

Master of Education: Student Affairs in Higher Education

The M.Ed. in Student Affairs in Higher Education program will prepare students for positions in academic advising, campus leadership, diversity services, student life, career services, financial management, and other leadership roles within higher education institutions. This program uniquely combines educational leadership courses and student affairs courses to develop student affairs professionals who make a positive impact in higher education. Coursework focuses on leadership development; administrative functions; applying theory to practice; social and cultural diversity; organizational theory; assessment; and current principles, approaches, and practices in student affairs. Distance education practicum experiences will provide real-world experience at the culmination of the program.

In addition to integrated coursework, students select an area of concentration from one of the following options: campus leadership, academic advising, and career coaching and services. Student learning outcomes and curriculum are aligned to American College Personnel Association (ACPA), National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA), and Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education (CAS) professional competency standards, depending on the concentration selected.

This program has specific admission requirements.

Degree Program Objectives

In addition to the institutional and degree level learning objectives, graduates of this program are expected to achieve these learning outcomes:

- Explain the history, values, and philosophy of student affairs as it connects to current professional practice.
- Apply student development theories relevant to student learning.
- Develop knowledge, skills, and dispositions relating to policy development, law, compliance, and governance structures in higher education.
- Demonstrate effective interpersonal skills and evidence-based strategies when advising diverse individuals and groups in higher education settings.
- Demonstrate leadership skills through envisioning, planning, and affecting change in higher education settings.
- Develop awareness and skills related to social justice and inclusion, which effect systemic change in higher education settings.
- Use organizational, management, and leadership theories and skills relevant in higher education settings.

- Demonstrate how to analyze current research, design research studies, use statistical methods, and interpret results accurately.
- Analyze data to inform programs and services in higher education settings.
- Use digital tools, resources, and technologies to advance student learning, development, and performance as a student affairs professional.

Use ethical standards and commitment to personal wellness and growth to develop and maintain integrity in personal and professional life.

Programmatic Admission Requirements

The following documentation is required for admission into M.Ed. in Student Affairs in Higher Education program, and must be provided prior to course registration:

- Official bachelor's transcript showing conferral of degree with a minimum GPA of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale, or a master's transcript showing conferral of degree
- Graduate writing sample
- 3 Completed Character Reference Forms

Please visit our AMU (<https://www.amu.apus.edu/admissions/graduate-requirements.html>) or APU (<https://www.apu.apus.edu/admissions/graduate-requirements.html>) graduate admission page for more information on institutional admission requirements.

Need help?

If you have questions regarding a program's admission requirements, please contact an admissions representative at 877-755-2787 or info@apus.edu.

Degree at a Glance

Code	Title	Semester Hours
	Core Requirements	21
	Select one of the following concentrations:	12
	Academic Advising (p. 2)	
	Campus Leadership (p. 2)	
	Career Coaching and Services (p. 2)	
	Final Program Requirements	3
	Total Semester Hours	36

Degree Program Requirements

Core Requirements (21 semester hours)

Code	Title	Semester Hours
EDUC511	Foundations of Higher Education ¹	3
SAHE510	Introduction to Student Affairs	3
SAHE515	The U.S. College Student	3
EDUC517	Ethics, Law, and Policies in Higher Education	3
EDUC640	Research Methods in Education	3
SAHE501	Student Development Theory	3
EDUC628	Social and Cultural Diversity Counseling	3
Total Semester Hours		21

¹ Required as the first course in the program

Students must choose a concentration for this degree program and may select from a Concentration in Academic Advising, Concentration in Campus Leadership, or Concentration in Career Coaching and Services.

Concentration in Academic Advising (12 semester hours)

Focuses on NACADA’s core competencies and values associated with academic advising in higher education settings. Conceptual, informational, and relationship components of advising are covered and applied to real-world scenarios. Topics include history of advising, relationship building, decision-making, goal setting, examining outcomes, advising approaches, and student learning and assessment.

Objectives

Upon successful completion of this concentration, the student will be able to:

- Develop a personal philosophy of academic advising in alignment with the core values, ethical standards, and core competencies of the profession.
- Apply academic advising theories and evidence-based strategies through experiential activities and Practicum experiences.

Concentration Requirements (12 semester hours)

Code	Title	Semester Hours
SAHE520	Introduction to Academic Advising	3
SAHE533	Academic Advising Theory and Practice	3

SAHE502	Student Learning and Assessment	3
EDUC645	Career Counseling and Development	3
Total Semester Hours		12

Concentration in Campus Leadership (12 semester hours)

Focuses on theories, models, and effective practices to serve in leadership roles within higher education settings and influence transformational change. Studies include effective administration, management, leadership, and supervision of higher education departments. Coursework topics include organizational leadership, transformational leadership and change, financial management, strategic planning, and evaluation of programs and data-driven decision-making.

Objectives

Upon successful completion of this concentration, the student will be able to:

- Demonstrate effective leadership skills in managing and supervising student affairs departments.
- Apply leadership models and theories in experiential activities and Practicum experiences.

Concentration Requirements (12 semester hours)

Code	Title	Semester Hours
EDUC604	Leadership in Higher Education	3
SAHE508	Organizations, Culture, and Change	3
EDUC516	Financial Management in Higher Education	3
SAHE506	Strategic Planning and Program Evaluation	3
Total Semester Hours		12

Concentration in Career Coaching and Services (12 semester hours)

Focuses on providing effective career coaching and services to students transitioning from educational settings into the world of work. Foundational coaching skills, theories of career development, and use of assessments associated with career coaching are covered.

Objectives

Upon successful completion of this concentration, the student will be able to:

- Apply theory and evidence-based strategies in career coaching/ services through experiential activities and Practicum experiences.
- Apply coaching approaches to assist in career development and exploration in higher education.

Concentration Requirements (12 semester hours)

Code	Title	Semester Hours
EDUC536	Foundations of Coaching	3
EDUC633	Emotional Intelligence and Coaching Assessments	3
EDUC645	Career Counseling and Development	3
EDUC635	Coaching Groups and Teams	3
Total Semester Hours		12

Final Program Requirements (3 semester hours)

Code	Title	Semester Hours
SAHE698	Practicum	3
Total Semester Hours		3

¹ Taken once all other requirements have been met.