

# Academic-Practice Partnerships Overview

## Essentia Health/The College of St. Scholastica



Essentia Health is an integrated health system serving communities in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and North Dakota. Based in Duluth, MN, Essentia Health combines the strengths and talents of more than 15,000 employees, including more than 2,200 physicians and advanced practitioners, who serve patients and communities through the mission of being called to make “a healthy difference in people’s lives”.

The College of St. Scholastica (CSS) is an independent private college with locations across Minnesota, including the original, main campus in Duluth. “Shaped by the Catholic Benedictine heritage, The College of St. Scholastica provides intellectual and moral preparation for responsible living and meaningful work”. CSS is the second-largest school of nursing in the state of Minnesota. CSS currently offers a baccalaureate degree program with three tracks to earn the degree (traditional, post-baccalaureate, RN to BS), a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree with two tracks to earn the degree (BS to DNP with concentrations in Family Nurse Practitioner, Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner; and, post-masters), and post-graduate Advanced Practice Registered Nurse certificate program in Family Nurse Practitioner, Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, and Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner.

Essentia Health and The College of St. Scholastica have been partners in the community since both entities were founded in Duluth, MN by the Benedictine Sisters over a century ago. They share the Benedictine values of Hospitality, Respect, Stewardship, Community, and Love of Learning. These institutions and their interlocking relationships have permeated the Upper Midwest. This influence has been, and continues to be, most strongly felt in healthcare. Nursing was one of the first-degree programs offered at The College in collaboration with St. Mary’s Hospital. Essentia Health and The College of St. Scholastica have been responsive to the region’s, and nation’s, nursing workforce needs throughout history, including war and pandemic. As health care has evolved over the years, and become more complex, so too, has the nursing profession. This academic-practice partnership continues to grow and evolve to influence nursing and health care for the next century.