

When will the seminars be confirmed or canceled?

The Best Practices Academy seminars will be confirmed or canceled seven days prior to the date of the seminar. An email will be sent to inform those registered for the seminar of the seminar status.

What is the cost of a seminar?

The cost of a seminar is \$50.00 unless otherwise noted.

When will I be billed for the seminar?

Once your registration is processed, Saint Mary's will send a tuition statement for the full balance after the 10th of the month. If you want to pay for your seminar prior to receiving a tuition statement, send your payment to SMU Student Services, 700 Terrace Heights #8, Winona, MN 55987. Direct questions about your tuition to student services at 1-877-304-4273. In some cases, an invoice will be sent to those who register for the seminar as an attachment to the seminar confirmation email.

What is the difference between the two confirmation emails?

The first email you will receive is a seminar registration confirmation email. This email is sent immediately after you have registered and confirms that your seminar registration has been received and states the seminar you registered for. The second email will either be a seminar confirmation or cancellation email. This email verifies the status of the seminar one - two weeks prior to the date of the seminar.

When should I register for the graduate credit?

It is recommended to register for the graduate credit once you have received confirmation of the seminar. Seminar confirmation will be emailed to all that are registered seven days prior to the date of the seminar.

How do I register for the graduate credit aligned with the Best Practices Academy seminar?

To register for the graduate credit option, please go to the GPDE website, gpde.smumn.edu or contact the program office toll-free at 1-877-218-4755. The GPDE course you will want to register for is GPDE 5620 A or B for 1 or 3 graduate credits.

What is the cost of a GPDE graduate credit?

Tuition for the GPDE program is currently set at \$255.00 per semester credit. Students in the Master of Arts in Education program at Saint Mary's are required to pay the current tuition rate for the Master of Arts in Education program.

What is the format of an inquiry course aligned with a BPA seminar?

Inquiry-based course participants attend the BPA seminar, engage in learning connected to the key concepts of the seminar, and then identify a concept they would like to explore more fully. This inquiry can be done individually and/or collaboratively. The seminar instructors deliver the seminar content and may serve as instructional coaches for those who register for the GPDE course aligned with the seminar. Participants follow an action-research learning model and are required to submit an annotated bibliography or a written review of the literature, create a plan to implement their inquiry in their classroom or school setting, and communicate the process for collecting data from both students and through their own reflection and analysis. The course requirements will be completed in a timeframe based on an agreement with the learner and instructor aligned with University deadlines.

Expectations for GPDE 5620:

GPDE 5620 (A or B) – Register for one seminar and 1 or 3 graduate semester credits aligned with the seminar. The inquiry learning process allows educators to connect their Best Practices Academy seminar experience to an investigation that will lead them to deeper understanding, more effective instructional strategies, and improved student achievement. This course requires educators to engage in classroom or school-based inquiry on an independent basis and/or with colleagues. Participants design and implement their Best Practices inquiry topic through research implementation, collaboration, and professional dialogue. Following their registration, participants receive a framework, resources, and required reading for conducting their inquiry.

Expectations for 1 Semester Credit:

- Create an annotated bibliography that connects research and seminar themes.
- Develop an implementation plan that applies a strategy explored at the seminar to your classroom and/or school setting.
- Devise a formative and/or summative assessment to measure the impact on student achievement
- Create a goal for future action based on findings and conclusions from the implementation of the strategy.
- Analyze individual professional growth and the impact on instructional planning.

Expectations for 3 Semester Credits:

- Create a thorough review of literature incorporating resources, notes, themes, and application to the classroom/school setting.
- Develop an implementation plan that applies the strategies explored during the seminar and the research that supports the plan.
- Devise formative and summative assessments to measure the impact on student achievement.
- Create a plan for future action based on findings and conclusions from the implementation of the strategy
- Analyze individual professional growth and the impact on instructional planning.

Will I receive a transcript?

Certificates of attendance (not transcripts) are handed out at the end of each seminar. Your local CEU coordinator will use this certificate to issue CEU's.

A CEU transcript can be requested. A Transcript Request form can be downloaded by clicking the following link: [Transcript Request Form](#). Please note on request that this is for a CEU transcript.