

HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENT AFFAIRS GRADUATE PROGRAM



ADMISSIONS TIMELINE

- Admissions deadline: March 1. To be considered for funding, scholarships, financial aid, and graduate assistantships, a completed application must be received by March 1.
- Admissions Review Process (offers and waitlist): March 1-April 1 (cohort size limited to 15 full-time students).
- Graduate Assistant Interview and Selection Period: April 1-May 1.
- Occasionally, students are admitted who do not meet the priority deadline. Contact the program director for details.

“WCU’s HESA Program gave me the tools I needed to be successful in the field of Higher Education. The curriculum provided clear connections between theory and practice, and I was given ample opportunities to build upon my curricular and co-curricular learning. The support and guidance I received developed my identity as a scholar-practitioner, as I became a full-time professional and eventually pursued my Ph.D.”

—Abi Aparajithan, 2012 Graduate

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What is Student Affairs?

Student affairs is a critical aspect of the higher education experience. The work done by student affairs professionals helps students begin a lifetime journey of growth and self-exploration. Student learning does not just happen in a classroom. Opportunities for teaching and development exist everywhere and at all times on campus, and it is our job to foster and promote these experiences. Encouraging an understanding and respect for diversity, a belief in the worth of individuals, and supporting our students in their needs are just some of the core concepts of the profession.

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A M.ED IN HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENT AFFAIRS?

Graduates of our program can work in a wide variety of settings in higher education student affairs, and some include the following:

- Academic & Career Advising
- Admissions & Recruitment
- Financial Aid
- Greek Life
- Multicultural Programs
- Orientation
- Residential Living
- Service Learning
- Student Leadership
- Tutoring & Disability Services

Our graduates are also prepared with a solid background to enter PhD/EdD programs in higher education/student affairs.

WHAT MAKES OUR PROGRAM DIFFERENT?

WCU's HESA Graduate Program is student-centered. Just as we teach the importance of holistic student development to aspiring student affairs professionals, we practice what we teach by facilitating meaningful classroom experiences and engaging out-of-classroom professional experiences (Internships and Graduate Assistantships). We are an intentionally small program (cohort-based) designed to:

- Maximize faculty-student interaction
- Foster significant scholarly learning experiences for students
- Offer guaranteed paid Graduate Assistantships to all qualified, full-time students

“A core component of WCU’s HESA program is preparing student affairs leaders who are practitioner-scholars. This philosophy translates into the rich diversity that make up the HESA faculty. The faculty include emerging leaders in student affairs scholarship and administrators in the field. The faculty often leverage their own professional networks by inviting field leaders as guest speakers, thus expanding students’ exposure and adding to what makes WCU’s HESA program special.”

—Devan Lalas, 2017 Graduate