Degrees Available at SIUE
- Master of Science in Education in College Student Personnel Administration

Program Format
Evening classes are offered in fixed cohort for full-time and fluid cohort for part-time students. A mix of web-assisted and online courses are offered. However, the majority of classes are traditional, on-campus classes.

College Student Personnel Administration at SIUE
The College Student Personnel Administration (CSPA) program prepares its graduates for entry and mid-level professional positions in higher education administration in student affairs. At program completion, CSPA students are expected to have the knowledge, skills and perspectives to serve college students and to foster the learning and development of college students in a wide variety of student affairs areas. These areas include, but are not limited to, student life, residence life, career development, advising, financial aid, and social and recreational programs.

Successful completion leads to a Master of Science in Education (MSEd) in college student personnel administration. The program follows the standards set by the Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education, which ensures academic rigor and quality of learning.

The CSPA curriculum consists of the following core components: Student development, social justice and inclusion, advising and support, and research and assessment with an emphasis on student development and social justice.

The program also has a strong focus on social justice and student development, grounded in the ACPA/NASPA Professional Competencies. The CSPA program fosters a strong commitment to increasing awareness of the diversity of student populations and to social justice. Diversity and social justice concepts are specifically addressed across the curriculum and more intentionally within two specific courses: College Student Development and Diversity in Higher Education. The CSPA program is dedicated to addressing the intersectionality of identity, gender expression, gender preference, socioeconomic class, privilege and culture.

Students also develop an individualized capstone project to connect theory to practice under the supervision of faculty members. Students will also complete a comprehensive portfolio, which will drive their own professional development and progression toward meeting the professional competencies.

Program Learning Outcomes
The CSPA program features a distinctive graduate experience, which requires core coursework, a professional portfolio and a final research project integrated within a 39 credit hour curriculum. The CSPA curriculum is distributed across the “core four” competencies. All competencies are adapted from the ACPA/NASPA competencies (2010).

Student Development
- The CSPA program addresses concepts and principles of student development and learning theory.
- CSPA faculty members teach students to apply theory to improve and inform student affairs and teaching practice.
- Students engage in applied research in EPFR 503 and EPFR 506.

Social Justice and Inclusion
- Social justice is defined by ACPA/NASPA as the equitable distribution of resources so that all individuals are safe and secure, both physically and psychologically.
- Inclusion is defined by ACPA/NASPA as a process that challenges the normativity of dominant groups by recognizing all groups and populations as diverse relative to one another.
- The CSPA program adheres to these professional definitions in the practice of student affairs and higher education administration.
- Students explore these themes in EDAD 504 and EPFR 522.

Advising and Supporting
- Classes address the knowledge, skills and dispositions related to providing advising and support to students and groups through intrusive and developmental approaches.
- Students explore these approaches in EDAD 574, EDAD 524 and EPFR 516.

Research and Assessment
- Classes focus on the ability to design, conduct, critique and use various AER methodologies and the results obtained from them.
- AER processes and results are used to inform practice.
- Students engage in applied research in EPFR 503 and EPFR 506.

The CSPA program requires a research core sequence of:
- Assessment and program evaluation
- Research methods in higher education
- Final project
Students develop an individualized final research project focused on contemporary or historical issues in higher education through the authorship of a master’s paper, which serves as an integrative capstone experience. The final research project is a one-year research sequence supervised by a full-time faculty member.

Career Opportunities
Jobs included in this category are entry-level professionals and other positions in multiple areas in colleges and universities, such as financial aid, housing, career services, social and recreational programs, advising, leadership programs, Greek life, service learning, international programs, and others. Recent graduates have found employment as academic advisors, residence hall directors, first-year experience coordinators and in student activities at both private and public postsecondary institutions.

Why Choose SIUE
• Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion: The CSPA program fosters a strong commitment to increasing awareness of the diversity of student populations and to social justice. The SIUE campus has been recognized regularly for its commitment to diversity. The University received the 2019 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) award from INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education. SIUE’s LBGT-Friendly Campus Climate index score is 4.5 out of 5 stars.
• Location and Affordability: SIUE is located 25 minutes from downtown St. Louis, allowing graduate students to benefit from the boundless opportunities St. Louis offers. In-state tuition is available for all U.S. graduate students.

Hands-on Learning
Professional Experiences
Students complete a 300-hour experience distributed across two distinctive courses for EDAD 554 (Practicum Course). They complete 150 hours in each course. Full-time students will typically fulfill all the hours, and part-time students must complete approximately 90 of the hours, as they can count some previous or current working positions toward the hourly requirement. Students may hold a practicum experience across more than 15 offices, 20 programs and 30 functional areas on campus at SIUE. Additionally, students can hold a practicum experience at several neighboring institutions within the St. Louis Metropolitan Area. All colleges are within an approximate 30-40 minute drive of SIUE. The CSPA program offers placements across a diversity of institutional types including private, public, professional colleges, community colleges and historically black colleges and universities (HBCU). Practicum experiences are limited to public, professional colleges, community colleges and historically black placements across a diversity of institutional types including private, public, professional colleges, community colleges and historically black colleges and universities (HBCU). Practicum. The practicum involves a minimum of 300 hours of work, typically distributed across two distinctive courses for EDAD 554 (Practicum Course). The practicum is a one-year research sequence supervised by a full-time faculty member.

Graduate Assistantships
Students have access to more than 50 assistantships at SIUE in the Offices of Enrollment Management, Student Affairs and Intercollegiate Athletics. A special collaboration across campus provides preference to open positions for CSPA students, but are not guaranteed. All assistantships provide a stipend, and tuition waivers are provided to help subsidize the cost of higher education. Additional off-campus opportunities exist at partner institutions within the St. Louis region. Residence Life Associate Hall Director positions also provide housing and a meal plan.

The placement process typically begins each spring semester in March. If you are interested in an assistantship, it is important to apply to be considered for admission prior to this date. For more information, please visit the CSPA website.

Admission Requirements
• Graduate School application and $40 fee
• Submission of all postsecondary academic transcripts
• Successful completion of a bachelor’s degree prior to enrollment
• Undergraduate GPA of at least 2.5 or above on a 4.0 scale
• Statement of Purpose: A list of professional experiences and a two-page, double-spaced written statement describing why you would like to enter the program
• International applicants may present a degree that is comparable to the U.S. baccalaureate, granted by an internationally recognized institution of higher learning. International applicants whose native language is not English must submit Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) scores taken within two years prior to the desired term of admission. The minimum TOEFL scores are 550 (paper), 213 (computer-based), and 79-80 (Internet-based). In lieu of the TOEFL, an applicant may demonstrate a Total Band Score of 6.5 on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS).

Program application materials may be uploaded during the application process, but official transcripts must be sent directly from the school attended, and test scores must be verifiable with the appropriate testing service. Please contact the Graduate Admissions office with questions regarding the application submission process at graduateadmissions@siue.edu.

If you are looking for a graduate assistantship, please contact Dr. Pietro Sasso, graduate program coordinator.

Be sure to track your admission status and contact the CSPA program to enroll once you have received your admission letter.

Application Deadline
The program uses a flexible cohort model, which means that a new cohort of students begins each summer. However, applicants may enroll in fall and spring semesters if space is available. The deadline is approximately one month before classes begin.

Graduation Requirements
• Passing a written comprehensive exam
• Completion of two three-hour courses culminating in a final research project that is successfully defended before a three-person faculty committee.

Curriculum
Required Courses (27 hours)
• (3) EDAD 504-History, Philosophy, and Organization of Higher Education
• (3) EDAD 524-Legal and Ethical Issues in Student Affairs
• (3) EDAD 564-The Community College*
• (3) EDAD 574-Leadership and Administration in Higher Education
• (3) EPFR 503-Research Methods in Higher Education
• (3) EPFR 506-Assessment and Evaluation in Student Affairs
• (3) EPFR 514-College Student Learning and Development
• (3) EPFR 516-Individual and Group Dynamics
• (3) EPFR 522-Diversity in Higher Education

*EDAD 564 may be replaced by an approved elective

Research Project (6 hours)
• (6) EDAD 594-Final Research Project

The student will select three faculty members to serve as the committee for the research project.

Practicum (6 hours)
• (6) EDAD 554-Practicum

All students must complete a minimum of six credits of EDAD 554 Practicum. The practicum involves a minimum of 300 hours of supervised field work in at least two different placements. Exceptions may be made for students who have been employed previously in higher education student affairs for at least six months. Such students may substitute an additional elective in place of their second EDAD 554 practicum.

Contact Information
Department of Educational Leadership
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Phone: 618-650-3288 or 618-650-2741

siue.edu/grad/college-student-personnel