

Master of Science in College Student Personnel



The College Student Personnel (CSP) program at Western Illinois University prepares and graduates effective leaders and reflective practitioners doing socially and ethically responsible work in the field of student affairs. Students who graduate from the CSP program will be able to:

- Identify approaches to address contemporary issues facing higher education;
- Articulate histories, values and philosophies of higher education;
- Study leadership (as a role and process) and demonstrate its application for creating learning environments that support the inclusion of all students and members of campus communities, (virtual or in-person) while attending to issues of privilege, power and oppression;
- Define, observe and identify the implications of organizational and human resources including, but not limited to: policies, practices, procedures and structures;
- Gather, apply and deploy methods of research and assessment to improve, shape and benefit student learning and higher education; and
- Describe the concepts and principles of student development and learning theories that advance intrapersonal, interpersonal and cognitive complexity.

Program Distinctions

- Established in 1970, the program has graduated almost 1,000 alumni.
- The two-year Master of Science program meets the requirements of the Council for the Advancement of Standards, the most comprehensive and rigorous preparation program standards established specifically for student affairs work.
- A holistic educational approach emphasizes the *ACPA/NASPA Professional Competency Areas for Student Affairs Practitioners* in the classroom and practical experiences.
- One hundred percent of graduates who choose to work in student affairs are typically able to secure positions within three months of graduation.
- The CSP program has a theory-to-practice orientation that includes coursework in:
 - Student development theory
 - Leadership development
 - Group dynamics
 - Philosophy and history of higher education
 - Organization and administration of student affairs
 - Multicultural competency
 - Counseling theory and techniques
 - Research methods

Our graduates are prepared to begin and advance their student affairs careers in a variety of settings including residence life, student activities, Greek affairs, admissions and student recruitment, academic advising, orientation, multicultural student programs, study abroad, student retention, gender programming, career development, student union management and experiential education.

The program offers a full-time option for emerging professionals who want to gain professional, hands-on

field experience, and a part-time option for professionals who are currently engaged in student affairs work.

College Student Personnel: Student Affairs

- The Student Affairs option provides students with the classroom and professional experiences needed to enter and advance in the field of student affairs.
- A theory-to-practice model means students have a space and place to apply classroom learning facilitated through a full-time assistantship and practica experiences—required components of this track.
- In small cohorts of 22-25, students learn, work and support each other as scholars and student affairs professionals.
- Assistantships, practica and summer internship opportunities provide up to 1,300 hours of training through five hands-on experiences during the two-year program.
- CSP: Student Affairs is a high-residency, full-time graduate school option, based at the WIU-Macomb campus.

College Student Personnel: Higher Education Leadership

- The Higher Education Leadership option serves the educational and logistical needs of professionals who are currently engaged in student affairs (or closely related) work in a professional capacity.
- The Higher Education Leadership track enrolls new students bi-annually (Fall 2019, Fall 2021, etc.).
- A theory-to-practice model means the application of classroom concepts to real-world student affairs work is a critical part of classroom discussions and course assignments.
- In a small cohort of professionals, students learn and support each other as scholars and professionals.

Program Location:
Macomb, Quad Cities

Contact Information

Questions about the program:

Department of Educational Studies
CSP Program Office
(309) 298-2848
csp@wiu.edu
wiu.edu/csp

General admission questions:

School of Graduate Studies
(309) 298-1806 or (877) WIU GRAD
Grad-Office@wiu.edu
wiu.edu/grad

Higher Values in Higher Education

Academic Excellence
Educational Opportunity
Personal Growth
Social Responsibility



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- CSP: Higher Education Leadership courses are offered in a part-time, low-residency, weekend model that blends in-person and online learning environments, based on the WIU-Quad Cities campus.

Career Opportunities

In the CSP program, students develop student affairs skills through academic inquiry and hands-on training (theory-to-practice) giving access to the practice, knowledge and skills to be a student affairs practitioner in a wide range of settings.

Here are a few examples of where alumni are making a difference in their communities:

- Admission counselor, University of Illinois–Urbana-Champaign
- Associate director of housing administration, Baylor University (TX)
- Orientation and First-Year Experience coordinator, University of Calgary (Canada)
- Associate director of alumnae/i relations, Dominican University (IL)
- Residential life coordinator, San Jose State University (CA)
- Student organizations advisor, Evergreen State University (WA)
- Associate dean of students, Eureka College (IL)
- Academic advisor, Texas State University
- Director of education, International Fraternity of Phi Gamma Delta (KY)
- Resident coordinator, State University of New York (SUNY Purchase)
- Greek life coordinator, Illinois Institute of Technology
- Assistant director of academic programs, University of Iowa
- Women’s Center program coordinator, Virginia Tech
- Director of student activities and orientation, Edgewood College (WI)
- Coordinator of new student programs, Mercer University (GA)
- Co-executive director, Students Today Leaders Forever (STLF) (MN)
- Director of First Year Experience and transition programs, University of Nebraska–Lincoln
- Assistant director of admissions, Beloit College (WI)
- Director of housing and residential life, The College of The Bahamas
- Coordinator of leadership development and programming, Missouri State University
- Associate dean of students, Luther Seminary (MN)
- Academic advisor, St. Louis University (MO)
- Vice president for student affairs and dean of students, Guilford College (NC)

Admission Requirements

Grade point average(s), leadership, academic and supervisor references, personal interviews and evaluation of admission essays will be used to determine admission to the program with an eye toward a fit between students and their goals, and the academic program and assistantship sites. Due to the sequence of courses, only fall semester admission is considered for the Student Affairs (Macomb-based) option and fall semester bi-annual admission (Fall 2019, Fall 2021, etc.) is considered for the Higher Education Leadership (Quad Cities-based) option. For specific admission requirements, processes and deadlines, visit wiu.edu/csp.



Degree Requirements

The curriculum for the CSP program is rooted in the ACPA/NASPA Professional Competencies, Council for the Advancement of Standards (CAS) Graduate Preparation Program guidelines.

College Student Personnel: Student Affairs

The Student Affairs option consists of 48 semester hours (sH), including a specialization core of 36 sH and 8 sH of experiential learning. Four hours of electives from the behavioral sciences, counseling and other related areas are selected in consultation with your advisor. Core courses are offered in a sequential fashion and have a high-residency approach—typically 16 in-person meetings per semester for 3 and 4 sH courses. Completion time for this track is four semesters.

College Student Personnel: Higher Education Leadership

The Higher Education Leadership option consists of 43 sH of credit, including a specialization core of 37 sH, and 6 sH of concentrated application of CSP theories and concepts within a higher education context.

Core courses are offered in a sequential fashion (6-7 sH per semester), and have a low-residency approach—typically three in-person weekend course meetings per semester with the remaining coursework facilitated through Western Online, allowing students to continue in professional student affairs (or closely-related) work while pursuing a graduate degree. Completion time for this track is four semesters and three summer sessions.

Course descriptions and details about the core courses are available at wiu.edu/csp.



“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-Tull, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs,
Texas Christian University