Sacred Heart University

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Online MSN Program Named a ‘Top 50’ Value

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Sacred Heart University’s online Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program is among the “Top 50 Best Value Online MSN Programs of 2015” as determined by Value Colleges, a service dedicated to researching and ranking college programs to find the perfect balance between quality and cost. Offered as one of four accredited online degrees in the SHU College of Nursing, the online MSN program is designed to meet the needs of working nurses seeking to advance their careers with superior clinical, managerial and educational skills. Students choose one of three study specializations: Clinical Nurse Leader, Nursing Management and Executive Leadership or Nursing Education.

For the Top 50 ranking, Value Colleges evaluated only online MSN programs that are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education or the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing. Value Colleges also considered each program’s national ranking, according to *U.S.News & World Report*, tuition cost and its graduates’ average early-career salary, according to Payscale. Value Colleges concluded: “For students looking for a nursing program that emphasizes ethics, service and community, with the advantages of a small student-to-faculty ratio and the attention of a small university, Sacred Heart is tailor-made...and while the price tag may be higher than a public program, at $650 per credit hour it’s still well within the realm of affordable, while providing an education that will have a sterling market value.”

Mary Alice Donius, dean SHU’s College of Nursing, commends Marlene Beck, online program director, and the nursing faculty for their commitment to making online students feel right at home in a virtual environment. “It is truly due to the hard work of the program director and the faculty that we are receiving this kind of recognition,” Donius said. “The online program is really well integrated into the College of Nursing as well as the University itself. It’s one of the things that makes us stand out—that wonderful sense of connectedness.”

Beck said rigorous, well-developed courses also reflect the high quality of the SHU program. “The program is a testament to all of the best practices of online learning and offers flexibility as well as an interactive and engaging online classroom environment for our students. Every student in the program is given individual attention and guidance in the educational process, ranging from developing a plan of study to completion of capstone requirements," she said.