



WESTERN
ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COLLEGE STUDENT PERSONNEL

Higher Values in Higher Education
Academic Excellence • Educational Opportunity
Personal Growth • Social Responsibility

The mission of the College Student Personnel program at Western Illinois University is to produce outstanding entry-level student affairs practitioners who possess the knowledge and skills to facilitate the learning and development of students. Preparation is guided by an understanding of college student diversity and the dynamic nature of higher education.



Macomb Campus

Admission Requirements

- Applicants may qualify as potential degree candidates in the College Student Personnel (CSP) program if their overall undergraduate cumulative GPA is at least 2.75 or if their last two years of undergraduate work is 3.0 or higher. These are minimum requirements, and students with lower GPAs may not be granted an interview given the competitive nature of the program.
- Applicants are required to submit three letters of reference; at least one of these must be from a faculty member who is familiar with the applicant's academic ability.
- An essay entitled "My Interest in College Student Personnel Work" will be used to assess the applicant's interest and fit in student development.
- Approximately 20 students are admitted annually to the program. Due to the sequence of courses and graduate assistantship assignments, only full-time students are normally accepted for fall semester admission. Students who want to attend on a part-time basis should consult with the program coordinator to request special consideration.
- **Since admission is competitive and limited, application materials must arrive at the CSP office by February 1 for guaranteed consideration. This includes the separate, but related, process of applying to the School of Graduate Studies.**
- The CSP program at Western is committed to the recruitment and selection of students throughout North America who are representative of our diverse and pluralistic society.

Degree Requirements

Students admitted to the CSP program must complete 48 semester hours (SH) of coursework, allowing two academic years to finish the degree. Thirty-three semester hours of directed coursework in CSP, an internship (6 SH), at least one practicum (2 SH), research methods (3 SH), and 4 SH of electives (selected from CSP, the behavioral sciences, business administration, counselor education, or other areas specific to career goals in consultation with adviser) are required.

Professional Affiliations and Career Opportunities

Alumni from Western Illinois University's CSP program are employed in every functional area of student affairs, and some have assumed academic responsibilities such as teaching. Our alumni find employment from coast to coast, from the smallest private institutions to the largest universities. Alumni are active in their campus community and also in professional organizations for the field. Some professional organizations that CSP students may join include Western Illinois Student Personnel Association (WISPA), National Orientation Directors Association (NODA), American College Personnel Association (ACPA), Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education (NASPA), Association of College and University Housing Officers—International (ACUHO-I), and National Association of Campus Activities (NACA).

Distinctive Features

- High placement rates
- 45+ graduate assistantships available in 17 offices on Western's campus; assistantships include a tuition waiver and stipend
- A strong network of dedicated and involved alumni
- Theory-to-practice focus with diverse opportunities for assistantships, internships, and practica
- Award-winning faculty, professional student affairs staff, and students

“The exceptional opportunities for classroom learning are matched by the application of that learning in assistantships and practicums, making the two years of graduate school at Western a terrific foundation for a career in student affairs.”

— Kathryn Cavins, Vice President of Student Affairs,
Dean of Students, Illinois Wesleyan College

WIU.EDU/CSP



Assistantship Opportunities

All CSP students are required to hold an assistantship in the Division of Student Services to fulfill the teaching philosophy of the program. The Division of Student Services provides activities and programs that enhance the academic mission of Western Illinois University. Offices in the division include Admission, Athletics, Beu Health Center, Campus Recreation, Career Services, Casa Latina Cultural Center, Disability Support Services, Electronic Student Services, Financial Aid, Go West Transit, Gwendolyn Brooks Cultural Center, Harry Mussatto Golf Course, Olson Conference Center, Sodexo Campus Services, Student Activities, Student Assistance and Parent Services, Student Development and Orientation, Student Judicial Programs, Student Legal Services, University Counseling Center, University Housing and Dining Services, University Union, University Union Bookstore, and the Women’s Center.

Western Illinois University is an Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity employer with a strong commitment to diversity. In that spirit, we are particularly interested in receiving applications from a broad spectrum of people, including, but not limited to, minorities, women, and individuals with disabilities. WIU has a non-discrimination policy that includes sex, race, color, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, religion, age, marital status, national origin, disability, or veteran status.

Teaching Philosophy

The program has a theory-to-practice orientation that includes coursework in student development theory, group dynamics, philosophy of higher education, organization and administration of student affairs, multicultural issues, counseling theory and techniques, and research methods. Individuals are prepared to work as student affairs professionals in a variety of student settings,

including residence life, student activities, Greek affairs, admissions, academic advising, orientation, and multicultural student programs.

The CSP program meets the standards established by the Council for the Advancement of Standards (CAS) for student services and developmental programs, and it provides quality preparation for immediate employment in student affairs as well as a sound background for individuals interested in pursuing future doctoral degrees in college student personnel or higher education.



Kathryn Cavins

Featured Alumni

I am a proud graduate of the Western Illinois University College Student Personnel program. The beauty of the WIU theory-to-practice program is that the entire campus is your learning lab!

Western Illinois University has been a leader in the field of College Student Personnel for many years, and while other programs attempt to copy this format, rarely do they produce the talent that graduates from Western Illinois University. It is easy to see the mark that WIU-CSP has had in higher education and the leadership its grads have brought to colleges and universities, national associations, and advocacy groups. There is something special about a WIU grad!

— Kathryn Cavins, Vice President of Student Affairs
and Dean of Students at Illinois Wesleyan College

Contact Information

For admissions process and general program information, contact the School of Graduate Studies, Western Illinois University, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455, (309) 298-1806, Grad-Office@wiu.edu, wiu.edu/grad.

For specific program questions, contact the Program Coordinator, Department of Educational and Interdisciplinary Studies, College Student Personnel Program, Western Illinois University, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455, (309) 298-1183, CSP@wiu.edu, wiu.edu/csp.