



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

Mount Mary University
and
Notre Dame of Maryland University

Effective Dates: July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2030

Introduction

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishes a partnership between Mount Mary University (MMU) and Notre Dame of Maryland University (NDMU). This agreement facilitates seamless academic pathways for MMU graduate students to pursue and complete doctoral programs at NDMU, offering fully online options and credit transfer opportunities. This MOU is subject to the policies of the respective Boards of Trustees of both institutions and compliance with applicable state and federal laws.

Rationale

Recognizing the need for accessible, advanced educational opportunities, this partnership aims to support students in their pursuit of doctoral level education. NDMU agrees to offer fully online Ph.D. programs tailored to accommodate Mount Mary graduate students, allowing the transfer of up to 12 credits from MMU's master's programs into the relevant NDMU Ph.D. program. This initiative streamlines the transition to doctoral studies, promotes academic excellence, and supports workforce development in specialized fields.

Responsibilities

Mount Mary University will, under the terms of this agreement:

- Prepare Students for Doctoral Study
- Ensure MMU Master's students complete relevant coursework to facilitate credit transfer into NDMU's Ph.D. programs.
- Collaborate with NDMU to develop marketing materials and communication strategies to inform students about the partnership.
- Notify NDMU of any substantial changes to the Master's curriculum impacting credit transfer eligibility.

Notre Dame of Maryland University will, under the terms of this agreement:

- Provide Ph.D. Program Accessibility
- Offer fully online Ph.D. programs to ensure accessibility for MMU students.
- Accept up to 12 credits from MMU Master's programs toward the fulfillment of doctoral degree requirements.
- Provide streamlined admission, enrollment, and advising services for participating MMU students.

- Work jointly with MMU to design and implement an ongoing evaluation system for assessing the partnership's outcomes.
- Provide a clear program plan (attached to this agreement) for the PhD in Instructional Leadership for Changing Populations and the PhD in Higher Education Leadership
- Offer a discounted tuition and fee rate of \$500 per credit plus a \$100 per semester registration fee.

Resource Sharing/Funding

Each institution shall share resources to sustain the partnership. Existing policies governing expenditures and resources use shall apply. Course syllabi, materials, and other intellectual property developed under this agreement will remain the property of the originating institution.

Governance

This agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Maryland. Representatives from both institutions will meet annually to review the program, address updates, and ensure its continued success. Any modifications to this MOU must be documented in writing and signed by authorized representatives of both parties.

Term of Agreement

This MOU will remain in effect for five years from the date of execution, unless terminated earlier by mutual consent or written notice provided at least 30 days in advance.

Termination

Either party may terminate the agreement under the following conditions:

- Mutual agreement by both institutions.
- Breach of terms and failure to resolve within a specified period.
- Loss of funding or insufficient financial support for program continuation.

Students already enrolled in a Ph.D. program at the time of termination will be permitted to complete their studies under the agreed terms.

Nondiscrimination Clause

Both MMU and NDMU commit to fostering an inclusive academic environment free from discrimination based on age, sex, sexual orientation, race, religion, national origin, disability, or veteran status.

Amendments

Amendments to this agreement may only be made through mutual written consent of authorized representatives from MMU and NDMU.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Memorandum of Understanding as of the date written below:

Mount Mary University

By:



Name: Karen Friedlen, PhD

Title: Vice President for Academic Affairs

Date: April 15, 2025

Notre Dame of Maryland University

By:



Name: Martha Walker, PhD

Title: Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs

Date: March 21, 2025