

Higher Education & Student Affairs

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

SIUE



siue.edu/hesa

Higher Education and Student Affairs at SIUE

The higher education and student affairs (HESA) program prepares its graduates for entry and mid-level professional positions in higher education administration in student affairs.

At program completion, HESA students are expected to have the knowledge, skills and perspectives to serve college students and foster their learning and development 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
- Athletic programs

This program follows the standards set by the Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education. The program curriculum is centered around four core components adapted from ACPA/NASPA professional competencies:

- Student development
- Social justice and inclusion
- Advising and support
- Assessment, evaluation and research with an emphasis on critical social justice

The mission of the HESA program is to develop a strong academic community of critical scholar-practitioners to advance social justice in their practice of higher education and student affairs. We seek to develop socially just scholar-practitioners who are highly engaged in the field of higher education and student affairs. Diversity and critical social justice concepts are addressed across the curriculum, specifically in the college student development and diversity in higher education courses. We are dedicated to addressing issues of social injustice intersectionally and examining how race, gender, class, sexual orientation, religion and other forms of oppression overlap fortifying a matrix of domination.

Degrees Available at SIUE

- Master of Science in Education in Higher Education and Student Affairs

Specialization

- Athletics

Post-Baccalaureate Certificate

- Athletic Leadership

Program Format

Evening classes are offered for both full-time and part-time students. A mix of traditional, hybrid and online courses are offered.

The athletics specialization and the post-baccalaureate certificate in athletic leadership are offered fully online.

Program Learning Outcomes

The HESA program features a distinctive graduate experience, which requires core coursework, a professional portfolio and a final capstone project.

Students develop an individualized final capstone project focused on contemporary or historical issues in higher education. The final capstone project is supervised by a faculty member.

What can I do with a degree in higher education and student affairs?

Jobs included in this category are entry-level professional positions in multiple areas in colleges and universities, such as:

- Financial aid
- Housing
- Career services
- Intercollegiate athletics
- Advising
- Fraternity and sorority life
- International programs

Recent graduates have found employment as academic advisors; residence hall directors; first-year experience coordinators; and student activities coordinators at both private and public postsecondary institutions.

Why Choose SIUE

- **Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion:** The HESA 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 2022 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 11 institutions that have earned the distinction for at least nine consecutive years. The non-profit group Campus Pride ranked SIUE in the top 100 among the 2021 Most Affordable LGBTQ-Friendly Colleges and Universities. SIUE's LGBTQ-Friendly Campus Climate index and Sexual Orientation scores are 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 HESA 554: Practicum and Professional Development. Full-time students fulfill field hours in the summer semester of their first year in the graduate program. During the last semester of the program, students will take a professional development capstone (3 credit hours). Only full-time students are required to complete the practicum field hour requirement. Part-time students with professional experience can substitute practicum coursework for elective coursework.

Graduate Assistantships

Students can apply for assistantships through the graduate school. Most assistantships provide a stipend and tuition waivers to subsidize the cost of higher education.

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 responding to both of the following prompts:
 - (1) What do you hope to learn in the program?
 - (2) What areas in higher education are you interested in pursuing and why?
- 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).

Please note international students are ineligible to receive a student visa for the MEd in Higher Education & Student Affairs with the specialization in Athletics.

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.

Application Deadline

This program operates on rolling admission. Applicants may enroll in fall and spring semesters if space is available.

Graduation Requirements

- Create and present a portfolio based on academic and professional experiences gained throughout the program.
- Complete a six credit hour sequence culminating in a final research project.

Required Credit Hours/Tuition and Fees

- 42
- Visit siue.edu/graduate-tuition for detailed tuition information

Curriculum: MEd in Higher Education and Student Affairs - Traditional Option

Required Courses (27 hours)

- (3) HESA 504 - Foundations of Higher Education
- (3) HESA 524 - Legal and Ethical Issues in Student Affairs
- (3) HESA 564 - The Community College*
- (3) HESA 574 - Introduction to Student Affairs
- (3) HESA 503 - Research Methods in Higher Education
- (3) HESA 506 - Assessment and Evaluation in Student Affairs
- (3) HESA 514 - College Student Learning and Development
- (3) HESA 516 - Leadership Theory and Practice in Higher Education
- (3) HESA 522 - Diversity in Higher Education

*HESA 564 may be replaced by an approved elective

Research Project (6 hours)

- (6) HESA 594 - Final Research Project

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

Practicum (6 hours)

- (6) HESA554 - Practicum and Professional Development
- All students must complete a maximum of six credits of HESA 554 Practicum. The practicum involves a minimum of 150 hours of supervised field work (3 credit hours). During the last semester of the program, students will take a professional development capstone (3 credit hours). Exceptions may be made for students who have been employed previously in higher education and student affairs for at least six months. Such students may substitute an additional elective in place of the HESA 554 practicum.

Electives (3 hours)

- (3) HESA 563 - Special Topics
- (3) HESA 583 - Organization and Administration of Higher Education

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Contact Information

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