

College Student Personnel Administration

Degrees Available at SIUE

- Master of Science in Education in College Student Personnel Administration

Program Format

Evening classes are offered for both full-time and part-time students. A mix of hybrid and online courses are offered. However, many classes are 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 athletic 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 program curriculum consists of the following core components: student development; social justice and inclusion; advising and support; and assessment, evaluation and research with an emphasis on critical social justice.

Diversity and critical social justice concepts are addressed across the curriculum specifically within the College Student Development and Diversity in Higher Education courses. 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, driven by their professional growth and development throughout the program.

Program Learning Outcomes

The CSPA program features a distinctive graduate experience, which requires core coursework, a professional portfolio and a final capstone project. The CSPA curriculum is distributed across the four competencies adapted from ACPA/NASPA Professional Competencies.

Student Affairs and Teaching Practice

- Students explore student populations and theories in EPFR 514.

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.

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.

Students develop an individualized final capstone project focused on contemporary or historical issues in higher education. The final capstone project is a one-year research sequence supervised by a full-time faculty member.

What can I do with a degree in college student personnel administration?

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, intercollegiate athletics, advising, fraternity and sorority life, 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.



School of Education,
Health and Human Behavior
Department of Educational Leadership



Graduate Faculty Cheresse F. Fine, PhD

Black college student experiences; organizational and socio-cultural aspects of intercollegiate athletics and higher education
2015, Clemson University

Graduate Program Co-Director Candace Hall, EdD

Faculty research productivity, development of innovative teaching strategies, faculty-student engagement within and outside the classroom
2020, Maryville University

Derek A. Houston, PhD

2016, University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana

Laurel D. Puchner, PhD

Women's literacy in developing countries, professional development of teachers, action research, how higher education leaders view their own and their institutions' efforts to promote diversity and to meet the needs of diverse students
1998, University of Pennsylvania

Graduate Program Co-Director J.T. Snipes, PhD

Faith and disbelief among university students; learning partnerships and transformative learning experiences; responses to bias incidents in higher education
2017, Indiana University



GRADUATE SCHOOL

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 2020 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) award from *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education. SIUE joins a select group of 33 institutions that have earned the distinction for at least seven consecutive years. SIUE's LGBT-Friendly Campus Climate index score is 4.5 out of 5 stars. SIUE's Gender Identity/Expression score is 4 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 six credit hours of EDAD 54: Practicum & Professional Development. Full-time students fulfill field hours in the summer semester of their first year in the graduate program. The second course is taken during the last semester of the program to focus on professional development within the field of student affairs. Part-time students with professional experience in higher education and student affairs can substitute the practicum sequence with elective coursework.

Graduate Assistantships

Students can apply for assistantships through the graduate school. Most assistantships provide a stipend and tuition waivers subsidize the cost of higher education. Additional off-campus opportunities may be available at partner institutions within the St. Louis region.

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.

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

Application Deadline

This program uses a rolling admissions model. Students may enroll in fall, spring or summer. 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.

Required Credit Hours/Tuition and Fees

- 39
- Visit siue.edu/graduate-tuition for detailed tuition information

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 maximum 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