care.

CURRENT TRENDS IN HEALTHCARE

Stay ahead in a dynamic healthcare landscape by exploring the latest trends and advancements.

HEALTH SYSTEMS LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

Develop leadership skills for navigating complex healthcare environments.

ADVANCED PHARMACOLOGY

Enhance your knowledge of pharmacology for safe and effective patient care.

MENTAL HEALTH NURSING

Master the art of providing compassionate care to patients facing mental health challenges.

PUBLIC & COMMUNITY HEALTH

Examine the promotion of health and prevention of illness across populations.

NURSING CARE OF THE CHILD

Gain confidence in pediatric nursing, ensuring comprehensive care for children and their families.

HEALTHCARE POLICY AND ADVOCACY

Grasp the intricacies of healthcare policy, empowering you to drive positive change.

PERINATAL NURSING

Learn to provide safe and nurturing care to expectant mothers and newborns.

TRANSITION TO PROFESSIONAL NURSING

Refine your clinical skills and smoothly transition into the role of a nursing professional.

ADVANCED HEALTH ASSESSMENT

Perfect your assessment techniques for comprehensive patient evaluations.

Become top of your field and an agent of change

At Saint Mary's, you'll join a tight-knit, caring community that is committed to helping each other and making a difference in the world. Throughout your Master of Science in Nursing program, you'll learn from industry experts and receive the support you need to succeed in the classroom and beyond.

In addition to providing exceptional patient care, you will also develop as a strong, forward-thinking leader. Saint Mary's College can help you develop the tools, skills, and knowledge you need to get there. With this advanced degree, you will learn to lead systemic change that improves health outcomes.

Saint Mary's provides you with the tools and confidence needed to be at the top of your field and to become an agent of change.



“The two-year MSN program is perfect for the person with an undergraduate degree who wants to pursue a career in nursing.”

PATRICIA A. KERESZTES, PHD, RN, DIRECTOR OF
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING PROGRAM

Career Outcomes

Graduates of the Saint Mary's College direct-entry MSN program can expect to join one of the most stable occupations in the healthcare industry. Across the country, **the median annual wage for registered nurses is \$93,600.**

Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2025

**MEDIAN REGISTERED NURSE
SALARY, BY SPECIALITY.**

\$97,260

Hospitals: state, local,
and private



The infographic features a background image of a healthcare professional in teal scrubs with a stethoscope. Overlaid on this are four large, semi-transparent hexagonal shapes in different colors (light blue, dark blue, orange, and teal) that contain text about healthcare spending. The hexagons are arranged in a staggered pattern.

\$81,820

Nursing and residential
care facilities

\$74,360

Educational services: state, local,
and private

\$83,780

Ambulatory healthcare services

\$106,480

Government

Application Requirements

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

An earned Baccalaureate degree in any field outside of nursing from an accredited college or university

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS

Official transcripts from all previously attended institutions

CUMULATIVE GPA

The most competitive candidates will have maintained at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA in undergraduate coursework and a 3.0 GPA in prerequisite science courses.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Three letters of reference: one letter from a former faculty member is preferred.

REQUIRED PREREQUISITES, taken in the past seven years

- Anatomy/Physiology 1&2 (taken in-person, with labs)
- Chemistry
- Microbiology (taken in-person, with lab)
- Statistics
- Introductory psychology or sociology course
- Lifespan course (*recommended*)

RESUME

Provide your resume or curriculum vitae

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Explain your interest in transitioning to the field of Nursing



Credits required to graduate: 66

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 2026 entering class is \$1,095 per credit hour and the total price of the program is approximately \$72,000. For a breakdown of all associated costs and more financial aid information, visit saintmarys.edu/graduate-studies.

Information and statistics portrayed in this publication are current as of print date.

\$0

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



Want to learn more about a direct-entry Master of Science in Nursing program?

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

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DEPARTMENT OF NURSING

saintmarys.edu/graduate-studies/nursing/msn-to-rn

\$7,000
SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ALL
ADMITTED FULL-TIME
STUDENTS FOR
FALL 2026

The Saint Mary's MSN program is ideal for those looking to pivot to a career in nursing and make a meaningful impact.



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*Statistics in this brochure are accurate as of the date of printing.