txstate.edu/clas/Student-Affairs

Department of Counseling, Leadership, Adult Education and School Psychology

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Texas State University offers a master of education degree in student affairs in higher education that prepares graduates to work in post-secondary and higher education student affairs and student support services.

This comprehensive, cohort-based, application-oriented program is grounded in student development and learning theory. It celebrates diversity in faculty and student background, experience and culture and offers practical exposure to the array of careers in student affairs. The innovative curriculum encourages active student participation, is shaped by practitioners and is responsive to research, trends and new approaches in the field of student affairs.

The program meets preparation standards set forth by the Council for Advancement of Standards in Higher Education (CAS) and ACPA: College Student Educators International.

“Texas State feels like home. There is a sense of pride that runs deep in the community. We are still growing, and the opportunities are endless, the support is tangible and genuine, and though we are a big school, it feels tightly knit and close. The connection with cohort members and my future colleagues was instant. I began the SAHE program feeling like we were this unique family, and I knew I did not want to go anywhere else; this is where I belonged. It has been one of the best decisions I have ever made.”

— Tricia Rodriguez 2011 Alumna
Course Work
The master of education in student affairs in higher education requires 45 credit hours. Courses are taken in a cohort model and include the following:

 Foundations (12 hours)
- SAHE 5390: Student Affairs Functions and Professional Orientation
- SAHE 7339: Foundations of Higher Education Administration
- SAHE 7340: College Student Development: Theory and Practice
- COUN 5391: Research Methods

 Professional Studies (21 hours)
- SAHE 5354: Basic Helping Skills
- SAHE 5311: Advising and Facilitating Diverse Student Groups and Organizations
- SAHE 5322: Governance and Legal Issues in Higher Education
- SAHE 5393: Diverse Students and the College Experience
- SAHE 5323: Assessment, Strategic Planning and Evaluation in Student Affairs
- SAHE 7335: Leadership in Student Affairs
- SAHE 5392: Student Affairs Capstone: The Application of Principles and Theories to Case Studies

 Theory to Practice (6 hours)
SAHE 5388: Internship-Student Affairs

Students participate in two internship experiences. Each internship includes 135 clock hours in a student affairs or academic affairs department at Texas State or at nearby colleges or universities.

 Electives (6 hours)
Students select electives from a variety of graduate-level courses offered in various departments across campus.

As a culminating experience, students are required to present a comprehensive case study analysis to a panel of faculty members and practitioners, frequently including deans, vice presidents and directors.

Faculty
Classes are taught by a combination of full-time faculty members and professionals who hold prestigious positions at Texas State. The latter include vice presidents, assistant vice presidents, deans and directors. The nationally recognized faculty actively participate in major professional associations. They are committed to advancing student learning and providing opportunities for professional and personal development. They challenge each student academically, fostering a climate of high expectations reinforced by personal support, care and professional mentoring.

Student Organization
The Graduate Student Affairs Council (GSAC) offers a support structure for current and incoming graduate students studying or working in the field of student affairs. GSAC provides social, professional and academic opportunities to enhance the holistic development of student affairs professionals of the future. The organization upholds the ethics of the profession by promoting diversity and adhering to the Principles of Good Practice for Student Affairs.

Graduate Assistantships
Departmental support, networking and professional development opportunities create an environment and learning structure that make the student affairs in higher education program unique. When applying to the program, applicants have an opportunity to apply and interview for graduate assistantships in the Division of Student Affairs and the Division of Academic Affairs. Assistantship openings vary each year. Applicants may interview for positions including, but not limited to, the following:
- Academic Advising, Mentoring and Coaching
- Bobcat Preview, Assessment, Leadership and Marketing
- Campus Recreation
- Career Services
- Dean of Students Office
- Disability Services
- First-Year Experience
- Greek Affairs
- Housing and Residential Life
- LBJ Student Center
- Leadership Programs
- Retention Management and Planning
- Student Diversity and Inclusion
- Student Involvement
- Student Learning Assistance Center

Career Options
Graduates of the program are prepared for careers in the following functional areas:
- academic advising
- admissions
- campus activities and student organizations
- campus student center/student union
- disability student services
- learning assistance programs
- LGBTQIA student services
- multicultural student affairs
- orientation and first-year programs
- parent and family orientation
- recreational sports
- residential life/housing
- retention services
- service learning and community engagement programs
- student conduct programs
- student leadership programs
- veteran student services
- women’s centers
Admission Policy

Each year, the admissions committee recommends 15 to 20 new students for admission to the student affairs in higher education program for the fall semester. The program is cohort-based and full-time. Students attend all classes together until they graduate from Texas State. Graduates of the program enjoy the cohort model, as it enhances their professional development opportunities and unifies students in experience, support and student programming.

In addition to the general requirements for admission to the Texas State Graduate College, the program requires a GPA of 3.0 or higher in the last 60 hours of undergraduate course work and a preferred Graduate Record Exam (GRE) score.

Applicants will be reviewed holistically. Each applicant must submit the following directly to The Graduate College:

• ApplyTexas application and application fee
• one official transcript from each college or university attended.
• official GRE score with a preferred score of 295 with no less than 150 on the verbal section, 145 on the quantitative section and 4.0 on the analytical writing section
• résumé
• statement of purpose
• three professional recommendations (recommendation form and letter)

Visit www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/apply for access to an online application, instructions for submitting application documents and additional details. Applications are due January 15 for the fall semester. Applications may be accepted after this date in special circumstances only.

Once all application materials are received, the admissions committee will review all applications in full. After the initial review of applications, qualified applicants will be invited to campus during the spring semester for in-person interviews for the program and for open graduate assistantships. For more information, visit the program website at www.txstate.edu/clas/Student-Affairs.

Financial Assistance

Faculty encourage students to obtain a graduate assistantship, which includes a monthly salary. Out-of-state and international students who hold graduate assistantship positions qualify for an out-of-state tuition waiver. Contact the program coordinator with questions regarding benefits packages for graduate assistants. Most students enrolled in the program receive some form of financial assistance (graduate assistantship, fellowship, out-of-state tuition waiver and/or scholarship).

For more information about scholarships, financial aid and application deadlines, visit The Graduate College website at www.gradcollege.txstate.edu and click on Financing Your Graduate Education. For more information on tuition and fees, visit www.catsweb.txstate.edu.