Mission of the Higher Education & Student Affairs Administration MA Program

The Master of Arts degree in Higher Education & Student Affairs Administration is designed to prepare students for a variety of student affairs positions in postsecondary institutions. Our program emphasizes social justice and service to diverse student populations at various types of institutions. In addition, although the goal of this master’s program is to prepare student affairs educators with a broad understanding of the role of student affairs and student development in postsecondary education, the practicum and internship experiences allow students to explore specific interests and enhance their skills in more specific areas.

Goals of the Higher Education & Student Affairs Administration MA Program

Recognizing the breadth of possible experiences and positions within student affairs, the MA program in Student Affairs Administration is developed around the competencies of ACPA and NASPA, the two primary student affairs professional associations. The program conforms to the norms and standards found in the Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education.

There are 13 goals of the MA program:

- To understand and articulate the role of student affairs in the context of postsecondary education
- To reference historical and current documents that state the philosophical foundations of the profession and communicate their relevance to current student affairs practice
- To articulate the inherent values of the profession that are stipulated in historical and current documents in a manner that indicates how these values guide practice
- To understand complexities of diversity and inclusion as they affect higher education and student affairs
- To demonstrate the ability to use appropriate theory (e.g., student development, organizational, learning, leadership, etc.) and data-based decision making to assist institutions in accomplishing their missions
- To demonstrate a flexible capacity to use skill sets (e.g., technology, distance learning, communication, etc.) to deliver programs and services that engage students and foster student learning and development
- To analyze, understand, create, and/or modify learning environments.
- To use appropriate theory to understand, support, and advocate for student learning and development
- To assess learning and developmental needs and outcomes
- To demonstrate knowledge of the influence of student characteristics and collegiate environments on student learning and learning opportunities
- To demonstrate knowledge, skills, and awareness of resources necessary to design and evaluate effective educational interventions and/or programs for individuals and groups
- To demonstrate the ability to identify and appropriately refer persons who need additional resources
• To demonstrate knowledge of and the ability to apply a code of ethics or ethical principles sanctioned by a recognized professional organization.

In our Higher Education & Student Affairs Administration programs, our faculty seek to:

• Enhance professional competence and communication skills
• Promote social justice
• Meet the needs of diverse learners
• Engage and encourage reflective practice
• Maintain a constructivist emphasis in teaching and learning
• Encourage partnerships and collegiality

Our educational community values:

• Using the process of critical self-reflection for growth in professional practice and competence
• Respect for the uniqueness of all individuals
• Ethical advocacy on behalf of individuals or groups experiencing discrimination

To that end, we expect all graduates of our programs will be able to:

• Advance social justice & inclusion practices within their campus community
• Promote stakeholder development (student, alumni, donor, faculty, staff, administrator, community, etc.)
• Enhance the organization and administration of their university/college
• Engage in independent and collaborative assessment, evaluation, and research

Program Admissions Requirements

1. Official transcripts of all academic work completed at other regionally accredited institutions of higher education, with a GPA of 3.0 or better overall undergraduate GPA; if a student has a cumulative overall GPA between 2.5-3.0 but has a 3.0 or better for the last two years of undergraduate work, they may be offered conditional admission. Students should also have a GPA of 3.0 or better in any graduate study beyond the baccalaureate degree.

2. Three (3) official recommendations from supervisors, faculty, or professionals who can comment on and attest to the applicant's ability to engage in graduate level work. Note that recommendations cannot come from family members.

3. International students, whose native language is not English, must provide a TOEFL score of 550 or higher and demonstrate through the required written documentation and interview that they have requisite verbal and analytical skills needed to successfully complete the program.
4. A written statement outlining applicant's professional experiences, including any relevant experiences in student affairs and higher education, specific career goals in higher education, and how achieving a master's through Morgan State University's program will assist in accomplishing those career goals.

5. A current resume or curriculum vita, documenting professional experiences.

6. A writing sample, such as a course paper, publication, or research proposal abstracts. If applicant does not have a recent writing sample, applicants are asked to respond to the following questions in a 3-5-page essay: What do you see as three (3) major trends or issues facing higher education and student affairs? What are the implications of these trends/issues for campuses (including students, faculty, staff, or other constituents)?

7. A personal interview with program faculty may be required.

Visit the Graduate School page to apply today!

Fall Admission Application Deadline: March 1 (ALL application materials must be received by this date for consideration)

Please note that we will only consider MA students for fall admission.