

Master of Science in College Student Personnel

DEGREE OPTIONS & REQUIREMENTS

The Western Illinois University CSP Graduate Program offers two flexible enrollment options: full time (in-person or online for those with external assistantships) and part time (online). These pathways are designed to help students become effective, reflective leaders who approach student affairs work with social and ethical responsibility across diverse settings.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

- The student affairs option teaches future professionals how to support the myriad needs of students in higher education institutions.
- This track is made for students who are not already working full time in the field--primarily those who have just graduated their undergraduate programs or soon will.
- The Student Affairs option is a 42-credit-hour, high residency, full-time program based on the WIU Macomb campus.
- Students learn and work together in small cohorts of 13-20.

HIGHER EDUCATION LEADERSHIP

- The higher education leadership option is designed to enable working professionals in student affairs to earn their master's degree while continuing their careers.
- This track is 38 credit hours, arranged to be taken over the course of two years as six credit hours per semester and summer.
- Courses are delivered in a hybrid format, combining in-person and online learning. Classes typically meet four weekends per semester, with the remainder of the coursework completed online.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To apply for the student affairs option, candidates must submit an application for admission, personal goals statement, resume, three letters of recommendation, transcripts from all previously attended higher education institutions, and graduate assistantship application. GRE scores are not required. A minimum cumulative undergraduate GPA of 2.75 is necessary for consideration but does not guarantee admission. For the higher education leadership option, applicants should be actively working in student affairs or a related field within a higher education setting. Application requirements are similar.

Applicants to the College Student Personnel program should demonstrate strong interpersonal skills, emotional resilience, a capacity for managing stress, a commitment to continuous learning, and a high level of self-awareness.



WHAT IS CSP?

WIU's College Student Personnel program prepares graduates to create supportive and inclusive environments that promote students' academic success and personal growth

This involves guiding students through their educational journey, designing programs and experiences, and serving as a resource to support student success!

CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions about the program:

Department of
Counselor Education,
College Student
Personnel, and Social
Work
(309)-298-2848
csp@wiu.edu
wiu.edu/csp

Department Chair, Jeff
Hancks, Ed.D
(309) 762-9481

Graduate Program
Coordinator, Julie
Brines, Ph.D
(309) 298-2082

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





AFFILIATED GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS

Graduate assistantships are awarded on a competitive basis to full-time students enrolled in at least nine semester hours of coursework. Recipients receive a tuition waiver and a stipend, though availability of positions is not guaranteed every academic year. These assistantships reflect the CSP program's theory-to-practice philosophy, offering students the chance to actively engage in learning by applying classroom theories and concepts to real-world student affairs work on a daily basis.

EXTERNALLY FUNDED GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS

CSP collaborates with other institutions through our external graduate assistantship program. Interested institutions partner with WIU to employ students who will work up to 20 hours per week at those institution. Students simultaneously pursue a hybrid master's degree in higher education leadership from WIU. They can complete this degree from anywhere in the United States.

The institution pays a monthly stipend for the graduate assistant while WIU covers the tuition through a waiver.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Our alumni are creating positive impacts in their communities. Here are a few examples of where recent graduates have landed professionally:

- Community Director, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
- Program Assistant for Student Training and Development in Orientation and First Year Programs, Northern Illinois University
- Assistant Director of the Professional and Career Development Center, University of Missouri-Kansas City
- Residence Hall Director, Western Kentucky University
- Assistant Director of Events and Programs, University of Chicago
- Equal Opportunity Officer, Western Illinois University
- Youth & Collegiate Program Coordinator, Illinois Farm Bureau
- Program Coordinator, Sorority and Fraternity Life, Illinois State University
- Residence Director, Ohio University
- Director of the Office of Black Student Services, Loyola Marymount University

PROGRAM DISTINCTIONS

- Established in 1970, CSP has graduated over 1,000 alumni.
- It has a 99% post-graduation placement rate.
- The curriculum meets CAS standards, the most comprehensive and rigorous graduate preparation program standards within higher education.
- A holistic education approach emphasizes the ACPA/NASPA *Professional Competency Areas for Student Affairs Educators* in the classroom and practical experiences.
- The CSP program is more than just a degree; it's a community. It keeps alumni connected with each other and the field, offering resources for professional development and career guidance throughout their journey.
- The CSP Program has a theory-to-practice orientation that includes coursework in:
 - Student development theory
 - Group dynamics and leadership development
 - Programming and assessment
 - Organizational leadership in student affairs and higher education
 - Multicultural and intercultural competency
 - Skills for advising and helping students

Our graduates are equipped to launch and advance their student affairs careers in diverse areas such as residence life, student activities, fraternity and sorority life, admissions and recruitment, academic advising, orientation, multicultural student programs, study abroad, student retention, gender equity and inclusion programs, and career development.

