Q: IS THE SEMINAR SERIES APPROPRIATE FOR EXPERIENCED TEACHERS AND MENTORS, OR JUST FOR BEGINNING TEACHERS?

A: The speaker series is for ALL interested educators. Our learning communities bring together committed professional educators who desire to improve their teaching strategies, deepen their understanding and share their values and beliefs about education.

Q: WHEN AND WHERE DO THE SEMINARS MEET?

A:
1. Seminars are held on six Saturdays between October and May of each year. Each seminar meets from 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM and includes all materials, continental breakfast and buffet lunch. Seminars are held at the Soda Center at Saint Mary’s College of California, on the Moraga campus.

2. After lunch (1-2:30pm) there will be facilitated grade-alike peer group sessions to extend and apply the strategies learned from the presentation. These peer groups are required for those earning academic credit for the series.

Q: HOW DO I REGISTER FOR THE SEMINARS?

A: Go to the Distinguished Speaker Series website: www.stmarys-ca.edu/DSSseminar. Review the speaker schedule and decide if you want to take the full series (6 seminars) or only certain seminars. Once you have decided, begin the registration and payment process by clicking on the appropriate registration link. You are responsible for paying and seeking reimbursement directly from your district or school.

Q: WHAT DOES THE REGISTRATION FEE COVER?

A: The registration fee of $275 covers meals and handouts for all six seminars.

Q: WHAT TYPE OF CREDIT IS AVAILABLE? (You may select only one type of Credit)

A:
1. Graduate Academic Credit: Six semester units are available for the 2 years of participation for a total of 12 semester units. Tuition is offered at an 80% discount. These units will appear on a Saint Mary’s College transcript.

2. Continuing Education Units (CEUs): The Continuing Education Unit is a nationally recognized unit designed to provide a record of an individual’s continuing education and/or professional growth accomplishments. 10 hours of instruction = (1) CEU. CEU courses **DO NOT carry academic credit.** Certificates are issued for Continuing Education Courses, transcripts are not. CEUs are accepted by some districts for salary level advancement. Please check with your district before applying. For more information visit: www.stmarys-ca.edu/DSSseminar. Click on, ‘Continuing Education Units’ link located in the ‘Related Links’ box.

3. Master of Arts in Teaching Leadership (MATL): After completion of the 12 graduate academic credit units: EDTL 600, 610, 700, and 710, participants have the option to apply for admissions to the MATL program before the February 15 application deadline. Tuition is offered at a 45% discount. For information on the MATL program, visit: http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/leadership
Q: WHEN DO I NEED TO APPLY FOR THE ACADEMIC CREDIT COURSES?

A: The DEADLINE to apply for Academic Credit is before the second Distinguished Speaker Series seminar. You can apply online at: www.stmarys-ca.edu/DSSseminars. Click on, ‘Apply for Academic Credit’ link located in the ‘Related Links’ box.

Q: WHAT ARE THE ACADEMIC CREDIT COURSES I NEED TO APPLY FOR AND HOW DO I APPLY?

A:

1. First year participants enroll in EDTL 600 and EDTL 610:

   EDTL 600 – Exploring Teaching and Learning Leadership (3 units)
   Current best practices are shared to increase participants’ competence in planning, designing and delivering instruction to all students. Participants will demonstrate subject matter knowledge in the content standards and induction standards.

   EDTL 610 – Connecting Teaching and Learning Practices (3 units).
   Participants apply the concepts of learning, teaching, and reflection, both independently and collaboratively. Learners apply, document and demonstrate their learning through participation in a Learning Community. This course requires 3 additional learning community sessions in the spring. They are held at St. Mary’s campus from 4:30-7:30pm during the week.

   To apply:
   • Visit: www.stmarys-ca.edu/DSSseminar
   • Click on, ‘Apply for Academic Credit’ in the ‘Related Links’ box
   • Fill in the application form
   • You will receive an email confirmation after you have completed your application
   • First year participants are registered by the program assistant in December

Second year participants enroll in EDTL 700 and 710:

   EDTL 700 – Developing Teaching and Learning Practices (3 units) and
   Participants examine teaching and learning practices, and demonstrate continued professional growth in the content and induction standards.

   EDTL 710 – Investigating Reflective Learning (3 units).
   Participants apply concepts of learning, teaching, and reflection, both independently and collaboratively through participation in a Learning Community. This course requires 3 additional learning community sessions in the spring. They are held at St. Mary’s campus from 4:30-7:30pm during the week. EDTL 610 is a prerequisite.

   To register:
   • Second year participants register through GaelXpress: https://gaelxpress.stmarys-ca.edu/
   • For detailed instructions on how to register, visit: www.stmarys-ca.edu/DSSseminar
   • Click on, ‘GaelXpress Registration Instructions’ in the ‘Related Links’ box.

   All EDTL assignments are aligned with teacher induction requirements.
Distinguished Speaker Series (DSS)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: WHAT IS THE COST OF THE REQUIRED ACADEMIC CREDIT COURSES?

A: Graduate academic credit courses are currently priced at $190 per unit, $570 per three semester unit course. Tuition is offered at an 80% discount. Tuition costs are the responsibility of all participants. The $275 registration fee for the Distinguished Speaker Series is an additional fee.

Q: HOW WILL I BE BILLED?

A: Bills are sent to your St. Mary’s College (SMC) email. You will be provided with an SMC email account once you are registered. Email is SMC’s primary method of communication. All students must maintain and manage their SMC email accounts. Accounts with returned or undelivered email will be assessed a fee. Saint Mary’s College (SMC) official billing is known as e-bill.

Q: WHEN WILL I RECEIVE A TUITION BILL AND WHEN IS IT DUE?

A: Billing will take place approximately January 25th each year, and will be due on February 15 each year. Log onto your GaelXpress account to view and pay your bill.

Q: WHAT ARE MY PAYMENT OPTIONS?

A: Saint Mary’s offers the following payment options with no fees applied; cash, check, and electronic check transfer. Note: Credit card payment ARE NOT accepted as a payment option. You will find information about student account payment and payment plan options at www.stmarys-ca.edu/tuition or www.afford.com/stmarys-ca. Select the Graduate Tuition option as these are Graduate-level courses.

Q: DO I RECEIVE GRADES FOR THE SEMINARS?

A: Letter grades are given for EDTL 600 and EDTL 700. For the EDTL 610 and EDTL 710, Pass/Fail grades are given.

Q: DO I RECEIVE AN OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT FOR ACADEMIC CREDIT COURSES?

A: To order and pay for an official transcript visit: www.stmarys-ca.edu/DSSseminar and click on, ‘Order Transcript’ in the ‘Related Links’ box. You can print an unofficial transcript through GaelXpress.

Q: WHAT IF I NEED TO MISS A SATURDAY SEMINAR?

A: Per academic policy, students are allowed one excused absence per course. If you miss more than one seminar, participants will need to contact their Peer Group facilitator and make up the contact hours. ALL assignments need to be completed and turned in to Peer Group facilitators before the 6th seminar in May.
Q: WILL ATTENDING THE DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES CLEAR MY CREDENTIAL?

A: No. In order to clear your credential you need to enroll in an induction program. The focus of the Distinguished Speaker Series (DSS) is to provide the required professional development.

Q: WHEN DO I APPLY FOR THE MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING LEADERSHIP (MATL)?

A: You may apply after completion of the 12 units: EDTL 600, 610, 700, and 710, participants have the option to apply for admissions to the MATL program before the February 15 application deadline. Tuition is offered at a 45% discount. For information regarding the MATL program, visit: http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/leadership

WHO DO I CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION?

Distinguished Speaker Series registration information:
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Master of Arts in Teaching Leadership questions:
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